

Springfest 2022, in photos



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

Allegheny College President Hilary Link joins students on a “Toxic Waste” inflatable during Springfest activities on Wednesday, April 20. The game requires participants to alternate between jumping over a low obstacle — as Link is doing here — and ducking under a higher obstacle.

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ASG winds down club voting

By **SOPIA HASSAN**
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Allegheny Student Government began this week’s general assembly at 7:31 p.m. in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.

Director of Communications and Press Ryder Sullivan, ’23, announced that she would be making posts that week for upcoming budget hearings.

Director of Sustainability and Environment Andi Reiser, ’23, thanked everyone who helped with tabling in the campus center lobby for the menstrual cup giveaway.

As Director of Community Relations Kyrié Doniz, ’23, stated, the business of the week was French Creek Coffee and Tea Co., located at 285 Chestnut Street. Those who mention they are a student at Allegheny will receive a 20% discount.

Director of Organizational Development Crystal Hernandez, ’23, reminded everyone to sign up for the ASG formal, to take place in two weeks. She would be sending out an email regarding behavior expectations.

The window for voting on clubs is coming to a close, as Attorney General Jack Parker, ’22, and the rest of this academic year’s cabinet will soon be making way for the next academic year’s cabinet.

“We don’t want to have things that are crossing over, as far as votes go,”

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In this week’s Campus...

“THE CRUELEST MONTH”?

Opinion Editor Kaleigh White, ’22, divulges her vehement dislike for the month of April.

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GatorCon invites students, staff to stage

First-year class puts together public-speaking convention on campus

By **SOPIA HASSAN**
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Public speaking on a college campus is primarily limited to classrooms and academic subjects, but it does not have to be.

A lineup of nine individuals in the Allegheny College community, from students to faculty to President Hilary Link, presented on a topic of their choosing on Thursday, April 14, in Shafer Auditorium during a public speaking event known as GatorCon. Talks ranged from examples of human rights violations across the globe to lessons taught by heavy metal.

“I just think it’s a really fun event for students to just talk about things that you wouldn’t get a chance to talk about,” said President of the Class of 2025 Abigail Estrada-Hernandez.

GatorCon was the result of months of planning and preparation on the part of the class of 2025. During one of the class’s weekly meetings earlier last semester, Vice President of the Class of 2025 Ray Colabawalla originally proposed a TEDx at Allegheny, as he had had a similar public speaking opportunity in high school.

“I thought that would be a great thing to bring the community together and make it a yearly event where it can start to be a tradition at Allegheny,” Colabawalla said.

But, as Colabawalla went on to say, TED licensing prevented the convention from being branded as a TEDx event. One of the requirements was for someone to have attended a TED convention before, which none of the senators had. First-Year Class Dean Niki Fjeldal then

suggested that the class of 2025 call its event GatorCon.

The senators discovered that GatorCon had been organized previously at the college in 2019. This first iteration, though, was exclusively for students belonging to specific honor societies on campus. The first-year class wanted to give everyone a chance to be on stage.

“With this GatorCon, we’re inviting all students from all types of backgrounds or interests, majors, minors, as well as faculty just to talk about their interests, talk about their stories, basically anything that they’re interested in or passionate about,” Estrada-Hernandez said.

Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications Jason Andracki delivered the aforementioned talk about heavy metal, titled “All I Really Needed to Learn I Learned from Heavy Metal.” He signed up partially because he wanted an opportunity to speak on a topic close to his heart, and partially because given the fact that he works in admissions, he is familiar with the difficulties that can sometimes arise in organizing events.

“It’s hard to get (events) up and off the ground, so I wanted to see if I could be of assistance in any way possible,” Andracki said.

To prepare for his talk, he explained, he put together an outline of ideas. He also would send text messages to himself while driving. Meeting with the first-year senators, he found out that he could use slides and audio clips, which he incorporated into his presentation. Once he had a structured outline, he would practice giving his talk, timing himself to ensure he hit the 15-minute mark.

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Dukes to leave in May

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Dean for Institutional Advancement Kristin Dukes will be taking a new position as Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Chatham University.

President Hilary Link announced the change via email on Monday, April 18. Dukes, who will remain at Allegheny through May 15, leaves behind a radically transformed Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from the one she joined in July of 2018.

“When I arrived at Allegheny, I initially reported to (Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole, ’87), so my position was in a different space, if you will, but it still had the institution-wide focus,” Dukes said. “Under (Link), the position was elevated to reporting directly to the president and took on a more expanded focus, with some explicit pieces focusing on diversity, equity, inclusion, (and) professional development opportunities for all of our employees. Anything that has to do with assessing campus climate and culture around diversity, equity, and inclusion comes through my office.”

The ODEI portfolio is broad in scope. As Dean for Institutional Diversity, Dukes co-chairs the Council on Diversity and Equity, which looks at data from Human Resources, Public Safety, Student Life, Enrollment, Admissions and other college units to make policy recommendations to governing bodies like the Board of Trustees.

Dukes also oversees the administration of the Diversity and Equity Campus Climate Survey, a tool developed by the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium. HEDS describes the survey a way for institutions to “develop a better understanding of the extent to which their campus climate supports diversity and equity, and to inform and improve support, policies, and practices at their institution related to diversity and equity, including those to prevent or respond to discrimination and harassment.”

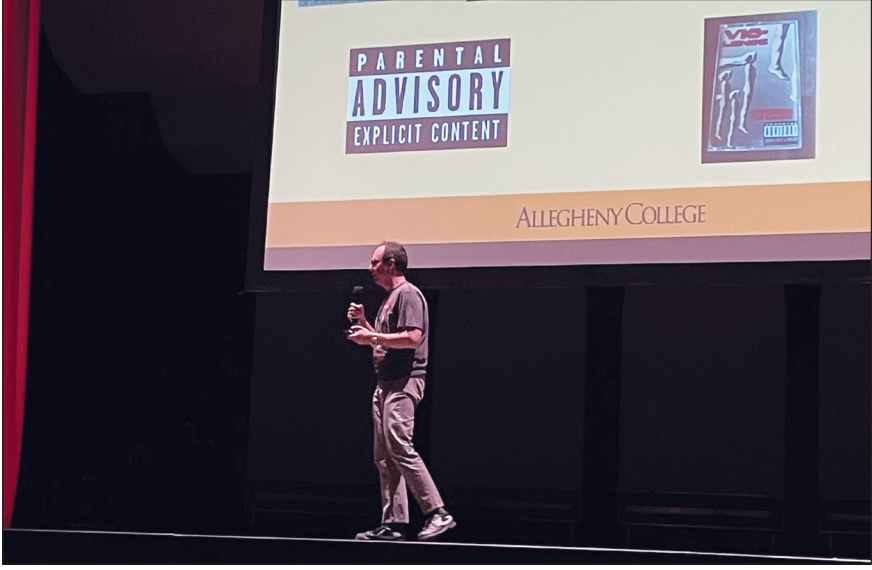
The data from the survey helps inform ODEI’s work, which is realized in student-oriented projects like the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Awareness and Social Justice Center and college hiring policies like the Faculty Cohort program, which is designed to diversify faculty recruitment through a “wrap-around mentorship program.”

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SOPIA HASSAN/THE CAMPUS

TOP: Rudra Schultz-Ray, ’23, speaks about his childhood experience in his talk, “Growing up white.”
BOTTOM: Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications Jason Andracki talks about lessons learned from heavy metal. “It’s hard to get (events) up and off the ground, so I wanted to see if I could be of assistance in any way possible,” Andracki said.



GOING FOR GOLD

The African Student Association hosted The Gator Cup, an intramural soccer tournament, which kicked off “ASA Week.”

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FRIDAY



H: 61° L: 48°
Rain: 15%
Sunrise: 6:29 a.m.
Sunset: 8:08 p.m.

SATURDAY



H: 75° L: 57°
Rain: 40%
Sunrise: 6:28 a.m.
Sunset: 8:10 p.m.

