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Students march into Bentley in support of Chinese minor





HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

ABOVE: Associate Professor of Chinese Xiaoling Shi speaks at the demonstration. Shi's termination and the removal of the Chinese minor brought sutdents out in protest on Friday, March 4.
LEFT: Students hold signs expressing anger and fear over the minor's termination, including "No one is happy at Allegheny," "I'm losing my home," "We belong here" and "Silence is the norm here."

See PROTEST | *page 2*

Two years in, are masks still relevant?

How face coverings linger in Allegheny classrooms

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Today marks two years since the World Health Organization formally declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

Allegheny College required all students to leave campus for Spring Break, anticipating at the time that just three days of remote instruction would be needed before in-person classes could resume. Instead, it took five months before students could return, and they did so under a mask mandate from the newly-created Allegheny College Health Agency.

Now, three semesters later, masking guidelines at Allegheny are more relaxed, particularly for those who are vaccinated.

"Some people will continue wearing their masks by choice, despite being vaccinated," the ACHA's current masking policy reads. "Others will be complying with the College's policy for unvaccinated persons. Regardless of vaccine status, if you feel ill, it is always a good idea to wear your mask. Gators are compassionate and do not ask others about mask choices."

This policy has been in place — save for a classroom mask mandate in module one — since the college's Pandemic Plan for the 2021-22 academic year was announced via email on July 23.

As the academic year began, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities James Niblock, '97, thought that extra precautions needed to be taken for his choir classes. So, pursuant to research on the spread of aerosols in singing venues, he strongly encouraged his students to keep masking even as the ACHA lifted such requirements.

"Coming back in the fall, I spent quite a bit of time trying to gather as much information as I could, looking at what our space is, the number of people, what kind of distancing requirements were appropriate and possible," Niblock said. "What made the most sense was to just continue encouraging people to mask."

Niblock said that he encouraged students to do so because choir classes depend far more heavily on collective participation than other classes at the college.

"We are made stronger as a group, not individually," Niblock said. "We want every individual to be able to bring their best to the group. But having eight individuals is not as strong for us as having 12 individuals, and having 12 is not as strong as having 35. So as a community of singers we're not in the same type of bubble precisely that you'd experience in

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ASG meets with SLE

By **SOFIA HASSAN**
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This week, Allegheny Student Government's General Assembly featured two guest speakers from the Student Leadership & Engagement office: Eric Stoler, student life coordinator, and Jennifer Foxman, '89, associate dean for student leadership and engagement.

The assembly was gaveled to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.

Stoler and Foxman fielded questions, comments and suggestions from ASG cabinet members and senators regarding what events they wanted to see happen on campus in the future, a matter that Stoler mentioned was of growing interest given the loosening of COVID-19 restrictions.

"Our main point is we don't just want to plan a bunch of programs, events, initiatives … that doesn't really interest any of you at the end of the day," Stoler said.

Foxman pointed out that the student leadership and engagement office — previously named student leadership and involvement — was designed to get students asking what it means to be engaged on Allegheny's campus. She also wanted student input on how to best inform students on upcoming events.

Senator Nicole Recio Bremer, '25, said that she noticed a lack of information on things going on on campus, despite the daily MyAllegheny email.

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Weekly community writing space established in Pelletier Collaboratory

By **SOFIA HASSAN**
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Students interested in working on their writing in the company of other writers now have a space to do so.

A weekly community writing space for students began on Sunday, Feb. 27, and is available in the Pelletier Collaboratory, on the second floor of the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library, from 7-9 p.m. every Sunday.

Writers are not limited to coming in with academic work. According to a MyAllegheny post advertising the space, "(students) can be working on a class assignment, a comp, a job or graduate school application, a creative project, a letter to a family member, or a to-do list."

"We really want to kind of infuse a culture of writing on campus," said Professor of English and Director of Writing Alexis Hart.

Writing consultants will be present to give quick feedback. As writing consultant Lottie Mateyak, '24, explained, this feedback is different from that given in typical consultant sessions, which are held in the back of the library on the ground floor in the Maytum Center for Student Success. Normal consultation sessions are for in-depth analysis of papers, as the consultant will go through the student's paper paragraph by paragraph.

"Typical consultations are 30 minutes, and they have to be … scheduled, so (the writing space) is more so for writers who have just a quick question about MLA citations or, 'do I need a comma here?'" Mateyak said. "This is just if you have a question or two, or if you want a writing accountability group to come in here and write as well."

In terms of why the community writing space was created, Mateyak said that Hart, her supervisor, brought up the idea of the space at one of the weekly professional development meetings — mandatory meetings for writing consultants that occur on Wednesdays — and several of the consultants thought the idea was a good one, so they decided to establish the space during the 7-9 p.m. time block to see how it ran.

Hart said that she was not the first to think about the community writing space, though.

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SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

The Collaboratory space on the third floor of the Pelletier Library, where the community writing space meets every Sunday from 7-9 p.m.

In this week's Campus...

A HISTORY OF UKRANIAN-RUSSIAN

Professor of History and Global Heath Studies Kenneth Pinnow reflects on the long — and often difficult — history between the two warring countries.

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THE HERO MOVIE-GOERS DESERVE

Features Editor Mo Mansour, '24, explores the thematic significance of "The Batman" and Matt Reeves' interrogation of the classic comic-book superhero.

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WOMEN'S LAX CONTINUES HOT STREAK

Gators crush Thiel College 14-4 in home opener as Senna Perelman, '23, scores five goals.

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FRIDAY	H: 47° L: 26°	**SATURDAY**	H: 27° L: 16°
	Rain: 40%		Snow: 92%
	Sunrise: 6:40 a.m.		Sunrise: 6:38 a.m.
	Sunset: 6:23 p.m.		Sunset: 6:24 p.m.

SUNDAY	H: 33° L:31°	
	Snow: 25%	
	Sunrise: 6:36 a.m.	
	Sunset: 6:25 p.m.	





‘IT’S ON US’

Survivor support and bystander training in the Tippie Alumni Center

By **EMI ARIGA**
Contributing photographer
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TOP LEFT: At the beginning of the event, participants listen to a basic definition of sexual assault.
TOP RIGHT: Adrianna Branin, concludes her presentation at the end of the session. Branin, who graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2021, currently serves as Assistant Director of Trainings at the It’s on Us organization.
RIGHT: A participant expresses an idea that she came up with during the program.



PROTEST

from page 1

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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Students and members of the Allegheny College community gathered outside the Henderson Campus Center on Friday, March 4, to peacefully protest the elimination of the Chinese minor from the curriculum at Allegheny College.

The protest was organized by the Association for Asian and Asian-American Awareness and began at noon.

Attendees of the protest held colorful banners and signs that expressed their joint distress and criticism toward the college administration. Some banners read messages such as “no one is happy at Allegheny” and “silence is the norm here.”

During the protest, A5 President Peter Alegre, ’23, informed those present of a fundraising page he had created for Associate Professor of Chinese Xiaoling Shi to obtain legal advice regarding the appeal process of her impending termination from staff.

Over $3,500 of the $5,000 fundraising goal has been collected, as of Thursday night.

Many across the student body showed their support for the members of A5, who took turns to address the gathering regarding the issue. One such student was Difei Chen, ’25, who voiced his concerns to the crowd about the representation of Chinese students and culture at Allegheny.

“There are currently over 10 Chinese students on campus,” Chen said. “We are concerned about the college’s attitude towards international students as we don’t want to feel unwelcome here because that’s how we’re currently feeling.”

Chen also mentioned that several students expressed their concerns to Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole, ’87, during his office hours.

“When we told (Cole) that Asian and Asian-American students feel as if we’re losing our belonging he simply said, if someone came to Allegheny expecting to study Chinese then they shouldn’t have come here,” Chen told audience members. “I thought it was very inappropriate of him to say something like that in the presence of Asian and Asian-American students.”

Over 50 members of the Allegheny community, including students and faculty, were present at the protest.

Alegre criticized the general lack of communication he believes to exist between the student body and the administration.

“I don’t see a single person from the administration (at the protest),” Alegre said. “For the past few years, this college’s message has been one of austerity. It exists in the rise in meal plans and housing fees, the elimination of academic programs, there’s just no end to it.”

Alegre disclosed that Stanfield Professor of Asian Studies of Williams College Cornelius Kubler wrote a letter to President Hilary Link advising against the elimination of the Chinese minor.

