

ASG holds first GA

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Allegheny Student Government held its first general assembly of the academic year, Tuesday, Sept. 9.

The meeting began with the swearing in of all senators, including five new senators for the class of 2029: President Niki Hine-man, Vice President Aicha Foster and senators Daniel Servey, Brandon Thompson and Brooklyn Harrison. ASG President Chezka Quinola, '27, read all senators the oath of office. ASG has achieved near full membership in the first week of the semester, faster than previous years.

Cabinet Reports

Director of Finance Dominic Juliana, '26, announced several developments in the club budgetary process, namely that club budget applications will be reviewed over the course of the coming week and that every club will receive the finance request form before Friday, Sept. 12.

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Caflisch lawn developments yet to materialize



MILO WATSON/THE CAMPUS

Students crossing from North Main Street to the Gator Quad have cleared a dirt path through the lawn that Caflisch Hall once occupied.

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More than two years since the college solicited student opinion about what to do with the area where Caflisch Hall formerly sat, the lot has still not seen any major developments.

Caflisch was demolished in August 2023, just six years before its 100th birthday, after

the college determined that lack of student interest in living there and the cost of upkeep did not justify maintaining the building.

Just one month after the demolition, the college sent out a week-long survey to the student body soliciting ideas for the future of the space. Dean for the Student Experience Ian Binnington presented the preliminary results to the Allegheny Student Government at their General Assembly on Oct. 3, 2023. Student responses centered around outdoor features like hammock stands, a multi-use pavilion, athletic courts, firepits, picnic tables and a fountain.

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Green Coalition takes shape

By **NATHAN GEORGE**
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Student leaders are restructuring environmental clubs and revamping sustainability culture at Allegheny College this fall, with the launch of a new student-led Green Coalition.

“Green Coalition is not a combination (of organizations), but it is the result of five other on-campus organizations,” said Co-President Hannah Tomer, '27, who stepped into her new role as co-president after serving as activism director for Students for Environmental Action.

Over a year ago, Tomer and other student leaders began reorganizing five different sustainability or environment-focused student clubs: Students for Environmental Action, Green Students of Color Society, Allegheny College Bike Share, Allegheny Sustainable Design Team and the Allegheny Food Recovery Network.

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Allegheny launches women’s flag football



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BILL ROSS

The Allegheny College women’s flag football team celebrates a touchdown during the Saint Vincent College Flag Football Jamboree on March 29, 2025.

See [FOOTBALL](#) | page 10

Green Building Alliance partners with Allegheny

By **ALEXIS BODIE**
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Saving watts today sparks a brighter and greener tomorrow.

Allegheny College recently announced a new partnership with Pittsburgh-based sustainability nonprofit Green Building Alliance, bringing the college into the organization’s Resilient Communities initiative.

“A benefit that I see for us (Allegheny College) is that students can get involved,” said Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, '02. “I am hopeful that it will be overall a positive experience for everyone who is

involved.”

The city of Meadville has been a member of the initiative since 2024, and its progress was celebrated at a reception in Hatch Hollow on Wednesday, Sept. 10. The event allowed students and other members of the community to take a deep dive into what energy efficiency and sustainability looks like in the community. Guest speakers at the event included Brian Hill, a member of the Met-Ed Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund Advisory Committee, as well as Autumn Vogel, '15, a Meadville City Council member and liason to the city’s Environmental Advisory Council.

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Allegheny raises record-breaking \$91 million

By **FARIA SHABNAM**
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Allegheny College’s five year “In For Allegheny” campaign, which launched in 2024 and aims to raise \$250 million, witnessed its most significant funding year so far in 2025, raising a grand total of \$91 million. The fiscal

year concluded on June 30 with two-thirds of the goal met, as additional gifts continued to pour in over the course of 12 months.

Having previously described setting the campaign’s goal at \$50 million higher than the 10-year campaign before it as “aggressive but achievable,” Vice President for Institutional Advancement Matt Stinson stayed true to the same sentiment two years into

the campaign.

The “In For Allegheny” campaign complements the college’s Strategic Pathway, with Stinson calling the campaign and Strategic Pathway, “one and the same in terms of their missions; the former serves as a funding mechanism, while the latter outlines the priorities requiring funding.” The whiteboard in his office has big numbers broken

down into chunks detailing the streams the money will be poured into.

One donation stream is legacy gifts, which come from people who want to leave the college something behind through their estate after their death. Stinson describes this sum as “planting seeds for future campaigns.”

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In this week’s Campus...

MAC DEMARCO ALBUM REVIEW

Staff Writer Jay Shank, '28, reviews the newest album from singer-songwriter Mac Demarco.

THE CAMPUS’ 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Alumni who served on The Campus during their education at Allegheny share their experiences of working on the paper.

NEW STRENGTH TRAINING STAFF

Contributing Writer Medina Niyaz, '29, introduces Dylan Chan, the newly hired strength and conditioning coach.

COALITION

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This semester, all the clubs united to become Green Coalition. The coalition will function as one club with its own budget from the Allegheny Student Government, and it will absorb much of the returning student membership of the five green clubs.

While the move to consolidate club membership was born of numerous factors, student environmentalist club leaders identified lower attendance as a major reason.

“We’ve had several clubs drop and drop (members) until there were basically none left,” said Green Coalition Co-Secretary Lauren Buettner, ’26.

A steady decline in green club participation resulted in the complete dissolution of both Green SOCS and FRN last spring, according to Buettner.

For years, Green SOCS sought to empower Allegheny students of color to explore the field of environmental science and to advance an intersectional approach to climate advocacy. Among other events, Green SOCS hosted a 2022 discussion with Arizona State University Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow Dominic Bednar about disparities in energy access. The club was also a main organizer of Allegheny’s 2024 Climate Awareness Day

and past campus climate strikes.

When asked how the Green Coalition will incorporate the vision of Green SOCS, coalition member Abigail Riedel, ’27, stated that she and others are reviewing the organization’s past work for inspiration.

“We have so many incredible people on our board that are so passionate about cre-



NATHAN GEORGE/THE CAMPUS
Green Coalition Co-Secretary Lauren Buettner ’26 inspects a plant at the coalition’s “Carden Bio Blitz” event on September 5.

FUNDING

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Out of a total \$170 million, around \$49 million will be put toward the college’s endowment, most of it geared towards making Allegheny more financially viable for students. Another \$40 million will go to capital, such as building projects, additions and renovations. The remaining funding is allocated for additional causes such as research grants, alumni support, athletic programs and strong financial packages that make the college more accessible.

Stinson emphasized how the financial aid that has been provided for students through Allegheny’s endowment has been the primary focus of this campaign.

The campaign also works to aid innovation at ALIC@Bessemer, which is completely funded through individuals, foundations, and government grants. The donations have helped accelerate breakthroughs and fostered entrepreneurship by bridging Allegheny to the local community.

“We have a long history of great volunteerism,” Stinson said. “Allegheny is in Crawford County, where the largest employment base is in advanced manufacturing.

These organizations are very high-tech, requiring a lot of critical thinking, design, and collaborative effort, which Allegheny equips its graduates with. Not only does this positively change the perception of the immediate community in the region of Allegheny, but it also provides opportunities for our students across all disciplines to utilize their liberal arts education for career outcomes in the surrounding regions.”

Stinson commended the staff members that have worked on the campaign. “So far, so good. I really give a lot of credit to the team, particularly (Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement) Sara Pineo

“

The great thing about an Alleghenian education is that you can do anything, regardless of your major and minor.”

**—MATT STINSON
Vice President for Institutional Advancement**

ating a greener campus, or just in general having it more inclusive to everybody,” Riedel said. “We just want to make sure that we honor the past and also build a new identity.”

Riedel played a significant role in organizing a group of Allegheny volunteers who participated in the French Creek Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 6. Her group collected waste that was polluting Meadville’s underground water treatment tunnels. The cleanup followed the Green Coalition’s “Carrden Bio Blitz” on Friday, Sept. 5, and represents one event born of the coalition’s new Trash Committee.

The Green Coalition also hopes to revive the mission of FRN through a new Sustainable Food Systems Committee.

Tomer acknowledged the complexity of attempting to incorporate multiple unique clubs into the Green Coalition while still maintaining their originality.

“Even though we don’t have a fully fleshed-out committee for each of the organizations that combined to make Green Coalition, we are very mindful of (their) missions and we’re trying to incorporate within events something that honors the original missions,” Tomer said.

Green Coalition members hope to build on the success of their September events with a full slate of programming for the 2025-2026 school year, including the return of Students for Environmental Action’s spring “Trashion Show.” However, coalition leaders acknowledge that this agenda will require expanding the coalition’s active membership.

“It’s fun and it’s nice to work in small groups, but also, with the amount of work that we’re doing, it really does help to distribute it amongst people,” said Green Coalition Co-Secretary Grace Moon, ’28.

Moon, who was involved in the Allegheny Bike Share last year, has assumed a leadership position in the coalition’s Bike Committee and plans to resume regular bike shop hours on Tuesday afternoons this month.

Green Coalition members agreed that their recruitment strategy will entail balancing the coalition’s advocacy work with recreational activity.

Green Coalition meetings will take place on Thursdays in Carr Hall, room 239, at 7 p.m.

and (Administrative Advisory Committee Treasurer) Nic McIntire. The two of them were very involved with all facets of this campaign...and I wouldn’t change anything. I’ve turned over a lot of responsibilities to them, and they more than delivered.”

The “In For Allegheny” campaign’s slogan is, “Invite, Inspire, Invest.”

“These objectives are based on what the college administration understands it needs to accomplish in order to be an institution that thrives,” said President Ron Cole, ’87, during the campaign’s kickoff on Oct. 18, 2024.

Additionally, Stinson spotlighted how the alumni network is central to the “Invite” portion of the campaign, helping attract future Gators and inspiring career connections for current students. This year, 20% of the incoming class came from alumni referrals.

“The great thing about an Alleghenian education is that you can do anything, regardless of your major and minor,” Stinson said. “And that sounds trite, but it’s 100% true. The challenging thing for an 18- to 22-year-old to figure out is that you can do

anything. So where do you start? So we’ve asked our alumni to work through the Center for Career and Professional Development to provide examples to inspire our students to show them all the ways they can use their unusual combinations to lead to extraordinary outcomes. In 2024, they were extremely helpful to the point where over 94% of 2024 graduates either landed a job, were continuing their education through grad school, or were in some form of service within six months of graduation.”