SUNDAY



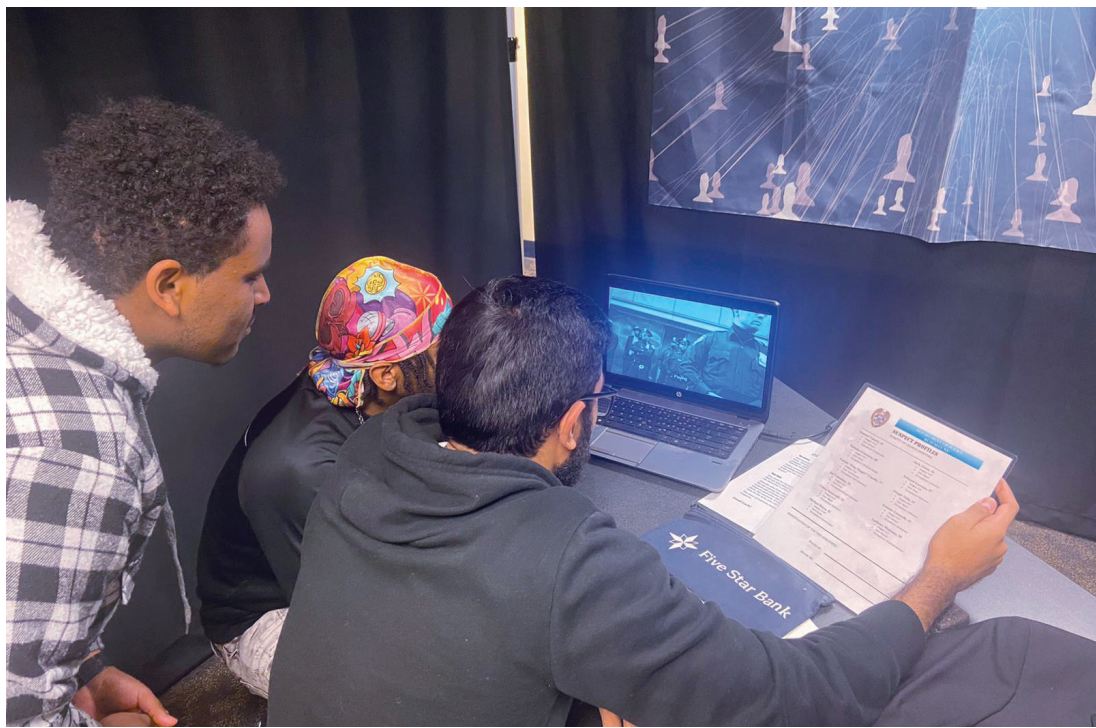
H: 80° L: 59°
Rain: 7%
Sunrise: 6:26 a.m.
Sunset: 8:11 p.m.

SPRINGFEST

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Two students battle each other in a lip-sync contest during the bonus round of the “Think Fast!” gameshow on Tuesday, April 19.



From left: Anthony Jackson-Duckett, ‘24, Dawit Kaheasay, ‘24, and Nahayan Minhas. ‘24, examine clues in the CSI-themed escape room. Escape rooms of different themes were available on the second floor of the Henderson Campus Center on Monday, April 18.



Students attend a formal organized by the Allegheny College International Club in the Schulz Banquet Hall on Sunday, April 17. The formal served as an afterparty to the club’s International Bazaar event.



Thion Lee, ‘24, (left) and Katie Perez, ‘24, (right) go head-to-head in a challenge of bungee run. Inflatable activities and a rock climbing wall were set up in the Gator Quad on Wednesday, April 20.

Springfest 2022: Gator-Gras

By HASSAN JAVED
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Avantae Gonzalez, ‘23, hosts the Drag Bingo Night event on the third floor of the Henderson Campus Center on Wednesday, April 20. Participants had the chance to win many prizes, including a 40 inch television.



Syd Hammerman, ‘25, (right) undertakes a tarot card reading on the third floor of the Henderson Campus Center on Wednesday, April 20. Students were also offered the chance to partake in a Reiki healing by professional David Peters of Indigo Boutique and Botanica.

Wildn’ Out

ASA fills CC lobby with improv battle



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

TOP: Students watch ASA’s “Wildn’ Out” from the lobby and the second floor of the Henderson Campus Center. The event, which featured a series of games between the “New School” and “Old School” teams, was the second event in the African Students Association’s “ASA Week,” after the Gator Cup on Monday, April 18.

RIGHT: Students do the “stanky leg” during the first game of the event.

RIGHT INSET: Anthony Baldeosingh, ‘22, who DJs under the stage name “Bkchapo,” runs music as ASA President Ebrima Darboe, ‘23, helps direct the event on the stage.



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“They have peer mentors, they have disciplinary mentors that focus on their teaching and their scholarship, (and) they have an institutional mentor who helps them understand the landscape of higher education for people with marginalized and minoritized identities,” Dukes said. “There is also a membership to an external resource called the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity that any faculty member within the cohort program also gets an annual membership to, which is an additional resource for them as both recruitment and retention strategy for (Black, Indiginous and people of color) faculty.”

Both the Faculty Cohort program and the Diversity Teaching Fellowship — a two-year post-doctoral position designed to support the careers of BIPOC professors across higher education — are now managed by Assistant Professor of Community and Justice Studies Heather Moore Roberson, who serves as the point person for ODEI’s faculty work in addition to teaching classes. In October of last year, the ODEI team also expanded with the hiring of Tevis Bryant as assistant dean for institutional diversity.

“That particular position ... was created specifically to look at employee diversity, equity and inclusion opportunities,” Dukes said. “We did not have anyone or any position devoted to doing that type of work until last October when (Bryant) came on board. That position also serves as a community liaison, working with the local Meadville community on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.”

However, that position is now vacant; Bryant stepped into the role of Vice President and Dean of Students following April Thompson’s resignation from the post in late February. This shift — and the vacancy it created in ODEI — stands among others in college policy that reflect a changing institution. Since Dukes joined Allegheny, the college has hired a new president, developed an Office of Class Deans, reworked the Learning Commons into the Maytum Center for Student Success, and reconfigured the college’s academic offerings.

“Over the past four years, the last two in particular, Allegheny has experienced a number of what I call, ‘growing pains,’” Dukes said. “But there is light at the end of the tunnel. I’ve worked with people here — students, faculty, staff, senior administrators — that are deeply devoted to diversity, equity and inclusion and want to keep the momentum going ... I think with President Link’s strategic priority of inclusive excellence and holistic student success — having those priorities very clear, folks will be able to fall in line behind (those priorities) and get some good work going.”

Chatham University is a school of around 2,200 students in Pittsburgh, and while it has a diversity council and a diversity, equity and inclusion plan, Dukes has been hired to help to implement that plan.

“Chatham is in a similar position to what Allegheny was in when I first moved in, in that there was kind of an office (of diversity, equity and inclusion) but not necessarily the infrastruc-

ture built out,” Dukes said. “I think that what Chatham found attractive about me is the ability to look at an institution, figure out where its weaknesses and areas of opportunity are, and try to build out the infrastructure to make that happen.”

Before coming to Allegheny, Dukes taught psychology at Simmons University in Boston, and by 2017 had been granted tenure. However, a variety of personal and private matters led Dukes to look back to the job market.

“The extra push came from one of my mentors, who had said to me, ‘you try to find what you can to develop professionally where you are, and if you can’t find those resources, then it’s time to move on,’” Dukes said. “So I spent some time trying to find the resources to get more training and more development in the DEI space, and at (Simmons) there was just no more room for that type of advancement.”

Five years later, Dukes said that changes in her personal life — though this time not her professional considerations — had again caused her to pause and reflect on where she’s going in life.