Kubler’s letter stated, “while I am in no position to understand all of the factors involved in your decision, I am concerned that at a time when many other American institutions of higher education are diversifying and internationalizing their curricula, Allegheny College seems to be moving in the opposite direction.”

Kubler’s letter also spoke to Shi’s credibility as professor and impact on the Asian-American population at Allegheny. According to Kubler, “(Shi) is highly regarded in Chinese studies circles in (the United States) and overseas.”

Alegre voiced his gratitude to the student body and the wider Allegheny community for supporting the efforts to reinstate the Chinese minor and Shi.

“Recently, I’ve seen people get together and support all sorts of different causes but I’m surprised yet grateful at the amount of support people have shown,” Alegre said. “And it’s not just the students, it’s also faculty members, community partners and even alumni.”

Nahayan Minhas, ’24, noted that such gatherings are an effective way to build support systems and enhance empathy across campus.

“I wasn’t initially aware of the elimination of the Chinese minor until I came across this protest on my way to work today,” Minhas said. “But that’s the great thing about it because I stopped by which has helped me realize how others are impacted by a change that might not be news to others.”

Later, the protestors marched to Bentley Hall and entered with their signs and proclamations of “ho ho, hey hey, Chinese language has got to stay” and “diversity and inclusion is not this institution.”

Meanwhile, Shi has been collecting data that provides evidence regarding the productivity of the Chinese program.

“When the college’s enrollment was 2,100 students, we were expected to have a minimum of six students enrolled in Chinese classes,” Shi said. “Applying that same logic, now that the college has an enrollment of 1,600 students, the expected number should be around 4.57.”

The rate of drop of enrollment at Allegheny from 2012 to 2021 is 3.57% whereas the rate of drop of enrollment in the Chinese department during the same period is only 1.09%.

However, in a Feb. 16 article published in The Campus, Cole said the decision was made based on enrollment data and rates of under-enrollment not factored into the Academic Program Review Task Force’s report. He added that reductions will also be made in French and classical studies, programs noted as having “challenges to sustainability” by the Academic Program Review.

“Students were not taking Chinese consistently, particularly at upper levels,” Cole said at the time. “The (Task Force) report didn’t have details about the number of courses that were under-enrolled or canceled. It didn’t have that fine of detail, only the total enrollments in each major or minor. A position in French is being reduced, and there are going to be changes in the offering of Latin as part of classical studies.”

Cole did not respond to repeated requests for comment on this story.

More information regarding enrollment rates can be found on the Allegheny College website.

Shi also expressed her distress regarding the repercussions of the elimination of the Chinese minor on the Asian and Asian-American students on campus.

“I’m not upset about losing my job or anything related to me, but I am worried about the students on campus who come from minority backgrounds,” Shi said. “This taking away of identity and representation is particularly alarming at this point as the world is becoming more and more interconnected.”

Shi reinforced that the college is losing tradition and failing to keep up with the political climate and pace of the world. Shi also referred to data from the Pew Research Center which estimates that the United States’ Asian population will grow four times from its current size of roughly 22 million. It is estimated that the Asian population will surpass 46 million by the year 2060.

“In the near future, one in five Americans will be foreign-born and this will be reflected on college campuses,” Shi said. “It is a shame that Allegheny is disassociating itself from such an integral part of world culture at such a period of growth in intercultural discourse.”

Shi said that Chinese is a fundamental language and should be encouraged in the curriculum rather than being eliminated from it because it is so commonly spoken across the world.

Shi said that she reached out to her colleagues and students for advice regarding her situation.

“I was advised by everyone I spoke to that getting legal advice was the best step I could take,” Shi said.

It is unclear when the Board of Trustees will make a decision on Shi’s appeal.

Minhas believes a lack of student-administration communication has caused many students to feel the tension in the environment on campus. As such, messages like “f— Role Cole and Link” and “this school is a joke” were seen written in chalk on the Gator Quad during the protest and after.

“I just don’t feel like students have a lot of trust in the administration right now,” Minhas said. “To be fair, you can’t blame the students since the administration has made us feel avoided.”

ASG

from page 1

“There should be a way to … unify everything that we have on campus,” Recio Bremer said, suggesting the implementation of one platform that all students can look at and that will advertise every upcoming event, not just a few.

This launched a discussion on the effectiveness of the MyAllegheny email. Senator Veronica Green, ’23, said that she looked at the MyAllegheny Instagram account more than she did the MyAllegheny website and proposed that students send information to this account in order to get the word out about campus happenings. Senator Rudra Schultz-Ray, ’23, mentioned the importance of tabling, particularly in the campus center during lunchtime, to spread awareness.

“Sometimes I do (check MyAllegheny), but most of the time I find out things are happening due to word of mouth or from walking through the campus center and seeing that people are sitting down and they’re actually talking about something,” Schultz-Ray said.

Stoler offered the idea, popular with several members of ASG, of monitors placed around campus that displayed upcoming events.

Other suggestions included food trucks, better-advertised transportation to events in the Meadville community, and more consistent happenings, such as a monthly movie night or a specific day in the week dedicated to “late-night Kinz.” Students were invited to stop by the student life suite with additional questions.

ASG carried on with its regular assembly duties.

As Director of Finance Lucas Biniewski, ’23, was not present, President of the Class of 2023 and Financial Controller Olivia Brophy read this week’s finance requests: $12,713.36 from the general fund, $1,629.01 from the surplus fund, and $208.50 from the Culture, Inclusion and Leadership Coalition fund. These requests were all approved.

Looking to table the following week for the menstrual cup giveaway, Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs Andi Reiser, ’23, informed ASG members that they would soon be receiving an email with a sign-up sheet. She also mentioned that a visual for the proposed student recreational space on E. College Street would be shared with the rest of ASG once more definite plans were created.

Director of Community Relations Kyrie Doniz, ’23, encouraged everyone to go out into the greater Meadville area and revealed that the business of the week is Kristen’s Kookies.

Attorney General Jack Parker, ’22, reminded everyone that the ASG presidential debate would take place Tuesday, March 15, at 7 p.m. in the Quigley Auditorium. He also mentioned that during the fall semester, he and interim Dean for Institutional Diversity and ASG advisor Tevis Bryant had discussed how ASG needs to be more in-line with college processes as certain investigations and actions are underway. He brought up the idea of a judicial review board.

“Say someone commits an infraction within ASG that might warrant some sort of community-based standards investigation … like a bias report,” Parker said. “Right now, the way it’s set up within ASG’s constitution, it doesn’t exactly align with the campus investigative process, and … none of us are qualified to handle that investigation.”

According to the current language in the constitution, the onus would be on ASG to carry out the investigation.

Parliamentarian Rachael Harris, ’22, introduced Travis Dear, ’24, to speak again in favor of his proposed Fishing Club. In his brief speech, Dear emphasized the community engagement aspect of the club, which ultimately was approved in its second round of voting, rendering it an official ASG organization.

Vice President Sophie Adams, ’22, announced that Springfest would be occurring this year from April 18-22, the week leading up to the major concert on April 23. President Noah Tart, ’22, encouraged students to volunteer at the concert. Tickets for volunteers will be reimbursed.

Adams also reminded everyone to let Parkhurst know via a feedback form when the food was not to their liking.

Bryant re-introduced Foxman, who will take over as the next ASG advisor after this administration completes its term.

The assembly adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

MASKING *from page 1*

a typical classroom."

To help protect the musical bubble, Niblock included an addendum on COVID-19 practices with his fall 2021 syllabus for his Music 115, 116 and 119 classes. This section included recommendations from both the CDC and professional choir organizations like the American Choral Directors Association to continue masking. Under the latter was the line, "singers should wear masks — no exceptions."

"I'm not looking to undermine the mandates of the health agency," Niblock said. "I'm really grateful that we live and work in a community that requires vaccination and provides testing, but I also am wary of the fact that all of the evidence that we've had to date suggests that singing does present a little bit of additional risk in terms of the amount of aerosol that's generated and the possibility of transmitting the disease. When you couple the additional risk with the fact that any additional interruptions would really severely limit our progress musically, I think it's worth whatever extra mitigation we can throw at it."

He added that he was not policing students who chose not to wear a mask, but rather discussing the issue with them in a classroom environment.

"I think it's a comfortable understanding that we all feel like this is something that we're doing in support of our mutual goals as musicians, and also as a community of people that care about one another," Niblock said.

For this semester's syllabi, Niblock has also added a line to the top of his document outlining COVID-19-related practices that explicitly states that masking is not required in any classes.