Stinson adds that Cole has a goal of being able to tout those same statistics at graduation, and not six months later.

The college has come a long way since the kickoff for the “In For Allegheny: Our Pathway Forward” campaign. Although Stinson doesn’t anticipate another year with \$91 million in donations, he is confident that the full goal of the campaign will be met.

“Most importantly,” he said, “for the college, it’s a very big deal and a reaffirmation that Allegheny is a special place.”

GREEN

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Since the beginning of the program in 2024, the Resilient Meadville initiative has grown to include 98 buildings that represent over 2.1 million square feet.

Some services that are offered through the Resilient Meadville initiative are utility bill reviews, funding referrals and grant writing support, coaching and support for integrating resiliency goals with other projects, energy and water savings education and training, as well as green building career readiness for youth and adults.

The organization is supported by the Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund, allowing GBA to work with Meadville to improve outdated local buildings and develop them for the costs of the future.

GBA now plans to expand its work in Meadville to include Allegheny, to whom it will recommend building practices that reduce energy needs, utility costs and emissions at the college. Their work could lead to the strengthening of the community, making participating buildings more eye-catching to residents and families, according to GBA Director of Outreach and Technical Assistance Lisbet Searle-White

The partnership between Allegheny College, Meadville and GBA was brought up about a year ago in November 2024. The GBA is mostly centered in Pittsburgh and

has been helping people and communities make their buildings more efficient, sustainable and reducing their carbon emissions for over 30 years.

“I think it brings immense benefits because the college has a long history of prioritizing energy efficiency and sustainability and has made some significant long-term commitments,” said Searle-White. “So, to bring all of that history and rigor to it, I feel like that is going to really help other people here see the value of it by example and by hopefully connecting the town and a college.”

According to Searle-White, there has been an interest in creating “a resilient community” and the GBA had chosen to do a community that already has an interest in energy efficiency and sustainability. This allowed for the creation of the city’s Environmental Advisory Committee and a climate action plan in Meadville in partnership with GBA.

There are some initiatives that are being worked on, such as a funding program where if a person were to make changes to their home that increased energy efficiency by at least 20 percent, the person would be eligible to receive funding from GBA to sustain those changes. A loan would stay with the building, instead of the person borrow-

ing it, because of the value of the building.

Environmental benefits of sustainability include pollution and waste reduction and conservation of natural resources like water, forests and energy. It also helps protect ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as slowing down climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

According to a LinkedIn post published in August, Allegheny College is a national leader in sustainable design, operations, energy efficiency and environmental education. Allegheny has been benchmarking the performance of its buildings for more than two decades.

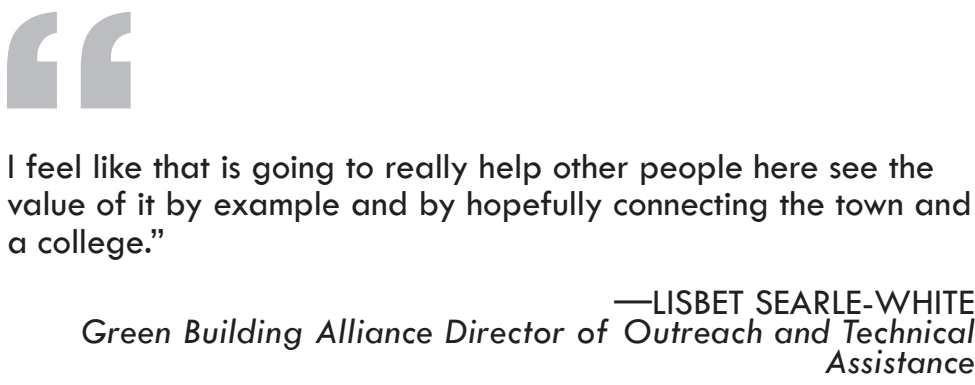
Economic benefits from sustainability include saving money through energy efficiency, waste reduction and creates new jobs in clean energy, green technology and sustainable industries. It also increases long-term

stability for businesses by reducing reliance on limited resources and encourages innovation and new technologies.

With regard to social benefits, sustainability improves public health by reducing air and water pollution and promotes fairness by ensuring resources are available for future generations. Other social benefits include the strengthening of communities through shared goals and greener lifestyles

as well as the improvement of the quality of life with a cleaner campus and community environment.

“I think considering that I started in November, it seems to be really blossoming in terms of getting going and getting established as people are starting to learn about it,” Searle-White said. “So, I think the future is very bright.”



CAFLISCH

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“I actually think this all cohered into the general theme of the students that responded wanting a space to kind of relax, to hang out, to enjoy themselves in the outdoors,” Binnington told ASG at the time. “There is very little desire to simply have a new lawn.”

However, for nearly two years now, it has been just that. For the remainder of the 2023-2024 academic year, the space remained fenced off as the ground resettled after demolition crews left. The fences were taken down during summer 2024. Since then, grass has been reseeded and students have beaten a small footpath across the field as they pass between North Main Street and the Gator Quad.

At the Oct. 3, 2023, GA, Binnington told the assembled student government representatives that he expected to return at the end of that semester or early 2024 to propose and receive student input on final project plans.

“There’s a decent chance that ground doesn’t get broken for anything major until next spring....but I think there’s a decent chance that even for seniors, by the time you graduate in May, some of these things can have come to fruition,” Binnington told the GA. “This is not necessarily a project that we see taking years; a lot of the ideas that you have are things that we can do relatively quickly.”

As the school year progressed, ASG President Nicole Recio Bremer, ’25, and Vice President Sam Ault, ’26, in consultation with their cabinet, decided to pursue the idea of



However, ASG president and vice president, as elected representatives of the student government, can act on behalf of the student government. It’s not unheard of that that has happened in the past, where they’ve come and made an executive decision. We just try not to do that.”

—TRAE YECKLEY
Dean for Student Success

an outdoor classroom space — but not on the Caflisch lot. Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley told The Campus in April 2024 that Recio Bremer and Ault opted not to use Caflisch in favor of a different location on campus due to noise and safety concerns.

The outdoor classroom space idea was conceptualized beside the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library. Recio Bremer hoped to present the project proposal at ASG’s final meeting in spring 2024, but that presentation did not happen, leaving the project in limbo.

Notably, that spring, ASG leadership were told by the college administration that, the following year, they would not be allowed to retain their \$530,000 surplus fund — the fund consisting of unspent student activity fees. The college mandated that ASG spend at least \$200,000 of the fund, or else the money would be absorbed back into the college’s general fund, according to Yeckley and Campus reporting at the time. The outdoor classroom project qualified as a major capital project that ASG could have funded to protect its surplus fund.

Ultimately, Recio Bremer and Ault never brought the proposal in front of ASG for a vote. Nevertheless, after the final GA of the year, Recio Bremer and Ault decided together to fund the project, dedicating \$154,000 of the ASG surplus fund to it.

“As we came to the end of the year and there was still no vote, ASG — knowing they had to spend some of their surplus that was left over from Covid — made the decision to invest in this,” Yeckley recently told The

Campus. “It didn’t go for a vote to ASG but it was decided upon by student representatives.”

Yeckley does not recall whether Recio Bremer or Ault decided to allocate the funding using their authority before or after the last GA, leaving open the possibility that Recio Bremer and Ault decided to fund the project without an ASG vote even though ASG still had time to vote on it. Ault declined to comment.

“The way that ASG is set up is, yes, we do prefer to put votes and things in front of the students,” Yeckley recently told The Campus. “However, ASG president and vice president, as elected representatives of the student government, can act on behalf of the student government. It’s not unheard of that that has happened in the past, where they’ve come and made an executive decision. We just try not to do that.”

After the 2023-2024 academic year ended, Yeckley said Recio Bremer and Ault were also approached by Information Technology Services with another project proposal: to install outdoor Wi-Fi routers across campus. The combined proposed cost of the projects was over \$200,000. Recio Bremer and Ault approved the funding.

With the two projects combined, Recio Bremer and Ault were responsible for approving over \$200,000 of funding without the approval of the rest of ASG. Yeckley emphasized that the spending occurred under Yeckley’s supervision and that Recio Bremer and Ault were acting on behalf of the student body.

“It makes it sound like they had the say in that,” Yeckley said. “No. Because there wasn’t a vote, it had to come through my office. So I made the final approval.”

The combined cost of the projects was enough to surpass the threshold set by the college for ASG, meaning ASG was allowed to retain the rest of its surplus fund.

Since then, the outdoor classroom proj-

ect has been “significantly delayed by outside factors,” according to Campus reporting in April 2025. Yeckley does not know when classroom construction will begin, or what will become of the Caflisch lot.

In an email to The Campus, Binnington



This is not necessarily a project that we see taking years; a lot of the ideas that you have are things that we can do relatively quickly.”

—IAN BINNINGTON
Dean for the Student Experience

said construction will begin soon.

“The area where Caflisch Hall was will continue to be used as an extension to the Gator Quad space for student and community programming for now,” Binnington wrote. “The outcome of the conversation we had with students about that space in Fall 2023 is the outdoor classroom planned for the area next to the Library on East College. This project should begin progressing quickly over the next month or so as two pavilions are constructed in the area, but due to impending weather we don’t want to make any promises on timelines at this time.”

Current ASG President Chezka Quinola, ’27, said her administration will focus on short-term projects this year, such as installing accessibility ramps around campus and improving the menstrual product and condom dispensers in bathrooms. Quinola said she has no information as to the status of the Caflisch lawn.

“I have no idea what’s going on,” Quinola said. “I think at one point they were trying to make it an outdoor picnic area or, like, an outdoor lawn for recreation, but right now it’s just been an empty lot.”

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The most important notice for every club organizer is that ASG-approved club funding will be able to be carried over years; if a club saves money, it will be able to retain it into the next fiscal year — a change from previous years.

Questions about finance should be directed to the finance committee, reachable at finance@allegheny.edu.

Co-Directors of Student Affairs Iris Styers, ’26, and Lyra Lindsay, ’27, set about organizing and establishing Dining Committee operations this week to get the ASG-Parkhurst relationship established as soon as possible. They announced that personal care items will be distributed weekly in the Henderson Campus Center bathrooms. They also announced the Queer Student Union — formerly the All Gender Equity Society — will be hosting a gender-affirming care clinic event on Sept. 22.

Director of Community Relations Aubrey Carion, ’27, announced she will be meeting with Associate Dean for Student Life Gretchen Beck to discuss organizing student transportation to the Robertson Athletic Complex for home athletic events.