“I recently had a baby; my daughter is now five and a half months old,” Dukes said. “It was one of those moments in life where I paused and said, ‘okay, am I doing everything that I want to do professionally? Are there ways in which I could stretch and challenge myself more? What does that mean for my family? What does that mean for my child?’ That is when I started to see opportunities for



DUKES

senior diversity officer positions or chief diversity officer positions at other institutions. Many of them were vice president positions, so I threw my hat into the ring ... Chatham was one of those institutions that offered me a position and I accepted.”

As Dukes departs, she sees Allegheny as heading in the right direction. She said she was excited about the work of IDEAS Center, saying that Director Darnell Tucker and Program Manager Mikka Hunt have “an amazing vibe.”

“I know that change never happens as fast as people would want, but we’re getting there,” Dukes said. “When I got here, (ODEI) was a single office of one individual reporting to the provost. And what we have now is elevated to the president’s cabinet in an explicit way. There is now a diversity, equity and inclusion committee of the Board (of Trustees) that did not exist when I got here. There is the opportunity for so much good work going forward.”

ASG

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Parker said. With that addressed, Parker re-introduced Ashlynn Peachey, ’23, leader of the Sustainable Design Team, to talk about her organization again for the second round of voting.

After Peachey outlined SDT’s initiatives, adding that members had planted 35 trees and shrubs in the food forest outside the Carrden since last GA, a motion to approve the club for the second round of voting was passed.

Parker also introduced Logan Koontz, ’23, a representative of the Consulting Club, to discuss his organization. The goal of the organization is to reach out to Meadville businesses and make discounts like those offered at French Creek more common. Not only would students be able to enjoy paying a lower price on account of being students, he explained, but this increased patronage would bring in more revenue for these businesses.

“I want to strengthen the ties bridging the community and the students,” Koontz said. “I think there’s a big gap between restaurants and businesses here.”

A motion to approve Consulting Club for the first round of voting was passed. The organization will need to seek approval for the second round of voting the following week.

Parker mentioned that as president-elect Veronica Green, ’23, has collected all her cabinet applications, he and Parliamentarian Rachael Harris, ’23, will soon begin setting up senate elections for the next academic

year.

The volunteer sheet for the Major Event Concert had been sent out, as Chief of Staff Genesis Pena, ’22, reported. Volunteers will get their ticket reimbursed, as well as receive a free t-shirt, but hours spent volunteering for the concert will not count towards volunteer hours. Those still in need of volunteer hours could sign up for other Spring-fest events.

Director of Finance Olivia Brophy, ’23, mentioned that Tuesday, May 3, would be the last day for finance requests, and Tuesday, April 26, would be the last day for clubs to order stoles and shirts. Budget hearings would take place in the upcoming weeks. In order to have a budget next semester, clubs must submit the budget request form as well as attend the budget hearings. Clubs must also attend finance hearings for their finance requests to be heard.

This week’s finance requests consisted of \$4,807.50 from the general fund and \$1,660 from the Culture, Inclusion & Leadership Coalition fund. A motion to approve these finance requests was passed.

Vice President of the Class of 2022 Skyler Roemele announced that further plans to organize the upcoming senior social were underway.

President of the Class of 2023 Bridgit Hayes said that her class is still planning on hosting a dinner with the Islamic Cultural Association and a movie night on the Gator Quad. The class is also

looking for another senator.

President of the Class of 2025 Abigail Estrada-Hernandez conveyed her pleasure at the turn-out for GatorCon and said that her class hoped it would become an annual event. In addition, the first-year formal committee would be meeting Friday, April 22 with First-Year Dean Niki Fjeldal to finalize preparations for the formal.

Vice President Elect Rudra Schultz-Ray, ’23, reported that he and Green were in the midst of the interview process for their cabinet members, as well as having conversations with ASG Faculty Advisor Jennifer Foxman, ’89, and Dean of Students Tevis Bryant about goals for the summer.

Green said that she and Schultz-Ray had also met with IDEAS Center Director Darnell Tucker regarding their CILC policy to see what the IDEAS Center thinks about it.

Vice President Sophie Adams, ’22, announced that Senior Week would take place the week before finals, from May 9-14.

Adams went on to say that Allegheny had recently received a grant to research the college’s affiliation with the Methodist Church and the issues with that relationship. Students, faculty, and staff are welcome to submit research proposals. The Reverend Jane Ellen Nickell reached out to Adams about possibly coming to a GA to answer questions.

A three-minute discussion ensued regarding interest in Nic-

kell’s coming, with the majority — including President Noah Tart, ’22 — disagreeing with the idea.

“I’m all for the separation of church and state, because there’s a lot more than just our relationship with the Methodist Church that ASG does,” Tart said. “There’s a lot of religions ... that are on this campus. I don’t think we should subject them to considering or spending time considering our relationship with the church they don’t even affiliate with.”

Wristbands for the first 350 students to purchase concert tickets would be handed out in the ASG office Thursday, April 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

As Foxman said, free burger-and-milkshake meals would be given out on Friday for Springfest. A Kona Ice food truck would be on campus Saturday.

The assembly adjourned at 7:56 p.m.



I’m all for the separation of church and state, because there’s a lot more than just our relationship with the Methodist Church that ASG does.

—NOAH TART
Class of 2022

GATORCON

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Andracki has delivered numerous admissions presentations over the years, hitting on the same key points that his co-workers would. This particular presentation stands out in that the choice of topic is entirely his.

“Often, I’m doing a presentation about Allegheny, and we have a set of slides that we’ve revised and refined over the years,” Andracki said. “It’s probably since my college days where I’ve had public speaking where it’s just, ‘Oh, propose a topic that’s your own creation.’”

According to Estrada-Hernandez, obstacles in the preparation process included getting enough speakers to sign up and encouraging students to get out of their comfort zone. While some people may have an idea, they may not want to talk about it in front of a crowd.

But she added that the time that went into the planning process made addressing these issues easier.

“The class senators that I’m working with in terms of organizing, I think we all do a really good job of getting tasks done and delegating tasks so we’re not all too stressed out,” Estrada-Hernandez said.

Another step in getting ready for the event was reaching out to Link. Colabawalla, who suggested this addition to the lineup of speakers, explained that he wanted to give her a chance to present as scholar of Italian literature and art Hilary Link, unaffiliated with her job as president of the college.

“Every time she’s been on to speak in anything ... there’s always a lot of students,” Colabawalla added. “We thought that a good way to get people

to come attend the event was have a really, really high-profile speaker.”

In her talk, Link outlined the beauty of Rome, Italy, where she had worked and lived for six years as dean of Temple University Rome prior to coming to Allegheny.

Estrada-Hernandez pointed out that her role and the roles of her fellow senators in ASG may look different next semester. But the message of the original GatorCon, to connect departments as well as student ideas, is something that she would like to see carry into the future.

If GatorCon is slated to become an annual event, members of the Allegheny community can begin preparing for the 2023 revival as soon as now. But public speaking is not everyone’s forté, even if they care about a topic enough to spend time talking about it. For those who are nervous about being in front of a group of people, Andracki suggests repetition, in particular with topics that are a bit impersonal.

“I think there’s sometimes more pressure when it is something that you really identify with,” Andracki said. “(Practice) with something that is just purely the facts.”

For now, Colabawalla simply wants GatorCon 2022 to be memorable. When he first arrived on campus, he noted a lack of school spirit, and he hopes an event like this will rectify that and make students proud.

“A success would be if people show up, remember it, and be like, ‘We should have this every year,’” Colabawalla said. “That’s what we’re all aiming for.”

THE CAMPUS

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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 18, 2022
Fondling
Prospect Street

|||||Snow more Mr. Nice Sky|||||

Opinion editor laments the
chilling spring and student burnout

By KALEIGH WHITE
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In the opening line of T.S. Eliot’s most famous poem “The Waste Land,” he states that “April is the cruelest month.” While this is often taken out of context (as I am doing so here), I believe it stands true in the college experience as a whole, especially in the time of an ongoing global pandemic.