The musical bubble popped for the department towards the end of the fall semester; Niblock, who chairs the department, noted that scheduled performances in the month of November were disrupted because students contracted COVID-19.

"We want to be in full force at our rehearsals and we want to be in full force at our performances," Niblock said. "Concern about infections and positive tests is then compounded by contact tracing, because if we start to take people in and out of the mix for either reason that affects our musical progress."

Niblock is not the only professor to include masking language in his syllabi that differs from the ACHA's policies. In her syllabus for her COMM 276 "Digital and Integrated Branding," Professor of Communication Arts Ishita Sinha Roy included a line about masking.

"Students can choose to get a letter grade boost to the course grade if they wear a mask in class through the semester," the syllabus stated in a copy provided to The Campus.

That line, included under the "Attendance and Class Participation" section of the syllabus, was highlighted with red coloring. Sinha Roy said that the line was not intended to force students to wear masks.

"It's not any kind of rebuttal of institutional policy," Sinha Roy said. "It is actually part of an assignment (which) ties back to what we've been doing in class with regards to preparing for the workplace, but also media literacy. From day one, we've been talking very closely about what happens when you don't read for detail; that's one concern that if you go into the workplace, and you haven't read the details in signing a contract, you could inadvertently overlook the really important stuff resulting in both personal and professional loss."

This assignment falls under what Sinha Roy called, "disruptive learning," and she also created it because she felt like students were not fully reading her syllabi and longer assignments and missing key details.

"Where it hurts students is in other areas like plagiarism," Sinha Roy said. "Very often we hear students saying, 'I don't know, I didn't know (the policy).' But when you go back to the assignment or syllabus, you're able to point out, 'hey, here's a whole section where that was discussed.' Or, and this is becoming more common in my sample size of one, I find students think they have understood the assignment but the work they turn in is completely different because the details below might have added some deeper understanding of what the assignment was seeking to do."

Though initially planned to last the entire semester, Sinha Roy decided to hold the discussion early after being contacted for an interview.

"I knew The Campus was doing a piece, so I ended my assignment," Sinha Roy said. "We had great discussions, including students talking about how they knew they should have challenged it, but they were going to (mask) for extra credit. We talked about the ethics of things, we talked about sources, cross checking, (and) a lot of them had just missed it. So it was great in that teachable moment that I had been aiming for."

Sinha Roy added that both students who participated and those who did not received credit for the assignment.



NIBLOCK



SINHA ROY

"In my class, there is a label grading policy," Sinha Roy said. "Everyone has the opportunity — regardless of what might seem in that statement (from the syllabus) as an extra reward but is not — everyone has the opportunity to get an A, in the class. So when we discovered this, the people who masked got bonus points (and) the people who didn't mask got bonus points because they participated in the exercise."

Sinha Roy included similar language in her syllabi for her FSCOM 201 "The Stories We Tell…" and COMM 386 "Branding, Identity, and Politics" classes. For both classes, masks were included in the list of "required materials."

"Because of the uptick in the Delta variant COVID cases, let's take care of our classroom community and mask up, even if we're vaccinated," Sinha Roy wrote in the syllabus. "I know it's foggy and hard, but we can become carriers of the virus, or even sick, if exposed to someone with asymptomatic COVID-19."

This statement, Sinha Roy said, was in line with the college's policies.

"I recommended (wearing a mask) for safety's sake, as the CDC was doing too," Sinha Roy said. "The mask was because there were points in the last semester, when we were advised — so we were still following social distancing, if you remember, and we still had masking in class. Where we got rid of (masking) was at the start of module one. So module one, was when I just said that you can start to ease but (the) Omnicon (variant) had gone on the rise in module one. The policies were changing all around."

However, the college's pandemic plan for fall 2021 stated that masking would be optional for fully vaccinated students and only required for unvaccinated students.

Gabrielle Morrow, replying for the ACHA, told The Campus that she was unavailable for comment.

Sinha Roy emphasized that she did not mandate masks for any of her classes.

"There was never any negative, 'oh you're not wearing a mask therefore (you're) evil, here's a mask, wear it,'" Sinha Roy said.

Allegheny's precedent alternatively suggests that a hard-and-fast classroom rule is not necessary for the administration to respond. According to previous Campus coverage, when Associate Professor of Psychology Allison Connell-Pensky encouraged mask-wearing in one of her classes last fall, she was contacted by Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole, '87, to have a discussion about the masking policy at Allegheny.

While Niblock was grateful for the college's response, he also questioned the viability of having a single blanket policy across the entire campus.

"People have to wear safety glasses in the chemistry laboratory; that doesn't mean that we're going to make everyone wear safety glasses all the time, everywhere on campus," Niblock said. "If you're a dancer, you can't go on the basketball court with your tap shoes on, nor can you go on the dance marley with your court shoes on if you're a basketball player."

Moving forward, Niblock thinks that the college should err on the side of caution. He thinks the community should aim to protect the most vulnerable of its members, not just the average member or the majority of members.

"I guess one of the questions that I think we should ask is, 'what does it really cost us to be more cautious?'" Niblock said. "I understand that some people find it inconvenient (to mask). Others find it uncomfortable, other people feel it really is infringing on part of their experience. But I just think that what we've been through has been really difficult, and it warrants pretty careful consideration of how we bounce back. How do we find our way to the next mile marker while protecting the most vulnerable of our friends and colleagues?"

WRITING *from page 1*

"(Writing consultant Sydney Emerson, '23) was definitely one of the folks who immediately got the idea rolling," Hart said. "One of the best things, I think, about being the director of writing and working with the writing consultants is that they often have the good ideas, and then I just try to figure out how to make them possible."

According to Hart, a few of the writing consultants had heard about the Allegheny Writing Accountability Group, which is designed for faculty. They wanted to create something similar for students, where students can get together and write in a place that is "open" and "non-judgmental."

Not only will a writing consultant be there to answer any questions, but also, since it is a community space, other writers can offer feedback. And as for the location, it was a proverbial no-brainer.

"The Collaboratory was kind of a logical space because it is in Pelletier, where a lot of students come to work, and the rest of the (writing consultant) staff is there in the (Maytum Center for Student Success)," Hart said.

Like Mateyak, Emerson said that the writing space was established as a place to ask a quick question, as opposed to receiving a 30-minute consultation, emphasizing that the collaborative aspect of the space was a key point in the rationale for setting it up. Conversations with other writing consultants about common patterns in those who come to consultations led to the idea of a room where students can gather and write.

"A few of us were talking about how sometimes we get writers who simply just want to be supervised while writing, like they need … supervision to get writing projects done," Emerson said. "Some people do work better when other people are working near them."

Currently, Mateyak is the only writing consultant scheduled to be in the space. Hart elaborated on this decision, explaining that given the other duties of writing consultants — including the two shifts per week and the professional development meetings — she did not have room in her schedule to put more than one consultant in the Collaboratory on Sunday evenings.

"Any one of the consultants would be capable of serving in that role," Hart added. "If we start to see more interest, that might be a rationale for offering it more often and having more consultants rotate through, but we kind of wanted to run it as a pilot first."

As Mateyak was sick Sunday, Feb. 27, Sunday, March 6 marked the first full run of the writing space. Hart has not yet gotten to speak with Mateyak to find out the number of writers who attended and the nature of the experience, but she emphasized that the program is still in its "early days."

The writing space is not just for students who need help with their writing or for students with a due date looming on the horizon. It is also available for those who just want to write among others and be in the company of people all working on their craft.

"When you have a community of other writers in which you begin to write together and think together, it gives you energy to write yourself," Hart said.

CORRECTIONS

Due to an editing error, the article titled "ASG race shriks after Yik Yak scandal" in the March 4 edition of The Campus included unverified claims from an early draft of that article. The online edition has been updated to remove these claims.

Allegheny track team members competing in the 4x200 relay completed the event in 1 minute, 46.51 seconds. The article titled "Track and field shines at NCAC Indoor Championships" in the March 4 edition of The Campus incorrectly listed this time and has been updated.

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.

March 5, 2022
Alcohol Violation
North Village II

March 6, 2022
Alcohol Violation
Schultz Hall

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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The Campus is printed every Friday during the academic year, except during breaks and exam periods.