This plan is intended to provide the student body regular vehicular transport during events so turnout can be increased. Additionally, Carion hopes to coordinate with local school districts and community resources in order to construct a Meadville resources and events document for students.

Director of Organizational Development Brayden Devinney, ’26, announced plans to hold tabling events in the campus center to introduce ASG resources and officers to regular students, and he hopes to reach out to clubs directly and assist in any projects as needed.

President’s Report

Quinola announced an intention to facilitate a new type of fiscal grant for clubs to encourage multi-club events called a “collaboration grant.” While the idea has not been finalized, Quinola said she hoped that it will invite more joint club events on campus.

Quinola also reported that she has reached out to Parkhurst to discuss plans and ideas and possible changes. She also restated that all general ASG business should be directed to asg@allegheny.edu and all budgetary and fiscal issues should be directed to finance@allegheny.edu.

New Business

A motion to reinstate the Dining Committee this year passed with 18 in favor and one opposed.

The next Allegheny Student Government GA will occur on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in room 301/302 of the campus center.

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 Wednesday before publication.

September 2, 2025
Theft
Delta Tau Delta House
Pending Investigation

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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Funny how that works

Lessons learned from Bill Murray, Joan Rivers and Jamestown, NY

By **EMMA CONTI-WINDLE**
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About one year ago, I wrote an article for The Campus about the importance and power of laughter in the face of embarrassment. I cited moments of humiliation in my day-to-day life as a college student and defended the argument that laughing at oneself instead of fixating on an interaction gone awry was the best way to go through life. I prescribed to my vast, loyal readership a mental exercise in which one pretends they are a protagonist in a movie and when something embarrassing happens to them in their life, or their movie, they treat themselves as if they are the hero of their story that will eventually, by the end, be just fine. Knowing that the hero of the story (you) will win in the end, magically turns these painful moments into little funny scenes that do no more than charm your audience (also you). After all, no good hero does everything right. There absolutely has got to be some tumult along the way.

Luckily for this heroine, this story is pretty tumultuous.

This summer, I was a marketing intern at the National Comedy Center. The museum is located in Jamestown, New York, the hometown of comedy trailblazer Lucille Ball and is about 90 minutes from Allegheny College. It is recognized by Congress as a historical and cultural institution that collects, displays and preserves the works and story of the comedy genre. Designed to adhere to Ball's vision of Jamestown being a destination for the celebration of comedy, the center is bigger, more advanced, and more breathtaking than you could ever imagine. Its archival and cultural significance to anyone who has ever laughed cannot be matched anywhere else in the world. And if you picked up this paper on Allegheny's campus, that means it's right under your nose and you should go there.

Shameless plugs aside, the center truly benefits the Jamestown community as a top contributor to its economic recovery year-round, especially during the annual Lucille Ball Comedy Festival which brings in more than 10,000 tourists across the span of four days. In its 34-year existence, the center has welcomed household names like Jerry Seinfeld, Lily Tomlin, Trevor Noah, Joan Rivers, John Mulaney and Ellen DeGeneres.

This year's festival, which was headlined by Jon Stewart and Bill Murray and his Blood Brothers (a phenomenal band with which Murray tours the country and performs), also represented the culmination of my work as an intern. Oh, how things culminate.

During my 2025 festival, a whirlwind of rapidly assigned responsibility, I drove Kelly Carlin, screenwriter, actress, radio host, producer, and daughter of comedy legend George Carlin, and her husband, Bob McCall, as well as headliner act, Bill Murray and his Blood Brothers in terrifyingly enormous SUVs. I was also asked to assist on a tour of the National Comedy Center with Graham Reed and Sabrina Lott-Miller, close personal and professional friends of comedy legend Joan Rivers and the Rivers family. While on the tour, in the spur of the moment, I was asked by the center's Executive Director to perform a minute-and-a-half of Joan River's iconic stand-up for a room full of guests including the people that knew and loved the Rivers family the best. Those guests were waiting for a talk by Elie Docter, a writer and comedian who previously interned at a little show called Saturday Night Live. Just as I was about to begin my performance, I looked up from the microphone and saw that Docter had joined the audience. Reminder, in last year's article, I thought tripping on campus was an anxiety-inducing experience. Hold my cup.

Why did these things happen to me? I will never be able to answer that question. But there are three things that I know had to have led to the greatest weekend in my 20 years on this Earth. At every turn, no matter what, I said "yes," tried to be kind and laughed, and these have become my lessons learned.

Almost every character in this story was intimidating beyond belief. Everyone was facing high stakes, and no one wanted to fail. Just the same, everyone wanted one another to succeed. Everyone was gracious. Everyone was once where I stood: a young professional, who loves the industry she is in, and wants to do the most she can with the chances she has been given.

With this support, all I could do was say "yes." Fittingly, saying "yes" happens to be the cardinal rule of improv, one of the most beloved forms of comedy.

When I was asked to do stand-up, and

when I sat outside of Murray's hotel waiting for him to coolly saunter out to the car, I couldn't feel my fingers and my eyes began to well up with tears. And still, I had to say, "yes." I was being asked to do the things I did because someone believed in me. I needed to decide if I believed in myself.

And before I knew it was over, I, a non-comedian, an intern, joked and laughed with the best in the business.

These memories are fond instead of traumatizing, because my audience was gracious and kind.

And there's the second lesson. Be kind.

Noticing how nervous I was to be driving them, Carlin and McCall graciously did a bit with me where they acted as if they were whiny children in the back of the car, and I was a posh soccer mom who was at the end of her rope. During this moment of improv, I laughed too loudly for an enclosed space, but the nerves fizzled away, and we shared warm smiles each time I passed them by during the rest of the festival.

Lott-Miller and Reed, could have nodded and moved on from, or even been offended by my impression of their legend of a friend, Joan Rivers. Instead they laughed at my jokes, thanked me, and gave me a hug.

And finally Murray, who could have remained silent and stoic while being driven around Jamestown, NY by a girl from Erie, PA, decided instead to strike up a conversation. Together, we explored Jamestown, riffed on the name of a dog we saw walking down the street, shared a bowl of watermelon, made small talk about family and friends, joked about how cautious of a driver I was, waved to people out of the car window, and even shared philosophies on life. He was gracious enough to give me that memory, never knowing that my family has loved him and quoted him since before I can remember; never knowing that my favorite movie of all time is his 1991 comedy, "What About Bob?," a tale of a neuroticism that leads to a happier life.

These people said "yes" to me just as much as I said "yes" to them.

Most of my festival experience was serendipitous in many ways. One thing was not. Without the two months of kindness, support and encouragement from the marketing team and everyone at the NCC, I would not have been able to do what I did when the stakes got higher.

And the third lesson: I've said it before, I'll say it again. Laugh.

Laughter at the NCC? Wow, very astute, Emma. Be sure to jot that one down.

But my laughter that weekend wasn't just any laughter. This laughter was a manifestation and subsequent release of my panic and elation in the face of the closest proximity to my dreams that I had ever been.

I want to make a distinction here between celebrity and dreams. This was the closest I had come to celebrity as well, and yes, that was both scary and magical on its own.

But what makes me tear up as I write this wasn't talking to Murray or physically shaking the hands of Reed and Lott-Miller. It is how real, valid and special my dreams had become in a moment that I was on the spot, doing things I couldn't have imagined myself doing even hours before.

I got laughs from some genuine experts in comedy. Whether it was for pity, support, nerves or was genuine, I won't ever really know. But I know I did it because I had the guts to try. Everyone else at the NCC, contributes to the art of uniting people and making people feel better. And this was my opportunity to express my love and gratitude and to contribute whatever I could to the celebration of this effort.

The opportunity to do Joan Rivers' stand-up, to drive Bill Murray and Kelly Carlin and make ordinary conversation with people who have made an extraordinary impact on the world, was an opportunity to fight anxieties I deal with every day, and win.

All of the nervousness I have ever felt, feelings of shame, and fear that literally take my breath away and make me want to give everything up and crawl home, evaporated as I stepped off of that little stage, or put the massive SUV in park. Something was finally bigger than the omnipresent darkness that tries so often to convince me that I will fail. And this happened because I swallowed the doubt and followed the belief that I could do this.

It wasn't perfect. I hung a little too long at stop signs. I drove under the speed limit. I fumbled with the microphone. I tripped up the stairs. I forgot to eat. I laughed too loudly.

But no good hero does everything right. Some things, with hard work and courage, can go beyond 'right' and be absolutely life-changing.

Review: Mac DeMarco, alone with his guitar

By **JAY SHANK**
Staff Writer
shank01@allegheny.edu

The Canadian singer-songwriter, Mac DeMarco, has done it again with his newly released album "Guitar," featuring 12 tracks that run just slightly over 30 minutes. This is his sixth full-length album and the first project to be released since his 2023 "One Wayne G."

DeMarco wrote the album alone in his bedroom. In a press release, he wrote, "I think 'Guitar' is as close to a true representation of where I'm at in my life today as I can manage to put to paper." The album offers a story of heartbreak, but the instrumentals of the pieces make the sad message comfortable. Overall, the feel of the album is cozy and calm.

Let's start from the beginning: "Shining." In the first track of the album, we automatically get DeMarco's entrancing vocals and a simple melody. There are just three instruments: the lead guitar, which carries the story, the somber bass and the drums. The guitar responds to DeMarco in its melody, which to me feels like the guitar is actually portraying the theme to listeners rather than the lyrics. When DeMarco sings a high note, the guitar does the opposite, and vice versa.

Now, here's the truth: I wasn't impressed. I'm a big fan of DeMarco; "This Old Dog," "Here Comes the Cowboy," "2" and "One Wayne G" are easily some of my favorite albums. But, for the first song of the album, "Shining" felt dull to me. The melody was bland, and there wasn't anything about the musicality that stood out to me. Perhaps there should have been more of a surprise; the elements of the piece felt expected and easy. DeMarco's vocals, though, save the song, in my mind. He offers up a beautiful lead that personally guided me into the next song as I swayed along to his voice. And

the lyrics are beautiful, with a one-line chorus: "If the sun's still shining down on her", which poetically changes to "Is the sun still shining down on her?" at the end.

The next four songs, "Sweeter," "Phantom," "Nightmare" and "Terror" weren't something that I'd get stuck in my head or something I could hum. DeMarco's previous work is much more punchy; it's something I think about for a while. These tracks don't offer any experimentalism. The same lead guitar melody plays throughout all four of them in a different iteration. The instruments interact with each other in all the same ways. If it weren't for the storyline, these four songs are easily the most skippable and forgettable songs on the album.