“The Waste Land” is, essentially, about the Spanish flu epidemic of the early 1920s. Written in 1922, Eliot expresses the frustration that April brings, with its promises of joy and new life as people continue to suffer and die around him. As campus COVID-19 cases continue to rise, no mask mandates are put in place, and Springfest continues as is, I cannot help but relate to Eliot’s situation. While we have much better medical technology today than he could have ever hoped for, I relate to the idea of feeling listless as things crumble around me while the earth dares to move on.

I am currently recovering from the usual April burnout. For outsiders who are unaware of this phenomenon, a shockingly large portion of Allegheny students tend to burn out around the end of March and the beginning of April. This is largely due to the weight of midterms and impending final exams, but this semester is also due to the structure of the academic calendar.

Many students have lamented the implementation of two separate modules for the spring 2022 semester, most due to the fact that they simply thought it was inefficient. Similarly, I think the modules were a bad idea due to both the resistance to pivot to online learning as well as the inevitable campus-wide burnout it creates.

From my understanding, the initial purpose of the module system was to keep students off campus during flu season. This made sense in the spring of 2021. From what I understood, the module system was implemented in the spring 2022 semester to enable us to pivot to online learning if classroom learning became difficult due to campus illness. However, instead of switching to online learning as initially intended, the school decided to have us simply mask in classrooms. I suppose this might make sense, given that we all know

COVID can only spread in classroom settings and it is not possible to contract COVID in other public settings, but I digress.

The module system pushed back the usual burnout period for students. In a normal semester, we tend to see burnout happening in late March, usually wrapping up for the majority of students in early to mid-April. Since we had a week-long module break in addition to an entire week of spring break, the burnout schedule has been pushed back; from what I have seen, and from what my professors have admitted to seeing, students are still currently struggling to get out of spring burnout. This is affecting not only classroom attendance and performance, but also students’ extracurricular activities. We are tired. We are tired of being tired. We do not know how to stop feeling this way, but we know that we need to in order to get things done.

And this brings me to my next point: the world has the audacity to keep turning. The sun still dares to rise, the flowers think they’re clever when they bloom, and it all feels like an effort to mock our internal and external struggles. When we are young, there are a few different things we are taught about April. The most general one is that April means it is springtime. Thanks to a certain groundhog, we are experiencing an extra six weeks of winter. While I cannot entirely blame Phillip, as scientifically there will always be six more weeks of winter after February 2, it is nice to have a sort of scapegoat.

I have lived in Crawford County my entire life, and as I expressed earlier this semester, I hate winter with every fiber of my being. I hate being cold, I hate dealing with snow and I hate falling on my butt when the sidewalks do not get salted. I have never experienced an April that did not contain several false summers and even more “second winters.” As of writing this, it feels like we are on our fourth winter. Last week I wore a cute skirt, and this week I am bundled up in a hoodie and sweatpants. While we are led to believe early on that April means springtime, I for one have never experienced this being even remotely true as I look out the window and witness even more snowfall.

To make matters worse, Springfest is currently underway at Allegheny. While I understand that this is a fun tradition

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I had thought we were all “Gator Safe, Gator Strong,” but with the continuation of Springfest, it has become clear to me that only able-bodied people are included in this sentiment.”

—KALEIGH WHITE
Class of 2022

at Allegheny, and that only my class was able to experience Springfest in a pre-pandemic world, I think it is unfortunately all too soon to continue with this event. Many advertisements for Springfest claimed it is “back and better than ever,” and that is the problem: we are still living in a global pandemic. While I would normally just say that Springfest parties are annoying, it pains me to say that they are also just entirely unsafe. COVID is rapidly spreading on our campus, and it feels like no one is noticing or caring. As someone who is immunocompromised, and whose closest friends are also immunocompromised, it feels like no one cares about us or our safety. Yes, we can simply avoid parties. I am fine with that, as I am not a party person anyway. But we still have to attend classes with people who go to parties. We still have to sit next to them, as they are unmasked and within my personal bubble. Wearing a mask myself only does so much; it constantly feels like there are no efforts being made to take care of folks with disabilities and compromised immune systems. I had thought we were all “Gator Safe, Gator Strong,” but with the continuation of Springfest, it has become clear to me that only able-bodied people are included in this sentiment.

For these reasons, April is altogether a very cruel time. It falls under a period where we are already exhausted, it gives us false hope of warmer weather and ultimately feels like a never-ending uphill battle, and a wintry one at that. As I struggle to finish writing my comp, I see those closest to me struggling in their schoolwork, and I see others struggling to maintain a social life as we all suffer under the crushing weight of this semester. In spite of it all, I am trying my best to remember the other thing we were taught about this month: “April showers bring May flowers.” The idea behind this is that it rains a lot in April, but it helps the flowers to bloom better and brighter in May. With everything that my friends are going through, and that I am going through myself, all I can say is: those better be some damn good flowers.

—KALEIGH WHITE
Class of 2022

Subject to suffering with sudoku

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	9				7			5
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4	6				1	5		9



Stretch your mind in a wicked game of Sudoku! Solution posted on www.alleghenycampus.com.



Mediocre masterpieces

The importance of subpar movies and their impact on our society

By SYDNEY EMERSON

Features Editor

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“National Treasure” is a masterpiece.

“Clue” is, too. I love “Night at the Museum” and “The Proposal” just as much as I love “Citizen Kane,” “Goodfellas” and “Dr. Strangelove.”

Movies like these are considered subpar and cheesy, meant for a certain lowbrow general audience and not worthy of praise, awards or recognition. They are guilty pleasures, the pop culture equivalent of junk food, only just above “The Bachelor” in terms of intellectual value. To an extent, this is all true. There is a certain finesse in Robert Towne’s script for “Chinatown” that Scott Rosenberg’s “Con Air” lacks, a particular auteur’s lens in “Cabaret” that “Grease” cannot quite match. But does this mean that the latter films are not worth watching? The answer is absolutely, unequivocally no.

In late 2019, which now seems like several decades ago, director Martin Scorsese got in some hot water online about comments he made about Marvel movies in an interview with IndieWire.

“Honestly, the closest I can think [of Marvel movies], as well made as they are...is theme parks,” Scorsese said. “It isn’t the cinema of human beings trying to convey emotional, psychological experiences to another human being.”

Scorsese’s comments reflect a rising sentiment in the world of American pop culture, a slightly-snobbish aversion to big, pre-packaged blockbuster movies. Some of the complaints associated with this belief are valid: franchises such as the Marvel Cinematic Universe do take up valuable screening space in theaters, sacrificing screenings of culturally or artistically important films that often draw in smaller audiences. They also all tend to follow the same story structure, generating a feeling of stagnant mediocrity rather than innovation in the world of film.

Perhaps most importantly, a massive franchise will eventually have its tentacles in everything. You will be hard-pressed to find a successful person in Hollywood who is not eventually snatched up by a superhero movie.

Regardless, these films make people (especially our opinion editor) happy. They are a comfort — and that alone makes them valuable.

My favorite movie is Rian Johnson’s “Knives Out.” A few years ago, I would never have admitted to a blockbuster being my all-time favorite film. I probably would have said something edgy like “American Psycho,” or something artistic and gritty like “Nightcrawler.” While it is true that these are fantastic films, we need to be honest with ourselves — laying claim to a particular film functions as a signal to others. You pick something difficult and artistic if you want to demonstrate that you,

yourself, are difficult and artistic.

I am through with that life. I like “Knives Out” because it is funny. I like it because it is a well-made, compelling mystery with a great set, amazing cast and excellent knitwear. I like it because it makes me happy. Most importantly, it is a film born out of joy. Rian Johnson’s only aim in writing and producing the film was to entertain himself. After the turmoil of Star Wars Episode VIII, which he helmed, he needed to let loose and create something to soothe his soul. “Knives Out” was the result.

When I first saw it in theaters, I was gearing up for my first finals week. I was stressed out of my mind. After two hours with “Knives Out,” I was demonstrably less grouchy and — dare I say — a bit inspired.