Open letters to administrators regarding Chinese minor cut

By **JARED JORDAN**
Contributing Writer

Dear Provost Cole:

I am writing you today to affirm the voices of the students protesting the removal of the Chinese minor, because I am in firm support of the value the Chinese language has in Allegheny's curricula. Though I had no academic connection with the department, I still appreciate the eminent cultural, scientific and economic utility that Mandarin Chinese holds for a liberal arts student. By removing the Chinese minor, students will be denied an avenue to explore aspects of the Chinese language that connect to their passions or to make new ones. I have studied Swahili and Russian, but these pale in comparison to the presence of Mandarin Chinese, a language that allows one to communicate with 1-in-7 people in this world. I do not even need to interact with their faculty to know the value that their knowledge and voices hold with their ability to give insight into such an invaluable skill. Learning a language in person is a uniquely motivational way to study, one which cannot be replicated by any app or computer, because it is a more personal and humane way.

As an aspiring paleontologist, my greatest passion in studying human evolution is inexorably linked to China and Mandarin sources. I will never be able to fully understand the sheer amount of invaluable research information that I could access from the work of Mandarin speakers that studied fossils at these sites, but that remains inaccessible because they never thought to translate it. My good friend, who I met during my first day at Allegheny, studied Chinese because it held multiple meanings to him, specifically: it allowed him to explore his interests in political science and it was also the "lingua franca" of the place that he wants to live in for the rest of his life. During my tenure at Allegheny I met others that found their own reasons for studying Chinese, like an acquaintance interested in the economics of business in the world's biggest economy. Every individual that studies Mandarin at Allegheny has their reasons, and removing this program severely limits students' abilities to learn through "unusual combinations."

I have heard that you said, "Students should not come to Allegheny to study Chinese." Forgive me if I'm mistaken, but if I recall correctly according to Professor Guthrie you studied Tang Soo Do under him, did you not? Despite being a Korean martial art, a majority of its style derives from Chinese techniques, and it acknowledges as such in its name. I mean no offense, but I believe that studying the "Way of the Chinese Hand," and then depriving others of an opportunity to study the ways of Chinese words is hypocritical. With your decision to remove this minor, you take away opportunities for others to study interests within Mandarin that are useful or important to them, equivalent or possibly greater than your passion for this Chinese-inspired martial art.

Additionally, didn't President Link receive her Ph.D. in Italian Language and Culture? To come here with a degree relating to a European language, only to remove the program for the language farthest from Europe is staggeringly insensitive and counterintuitive to what made her successful. Why are all the Romance language programs still entirely intact? In fact, excluding Arabic, every single language program offered by the college is now a European language, and including Arabic, the only portions of the globe which have indigenous languages taught by Allegheny are Europe and the Middle East. The second paragraph of Allegheny's Statement of Community reads: "We encourage individual growth by promoting a free exchange of ideas in a setting that values diversity, trust and equality." By removing the Chinese minor, you are restricting Allegheny's language programs to regions known to the Western world since the time of the Romans: I am positive that the failure to incorporate native languages from areas discovered after Biblical times constitutes an egregious breach of the validity of this statement.

I understand that Allegheny is in a difficult financial position that requires downsizing, but given that Allegheny is a liberal arts institution with a large and diverse international student base, I cannot fathom why a department that fosters connections with Asian culture during these trying times of hatred is being targeted for exclusion.

Objectively, racial tensions in this country are on the rise. During the early stages of the pandemic, we all saw the hatred for Asians that some made manifest into physical forms of hate crimes. That unfounded hatred never went away: the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism reports that hate crimes against Asians in the U.S. increased by 339% in 2021 over the prior year. To attempt to resolve this epidemic of racially-directed fear and anger requires greater understanding of individuals and cultures.

Any program that encourages cultural exchange is part of the remedy; removing them inexorably inhibits forward momentum towards understanding and respect. I vehemently condemn Allegheny College's removal of the Chinese minor, because in an age of renewed hatred against Asian culture, this action would inhibit the cultural understanding necessary to move towards reducing xenophobia while simultaneously restricting the ability of students to pursue passions related to China as a nation, its people, culture, history, science and economics from abroad.

Jared Jordan is a 2021 graduate of Allegheny College.

By **AJA SHORT**
Contributing Writer
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Dear President Link and Provost Cole:

I am Aja Short and am a first-year here at Allegheny College and am writing to address the decision that was unanimously decided on by the Board of Trustees to discontinue the Chinese minor here at Allegheny.

Though the Board of Trustees are not the only ones who made this decision, I am reaching out because the Board of Trustees have the safety net of inconspicuousness of not hearing from the voices impacted by this.

From my understanding, a student has tried to reach out to a member of this board and was immediately pushed aside and told to talk to an employee who has "D.E.I." in their job description. Hearing this is angering due to the knowledge of this being a decision made by people who are not willing to hear from the ones affected by it. It's even more angering to know that students are being sent on a goose chase to talk to other people instead of being provided the opportunity to hear from the people with tremendous power when it comes to the Allegheny College community. If this was a decision that you feel you have no expertise in and therefore can not discuss it, why make it? It's another punch in the gut when the minor is still being advertised around campus knowing that it is being cut from the curriculum here.

It's understandable that Allegheny has to make decisions like this for financial reasons. However, when the Academic Program Review was published to the public in the fall of 2021, the Chinese minor was not a part of it. There was no discussion with students or faculty about the possibility of this until it was broadcasted to the College about its discontinuation. To add on, this announcement was given on Lunar New Year.

To take a brief side note of this, many students and myself, can share in the experience of the racism and ignorance that is heavily present on this campus by students, staff and faculty. This is something that can not be argued nor pacified with, "we stand with you," because, though this is heard from faculty and administration, it is disproven from their and your action to not listen. We don't want moments of appreciation and a novel of "How to Be Anti-Racist," to be your solutions to this climate and culture. We want the admin and you to have a conversation with your marginalized students without your veil of seeing us as statistics and therefore nothing in your plan of success for Allegheny as a business. We want you to really think about the decisions that don't impact you, that you are making. We want you to hold yourself and the administration accountable in their biases and toned-deafness. I am specific on not given defined solutions because that is work that shouldn't be solely on marginalized voices, especially not to people in power that don't even realize the weight of their power.

My point in saying all of this is to call out the racism and biases that are present in this decision. Something that is refused to be seen as this mostly by wealthy, white people. I urge you to listen and stand with the students who were pursuing the Chinese minor, Asian students and faculty, and Asian-American students and faculty here at Allegheny and to rethink your decision of discontinuing the Chinese minor here at Allegheny.

Aja Short is a member of the class of 2025.

The Pandora Papers expose more than corruption

By **ROMAN HLADIO**
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By **KATHERINE BURGESS**
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A lack of readers kills local journalism, but a lack of global readership kills journalists.

Released in 2021 by the International Consortium of International Journalists, the Pandora Papers exposed international corruption among political and social elites by revealing how their use of shell companies to purchase things like properties increased taxes for everyday citizens. This investigation stemmed from the 2016 Panama Papers and 2017 Paradise Papers, though the scope of the Pandora Papers is larger than either of the previous two. To restrict or ignore coverage of widespread corruption is to reinforce the notion that the illegal activities of these elites are acceptable. To not support journalists is to bend the knee to those who break the rules the elites of society enact on others.

The ICIJ, according to their website, is a nonprofit organization that investigates "the most important stories in the world." A consortium is simply an association of individuals or organizations. Knowing this, their name becomes self-explanatory. With their team of more than 280 journalists in more than 100 countries, they are able to create accurate articles that expose international elites. While the ICIJ does all this important work, they rely solely on donations as well as tips and ideas from the general public. The journalists work together to meet their common goals, something that they are very successful in.

The Panama Papers and Paradise Papers had detrimental and lethal consequences for their contributors. Daphne Caruana Galizia, one of the journalists who worked on the Panama Papers, was car bombed and killed in 2017, according to The Guardian. Her killing is widely believed to be due to her contributions to investigative journalism. Pelin Ünker, a Turkish journalist who worked on the Paradise Papers, also received separate coverage by The Guardian after being sentenced to jail time for exposing Turkish company corruption.

According to the ICIJ's website, the Panama Papers consisted of over 11.5 million leaked documents contained in more than 2.5 terabytes of data, and is the largest information leak in history. For reference, an average office computer will have between 250-500 gigabytes of storage. 1,000 gigabytes is equal to one terabyte. These documents displayed corruption in 90 countries, and revealed participation by more than 300 political and social elites according to Transparency International. The individuals implicated in this leak included Elton John, Shakira and Queen Elizabeth II.