The sixth song of the album, "Rock and Roll," is what kept me engaged. DeMarco comes into the piece immediately with an unusually high note, and I felt myself raise my eyebrows. The guitar is more diverse in this piece — it's almost responding to the lyrics, as if in conversation, its soft melody mimicking the notes of DeMarco's voice. What makes it stand out the most, though, is the guitar solo at the end of the piece, which changes up the speed but also curates the message of the piece into a coherent sound. There's a moment where the guitar completely loses control, and then the song ends; it's like the speaker has lost control of his emotions. The last two lines of the song — "That crowd like a tub and drown / Drown, drown" — feel, to me, like the point of the piece. To me, these lyrics confirm this idea of losing control. The speaker is "drowning" in their response to the break-up. I think adding that solo at the end really amplifies the feeling of what the piece is trying to tell us — the idea that the brain feels what it feels and there's not really anything anyone can do about it.

Now, the seventh song, "Home," calls back to the previous unconvincing melodies

we heard in the first five songs, but the writing sets this song apart. The tone of the piece feels like the biggest shift in the speaker's relationship from the beginning of the album; this is really about being alone. The first line hits me straight in the face — "These days I'd much rather be on my own / No more walking in the streets that I once called my home." Pair this line with the sudden low note he hits in the chorus — another abnormal note for DeMarco — and the piece really asks me to think about the story of the album altogether. It's a very satisfying midpoint.

"Nothing At All" is the eighth track and the first one where I found myself bumping my head up and down. DeMarco and the lead guitar melody are again having a conversation in this piece. When DeMarco speaks, the guitar responds. This dynamic makes me think about the title of the album and DeMarco's relationship with his instrument. Is he so lonely he has no one else to talk to but the inanimate object, or is it rather that the instrument is so important to him he's become one with it? It's the first piece that disobeys the previous basslines. We haven't heard anything like it yet; it's like the previous songs have all been in sync with their feelings about the break-up, but this song is really where those emotions shift into something new.

When I first played that song, I had to relisten; the lead guitar is just so satisfying that it feels like I'm the one having this conversation with DeMarco. Take the lyrics, "It's always been all or nothing at all with you, baby" and consider the response from the guitar — a contrasting melody. Are we arguing with each other? Are we coming to terms with our break up? Are we the guitar, or DeMarco?

On my first listen, the ninth track, "Punishment," was my favorite. This was the first song that I added to my personal playlist.

The chorus in this piece is what moved me the most — the lyrics are really poetic, the sound of the bass is interestingly more prominent than the lead guitar and the melody really changes the tone of the piece in its almost negative nature through a minor chord and flat notes. The message and melody of the chorus is so much different. "Take all my money, but leave my soul / Burn down my house, I'm ready to go," are the first two lines. It really captures the difficulty of break-ups for me. But these two lines contradict the previous song's neutrality so much that I could feel the pit in my stomach drop as the emotion changed so abruptly.

Then, the chorus — "Cause Mama, I was told that punishment would come to / Those of us who don't do what we're made to / But how on Earth is anyone to know / If the lane you travel is your own?" Wow. This is the only song that DeMarco has chosen to use backup vocals for, and only on the word "Mama." The verses and the chorus feel contradictory to me. There's this message of "oh, whatever" in the verse, but then we get this feeling of "but what does this mean for me?" in the chorus. This piece puts the reality of having these feelings directly into our faces, like we're the ones experiencing this event. It makes the album feel like a statement rather than a story.

The last two songs shift the album's feel. In "Holy," there are two guitar lines in this piece compared to the one. Perhaps DeMarco has now become less alone, and the two guitars are representative of that. The last track, "Rooster," ends the album on the best figurative note possible. DeMarco approaches this song differently: it's positive, there's an added percussion line, he's backing his own vocals and the lyrics feel easier to digest; they're happier. The melody, DeMarco's register, the instrumental — perhaps DeMarco really does feel less alone in this last piece. I think I do too.



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Much time and money have been spent in perfecting the Statuettes, and they are much improved over the first sent out. The Committee have received from subscribers many letters of commendation.

The *New York World* Fund of \$100,000 completes the Pedestal, but it is estimated that \$40,000 is yet needed to pay for the iron fastenings and the erection of the Statue.

Liberal subscriptions for the Miniature Statuettes will produce the desired amount.

Address, with remittance,
RICHARD BUTLER, Secretary,
American Committee of the Statue of Liberty,
33 Mercer Street, New York.

Volume II, issue VIII, 1886

Charles M. Blair, of Aurora, Ohio, spoke upon the ever interesting subject,
"THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH."

It is a thing to be deplored that such sectional differences have arisen, that they have given rise to gigantic evils. For many years there was a rankling discord between the two sections, little differences were magnified, the Mason and Dixon line only served to mark more clearly the division. These existing animosities at last culminated in the bloody rebellion, the overthrow of the South and the emancipation of the slaves. Since the war the policy of the North has not been such as would promote brotherly feeling, but the reverse. The issues of the war are now at an end and it is time for both North and South to make mutual concessions.

Volume I, issue I, 1882

No more will Prof. William Hope wearily climb the stairs of Bentley hall six times a day to ring the old bell. The potent aid of electricity has been invoked, and now by pressing a key in Prof. Montgomery's room, a bell is rung in each recitation room and the Library, three minutes before the end of each recitation. Another tap of the bell announces the recitation over, and affairs on the hill move with the regularity of clock-work at last.

Volume II, issue VIII, 1885

The spring has come and turned the campus into a beautiful mass of green. The cow has come and turned the campus into a pasture. It seems a pity that the second sentence has to be written, but it is our duty to chronicle facts, and this is one which appears as regularly as the spring time. Is there no way by means of which the campus can be rid of these very unwelcome bovines. Eight or ten cattle (actual count) do not look well in front of

Hulings Hall and, besides not looking well, they sometimes frighten the ladies. For this latter cause if no other we urge those in charge of the college to make it warm for the owners of some of said nuisances.

Volume III, issue XIII, 1887

At last the ladies are happy. For years they have viewed with feelings of envy, the evolutions of the Battalion, and sighed for the privilege of shouldering a gun and drilling "like the boys." In vain they pleaded "lack of exercise," and ability to "march as well as anybody;" fate was inexorable until a few days since when, after much whispering among themselves, and much hinting to their masculine

friends, the news became public that a Broom Battalion had been formed, with "Major" Greer as commandant. The fourth floor of Hulings is their training ground. We heartily congratulate the ladies on the happy conception, and wish them the best of success in their effort to obtain the much needed exercise. While in general warfare the broom may not be quite so effective as a gun, in the lesser domestic "affairs" it is conceded to be a weapon of great execution when wielded with the "bald headed" end advanced. But, seriously, it is certainly a good thing for the ladies, and we hope will not get to be an old story.

Volume II, issue IV, 1885

Stories from the 1880s

MARK TWAIN has received \$63,000 on the proceeds of four months' sale of "Huckleberry Finn."

Volume II, issue XIII, 1886

THE present negligent and harmless arrangement of the battalion's artillery reminds a spectator of the state of things after the battle of Bull Run. Then and there most any one could have been fitted out in war-like attire, if so inclined; and the position of our gleaming and belching field-piece, alas! how fallen. The empty caisson of one guarding an unimportant driveway, and its more effective attachment, like the "Children in the Wood" has been almost covered with the "sear and yellow leaf." Its companion piece has been run off to a now unfrequented part of the campus and solemnly meditates over the mouldering ruins of Culver Hall. Verily, times of peace are upon us, and soon these engines of death will have been hustled away by the rag man and changed into the useful plowshare and pruning hook, or will commemorate some great deed or hero. We can now understand why congress is called upon to make such large appropriations, and we ought to stop our growling at its seeming lavishness.

Volume VII, issue VII, 1883

EDISON'S ELECTRIC LIGHT.

At last the renowned inventor of the phonograph has given to an impatient public his solution of the problem, how to free the country from exorbitant gas bills and kerosene horrors. That such an invention would be appreciated by the public is a question beyond a shadow of a doubt; but the certainty of the success and practicability of it is yet to be proven. He proceeds upon the principle of light from incandescence, and made the brilliant discovery of carbonized paper to take the place of the more expensive material, platinum.

C. Tessie du Motay, a French electrician, has advanced the following objections, which, to our mind, effectually prove the defect in Edison's new solution of the problem of producing electric light by incandescence.

1. The carbon volatilizes and crystallizes in the form of graphitoid by the prolonged action of the electric current in the same manner as platinum and its alloys and cracks and falls into powder on account of the changes of condition which take place unequally and spontaneously at the end of a certain time.

2. The glass globes of the lamps, even if they are hermetically sealed, will expand and contract by the alternate action of the heat of the electric current and the cold air of the surrounding atmosphere; and thus the air will be allowed to filter into the globe and the incandescent carbon will be consumed.

Volume IV, issue V, 1880

SIGNAL SERVICE OBSERVATIONS.

It is not generally known that there are a large number of voluntary observers connected with the Signal Service, and that much of the information which this department of the Government gets comes from these sources. Such a station has just been established at the College.

A complete record of meteorological phenomena will not be kept, but careful attention will be given to such as are most essential. A strict record will be made of the direction of the wind, the fall of rain and snow, the temperature, maximum and minimum temperatures, humidity of the air, and height of the barometer. A copy of these records will be sent to the chief officer at Washington, and the original will be kept by the College. The immediate advantage of such records to the College is very little, compared with that of several years hence, since they will then afford a means of comparing one year's meteorological records with another. They should be faithfully and persistently kept. These observations were begun December 1st. The CAMPUS hopes to furnish its readers with at least part of the records.

Volume III, issue V, 1886

There is a great deal of sickness in college just now. Perry, '88, Lynch, '87, Wood, '86, and Herrick, '85, are convalescing while Jesse Cary, '87, is very sick with typhoid fever and was removed to the hospital last week. Prof. Newlin, also, has been quite sick and had to give up his classes for a few days. These cases are all doubtless due in a great degree to the sudden changes of weather, and yet we are again admonished that students should exercise the utmost caution as to dress and exercise and pay very strict attention to Nature's laws of health.