There is a Japanese term for a type of media similar to this. It is “iyashikei,” which roughly means “healing” and refers to certain films and television shows — usually animated — which are purposefully peaceful and calming.

I believe that, in America, we need to make room in our culture for a similar vein. Our version of “iyashikei,” of course, is more of the melodramatic, starring-Nicholas-Cage variety. We prefer rip-roaring action, slapstick comedy and musical numbers over peace and calm.

It is undoubtedly true that our culture has a very specific purpose for this type of media. It is a simple fact of life: when I am sad, I will reach for “Mamma Mia” before I reach for “Network.” In a time of distress, Colin Firth and Pierce Brosnan attempting to sing ABBA on a beautiful Greek island will always be more helpful than Peter Finch and Faye Dunaway masterfully earning Academy Awards.

Franz Kafka once wrote, “we ought to read only the kind of books that wound and stab us. If the book we’re reading doesn’t wake us up with a blow on the head, what are we reading it for?”

There has never been a quote that I have fundamentally agreed and disagreed with more. He is right: we should engage with media that tears out our still-beating hearts and leaves us floored. It is that feeling you get when you finish reading “The Book Thief” or “The Bluest Eye,” that cloudy emotion that fills your brain when you leave the theater after seeing “Get Out” or “Once.”

But sometimes, for the sake of our sanity, we need to stop getting hit on the head and instead be overwhelmed with the sheer joy of humans making things for the sake of making things. Sometimes we need to watch cheesy outer-space violence for two hours — I’m looking at you, “Star Wars” — and allow our minds to sink into a warm bath rather than a tub of nails. There is, and should always be, room for both.

Carr garden work to create a food forest begins

By **GABRIELLA BRADY**
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One of the many sustainability efforts at Allegheny College is the Carr Hall Garden, a garden full of fresh fruits and vegetables that are supplied to the two dining halls on campus, Brooks Dining Hall and McKinley’s Food Court.

The Sustainable Design Team is a small group of students from Students for Environmental Action, led by President Sebastian McRae, ’22, and future President Ashlynn Peachey, ’23. SDT has worked together with professors in the environmental science and sustainability department to create a “food forest,” which is expected to be an extension of the Carrden.



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

The food forest is in progress in front of the Carr Hall Garden.

Originally established by McRae during his first year, this project was meant to take advantage of the land on campus. “The reason I started this project is because I saw the opportunity to make better use of the space that we have on campus, the lawn space, which I saw as underutilized when I first got here as a freshman,” McRae said.

The food forest is expected to be an extension of the Carrden and will include fruit trees, berry bushes and edible herbs.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Jesse Swann-Quinn described the different plants that are expected to fill the food forest.

“The food forest (will move the Carrden) beyond just do-

mesticated plants and vegetables (to) thinking about the other kinds of productive species that are native to the area that we could plant and use to create a semi self-sustaining, more ecological environment,” Swann-Quinn said.

Peachey indicated that peach trees, plum trees, apple trees, cherries and pawpaws will be added to the food forest. She also mentioned that there are some fruits and vegetables being grown in the garden that students might not have known were edible, including the autumn olive, goji berries and gooseberries.

Peachey spoke about permaculture and how the garden implemented this form of agriculture.

“Permaculture is a method of placing things together so that they work well and they build off each other and they can benefit from one another,” Peachey said. “In the food forest, there’s a bunch of guilds, each surrounding a tree. And so these guilds have plants that will work together and benefit each other. So one plant is a nitrogen fixate. One is going to attract pollinators and beneficial bugs.”

Permaculture is also meant to take advantage of all the space that could be used for plants, by adding a bunch of different plants to different layers of the forest.

McRae added that a variety of ways which the campus landscape could be reshaped to



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Ashlynn Peachey, ’23, tends to one of the trees that will serve as part of the food forest. Planning for the food forest began in the 2018-19 academic year.

be more ecologically friendly and sustainable have already been discussed.

Over the course of the past few weeks, students have started to work on the food forest. The recent fluctuations in the weather have called for additional supplemental precautions to ensure that the plants would be able to grow. Peachey explained the extra precautions that have been taken to avoid harm to the plants.

“All the plants were chosen so that they would be able to

“

I saw the opportunity to make better use of the space that we have on campus.”

—SEBASTIAN MCRAE, ’22,
Founder,
Sustainable Design Team

survive,” Peachey said. “There are different climates in the United States, so all of them are survivable in this climate. But of course the young trees are so new that we want to protect them as much as possible. Whenever we plant something, we try to put a really nice layer of compost and mulch over it to try to keep the roots warm and keep those from freezing.”

In addition to fluctuations in the weather, the food forest is being structured in a way that prevents wildlife from consuming the fruits and vegetables being grown.

Despite these conditions, the SDT is hosting weekly work parties, where students can volunteer to help mark off regions where plants can be grown, dig the holes for the plants, and plant them. Last week alone, 28 trees and shrubs were planted,

according to McRae.

While this project is the first of its kind and is meant to be a trial to see if the benefits from this project will be seen outside of Carr, McRae expects that if this food forest grows well and the benefits are seen, there are other places on campus where other environmentally sustainable projects can take place.

“The lawn area around Murray Hall has always been somewhere that interested us because it’s always so muddy there that no one really likes to use it for events, unless it’s super dry, like in August or something,” McRae said.

McRae also cited other regions on campus, such as the slope outside of Steffee Hall and in the lawn area near Oddfellows, both of which could be used for future sustainability projects.

.....Microplastics identified in human blood.....

By **JUNE GROMIS**
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According to a new article and study published in the open access journal Environment International, microplastics have been discovered in human blood for the first time.

This article drew quite a lot of attention on social media, diluting and confusing the actual implications of this discovery, as well as other aspects of the research conducted in the article.

“Discovery and quantification of plastic particle pollution in human blood,” was a collaboration between scientists at the department of environment and health at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the Amsterdam University Medical Center. As its abstract describes, the goal of the study was to develop a clear way of identifying and quantifying microplastics in human blood, and then to apply that analysis to a sample group of 22 healthy volunteers from the general public.

In the process, not only were the scientists able to identify microplastics in the blood of 17 of the 22 volunteers, but they were also able to identify and quantify four distinct polymers used in the plastic: “Polyethylene terephthalate,

polyethylene and polymers of styrene (a sum parameter of polystyrene, expanded polystyrene, acetonitrile butadiene styrene etc.) were the most widely encountered, followed by poly(methyl methacrylate).”

In an article published in the Guardian, Professor of Ecotoxicology at VU Amsterdam Dick Vethaak, one of the article’s contributors discussed its wider implications.

“The big question is, what is happening in our body?” Vethaak said to the Guardian. “Are the particles retained in the body? Are they transported to certain organs, such as getting past the blood-brain barrier? And are these levels sufficiently high to trigger disease? We urgently need to fund further research so we can find out.”

A review paper discussing the cancer risks of microplastics in human blood that Vethaak contributed to, quoted in the same article, expands on this idea.

“More detailed research on how micro- and nano-plastics affect the structures and processes of the human body, and whether and how they can transform cells and induce carcinogenesis, is urgently needed, particularly in light of the exponential increase in plastic production,” Vethaak said to

the Guardian. “The problem is becoming more urgent with each day.”

The UK-based non-governmental organization Common Seas, a non-profit that seeks to combat plastic pollution in rivers and oceans, helped fund the original research into microplastics in the human bloodstream and is now advocating for sweeping new government investment into this research.

According to a Change.org petition started by the organization’s founder Jo Royle on its behalf, Common Seas is advocating that the UK government allocate 15 million pounds from existing government research funds into research regarding the impacts of plastic on human health.

As a result of this forthcoming research, activists are attempting to expand the general public’s knowledge of the more immediate negative effects on humans that climate pollution has brought about.