Russia had one of the strictest reactions to the Pandora Papers, declaring all Russian journalists involved in the leak as foreign actors, permanently discrediting their journalism and social media posts, according to the ICIJ. This might not be the end of the harassment for these journalists, though. By merit of their elite position, the people that the Pandora paper exposes are able to hit back at these journalists harder than they received. The journalists involved in the Pandora Papers will likely receive backlash for the rest of their lives.

The consequences for investigative journalism in these cases sets a dangerous precedent for how journalists are treated for exposing those with power and money. There is already an emotional toll from the anxiety and pressure this kind of job has. Investigative journalists bear witness to horrific events — directly or indirectly — and are acutely aware of the dangerous position their career puts themselves, their colleagues and families in. Additional stress and pressure from the fear of being imprisoned or even killed will only dissuade people from doing this important work even more.

Intimidation is intentional on the side of those who are being exposed, as they know people will not be willing to write exposés anymore if they make publishing them dangerous. This hurts the journalistic process and the ideals of a free press. A free press should not only be free of government censorship, but should also be free of threats and intimidation. If the wealthy and powerful are able to control journalists in this way, they will be able to continue to hide their corruption and control the narrative into the future.

In his book "Why Democracies Need an Unlovable Press," journalism scholar Michael Schudson reflects on the press as a force for mobilization. Schudson clarifies that this is only in the context of a partisan press — one which affiliates with a specific party or group and writes with their position in mind. According to Schudson, a non-partisan press "de-mobilizes" people because it is not told or demonstrated to citizens how they should be acting in response to the information they read. While many modern journalists are bound to their dogma of non-partisanship, the ICIJ's information releases are partisan in their own respect. The Pandora Papers and its predecessors support a "party of the people," if you will. They seek to shed light on how the party of elites is ruling them unjustly causing them consequential damages from their actions.

This "party line" comes with none of the pomp that regular partisan politics do, though. As the third investigation of the same ilk by the ICIJ, the Pandora Papers represents continuous failures of both governments and citizens. Each investigation seemingly only spurs another, as the releases do not call the public to action like their favored candidate can. ICIJ investigations have seemingly followed an alternate trajectory, where an investigation does not deter illegal activities, but only serves as a spark for more investigations.

The Pandora Papers, as mentioned earlier, was the largest release of information in comparison to other ICIJ investigations. While the massive size of this data leak can be attributed to the fact that it is the broadest investigation by scope, that does not mean it should be less concerning. Since similar exposés are released one after another, year after year, their repetitive nature implies that these schemes are not only being slowly unearthed, but are also continuously occurring abuses of financial and political power.

An article by the BBC explores the different reactions countries had to the information released by the Pandora Papers. In countries like Jordan, Kenya, Russia, Ukraine and Ecuador where leaders were implicated, coverage either did not occur in mainstream press or was published in between bigger stories in order for it to go relatively unnoticed by the public. Coverage of the leaders' dealings primarily came from online investigative sources which do not have nearly as much traction as the mainstream press. The broader media's lack of coverage makes these sites seem more conspiratorial, as an everyday citizen who stumbles upon the story might think that it is just political dissenters attempting to get a one-up on their leader.

Political and social elites will continue to abuse global economic systems because they are the ones who determine the legality of their own actions. Their use of anonymous shell companies increases economic risks for everyday citizens in the countries where the shell companies are operated because they are increasing the general wealth of that nation, yet not paying much — if anything — in taxes on that large amount of money.

So, do investigations like the Pandora Papers actually accomplish anything? The short answer is no. The Pandora, Paradise and Panama Papers have yielded massive results yet have provoked little change in those they expose.

Although this ideology removes some long term responsibility from investigative journalism, it does not make them obsolete. Rather, the journalists serve simply as a spark atop the large pile of shredded paper the elites have created, hoping the global populace will make them burn.

Schudson writes in his book that "the job of the media is to make powerful people tremble." While the journalists involved in the Pandora Papers and previous investigative projects may have accomplished that goal, there is a further step — to promote actual change. In order for works of journalism to make a difference in society, the public needs to be aware and outraged. Those in power want a docile public, unaware of the true injustices in our society. In order to create a fairer and more just world, those in the lower classes need to unite and rally against those implicated in the Pandora Papers and similar works of journalism. Only when we use journalists and their work as a rallying point will any true change start to occur.

Interested in writing an op-ed or letter to the editors?

Letter to the Editors: Please address your letter in response to a previous article or situation on campus in no more than 500 words to newspaper@allegheny.edu.

Op-Eds:
Write about any topic you are interested in with no fewer than 750 words and no more than 1200 words. Email to newspaper@allegheny.edu

All submissions are subject to editorial approval and style edits.

Russia continues war in Ukraine, global tensions rise

By **CESAR PINTO**
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Tensions in Europe have taken a drastic turn with the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine. Vladimir Putin's ambitions to control the entire country of Ukraine have many members of the global community concerned that this may lead to a humanitarian disaster, and could lead to further escalation with the rest of Europe.

The United Nations has been firm about its support for Ukraine's sovereignty and condemns the actions of Russia by placing strict economic sanctions on the country. In addition to the sanctions, NATO countries have also supplied munitions to the Ukrainian military, which has caused Russia to respond with threats of "nuclear deterrence."

Although the possibility of war breaking out throughout Europe is considered unlikely, Putin's actions are reminiscent of the imperialist regimes from the 20th century, which has led many to speculate whether we are on the brink of another global catastrophe.

Tucker Reals and Alex Sundby address the history of Ukraine briefly in their CBS article, "What you need to know about the Russia-Ukraine conflict as invasion begins," to put this conflict into context. During the late 1700s, much of Ukraine's territory was a part of the Russian Empire. There have been attempts for the state to become independent, even during the era of the Soviet Union, but to no avail.

"A lot of Russia's history can be linked to Ukraine," said Professor of History and Global Health Studies Kenneth Pinnow. "The territory of Ukraine has a long history, a lot of its cultural and linguistic roots can go as back as the 9th and 10th century with the Keivnrus."

According to Pinnow Once the Soviet Union fell in 1991, the 15-member republics that were a part of the Soviet apparatus became independent. The first decade since its independence, Ukraine has had a tumultuous time trying to establish itself as a sovereign nation, though partly democratic, the country was still led by old Pro-Russian elites. That all changed in 2004-2005 with the Orange Revolution, in which the people ousted corrupt elites and later installed a government that was more amicable to western hegemony.

With the current Ukrainian government being friendlier to the west in recent years, Russia has done its best to deter the country to move towards the west and NATO — which has expanded eastward since the collapse of the Soviet Union. According to CNN coverage, in early 2014, mass protests in Kyiv forced out their Russian friendly president after he refused to sign an EU association agreement. In response to that, Russian forces moved into the eastern Donbas region and annexed the peninsula of Crimea. Ever since then the region has been plagued by a proxy war between separatists and the Ukrainian government.

So why does Putin want Ukraine? Given the narrative that these two countries share an immense history together, it is imperative that Putin reclaims the territory to fulfill his ambitions to restore the former "Russian Empire" as mentioned in the CBS article.

"He rejects the idea that Ukraine and the Ukrainian people are a separate entity, and sees their nationality as a fiction," Pinnow said. "However, the more plausible argument to this invasion is that Putin can't have an independent and democratic Ukraine near the border of Russia. If (Ukraine) is successful, it could be a threat to Putin's government as it gives another model for dissatisfied Russians to follow."

Given these concerns, the Kremlin started amassing military forces near the border of Eastern Ukraine late last year which has caused tensions with NATO to rise to dangerous levels. Despite diplomatic efforts, Russia invaded Ukraine Thursday, February 24, in order to perform a "special military operation" to defend the Donbas region, which declared independence. However, it has escalated to a full-out assault of the country with many fleeing the country as refugees.

The consequences of this war have been detrimental to all sides, but especially Russia, since the invasion the country has faced heavy sanctions from the west which caused the Russian economy to tank. The war effort has also been underwhelming for Russia as they have seen stiff resistance from Ukrainian forces.

> "Unless for some reason Putin is unhinged, I don't think that (Putin) is some maniac who is looking to go down in flames and bring his country with him in a nuclear holocaust."
>
> —KENNETH PINNOW
> Professor of History and Global Health Studies, Allegheny College

"Putin must have thought now would be a good time to conduct this invasion since the pandemic seems to have fractured the strength of western powers," Pinnow said. This sentiment was also emulated in the CBS coverage of Andrea Kendall-Taylor, a former senior intelligence analyst when speaking on the conflict, "He sees the West as being in decline," Taylor said. "He sees the United States is distracted. He sees the trans-Atlantic relationship as under strain and he is leaning in now, I think, to accomplish these very maximalist objectives because I think that he views this as the opportune moment to do that."