Volume I, issue II, 1885

ALL things seem to point to a good day coming to Meadville interests in general and to the College in particular. The building of a new railroad and the formation of a Board of Trade seem to be giving a new impulse to the commercial enterprise of the city, and the prosperity of the city of course means increased prosperity to the institution which all Meadville citizens hold dear. The wealthy men of neighboring towns also are feeling more and more disposed and indeed obligated to help the college where their sons and daughters are being so thoroughly equipped. This coming financial prosperity, with the strictness of classification and thoroughness of the class room work, which are every year becoming more apparent, bid fair to make old Allegheny one of the most thorough colleges of the land.

Volume VI, issue I, 1881

About three o'clock, on the morning of the 8th of December, Culver hall was burned to the ground. As near as could be ascertained, the fire originated in the room of Messrs. McKay and Kepler, on the third floor, in the main wing of the building. Kistler and Taylor, who room directly underneath, discovered the fire, seeing the plaster fall from the ceiling, and immediately gave the alarm. This term there were sixty students boarding in the hall every one of whom escaped without injury, although many lost everything they had. Considering that the fire broke out at an hour of the morning when everybody is sleeping the soundest, it seems miraculous that some one was not burned to death, especially those on the third floor, from which there was only one stairway leading down, as it was, there were many narrow escapes, some not being awakened till the ceiling above their heads was falling in. Culver hall was built and presented to Allegheny College in 1866, by Hon. C. V. Culver, of Reno, whose name it bore, at one time one of the most prominent men in the oil regions. At the time of its erection the structure cost about \$35,000, though now it can be rebuilt for much less. The insurance in the aggregate will amount to \$8,500. The fire was not a surprise to any one, as from the inflammable material of which the building was composed, it offered good fuel to feed a fire, and the only wonder is that it was not burned long ago.

FIRE FLIES.

Enough "horses" were burned to stock a first-class livery stable.

"Babe" Taylor lost a new suit of military clothes. Calder's fire-escape was stolen only a few days before the fire. Gil Nodine was cut about the neck and breast by a falling picture frame. He authorizes us to say he is not dead as was first announced.

Kistler lost everything, as he was first to discover the fire and hurried around to wake up the boys.

Hovis and many others lost all their books.

It was amusing to hear some of the boys yelling even for their neckties.

The fire may be a blessing in disguise, as the external appearance of the hall did not correspond with the rest of the college buildings, and now the probabilities are we will have one equal to Hulings.

"It's an ill wind that blows nobody good;" we got an excellent local item for the CAMPUS.

Many of the boys rushed out without their clothing and in their bare feet, thermometer nine degrees below zero.

As a new building will possibly not be built for some time we would suggest that the standing chimneys be whitewashed, inscribed with some characters commemorating the principle events of the fire, and left as monuments.

Volume VII, issue IV, 1882

THE STAR.

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THE BEST ALL-ROUND BICYCLES MADE

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F. GURNEY STUBBS,
429 Randolph Street, Meadville, Pa.

Volume V, issue XI, 1889

Below will be found a tabulated numerical list of the Fraternity Chapters in college. The classification is taken from the chapel seating, and most of the persons classed under '92 will be catalogued freshmen. From the totals it will be seen that somewhat over one-third of the students are in Fraternities:

	'88.	'89.	'90.	'91.	'92.	Total
Phi Kappa Psi,	1	2	5	2		10
Phi Gamma Delta,	1	4	6	4	2	17
Delta Tau Delta,	1	1	5	4	6	17
Phi Delta Theta,	6	1	6	2	5	20
Kappa Alpha Theta,	2	1	2	4		9
Sigma Alpha Epsilon,	5			1	3	6
Total,	16	9	24	17	16	82

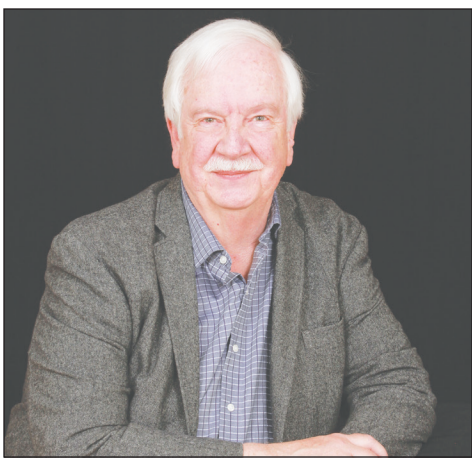
Volume IV, issue VII, 1888

Several young ladies at the Hall desiring to learn to fence, the French foil master of the College was asked if he would act as their instructor, and consented. Then it happened to come into the minds of the applicants that it might be a good idea to see if the consent of the management of the Hall could be obtained. Their request was presented, and, after being considered for several days, it was brought before the honorable faculty at its last regular meeting. After a long discussion of the question, *pro* and *con*, the evidence on both sides was weighed and it was found, we are sorry to say, that the negative was the heavier. And so the ladies will continue to use the broom handle and rolling pin as weapons of defense.

Volume III, issue VIII, 1887

Making headlines since 1876: Alumni reflect on their time with The Campus

How did The Campus shape your Allegheny experience, and what does The Campus mean to you now?



BILL CISSNA, '74

Position: Managing editor
Major/Minor: English / History
Career: Retired freelance writer and active playwright
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Current home: Kemersville, NC

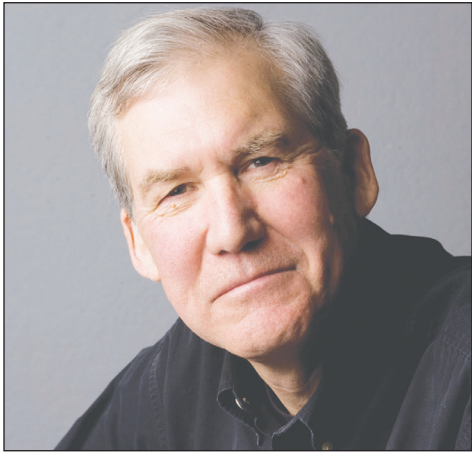
I have often stated that my extracurricular activities at Allegheny (The Campus, WARC, The Help Center) were every bit as important to me as the classroom work. As one who has been able to maintain writing as at least a part of jobs held (ad agency copywriter, public relations planner and release writer, freelancer for newspapers and magazines), work on The Campus — including learning how to use early typesetting computer machinery — proved vital. And while the technology has changed wildly, I suspect the same is true for the avid students who keep the paper alive in 2025.



CHRISTINA BRYSON, '16

Position: Editor-in-chief
Major/Minor: English / Journalism in the Public Interest & Political Science
Career: Owner of Christina Bryson Editorial LLC
Hometown: Murrieta, CA
Current home: Pittsburgh, PA

The Campus was the most impactful part of my Allegheny education. Through my time at the publication, I found my voice, my confidence and ultimately my career path. Nothing will ever beat the feeling of filing before the Thursday night deadline and heading to Mickey's for karaoke and \$1 drinks to celebrate the week's issue.



MARK PERROT, '68

Position: Photographer
Major/Minor: Art
Career: Freelance photographer
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA
Current home: Pittsburgh, PA

My Campus experiences provided my first moments of working in collaboration. And, the Campus office, upstairs in what is now the Tippie Center, was a safe sanctuary to discuss assignments, share ideas and socialize. My loose fitting identity as “photographer” afforded the chance to collaborate with designers and writers and gave me the opportunity to respond to the adage “first show me the words and then I'll show you the pictures.”



TIFFANY HRACH, '01

Position: Photo editor
Major/Minor: Photojournalism / Writing & History
Career: Manager of Technology and Communications for Academic Support
Hometown: Edinboro, PA
Current home: Meadville, PA

When I was a student working for The Campus, I enjoyed the staff meetings, the collaboration and the doling out of assignments. I remember frantic searching for students who would answer the week's photo poll, attending sports events, documenting student events and enjoying my time in the darkroom developing photos, and then scanning in the photos we chose to publish. It was right at the time when digital was up and coming, but we still did a lot of our photography via film and developing. I am grateful to have learned both ways how to process photos, and I feel like it makes me a more solid photographer, even now that I'm not in that field any longer.



LEN RUBIN, '54

Position: Editor-in-chief
Major/Minor: Chemistry
Career: Retired Primary Care Physician
Hometown: Chestnut Hill
Current home: United States

I loved the paper and enjoyed editing, writing headlines, delivering all copy to the printer in the middle of the night, listening to the wait staff in Brooks Hall on the day of publication complain about it and occasionally even praising it. I had a ball with the April Fool's edition and worked hard to keep it in good taste and refrain from personal attack. Frankly, The Campus was my love letter to the college, which I continue to support as best I can.



JUDY BARABAS, '75

Position: Advertising manager
Major/Minor: Art (ceramics)
Career: Graphic Design / Marketing Consultant
Hometown: Medina, OH
Current home: Medina, OH

I'm not exactly sure what date I started with The Campus, but I do recall Bill Cissna, '74, a member of the Editorial Board, suggesting I would be a good Advertising Manager. Hence, every Monday for the remainder of my AC years, I visited shops around Meadville to sell ad space, get their content, and any artwork. Then I went back to the new Campus Center — where we had “high-tech” equipment, laid out the pages of the paper, then designed, illustrated and pasted up the ads — often taking all night. At dinner on Tuesday a printed newspaper would seem to magically appear. This is basically what I have been doing ever since. The Campus was the start of my career — though at the time, being a potter (my major) seemed a good idea.

1876

2025

The Campus

Newsroom Open House

*Celebrate the 150th year of The Campus
with current and former staff and friends*

Room 314, Third Floor, Henderson Campus Center

Saturday, September 20th, 11 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Visit the newsroom to page through old editions, reminisce about the biggest headlines of your college years, catch up on The Campus's recent achievements and see where the action happens.

French Creek Cleanup: Another year of stewardship and community building

By **SILAS ALEMAYEHU**
Contributing Writer
alemayehu01@allegheny.edu

The French Creek watershed community came together for another year to partake in the French Creek Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 6. Over the course of seven hours, hundreds of volunteers collected a total of 37,210 pounds of trash.

The French Creek Valley Conservancy organizes the French Creek Watershed Cleanup and has been doing so for over 30 years. Participants clean along the French Creek watershed as a group of family and friends, a school or organization.

French Creek Valley Conservancy Education & Outreach Coordinator Kaitlyn Carlson, '24, said the success of the French Creek Watershed Cleanup is determined not only by the amount of trash cleaned up, but also by the number of people who participate and volunteer their time.

James Snyder is a participant of the cleanup who worked alongside a team of 11 that consisted of his coworkers who work at the State Correctional Institute in Cambridge Springs.