“What’s even more alarming is that plastic producers want to invest £2.3 trillion into making more plastic,” Royle states in the petition. “I think it’s morally wrong to invest £2.3 trillion in something that isn’t just killing millions of animals and destroying habitats around the world, but could be the root of so much human suffering too.”

Vethaak also spoke on the current state of knowledge regarding the proliferation of microplastics around humans.

“It is certainly reasonable to be concerned,” Vethaak told the Guardian. “The particles are there and are transported throughout the body.”

He said previous work had shown that microplastics were ten times higher in the feces of babies compared with adults and that babies fed with plastic bottles are swallowing millions of microplastic particles a day.

“We also know in general that babies and young children are more vulnerable to chemical and particle exposure,” Vethaak told the Guardian. “That worries me a lot.”

Common Sea is one of many NGOs in the environmental justice space who are searching for political and social solutions to the continued plastic pollution crisis. Along with financing further research into the effects of plastic on humans, Common Sea also cites the importance of pushing government policy: setting thresholds, processing requirements and plastic waste disposal regulations are institutional methods that, when enforced properly, can significantly reduce the negative impact of the plastic industry, according to Common Sea.

As scientists and environmentalists continue to discuss and further research the im-

plications of this discovery, the only consensus seems to be that the full scope of microplastics and their effect on humans is yet to be realized, something that may or may not affect a whole scope of biological functions and one’s likelihood of disease.

As the abstract of the original paper states: “This pioneering human biomonitoring study demonstrated that plastic particles are bioavailable for uptake into the human bloodstream. An understanding of the exposure of these substances in humans and the associated hazard of such exposure is needed to determine whether or not plastic particle exposure is a public health risk.”



Photo source: Creative Commons

Microplastics are small plastic particles which are a consequence of pollution, according to Britannica. The full scope of microplastics and their effect on humans is yet to be realized.

Advocates host imposter syndrome discussion

By EVELYN ZAVALA
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Impostor syndrome is an experience many people face, especially college students. According to Concordia University, impostor syndrome causes people to become suspicious of their success and believe they did not earn or have the skills to achieve their past accomplishments.

The Intercultural Advocates hosted a discussion about impostor syndrome amongst college students on April 13 in the Henderson Campus Center.

Intercultural Advocate Maya Francisco, '24, explained the purpose of having an impostor syndrome discussion on campus.

“I would like to make this more of an annual event simply because it is not talked about enough,” Francisco said. “The feeling of inadequacy shouldn’t happen because everyone works hard and everyone deserves to feel confident in themselves and if they are in a space where they don’t feel like they are worth

being there, that needs to change.”

Before the discussion, a TED Talk was played to explain what impostor syndrome is. The talk discussed the isolating effect of referring to the experience as a “syndrome” when most people have been challenged with it.

The discussion started with an activity where each student wrote about their accomplishments and why they deserve them on a green piece of paper. The activity was meant to help students think about why they are worthy of their accomplishments.

Barry Crentsil, '23, spoke about one of his biggest accomplishments as a first-generation college student.

“I feel like an achievement I have to acknowledge is getting into college,” Crentsil said. “Being first-gen, having that burden to go to college is a lot, especially not knowing people that have gone to college.”

After students shared their accomplishments and why they are worthy of them, the next activity was to write down feelings of doubt they

have about themselves and their achievements on a red paper. The students were then asked to crumble up the paper and throw it into the center of the room to symbolically rid themselves of those negative thoughts.

The discussion inspired many people to speak up about how they have had to overcome impostor syndrome to feel more comfortable with their positions in life.

Director of the IDEAS Center Darnell Tucker shared his experience with impostor syndrome throughout his life and revealed that impostor syndrome can persist outside of college classrooms.

“I feel like when things go wrong, I am the first person to blame myself, but when good things happen I don’t solely credit myself,” Tucker said. “Even when accepting this job, I was so glad for my connections and thought they probably praised me on the phone. I did not think I should get it because of me but because of who I put as references.”

Impostor syndrome is an incredibly common experi-

ence. According to Best Colleges, 20% of students experience impostor syndrome while at college and 82% of all people face it at some point in their life. Despite this prevalence, impostor syndrome is still rarely discussed.

“We need to have these conversations,” Francisco said. “The worst part about this is that people feel like they are alone and that is simply because most of us don’t talk about it with friends.”

Impostor syndrome is an especially common experience amongst students from marginalized backgrounds. The IDEAS Center wants students to have conversations about how they can feel more confident in their abilities.

“Whether that’s being diverse or first-gen and being in spaces where you don’t see yourself a lot, it is important to affirm within yourself that you belong and deserve the accolades you are getting,” Tucker said.

Intercultural Advocate Crystal Hernandez, '23, shared how conducting research for the discussion increased her understanding of

impostor syndrome.

“I personally knew what it was like to experience impostor syndrome from my first year entering college,” Hernandez said. “But until now I had never gotten into depth with it.”

The Intercultural Advocates want to have more discussions on campus to ensure more students are participating in conversations that could help them navigate college.

“The mission statement of Intercultural Advocates is students who are able to support and advocate for the students and facilitate conversations that aren’t talked about,” Francisco said.

The discussion is part of a bigger goal the IDEAS Center wants to fulfill: to increase engagement with the students.

“This is an initiative underneath IDEAS: to have more student-led voices creating open dialogue and open environments,” Tucker said. “We want students to have conversations around representation and the impostor phenomenon is one of the things that come up from students.”

The Funnies

Comedy Column

Return of the edi(tor)

By ROMAN HLADIO
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The news is real. The takes are hot.

Just 40 days after “retiring” from play, Tom Brady is back on the field. When he initially publicized his retirement, Brady claimed that football required a 100% commitment which detracted from his family life, according to NPR, meaning the next ring he loses will probably be his wedding band. 40 days sounds familiar, though ... guess we know what Brady gave up for Lent.

A recent CNN headline claimed that more potential homebuyers see renting as the more feasible and financially sound decision. The article went on to explore what is becoming the painful reality we are facing: we might not be able to achieve the financial goals that have been programmed into us. That being said, I am leasing an NVII double, shared bathroom, roommate included.

A Shawnee State University professor is expected to be paid \$400,000 for refusing to use a student’s preferred pronouns. Professor of Philosophy (this just makes too much sense for some reason) Nicholas Meriwether was disciplined in 2018 for refusing to use preferred pronouns, and proceeded to sue the university. As part of the settlement, Meriwether gains the “right to choose when to

use, or avoid using, titles or pronouns when referring to or addressing students.” Note: this same person would probably throw a table at you if you called them Professor and not Doctor, God forbid. Making a near-half-million “financial decision” instead of promoting student wellbeing? Nope, doesn’t sound familiar at all.

Elon Musk, our favorite rocketman and incel, recently launched a \$43 billion dollar bid to purchase Twitter. Musk claims to want to make the platform “open source,” which would, according to The Washington Post, prevent “behind-the-scenes manipulation” — the same thing your Q-Anon aunt tells you she is fighting against. Twitter employees referred to a Musk-owned Twitter as a “nightmare scenario,” according to NPR. Say what you will about Musk wanting more direct influence over stocks or politics, I’m pretty sure he’s in it for the cosplayers and catgirls.

In an email to the campus community, President Hillary Link announced that she had some news about Kristen Dukes. Dukes had accepted a position at Chatham University as the Chief Diversity Officer and Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Usually, transferring out of Allegheny doesn’t go this smoothly. Watch your inboxes for Link’s next email, where she announces Dean for Student Success Ian Binnington will be sent to a farming school upstate.