A lot is uncertain about this conflict. With many speculating that this war can result in full scale nuclear war.

"I'd like to think we are far off from that possibility," Pinnow said. "Unless for some reason Putin is unhinged, I don't think that (Putin) is some maniac who is looking to go down in flames and bring his country with him in a nuclear holocaust."

Pinnow added that he is more concerned about accidents occurring with weapons.

"With NATO's heavy involvement in supplying the war effort for Ukraine, the possiblity is there," Pinnow said. "That's why requests for a no fly zone above Ukrainian airspace by the President of Ukraine have been met with hesitation."

Pinnow argued that this war may not wind up doing much good for Putin.

"(Putin) has not left himself many ways out," Pinnow said.

Aftermath of Burkinabe Coup spells further uncertainty

By **JUNE GROMIS**
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On the evening of Jan. 23, the inhabitants of the Burkinabe capital of Ouagadougou were awoken by gunshots near the presidential palace. The next day, they would witness the tipping point of political tensions unleashed on the city. The country's military, tired of the government's incompetence when dealing with Burkina Faso's ongoing islamist insurgency, had detained president Roch Marc Christian Kaboré and initiated a full-scale coup d'état.

Two months later, more has been revealed about the military junta that rules Burkina Faso, and their plans for future governance. After the dissolution of parliament and the Burkinabe constitution, the military government has now adopted a new charter that outlines a proposed 30 - to 36-month transition period during which it hopes to stabilize the country in order to facilitate new elections, according to the government's official press release. According to Al Jazeera, the charter was drafted under involvement of Burkina Faso's existing political parties and representatives of the military.

A few days later, an official transitional government was appointed, with the leader of the coup, Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, as its president. Burkina Faso's interim prime minister will be Albert Ouedraogo, an economist and academic.

The initial international reaction to the coup was primarily one of worry. The institution of democracy in West Africa has faced many challenges historically, and yet Burkina Faso itself, a country that has had so many coup d'etats that they have their own Wikipedia page, seemed to be on an upwards trajectory after Roch Kabore had been elected in 2015, and then re-elected in 2020, as the country's first non-transitional president with no military affiliation in almost 50 years (Reuters). As a result, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States suspended Burkina Faso's membership after the coup, and the United States froze about 160 million dollars in aid.

Yet at the same time, sources within the nation are cautiously optimistic. Eddie Komboïgo, leader of the Congress for Democracy and Progress and runner-up in the last presidential election was quoted by Al Jazeera as saying: "It is true that not everyone is going to be happy with the transitional charter … but it was the consensus that we reached."

Samne Stephane, a resident of Ouagadougou, interviewed by the Associated Press opined: "We have a lot of security problems and I really think 36 months is not sufficient … the democratically elected president tried in vain to solve terrorism issues, I believe that it is good to try soldiers now."

In the meantime, analysts and diplomats outside the nation are divided, trying to gauge the success of the transitional period, especially when it comes to stabilizing Burkina Faso's national security and reinstating democracy. According to the Associated Press, "One European diplomat who was not authorized to speak to the media told the Associated Press that the response from European diplomats was positive and there was a general agreement to support the transition and a willingness to give them a chance."

> Thirty-six months is too long a period to transition to a civilian government and this could very well leave big chunks of the population to lose trust in transitioning."
>
> —LAITH ALKHOURI
> CEO,
> Intelonyx Intelligence Advisory

Laith Alkhouri, CEO of Intelonyx Intelligence Advisory, is quoted by ABC News as saying that, "Thirty-six months is too long a period to transition to a civilian government and this could very well leave big chunks of the population to lose trust in transitioning." The importance of retaining the trust of the population has and continues to be a difficult task, no matter who is in power. The international community's focus on the potential loss of democracy in Burkina Faso stands in stark contrast to the widespread support for the coup among Burkinabes, who as a whole seem more concerned with the integrity and political stability of their country than preserving democracy on principle. In a country that has seen many military regimes since independence, trust in the democratic process is still something that must be won, even as mistrust of military governments is rampant.

According to a 2019 survey by Afrobarometer, a series of national attitude surveys across Africa, 62% of Burkinabes reject military rule while 72% trust traditional leaders, the tribal chiefs, highlighting these very complexities. The current state of Burkinabe politics is more one of uncertainty that anything else, as the future of the country's internal and international politics rests on the success of the transitional government, which has pledged itself both to addressing the grievances that plagued the last administration, and to, at some point, restoring democracy in a state where it can be viable according to the standards of the military. The fact that there is an openness in the international community to give this provisional state a fair chance at governance does provide some much needed legitimacy and perhaps future economic and political aid to the daunting tasks ahead.



Photo source: Wikimedia Commons

A coup recently occurred in Burkina Faso, a country of about 20 million people in West Africa.

Parkhurst organizes Wellness Fair for Nutritional Month

By **EVELEYN ZAVALA**
Features Writer
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The wellness of college students encompasses many aspects of life such as nutrition, exercise, mental health and social life.

Parkhurst Dining, responsible for the student dining experience, hosted the "Well on Your Way" fair to promote healthier habits in Allegheny students from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2 in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center. With a diverse number of wellness topics, students learned more about what they can do to take care of themselves at the fair.

The fair included tables by organizations from inside and outside the college, each focusing on a different aspect of wellness.

> Hopefully students can gain more awareness about eating healthier and becoming more aware of their social and mental health."
>
> —CONNER MASTALERZ
> Class of 2022

Marketing Coordinator for Parkhurst Dining Daisy McKim explained why Parkhurst decided to have a wellness fair this month.

"March is National Nutrition Month so we wanted to start it off with a band," McKim said. "Something Parkhurst is really passionate about is health and wellness. We really wanted to highlight physical, social and mental wellness."

According to McKim, Parkhurst wants students to know that they stand for wellness and wants to show that they love to collaborate with people. Parkhurst also wanted to give organizations centered around different aspects of health a spotlight.

At her table about the student benefits of nutrition, Parkhurst Dietitian Alicia Koloski explained the type of eating she advocates for.

"I am a huge advocate for intuitive eating so I have information on that and gentle nutrition," Koloski said. "As a dietitian, I would focus more on gentle nutrition as opposed to rules and guidelines. It is a lot more (about) touching base with your intuition and your specific body needs."

Koloski also explained how gentle nutrition can be easier to implement for college students than a strict diet.

"The hard part about my job is figuring out ways to get people to trust their bodies, so it is going back to body trust, normalizing hunger and not following external factors like rules," Koloski said. "I want to recommend that students focus on what feels good in their bodies and how it makes them feel."

According to Koloski, Parkhurst hosts a lot of activities because they believe that food has the potential to bring students together. For example, Parkhurt exposes students to different kinds of foods from different cultures and encourages communal eating.

Member of the Mental Health Awareness Club Conner Mastalerz, '22, outlined the purpose of MHA's presence at the fair and how their table supports the mental health of students.

"At this table, people write down an insecurity on a little Post-it note and throw it in the trash can," Mastalerz said. "Then, they write something good about themselves and hang it up on the wall. Being college students, we are surrounded by stress and we have a lot of stuff going on. It is important to make sure everyone is okay and to check up on friends. It is just important to make sure everyone is in the best state they can be."

Mastalerz explained that mental health and physical health through nutrition are connected and it is important to eat foods that make the body feel good.

"If you eat healthy foods, your body will get the right nutrition and feel better which will make you feel better mentally," Mastalerz said. "Hopefully students can gain more awareness about eating healthier and becoming more aware of their social and mental health."

> The hard part about my job is figuring out ways to get people to trust their bodies, so it is going back to body trust, normalizing hunger and not following external factors like rules."
>
> —ALICIA KOLOSKI
> Dietician,
> Parkhurst Dining

Owner of Emphico Studio Martina Hajnova came to Allegheny to show students a different way to exercise. In order to encourage students to continue practicing what they learned, Hajnoa provided a 50% off coupon for a class at the fitness studio on a later date.

"The 'Pound Workout' is a really holistic approach, not just for a healthy lifestyle to working out, but also to mindfulness and mental health," Hajnova said. "I am hoping to introduce them to something they can hang on to and experience and to change their lives. I have seen how Pound changes so many of my customers. I have seen really shy people from the back row getting more confident."

McKenna Manderine, '25, reflected on her experience with the fair and especially the Pound workout she chose to participate in.