"It's rewarding, we seem to really enjoy it," Snyder said.

Participants like Snyder who return year after year, say they feel as though they made an impact. "We feel pretty good," Snyder said. "We cleaned the same area last year, so it's promising to see that we didn't have to clean as much."

After cleaning up the creek, volunteers and groups went to the Cambridge Springs fairgrounds where the conservancy organized a picnic and did the weigh-ins of the trash the groups collected.

French Creek Valley Conservancy Executive Director Brenda Costa monitored the dumpsters at the weighing site.

"A successful cleanup is when we fill these dumpsters," Costa said. "Right now one and three-quarters dumpsters are full. So we know folks have been successful in what they were trying to accomplish today."

Carlson praised the volunteers' work, saying they are the key to the continued success of the French Creek Watershed Cleanup.

"We couldn't have the picnic aspect without the volunteers and we also couldn't have the cleanup without people going out and taking out the trash," Carlson said.

In addition to preventing trash and debris from polluting the creek, another positive outcome of the cleanup is the sense of responsibility with which many participants

leave the event.

"Equally as important as maintaining or increasing our conservation goals are getting people to understand how they are also an important part of the watershed," Costa said.

The French Creek watershed flows down from New York into Pennsylvania, passing through Erie County, Crawford County, Mercer County and Venango County. The stewardship that occurs during the cleanup makes the creek sustainable for generations to come.

"I hope we can protect this resource for our childrens' children and so on," said Susanna Harris, a French Creek Valley Conservancy board member. "We have a lot of really special critters in French Creek. A lot of really beautiful places that I would hope will be a legacy, something that we can carry on and continue to bring people together for a common cause."

The cleanup had less participation this year compared to recent years, according to Costa. Regardless, the organizers were pleased with the turnout.

"People's lives are busier and busier," Costa said. "This is a good size, but we will definitely try and do additional outreach for next year."

Costa was not alone in her assessment of this year's cleanup.

"This year has been a great year," Harris said. "We would love to see continued community involvement. It's always great to get new groups to come out. It would be awesome to see the event grow."

Carlson wishes to increase the number of participants, which has been lower since the pandemic.

"We have seen less people coming to the cleanup in recent years because after COVID it decreased," Carlson said. "We would like to get more folks from the northern part of the watershed and the southern part of the watershed."

Fishing out discarded tires, a head that belonged to a doll and street signs, among other treasures, was not the only way to participate in the cleanup. Many of the volunteers at the fairgrounds helped with setting up tables for community partners, sorting collected trash into metal bins and helping cook food. Volunteering at the fairgrounds is a different, but just as vital component of the cleanup, and it creates a space of bonding among different people in the community.

The event brought together people who otherwise may have not had the chance to meet, as well as those who typically only



LORENZO SCARNATI/THE CAMPUS
Allegheny students volunteering with the Green Coalition dig up rusty metal in the tunnels under Meadville during the French Creek Cleanup.



BEN STAVNEZER/THE CAMPUS
Jada Williams, '26, and Josie Prato, '28, wade into the creek in Shady Brook Park to pull debris out of the water.

spend time with each other in specific contexts.

"Its good to hang out with some of the people we work with outside the work environment," Tom Blain said, another member of the Cambridge Springs State Correctional Institute coworker group.

French Creek is a defining feature of the broader Meadville community. In addition to serving an aesthetic purpose, the creek adds value to the watershed in numerous ways.

The French Creek cleanup is vital for supporting the ecosystem as well.

"The rich biodiversity species is really important," Carlson said. "Just like how environmental science is interdisciplinary, the creek itself pulls recreation, business and research."

Other organizations present shared similar ideas about the value French Creek brings to the community.

"Our top priority should be about the water," said Lyndsay Denny, an environmental educator for the Tamarack Wildlife Center. "I can't say enough good things about water. French Creek is one of my favorites because of its biodiversity."

New coach brings decades of experience to lead cross country and track teams

By **MADDOX BROWN**
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Allegheny's cross country and track and field teams are entering a new chapter under the leadership of new head coach Jason Falvo. Falvo has decades of experience as both a coach and an athlete which has helped him guide the team through adverse times. Falvo has an athletic background that includes baseball, football, track and cross country, and according to women's cross country captain Samantha Oakes, '27, brings a mixture of discipline, enthusiasm and relatability to the teams.

Falvo's first weeks at Allegheny have already left a strong impression.

"The transition for me has been amazing," Falvo said. "The overwhelming support, the welcoming that I've had here has been phenomenal." Falvo said the community has been incredibly helpful. "Everybody here at the college has been just so gracious with their time and effort with us," Falvo said. "It's been amazing. You know you want to work in places that have great people. The people here have been fantastic. I couldn't feel more comfortable and excited to be here."

Falvo has had a unique path transitioning from being an athlete in many sports to now coaching, mentioning that he grew up playing baseball and then transitioned to football late in his high school career. Falvo ended up playing football at Juniata College and then became a football coach at Waynes-

burg University. The Waynesburg athletic director approached Falvo requesting a favor: which was to help launch the school's Track and Field program. "You never turn down an Italian guy when they ask you for a favor," Falvo joked. Falvo went on to be a five-time President's Athletic Conference Coach of the Year and also the 2010 Mid-East Region Women's Coach of the Year. He coached 28 national qualifiers during his time as Waynesburg's head coach.

"Coaching takes what it takes," Falvo said. "The time and effort you have to put in, it is just what it is." Over the years, Falvo has learned to weather the complexities of coaching, which includes building relationships, understanding personalities and learning from mistakes. While victory, strategy and performance are important to Falvo, building relationships is what he values the most. On the day that he was hired, one of his former athletes reached out to wish him luck.

Falvo's arrival comes in the midst of a difficult time for Allegheny's distance teams. Perseverance is vital when it comes to distance running and the loss of a former Head Track and Field Coach Ben Mourer, '07, has had a major impact on the program which Falvo understands well. "Never settle, never quit, never stop," Falvo said, echoing a key motto of Mourer's. "You want to take it day by day. One step at a time. We know that there are going to be emotional ups and downs. We will ride the journey together.

There is no true playbook for this one."

Falvo's message has resonated with student athletes like Oakes. "Personally, I want to be the strongest athlete I can be," Oakes said. "Get new personal bests because that's definitely what Mourer would have wanted." Oakes also mentioned that the team goals are to grow personally, emotionally and academically. She would like to see dropping times and consistent growth. Oakes says that because the team is so small, it creates a close-knit family atmosphere. Oakes said Falvo has brought a lot of hype and enthusiasm to workouts while maintaining past traditions and bringing much-needed energy to the team. Oakes believes the transition has been as smooth as it could have been.

Falvo's coaching style blends experience with adaptability. He's worked closely with other coaches to learn Allegheny's traditions while introducing his own methods, including a focus on injury prevention and strength training. Anti-gravity treadmills have become part of the regimen, helping athletes stay healthy while pushing their limits.

Logan Wagner, '26, captain of the women's track team, was appreciative of Falvo's attention to detail and personal connection. "The first day that the entire track team met him, he was already knowing people's names and everything, which was pretty big for us because it was his first time meeting us, and he already knew what events we did," she said. Wagner appreciates how personable



FALVO

Falvo is, going out of his way to get to know his athletes. The team goals are about unity and resilience. "Stay strong, run for Mourer, never settle," Wagner said. As for personal goals, she hopes to break 59 seconds in the 400-meter dash for the first time. She believes the team will become more unified as the season draws closer.

Beyond coaching at Allegheny, Falvo has a deeply rooted faith and family values. He says his competitive spirit is also seen when playing golf or softball in his free time and that he thrives when faced with challenges, so he always tries to gain the edge. This competitiveness transfers to his coaching style, using adversity as an outlet for growth.

Falvo enters his first year as a Gator with clear goals of building strong relationships, along with instilling discipline and resilience in his athletes. Falvo said he aims to lead the team with heart, grit and onward momentum.

New strength training coach brings good vibes and plans for the future

By **MEDINA NIYAZ**
Contributing Writer
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When Dylan Chan walks into the weight room at the David V. Wise Center, the energy shifts. Music plays, racks are filled and athletes across sports push through workouts designed to make them faster, stronger and healthier. But for Chan, the new head strength and conditioning coach, it's not just about the numbers on the barbell— it's about building a culture of growth, resilience and joy in movement.

Chan, hired this summer, has a full résumé despite being only 23 years old. His journey began at La Roche University, where, as an undergraduate student-athlete, he got the unusual opportunity to design training programs for the men's soccer team. He also founded the university's powerlifting club, managing training for more than 50 students. That early start gave him a foundation that would shape his career.

"As an undergrad, you don't often get that kind of hands-on experience," Chan said. "I was learning how to program, how to motivate and really just how to swim on my own."

After La Roche, Chan pursued his master's degree at the University of New Haven, where he worked as a graduate assistant under veteran coach David Faugno. There, he trained football players, baseball infielders, women's tennis, cross country and more. Several of those teams won conference championships.

One of Chan's proudest moments came from working with New Haven's women's tennis team. At first, many of the players resisted the weight room. But by the end of the season, not only had they embraced strength training, they also won a conference title.

"They hated lifting at the beginning," Chan recalled with a smile. "By the end, they loved it. And we won a championship together. That was really rewarding."

Coaching Philosophy: Flexibility, Not Rigidity

Chan describes his coaching style as "laid back." He believes athletes should have the freedom to explore how their bodies move within the framework of safe and effective training.

"Everyone has anatomical differences," Chan explained. "Not everyone's squat or hinge is going to look the same. I give athletes the flexibility to find their own way to

move. Of course, if something's wrong, I'll step in, but I want them to feel ownership."

That balance between structure and freedom extends to programming. Across all teams, Chan emphasizes the fundamentals: squat, hinge, push, pull and single-leg patterns. From there, training becomes sport-specific. Baseball and softball players do more rotational work and medicine ball throws, while soccer athletes focus on knee and ankle strength to prevent injuries.

"Strength is really a service industry," Chan said. "We look at what the athletes are lacking, and we provide it — whether that's strength, speed, structure or even confidence."

Chan sees his role not only in boosting athletic performance but also in protecting athletes' long-term health. Injury prevention is embedded into every workout. While athletes recover between sets, instead of waiting, they perform mobility exercises or stability drills.

"There's no way to count how many injuries you've prevented," Chan admitted. "But we build those exercises into everything we do so athletes can stay strong and healthy."