‘Day at the Office’

The realities of newswriting

By KAI MARIES
Editorial Cartoonist
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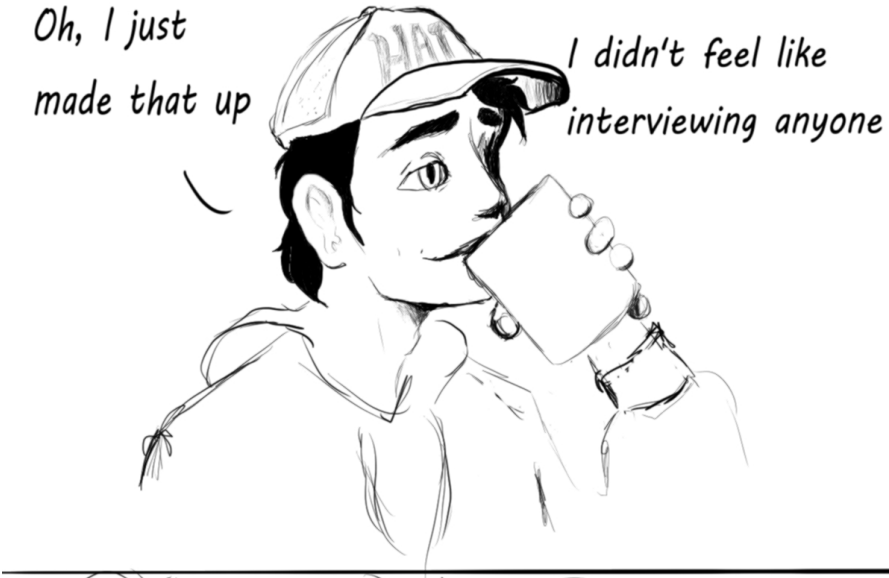
Hey, you! Think you’re funny? Send jokes and editorial cartoons to newspaper@allegheny.edu for consideration for publication!

Hey, I just wanted to say good job on your last article, you really did a great job--I can't believe you got a quote from the president that 'perfectly' articulated your point?



Oh, I just made that up

I didn't feel like interviewing anyone





What do you want to see from our Features section? More puzzles? More from the archives? More coverage of clubs or people? Let us know on Instagram @ac_campus or by emailing newspaper@allegheny.edu

‘Look back at it’

This week in Campus history

From the Merrick Archives. View on dspace.allegheny.edu

2017
‘Administration plans to reduce faculty positions’
Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole informed the faculty on April 20 that the administration is planning on eliminating 20-25 faculty positions from the 2015–2016 school year by the 2021–2022 school year.

1969
‘Mystic head to visit Allegheny’



Dr. Alan Watts, whose visit was cancelled because of illness, will now visit the campus on April 24 and 25. While here, Watts will give two lectures: ‘The Misconception of Myself’ on Thursday, April 24 and ‘Does It Matter and Do You Mind?’ on Friday, April 25. Both talks begin at 8:15 P.M. in Ford Chapel. Dr. Watts will also meet students in the College Union at 4:00 P.M. on Friday for an informal discussion.

Known in this country and abroad as a stimulating and unconventional philosopher, Alan Watts claims as his special interest the interpretation of Eastern thought, particularly Zen Buddhism. Having admitted to taking 30 acid trips, Dr. Watts has stated that anyone who repeatedly takes LSD ‘is dumb’. The drug can be a ‘starter’ toward spiritual religious experiences, Dr. Watts said, but scorned those who use LSD frequently.

1926
Classifieds

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Single Voice returns with Ferrence and Barnhart, '07

By SYDNEY EMERSON
Features Editor
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Irish author James Joyce once wrote, “Writing in English is the most ingenious torture ever devised for sins committed in previous lives.” Previous lives were the specter that haunted the Single Voice Reading on the evening of April 14 in the Tillotson Room in the Tippie Alumni Center at Cochran Hall.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, writers were invited to Allegheny from across the globe to participate in the decades-long series, visiting classrooms and interacting with Allegheny students outside of the requisite formal reading. Now, after a two-year hiatus, the series has been re-launched with English faculty in the spotlight. In the fall, Assistant Professor of English Mari Christmas and Professor of English M. Soledad Caballero read from their fiction and poetry, respectively. This spring, it was Department Chair and Associate Professor of English Matthew Ferrence and Visiting Professor of English Graham Barnhart, '07, who showcased their work.

An Allegheny alum who completed a senior comprehensive project in poetry, Barnhart participated in the December 2019 Single Voice Reading — one of the final readings before the pandemic. It was there that he read from his then-new book, “The War Makes Everyone Lonely.”

Now, three years later, Barnhart returned to the Tillotson Room with a changed perspective.

“To tell you the truth, I’m not terribly excited about those poems anymore,” Barnhart said to the audience. “They feel like somebody else wrote them.”

Ferrence expressed a similar sentiment in his reading, indicating that his forthcoming memoir, though meaningful, was not the writing that best represented himself that evening. The book, “This Is How We

Lose: The Poetics of Rural Political Abandonment,” is a political memoir about his unsuccessful bid for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2020, a past life which Ferrence is still trying to make sense of.

“That’s enough of the memoir,” Ferrence said, after reading only a few paragraphs. “I’m going to read fiction.”

The traditional structure of a reading is simple: a writer takes the podium and they read a short story, some pages of an essay or a series of poems. At this reading, however, both writers decided to subvert this structure, instead sharing multiple drafts and preliminary notes for unfinished projects with the audience.

“Writers, we like to talk about ‘process’ in workshops, and it’s interesting to us there, but when we read somebody’s work, we tend to encounter it as this polished, finely finished thing,” Barnhart said. “You don’t really get to see all the work and time that went into it.”

Ferrence, in his allotted time, shared three excerpts of what he intends to eventually turn into a novel, each focusing on a different character: Mooney, Lauren and Row.

The characters live in a nation that, through the power of total electrification, experiences 24-hour daylight. Mooney and Lauren are natives of an Appalachian darkness refuge, home of the only natural darkness left in the country. Row is a part of the infrastructure that threatens to take this sanctuary away. As Ferrence made his way through the three passages, he stopped to comment on unfinished sections and half-developed plot ideas, recognizing the time that it takes to develop a piece of fiction.

Barnhart took this principle even further by presenting a slideshow of different drafts of a still-in-progress poem.

“I liked (the reading) a lot,” Christina Kljunich, '23, said. “It was kind of that chaotic ... nature that every-

one knows and has gone through as a writer. So it made it a little bit more personal, I think, than other readings I’ve been to.”

The poem that Barnhart presented was an erasure, a style in which the poet takes an already-existing text and blocks out words. The words that remain constitute the poem. In his case, the text he has been erasing is personal. It is a peer-reviewed article that he wrote about his experience treating an Afghan soldier’s gunshot wound for 13 hours after falling under enemy fire on a deployment in 2016.

He began with his first draft, in which he followed strict, self-imposed rules: all words must be kept in their original order and no words may be partially erased to spell out other words. He also made the aesthetic decision to keep the original text visible. The result was a draft with which Barnhart was dissatisfied. In hindsight, though, it was necessary.

“I needed to write this draft,” Barnhart said. “At the time, I didn’t like anything I was writing ... I was becoming really discouraged and had only just begun to come around to the realization that maybe the way I was feeling about writing was also related to my symptoms of depression and post-traumatic stress ... I seemed to have lost the ability to access my voice — my authentic voice — in writing.”

Voice is everything when you are a writer. It informs the subject matter that you tackle, the people and places that grip your imagination and the themes that you revisit again and again. This is something that Ferrence has also been focused on lately.

“(Writing) is all about shifting perspectives,” Ferrence said. “As human beings, we’re often trapped in certain moments that we’ve experienced, and there’s some element of us that’s always there ... I think all writers are always stuck and will never escape those foundational moments, and so we get to come to it from different places. We were built there, but we’re not trapped. Our artistic urge is about rebuilding our pathways through it.”



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS
Visiting Professor of English Graham Barnhart, '07, listens as Professor of English Matthew Ferrence discusses his writing process. Both spoke at the Single Voice Reading on April 14 in the Tillotson Room in the Tippie Alumni Center at Cochran Hall.