"I had been stressed and I thought the workout would relieve the stress," Mandarin said. "I felt a little bit giggly after because I felt like I had made a fool of myself but I was happy. I think the fair benefits students who participate in it. I know a ton of people probably just walk past it but me and my friends had a lot of fun."

McKim summarized that the core message of the fair is to promote all aspects of health and emphasize the importance of them.

"We really believe social, mental and physical health are the pillars of wellness," McKim said.

ASK! an editor

The new column where you can ask us anything

By **ETHAN WOODFILL**
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Brooks or Kinz (or is it Kins)?

It is most definitely Kinz. Anyways, after four years on campus I would say that Kinz winz in terms of convenience, consistency and atmosphere. Though I must say that Brooks has been improving steadily over the past years and I really appreciate the dedication of Parkhurst to addressing student requests. The in-person dining experience is back, and things on campus are finally starting to feel like pre-spring 2020 again.

How do you manage the pressure of module 2 with publishing a paper every week?

It's definitely tough for our staff to manage a full course load, other commitments (comping) and having a decent social life while covering unexpected events on campus. But I think having the steady, consistent schedule that we have is what keeps us on track and focused. If I had any advice to give to students struggling with time management, it would be, sit down for an hour when you can and get done what you can. I am not one to sit in the library until it closes, but find your best working time and space, put on some lofi beats if that helps you focus, and do one task at a time.

What is there to do in Meadville?

While I was first touring Allegheny five years ago, I did not think that there would be much to do in Meadville. However, as I have now called Meadville home for the past four years, I have been surprised and elated to find all of the great local businesses and restaurants as well as local gems like French Creek and Woodcock Dam — a great place to walk with a friend or play disc golf. In town, I frequent French Creek Coffee and Tea Co. (where they offer a generous 20% student discount), Julian's Bar and Grille, Kettle Lake Kitchen and Yummy Asian. If you are of the legal drinking age, check out Voodoo or Roff's School House Tavern. If you are able to drive a little further from Meadville, check out Conneaut Lake or make the trek to Erie to visit Presque Isle State Park, Millcreek Mall or my personal favorite, Ichiban's all-you-can-eat buffet. Wow, that's a lot of food recommendations.

My roommate(s) will not leave my apartment/room. How can I politely ask for some time alone?

This is definitely tricky as you all have a right to the space, and there are more constraints if you are sharing a bedroom. I would suggest that you make your boundaries clear at the beginning of the year, if possible. It is more difficult if you are friends, in my experience, because you do not want to jeopardize the friendship with any unnecessary drama. Consider making some compromises and sacrifices. Plan to have your downtime, alone time or "alone time" while your roommate(s) are in class or have other obligations. If you are in a shared space, do not make the mistake of not taking up any space in the common areas. You have just as much of a right to occupy that space as your roommate(s). If your roommate(s) are violating your need for space, politely assert your need for it and, if all else fails, consider finding a new place or talk to Residence Life for help.



How do I get involved with The Campus?

There are a number of ways to get involved with The Campus depending on your skillset, availability and interest. We need photographers to go to home sporting events and other on-campus events, writers for every section and op-eds from you on whatever you are feeling particularly peeved or excited about. For more information, email us at newspaper@allegheny.edu. You can also submit questions for "Ask an Editor."

MCT hosts first all-student production

By **MO MANSOUR**
Features Editor
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For the first time, the Meadville Community Theater is giving students full control of a production on their stage with the debut of "It's Not All About Sex (Or Is It?)," by Professor Emeritus of Psychology Joshua Searle-White.

The show, directed by Victoria Smith, '23, stars alex martin, '24, and Mycah Quevillon, '25. Kaki Lynch, '22 is the stage manager and light board operator.

"(The play) is about navigating and talking about sex, kind of bringing it out of the stigmatization from it, and also talking about consent and relationships in general, but in a comedic way," Quevillon said.

"(The play) also covers the embarrassment, and how to deal with all of that," martin added. "Dating, sex, relationships, all of it can be scary, but we all deal with it, it's okay."

Designed as a series of vignettes — a collection of smaller scenes that typically have a common thread or throughline — written by Searle-White before the COVID-19 pandemic, Searle-White's vision at the time was to have a production in the MCT with a professional director as well as himself starring in it. However, Searle-White later decided that a student-centered production would be a better fit.

"It's very, very rewarding to be trusted with this," Smith said. "To be the first people that are doing a student production in the community theater, that's a super big and I really hope that this relationship (between the MCT and the Playshop Theater) lasts. I think it's important to get our students involved in the community and the community aware of our students."



Photo Courtesy of A NEU IMAGE
Mycah Quevillon, '25 (right) and alex martin, '24 (left) at rehearsal.

Smith has been in the theater acting since she was a child but only began to dabble in directing during her sophomore year of college. After taking a class on directing, mostly by happenstance, she discovered that she enjoyed it and had a talent for it.

Smith has continued acting at Allegheny, recently starring in the fall production of "Bikeman," as well as props manager in other productions in the fall with the Playshop Theater.

Smith said that her first foray into directing an official production on her own has had a difficult learning curve.

"(It has been) daunting in some ways and extremely fun in other ways," Smith said.

Smith explained that the process was made easier because of the support she has received from martin, Quevillon and Searle-White — who is acting as producer — as well as MCT Marketing Chair Sylvia Cagle.

The play itself is a bit unusual, routinely breaking the fourth wall, and having the actors interact with the audience. The "fourth wall" is a concept in theater that separates the audience from the actors and what they are doing on stage, like an imaginary or transparent screen that in most plays, and most media for that matter, is not crossed. The actual script of the play is used as a prop and referenced in the play as the script of the play.



Photo Courtesy of A NEU IMAGE
Victoria Smith, '23, (right) is making her directorial debut at the Meadville Community Theater with the production of "It's Not All About Sex (Or Is It?)."

"It gets confusing but (in this production Quevillon and I are) actors, pretending to be actors, on stage acting out different scenes," martin said.

They explained that multiple dimensions of acting will be occuring within the play at any given moment, a factor that also makes it unlike others.

Smith, Quevillon and martin are all also all involved with the Playshop's upcoming production of "She Kills Monsters," which will run from April 28 to May 1. A comedic drama written by Qui Nguyen and directed by kt shorb, the play follows protagonist Agnes through a Dungeons & Dragons quest left behind by her recently deceased sister.

"It's Not All About Sex (Or Is It?)" opens on March 11 and runs through the weekend. Standard tickets are $13, $11 for senior citizens and $5 for a student with a valid ID.

'Battinson's' first caped crusade a solid first entry

Batman breaks the box office like a homeless person's bones

By **MO MANSOUR**
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Batman is one of those fictional characters that since his debut in 1939 has transcended his fictional station to becoming a pop culture icon, if not a mythological figure in a way. Whether you are a comic book fan or not you know about Batman, maybe just because of the osmosis-like permeation of culture or because you grew up with the movies and cartoons, but you know the basic story. There is a boy whose parents are killed in front of him but he survives, and so makes a vow to spend the rest of his life as a crusader, warring on all crime, or sometimes just Gotham City, it really depends on the story and who is writing it. For safety's sake: mild spoiler warning for the rest of this review.

This boy is of course Bruce Wayne, The Batman, and in Matt Reeves' 2022 film of the same name the constraint of Batman's war on crime is clear: Gotham City is the priority, a reasonable choice for this grittier, more grounded version of the character. This movie eschews the common tropes associated with a Batman movie; for example, the audience is presumed to know the overall outlines of the dark knight's origin, and are spared from having to rewatch Thomas and Martha Wayne's murder at the begining of the film, as in so many times before — a fate that could not even be escaped in this article. Similarly Batman's legendary training that allows him to push the boundaries of what "normal" people are capable of as well as his first nights as Batman are skipped. The audience is immediately dropped into the story of the movie which takes place two years into Bruce Wayne's superhero career, being introduced to the movie's villain, The Riddler — played by Paul Dano — just as the protagonist is. This Riddler, unlike past incarnations, is incredibly menacing. The character is a blend of the fictional Jigsaw Killer of the "Saw" franchise and the historical Zodiac Killer. His first appearance on screen is jarring and engaging, and indeed every consecutive appearance is equally so. Reeves' vision for this movie was for it to be a detective story and a serial-kiler Riddler is a great choice for that sort of story. As an antagonist this movie's Riddler does a great job, but as a villain he strikes me as rather mediocre. His motives and plots aren't all that original or compelling but the manner in which he behaves, his modus operandi so to speak, is, as is his relationship with The Batman.