That mindset extends beyond athletes. Chan says one of his passions is helping people — whether collegiate players or ordinary fitness enthusiasts — find ways to live healthier lives.

"It's not just about on-field performance," he said. "It's about someone being able to walk up the stairs without being out of breath or enjoying movement again."

Adjusting to Allegheny: A Strong Start

Transitioning to Allegheny has been smooth, Chan said, largely because of the motivation he sees in Division III athletes.

"As a former D3 athlete myself, I get it," Chan said. "You're not here for scholarships — you're here because you love your sport and you love competing. That makes my job easy, because the athletes truly want to get better."

The only challenge? Space. The Wise Center weight room boasts 12 racks — impressive for a D3 program — but limited square footage makes it tricky to run multiple teams at once. Even so, Chan says the facilities at Allegheny are "light years" ahead of most programs at the Division III and even Division II level.

When Chan first arrived, many athletes weren't sure what to expect. Some, like

women's tennis player Evie Ellenberger, '28, were struck by his energy right away.

"When I first met Coach Dylan, it was during tennis testing," Ellenberger said. "I had already seen on Instagram that we got a new coach, and I thought he looked really strong and knew what he was doing. But when I actually met him, he seemed really passionate about what he was doing. The energy in the weight room was really high, and since I love lifting, that definitely made me excited."

She also noticed his hands-on approach compared to past coaches.

"Last year for tennis season, I had both Cory and Jared, but their style was more like showing us at the beginning and letting us do it on our own," she said. "But Coach Dylan is really involved — he's walking around the weight room, making sure everyone's spotting right and doing the right depth for squatting. He's making sure we benefit from every rep."

Vision for the Future

Chan's goals for his first year are both ambitious and practical. He wants athletes to feel stronger and healthier, but also to leave with good memories of their time in the weight room.

"When athletes graduate, I want them to look back and say, 'Do you remember that one time in the weight room?' and smile," Chan said. "That culture of positivity and connection — that's what matters most to me."

A new nutrition initiative is also underway. Thanks to the Golden Gator Club, a donor-funded program, athletes now receive shaker bottles, protein and healthy snacks to support pre- and post-workout recovery. A full-time dietitian, Melinda Lesticlong, has joined the college staff to further support athlete nutrition.

"Nutrition is often overlooked at the Division III level," Chan said. "Being able to give athletes those resources is huge."

Looking ahead, student-athletes believe Chan's influence will go beyond the weight room.

"I think that he'll definitely bring a more connected team and stronger teams because lifting isn't just about getting stronger faster — it's about pushing yourself and mentally getting stronger," said men's tennis player Justin Hardie, '28. "That's a big part of tennis at least... I think that lifting with him is



CHAN

going to increase our mental and physical stamina, so I think that he can continue to build our tennis team."

Hardie also emphasized that the team's potential is only growing under Chan's guidance.

"Our team has got a lot better this past year — we jumped up to become nationally ranked, which was a big jump for our school and for the tennis team," he said. "This year I think that our team has the potential to be even better... I think we have a high ceiling, a very high ceiling."

Life Beyond the Weight Room

When Chan isn't coaching, he can often be found outdoors. A former baseball player, he still enjoys throwing and hitting. He runs in places like Presque Isle and Pittsburgh, rides his motorcycle to explore nearby state parks and is, as he puts it, is a "big foodie" who loves trying new restaurants.

That balance, he says, helps him bring energy into the weight room every day.

"I love what I do," Chan said. "At the end of the day, it's about making an impact — on the field, in the classroom and in life after college."

A Lasting Impact

In just a few months, Chan has already become a fixture of Allegheny athletics. His athletes know he's not just watching their lifts: he's showing up to their games, cheering them on and investing in their success.

"I don't want to be just the 'weight room guy,'" Chan said. "I want athletes to know I care about them as people. That's how you build real strength."

Alex's Corner: A New NFL Season

What's changed and what's stayed the same?

By **ALEXANDER NASH**
Sports Writer
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Week one of the NFL season is upon us. Here's the skinny on what you fans have to look forward to:

Our Super Bowl contenders look much like they did a year ago, but a few things have changed.

In the American Football Conference, the North is headlined by a new look Steelers team led by 4-time NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers as well as offseason trade acquisitions DK Metcalf and Jalen Ramsey, the MVP runner-up Lamar Jackson and the Ravens, the boom-or-bust Joe Burrow and Ja'marr Chase led Bengals, and the Browns, well, they're just the Browns.

The AFC West, while the Broncos and Chargers have made significant moves to build around their young franchise quarterbacks, still belongs to the Chiefs. The Las Vegas Raiders aren't a complete disaster with veteran quarterback Geno Smith and the rookie phenom from Boise State, running-back Ashton Jeanty, but they're still rebuilding for the most part.

The AFC South is anyone's division for the taking, but the Jaguars and Titans still lack identity. The Colts have all the pieces to make a playoff run, but the shocking news that Daniel Jones will start the season under center leaves a huge question mark regarding former third overall pick Anthony Richardson. For my money, the Houston Texans will win the division, but don't be shocked if any of the other teams is a surprise contender.

And finally, the AFC East. Put simply, this is Josh Allen and the Bills' division to lose. The Patriots pose a minor threat with a revamped receiving core and running game to support second year quarterback Drake Maye. The Dolphins traded away key pieces of their core in the offseason, and start-

ing quarterback Tua Tagovailoa still hasn't shown that he can run an offense without being surrounded by a dominant supporting cast. The New York Jets have high hopes after signing free agent Justin Fields and his former college teammate, wide receiver Garrett Wilson, but first year head coach, Aaron Glenn, has a lot to prove before the Jets are a contender.

In the NFC, the North is arguably the best division in football. A Packers team coming off a playoff berth drafted a legitimate wide receiver with their first pick in the draft, electing to draft Texas standout Matthew Golden as well as making the blockbuster trade of the offseason, bringing in superstar edge rusher Micah Parsons from the Cowboys. The Lions, despite losing both their offensive and defensive coordinators, still look poised to make a deep playoff run. The Vikings, coming off of a miraculous 13 win season on the back of unlikely MVP candidate Sam Darnold, look to repeat that success behind their 2024 first round pick, JJ McCarthy. The Chicago Bears have a potentially potent offense with the hiring of Ben Johnson as head coach to guide last year's first overall pick, quarterback Caleb Williams.

The NFC West is as wide open as any division in football. No team has an outlook of pure dominance, but if I had to pick a team to take it, I would lean towards the pedigree of Sean McVay and Matthew Stafford's Los Angeles Rams. Kyle Shanahan's offensive scheme leading a Brock Purdy led offense with a healthy Christian McCaffery makes the 49ers dangerous. Last year's surprise breakout star, Sam Darnold, inked a new deal with the Seattle Seahawks, and his new weapons in wide receivers Cooper Kupp and Jaxon Smith-Njigba as well as the running-back tandem of Kenneth Walker III and Zach Charbonnet look poised to make an impact. The Arizona Cardinals, led

by veteran QB Kyler Murray, bring back a healthy version of the same team that was ravaged by injuries last year, so they have the potential to put themselves in the mix for the division crown.

The NFC South was by far the weakest division in the league a year ago, but the Buccaneers and Falcons return with bolstered rosters and potentially MVP-caliber quarterbacks Baker Mayfield and Michael Penix Jr. The New Orleans Saints are in salary cap limbo for the foreseeable future, but Tyler Shough could be a surprise rookie of the year candidate, and Alvin Kamara could have some gas left in the tank of his prime. The Panthers improved significantly from last season, and they finally made the moves to build around their former number one pick Bryce Young, but until proven otherwise, they remain in the basement of this division.

To wrap it up, the NFC East is home to the reigning champion Philadelphia Eagles, and this team has only improved from its dominant Super Bowl champion roster, and they are the odds-on favorite to repeat as champs. Jayden Daniels and the Washington Commanders look to build upon their miraculous trip to the NFC Championship in 2024 with the addition of wide receiver Deebo Samuel. A week ago, the Dallas Cowboys would have been a fringe top five team in the NFC, but with the trading away of Micah Parsons, they seem to have lost their identity. Last but not least, the New York Giants. This is not a team that has any chance of winning a Super Bowl, but if quarterback Jaxson Dart becomes a franchise cornerstone, the Giants will have considered this season a success.

This NFL season looks to be a very interesting ride, but my picks for the Super Bowl are the Philadelphia Eagles from the NFC and the Buffalo Bills in the AFC, and my pick to win it all, although controversial, are Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills.

Allegheny sports recap

Aug. 28 - Sept. 8

By **ALEXANDER NASH**
Sports Writer
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Football: 0-1, 35-24 Loss vs Denison

Women's Soccer: 0-2-2, 4-1 Loss vs Capital, 6-0 Loss vs Case Western Reserve, 1-1 Tie vs Baldwin Wallace, 1-1 Tie vs Marietta

Men's Soccer: 0-2-2, 1-1 Tie vs Penn State Behrend, 1-1 Tie vs Carnegie Mellon, 4-2 Loss vs Alfred State, 4-2 Loss vs Baldwin Wallace

Volleyball: 3-5, 3-0 Win vs Heidelberg, 3-2 Loss vs Salem, 3-2 Loss vs Muskingum, 3-2 Win vs Baldwin Wallace, 3-1 Loss vs John Carroll, 3-0 Loss vs Capital, 3-2 Win vs Hanover, 3-0 Loss vs Otterbein

Women's Golf: 11th out of 13 at Lynn Schweitzer Invitational, 2nd out of 5 at Sinking Valley Collegiate Classic

Men's Golf: 6th out of 11 at the Ted Barclay Invitational

Men's Cross Country: Finished 7th of 11 in the Doug Watts Open

Women's Cross Country: Finished 8th of 11 in the Doug Watts Open

Field Hockey: 2-1, 2-1 OT Loss vs SUNY Brockport, 5-0 Win vs Juniata, 1-0 Win vs Roanoke