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS
Members of the campus community listen on as Visiting Professor of English Graham Barnhart, '07, and Associate Professor of English Matthew Ferrence speak at the Single Voice Reading on April 14.

Over the course of the evening, the audience watched as Barnhart’s first draft morphed into a much different second draft, built upon the one phrase from his initial attempt that he liked: “the field extended in the field,” and eventually a third draft, inspired by the ancient pastoral tradition, in which he gave himself permission to spell out the word “sing” using letters poached from other words in the article.

Barnhart explained that he began to think of his experience in the field as that of a shepherd — himself, the other medics and the casualties — singing a song. This is the direction

in which he sees the still-unfinished poem heading. It is also more than a poem, Barnhart explained. It is a reckoning with himself.

“As I have been slowly ... working on developing a better understanding of my mental health, this project has transformed from a weird little experiment to a very concrete representation of my relationship to language and the weight of traumatic experience,” Barnhart said. “There’s still a long way to go ... but (the poem) feels like something to me, and that feels like massive, massive progress.”

“

I was becoming really discouraged and had only just begun to come around to the realization that maybe the way I was feeling about writing was also related to my symptoms of depression and post-traumatic stress ... I seemed to have lost the ability to access my voice — my authentic voice — in writing.”

—GRAHAM BARNHART, '07,
Visiting Professor of English,
Allegheny College

From April snow showers to flowers

Spring blooms across campus despite bad weather



ABOVE: A weeping cherry tree flowers outside of Quigley Hall as a student works in the sunshine.
BELOW: Buds are beginning to appear around the Rustic Bridge and Ravine behind the Newton Observatory.



By SYDNEY EMERSON
Features Editor
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After consistent snowfall on Monday and Tuesday, pink petals and blue skies are a welcome addition to the Gator Quad.

GATOR CHECK IN FINAL SCORES

MEN'S GOLF

Friday, April 15 @ Rochester Fred Kravitz
Invitational
Placement: 8th of 8

WOMEN'S GOLF

Friday, April 15 @ Gannon Springs Invitational
Placement: 5th of 8

SOFTBALL

Friday, April 15 vs. DePauw
Final Score: 0-9

SOFTBALL

Friday, April 15 vs. DePauw
Final Score: 1-12

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Saturday, April 16 vs. Wittenberg
Final Score: 18-7

MEN'S TENNIS

Saturday, April 16 vs. Kenyon
Final Score: 2-7

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Saturday, April 16 vs. Kenyon
Final Score: 0-9

MEN'S LACROSSE

Saturday, April 16 @ Wittenberg
Final Score: 6-13

SOFTBALL

Saturday, April 16 vs. Oberlin

BASEBALL

Saturday, April 16 @ Ohio Wesleyan
Final Score: 11-0

SOFTBALL

Saturday, April 16 vs. Oberlin
Final Score: 6-5

MEN'S TENNIS

Tuesday, April 19 vs. Daemen
Final Score: 6-3

BASEBALL

Wednesday, April 20 vs. Hiram
Final Score: 0-2

BASEBALL

Wednesday, April 20 vs. Hiram
Final Score: 6-2

SOFTBALL

Wednesday, April 20 @ Wooster
Final Score: 3-4

MEN'S TENNIS

Wednesday, April 20 vs. Penn State
Behrend
Final Score: 9-0

SOFTBALL

Wednesday, April 20 @ Wooster
Final Score: 3-12

MEN'S LACROSSE

Wednesday, April 20 @ Oberlin
Final Score: 3-12

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Wednesday, April 20 @ Wooster
Final Score: 11-17

[SPORTS]

GOLFING GATORS

Men's Golf putts their way through the season

By KYLE CHANDLER

Sports Writer
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Allegheny's men's golf team traveled up north as they finished in 8th place this past weekend at the University of Rochester Kravitz Invitational.

The road players drove through was difficult, as the conditions were vicious with winds consistently reaching upwards of 25 miles per hour, and punished players who made the slightest of miscalculations. Although the Gators came in last, there were still a handful of highlights, including play from the first-year prodigy, Carter Hassenplug, '25.

"The conditions can be different every day," Hassenplug said. "You could be playing in degrees and sunny one day, and the next you could be playing in 50 degrees and wind ... it adds a level of difficulty but it adds a level of fun."

Temperatures varied all weekend, never going below 30, but never surpassing 45. Big gusts of wind were also blowing in the faces of players at 50 miles per hour. Nevertheless, Hassenplug battled through the adversity and tied fourth place in the event.

shooting a score of 75 in each of his rounds.

Hassenplug now has three top 10 finishes on the season in the eight events he has played including throughout the fall. He has been a reliable asset for the Gators since enrolling this year. This past weekend, the tee box was his best friend, setting him up numerous times in good positions and typically leaving him with an opportunity for birdie.

On the 17th hole in Hassenplug's second round, he was staring down a 215 yard par three. He was tracking his position on the leaderboard and knew he had to hit a big shot to stay in contention for a top five finish. He stepped up and smashed it like Tiger Woods, putting the ball to within 10 feet of the pin after nearly cupping it on the fly.

"It was the best shot I hit all weekend," Hassenplug said.

Another young talent representing the Gators this year is Bergas Anargya, '25. Anargya also competed in the event this past weekend and placed in a tie for 31st. Although it was not the outcome he was looking for, the first-year coming all the way from Indonesia has only played in three other events, all occurring in the fall, and has a lot of

potential in the eyes of Head Coach Jeff Groff.

"He's gotten better throughout the season and has worked his way into the lineup," Groff said. "His upside is very big, and I think he can help us quite a bit."

Another benefit working for Anargya is the availability to play during the winter months. Going home to Indonesia provides a unique experience to play while many other students can not due to weather, not to mention it is in a completely different part of the world.

Anargya has put countless hours into his game, and thinks he will be ready for his next start. With only a couple of tournaments left to play, he is hoping for a big boost into a top five finish to close out the year.

"I think having that confidence will help me and the team as well," Anargya said. "This weekend was one to reflect on, but it's a game to have fun, and when you're having fun you're shooting better scores and playing better."

Moving through his 21st season as the Gators head coach, Groff has played a pivotal role in building a foundation for this program. He said it is a special honor and each class sets a new standard for

what Allegheny Golf should be.

"We try to run a first class program here (at Allegheny)," Groff said. "I feel very fortunate."

He has helped build the foundation of this program, as he is only one of three head coaches to come through the doors of the Blue and Gold since 1970. He has also been the head coach of the women's program since 2006, helping with its inception and leading the Gators to unprecedented heights.

The Gators will head to the NCAC/OAC Clash this coming Saturday and Sunday at Apple Valley Golf Club in Howard, Ohio. Capping off the season the following week they will head to the NCAC Championship and will play Friday through Sunday as they look to bring home the gold for a chance to enter regional play.



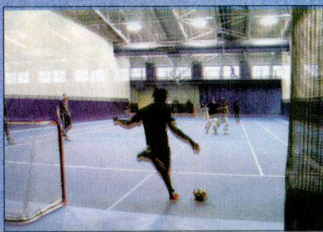
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—BERGAS ANARGYA
Class of 2025

The Gator Cup

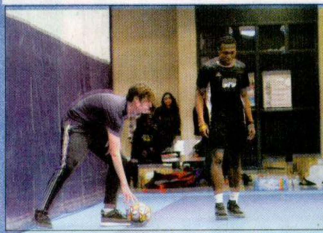
ASA hosts intramural soccer tournament

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TOP: Sebastian Chisha, '24, clears the ball in a goal kick during Gator Cup on the Blue Courts of the Wise Center. The Cup was the opening event of the African Students Association's 'ASA Week,' which will run through Sunday, April 24.

BOTTOM: Henne steadies the ball with his hand as he and another student take a breather during a match. Players could play off the tarp walls on the sides of the court, leading to many hectic moments.



TOP: A student dribbles the ball near the middle of the court.

BOTTOM: A student goes for the ball as Alexander Henne, '24, closes in.