SOFIA HASSAN/THE CAMPUS
News Editor Sofia Hassan, '25, poses in front of a poster of "The Batman," after enjoying the film.

Batman's rogues gallery, or his roster of villains and enemies, is iconic. Besides the Riddler and the various mobster figures such as Carmine Falcone and Salvatore Maroni that make who also appear in the film, there is the Joker, Bane, Poison Ivy, Ra's al Ghul, Scarecrow, Mr. Freeze and many others, but the most memorable and infamous of these villains are the ones who are in direct opposition to or a reaction to Batman's very existence, which this movie's Riddler is. Unlike in other versions of the character this iteration is directly targeting city officials that he views as corrupt, participating in a broken vigilantism that was started with Batman as the inspiration. The implication here is that if Batman had never donned the cape and cowl the Riddler would not have wrapped himself up in plastic and began killing..

This is a theme that is occasionally brought up in Batman's stories with other character's than the Riddler being used; an exploration of the question of whether or not Batman's existence is actually a help to Gotham and it's people or if the in response to Batman crime simply evolved to survive, breeding a new kind of criminal, one much more dangerous than before.

Is this Batman ready and able to deal with these grave new threats, though? Robert Patinson's portrayal of Batman, in this viewer's opinion, could have been better, but was not bad enough to mark it a failure. The actor of "Twilight" fame didn't do a poor job as the caped crusader, rather he actually seems to really make this particular version of the character come to life quite well. I'd say this movie's take on Batman is unlike most others in the way that it obliquely acknowledges throughout the narrative that the idea of "Batman" is inherently ridiculous. As a response to trauma and tragedy, a young boy with a massive amount of wealth dedicates his talents and resources to dressing like a bat and beating the shit out of the urban poor and disenfranchised. It is rather silly. However, Pattinson's Batman, or "Battinson," really captures the idea that I think lies behind that joking perspective, which is that Batman as a character is fundamentally very sad and broken. He is so emotionally cracked that the only way he can cope is by adopting the visage of a bat and warring on crime. Unfortunately the way that the movie chooses to portray this is by making Robert Pattinson look like the laziest emo in the world.

Pattinson in the costume looks imposing, imperial and threatening, all things that Batman should be. Patinson as just Bruce Wayne looks sad and tired. His voice is hollow, his eyes are routinely covered in grease paint that looks like war paint or a manner of avoiding identification and rather an example of how not to do your mascara, or at least not how Batman should do their mascara. Unlike in other versions of the character, both on and off the screen, this version lacks the multiple faces or personas that Batman usually juggles. He is Batman regardless of whether he is wearing a bow and tie or a cape and cowl, whether he is talking to Selina Kyle, his butler Alfred Pennyworth, or Commissioner Gordon — in this story still just a lieutenant — Pattinson plays Batman as Batman.

On a scale of "I'm going to have to talk about this in therapy," to "I can't wait to talk about this in therapy!" I would say that 2022's "The Batman" earns a very solid "Could have been better, but I wasn't disappointed and I can't wait for the sequel."

Apparently I am not the only one as there is now as HBO Max has ordered a spinoff series centered on Colin Farrell's character of The Penguin a.k.a. Oswald "Oz" Cobblepot, and hints at an announcement regarding the movie coming on March, 11. Whether this announcement will be one of a sequel or something else is yet unclear but what is clear is that at the time of writing this "The Batman" has made $279,806,394 in the worldwide box office and is certified fresh by Rotten Tomatoes and with the way that the film ended it seems a follow up is all but certain. Of course none of this is convincing to the most skeptical of moviegoers so my advice is to go see for yourself what the hype is about, I can bet that if nothing else you'll at least have a good time.

7/10

Women's Lacrosse continues high-score win-streak

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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The Allegheny Women's Lacrosse team cruised to victory on Sunday, March 8, as they took down Thiel College 14-4 in their season home opener. The Gators currently boast a 4-0 record, and are atop a vigorous NCAC conference. The win gave them back-to-back dominating victories, as they previously steamrolled Buffalo State 17-3 on Saturday, March 5.

The Gators amassed six goals in the first quarter, kicking things off in the first two minutes with junior attacker Senna Perelman, '23, finding the net. A pair of goals were also scored by Emily Herrold, '24, who has been lighting up the scoreboard all season for Allegheny.

Moving into the second quarter and through the rest of the game, Perelman stole the show. She added four more goals to her stat line, also finishing with two forced turnovers and seven draw controls. She is the team's leading scorer, and has been a consistent threat to opposing defenses, as they have not found an answer for her dazzling moves on the field.

Due to the pandemic, the last two seasons have been shortened in attempts to keep players and spectators safe. As a third-year student athlete, this is Perelman's first full season, and for her it is all about soaking in the experience.

"Given the way the last few years have gone … it really just feels fun to be able to go out there and play," Perelman said. "I'm just looking to enjoy every opportunity I get."

Alongside Perelman, Herrold has been another attacking menace this season. The sophomore out of Hampstead, Maryland, has been scoring at an efficient rate, finding the net eight times this season out of her 12 attempts. She has helped her team get to where they are as they now look forward toward more challenging goals, like taking down their arch nemesis, Wooster.

"One of our biggest team goals since we talked about from the beginning of the season is we want to beat Wooster," Herrold said. "I think we're definitely at that level to compete with them."

In addition to having a powerful offense, the Gators are also resilient on the defensive side of the ball. Only allowing slightly more than six goals a game, goalkeeper play has been a highlight for Sarah Thorman, '24, as she has racked up 19 saves in the season, including five in the teams last outing, good for an impressive 62.5 save percentage.

"During practice I've been getting used to being the only goalie," Thorman said. "All things considered, I feel like I've played pretty well."

Thorman has been the goalie for Allegheny the past two seasons. After earning playing time her first year and playing well — with 17 saves in seven games played — her expectations rose as she was granted the starting job. Thorman said that as her hard work began paying she began putting in extra time at practice. Thorman also claimed chemistry is another key component to the defense's success.

"Getting those extra reps in practice has helped," Thorman said. "Working with the defense, we've just become really strong and such a unit and really communicative with each other, which has definitely limited goals against us."

> One of our biggest team goals ... is we want to beat Wooster. I think we're definitely at that level to compete with them."
>
> —EMILY HERROLD
> Class of 2024

To add to an already stellar defense, another potential powerhouse for the Gators this season is Sybi Gerhart, '24. Also earning time during her first year, Gerhart has only been able to participate in the season opener and the Gators last game, however in those games she has four ground balls and one assist.

Her presence on the field has been impactful for this year's unit, as she looks to continue adding to the stat sheet to help her team.

"I'm a big stats person," Gerhart said. "But being more of an impact player is my goal this year."

The Gators are on their way to a historic season. The only other team to perform as well as they have was the 2014 squad led under former head coach Ashley Hughes, where they went 15-2 starting off the year with 10 straight wins.

The Gators will face off against the Mount Union Raiders at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16.

GATORS IN ACTION


PERELMAN
5 goals


BAGINSKI
3 goals


HERROLD
2 goals

GATOR CHECK IN
FINAL SCORES

Women's Tennis
Saturday, March 5 at William Smith
Final Score: 4-5

Women's Lacrosse
Saturday, March 5 at Buffalo State
Final Score: 17-3

Men's Lacrosse
Saturday, March 5 at Lycoming
Final Score: 5-11

Men's Tennis
Saturday, March 5 at Hobart
Final Score: 0-9

Women's Tennis
Sunday, March 6 at Ithaca
Final Score: 0-9

Men's Tennis
Sunday, March 6at Ithaca
Final Score: 0-9

Women's Lacrosse
Monday, March 7 vs. Theil
Final Score: 14-4

Men's Lacrosse
Tuesday, March 8 vs. Mount Union
Final Score: 5-7

Baseball
Thursday, March 10 at Grove City
Final Score: 3-5

Equestrians trot home show placements



Photo courtesy of Dorja Kovacevic

The Allegheny Equestrian team's last show of the season was at Willow Brook stable from March 5-6. They came away with four 1st place, six 2nd place, three 3rd place, two 4th place and two 5th place placements overall. The team was also in charge of hosting on the second day of the event — meaning they were in charge of the event's logistics and scheduling. "I'm so proud of everybody," Captain Grace Hemmelgarn, '22 said (second from the left). "It was a really, really amazing last show for me. I'm so grateful for (Coach Halli Bidwell, to the right of Twinkie the horse) and everything she taught me."

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