Men's/Women's Tennis: No Scores

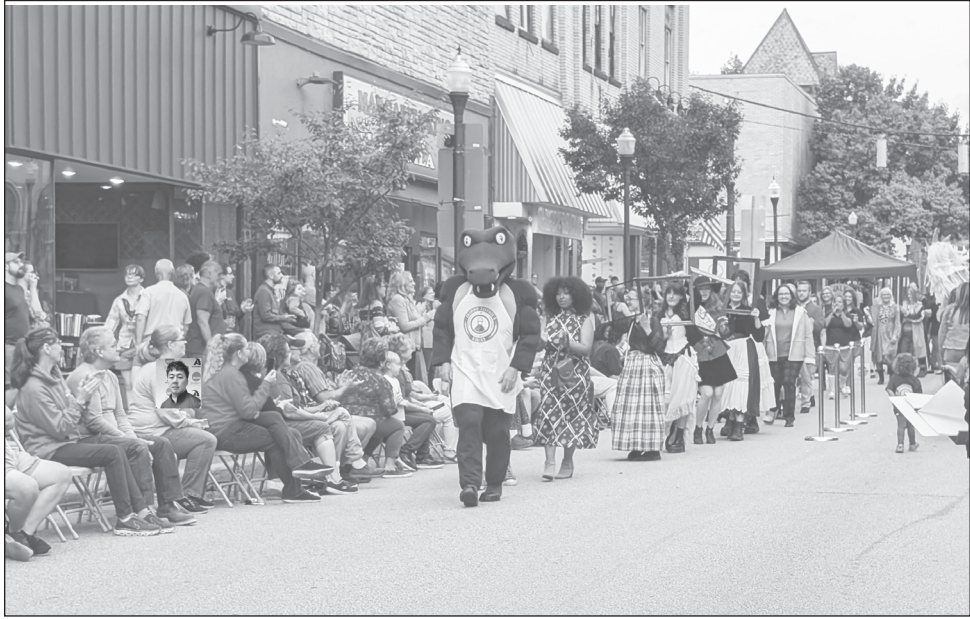
Catwalk on Chestnut



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS
A group modeling for Hatch Hollow wave to the crowd at the Catwalk on Chestnut on Friday, Sept. 5.



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS
Acutec Precision Aerospace CEO Elisabeth Smith poses with her daughter on a small pedestal on Chestnut Street.



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS
Chompers the Gator leads the procession of all those who participated in the Catwalk on Chestnut.

Join

- News
- Cover events on Allegheny’s campus as they happen, through photos and written stories
- Features
- Examine the little-known parts of the Allegheny community, including club features and human-interest stories

Sports

Play ball! Report and analyze the performance of the Blue-and-Gold by attending matches and interviewing players and coaches

Photography

A picture is worth 1,000 words — and often, the front page!

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 12 – THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

Allegheny Sports Schedule

Home Games

09/12 FRIDAY	Volleyball: Allegheny vs. Geneva DAVID V. WISE CENTER, 4 P.M.
09/12 FRIDAY	Volleyball: Allegheny vs. Mount Union DAVID V. WISE CENTER, 8 P.M.
09/13 SATURDAY	Volleyball: Allegheny vs. Penn State Behrend DAVID V. WISE CENTER, 11 A.M.
09/13 SATURDAY	Field Hockey: Allegheny vs. Nazareth ROBERTSON BLUE TURF, 12 P.M.
09/13 SATURDAY	Men’s Soccer: Allegheny vs. Nazareth ROBERTSON ATHLETIC COMPLEX, 2:30 P.M.
09/13 SATURDAY	Volleyball: Allegheny vs. Fredonia DAVID V. WISE CENTER, 3 P.M.
09/13 SATURDAY	Women’s Soccer: Allegheny vs. Fredonia ROBERTSON BLUE TURF, 5 P.M.
09/14 SUNDAY	Field Hockey: Allegheny vs. Lycoming ROBERTSON BLUE TURF, 2 P.M.
09/16 TUESDAY	Women’s Tennis: Allegheny vs. Franciscan TENNIS COURTS AT ROBERTSON, 4:30 P.M.
09/17 WEDNESDAY	Women’s Soccer: Allegheny vs. SUNY Brockport ROBERTSON BLUE TURF, 6 P.M.

THE COLLEGE PRESS

- The Rochester Institute of Technology’s National Technical Institute for the Deaf announces its first female president.

— Reporter Magazine, July 10
- University of Pittsburgh replaces its Office for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion with the Office of Institutional Engagement and Well-being. The removal of the OEDI marks the first tangible change Pitt made to join higher education institutions complying with President Donald Trump’s guidelines against diversity, equity and inclusion.

— The Pitt News, Aug. 26
- Youngstown State University reveals new radiology program and lab.

— The Jambar, Aug. 27
- The University at Buffalo is projected to lose approximately \$6.5 billion in tuition revenue for the upcoming year due to a decline in international graduate student enrollment.

— The Spectrum, Aug. 30
- Students attending the University of Rochester in 2020 could receive a partial reimbursement of tuition, according to a proposed settlement that the University reached in a class action lawsuit. The suit alleges that students attending the University that year are entitled to reduced tuition rates due to their classes being unexpectedly held online in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

— Campus Times, Sept. 1
- A professor at the University of Pittsburgh is suing the University and School of Education dean, alleging retaliation for support of Palestine.

— The Pitt News, Sept. 5
- The Oberlin College Office and Professional Employees, Oberlin’s last large union, reached a new three-year agreement securing raises and winter shutdown coverage for unionized staff.

— The Oberlin Review, Sept. 5

FOOTBALL *from page 1*

By **AUBRYANNA SNYDER**

Features Editor
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Watching Allegheny students compete in the Steelers Jamboree for women's flag football on March 29, Director of Athletics and Recreation Bill Ross saw the energy on the field and knew that they had made the right decision. He was blown away by the collisions, the competitiveness and the athleticism on display.

“This is something that students are going to want to be a part of,” Ross said.

Allegheny College announced in July that it would be officially adding a women's flag football program. The addition of the program corresponds with the college's Strategic Pathway by “focusing on creating a vibrant and inclusive campus by building community and school pride through athletics, recreation, arts, and wellness,” according to the release.

Ross was first tipped off about women's flag football by alum Issac Gittens, '14, who currently works as a senior manager of business operations and strategy for the National Football League. The NFL and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) recently started funding flag football as a varsity sport, and Gittens reached out to Ross about the increasing popularity of the sport, pushing hard to start a program at Allegheny, Ross said.

“He said, ‘This is a thing, it's coming, and you might want to consider adding it,’” Ross said. “Sure enough, the NCAA got involved, and they said this is really important; we're going to fast-track this into the emerging sports for women.”

The status of “emerging sport” means that the conference is paying particular attention to the sport's growth. The sport will likely remain as an emerging sport for one year, until the NCAA votes to make it an official collegiate sport at the January convention in 2027. Voting to classify flag football as an emerging sport will take place this coming January 2026, and Ross is confident that it will pass unanimously.

“Right now, there are more than enough colleges that sponsor the sport that it will get voted in, no problem,” Ross said. “We don't have to wait and see if there will be enough

— there already is enough.”

Ross contrasted flag football with other, less popular sports that have been put up for a vote but fail to reach the required vote threshold because of the lack of colleges willing to add it to their slate of programs.

“For instance, equestrian or fencing,” Ross said. “There's just not enough schools willing to add it as a sport, so it has failed every time for the past eight years that it has come up for vote.”

There are only 3,850 high school fencers across the country, compared to flag football, which boasts over 430,954 athletes.

“It's huge compared to a lot of other sports,” Ross said. “It's got the same numbers as field hockey for women.”

The International Olympic Committee decided to add flag football as an Olympic sport in 2028. The addition of the sport to the 2028 Olympics shortened the timeline for Gittens to introduce flag football at the college level. Without college teams, there is no “feeder” program for the Olympic selection, as Ross put it.

“We invented the sport, we'd better win the gold medal,” Ross said.

When first deciding how to gauge interest on campus, Ross and Associate Athletic Director Kate Cotanzo sent out a questionnaire to students in order to see who might be interested in forming a team. When 16 students signed up instantly, Ross knew they were on the right track.

In March, the budding flag football team competed in a jamboree event hosted by the NFL and the Pittsburgh Steelers at Saint Vincent College. There was a pool of other colleges, as well as a few high school teams that had competed right before the college athletes in their regular season. Allegheny played Franciscan University of Steubenville and Bethany College; teams were pitted against one another based on roster size.

Part of the reason for doing the jamboree event was to act as a test run for students — to see how many would sign up, how much interest they would have and whether the sport could continue, Ross said.

“It was fantastic,” Ross said. “I went to the event, watched how it all went down, and it wasn't so important as far as whether we were good at it; it was just did they have fun? Were they competitive? Was it a sport where

I think people are going to want to come and watch? Will students want to come and cheer them on? And the answer to all that was yes, yes, yes.”

Madeline Schneider, '28, running back and one of two captains on the team, enjoyed playing on the team and competing in the jamboree. “It was really fun playing against another actual college and the team chemistry was really good,” Schneider said.



This is something that students are going to want to be a part of.”

—BILL ROSS
Director of Athletics and Recreation

Schneider initially became interested in flag football after seeing an increase in its media presence. Schneider said that she had some experience playing on intramural and powderpuff teams, and that she wanted to get involved in another sport on Allegheny's campus. As captain, she was responsible for organizing practices and team dinners, as well as keeping up team energy and morale on and off the field.

“I definitely think I'm going to do it again just because now it's working towards becoming a varsity sport at the college so I think I really want to be a part of that,” Schneider said.

Schneider says she really enjoys being a part of another community of people, and that she is looking forward to the team being more organized now that the college is bringing on a full time flag football coach.

Assistant Football Coach and Defensive Coordinator Matt Hanhold led the team during its first unofficial season as a club sport. With around 17 women on the team, it was a mixture of both in-season athletes and non-athlete students.

“It was a good group of girls, they worked hard,” Hanhold said.

With the flag football team operating as a club sport, it was limited in the number of practices it could have. With only having the option of practicing either early morning or late at night, the majority ruled for a brisk morning schedule. Hanhold said that although he was initially afraid of the team being too worn out and exhausted, that fear was short-lived.

“To be honest, I think there was a lot more energy from them than there was from me at that hour of the day,” he said.

Hanhold gives his players credit, especially for the 6 a.m. practices in the spring cold.

“There was one day when it was probably 20 degrees,” Hanhold said. “You're talking about a spring sport that has to conflict with track and field, lacrosse, non-traditional seasons — when do you have time to go?”

With the interest and enthusiasm for the sport rising, Allegheny has decided to treat flag football as a varsity sport despite its club status. This means that they can hire a head coach who is responsible for only flag football and fund the team's needs just as any varsity sport in terms of travel, equipment, recruiting and more.

Ross said the college is essentially giving the sport two years of recruitment. That recruitment is bringing both incoming freshmen as well as any students interested on campus, with the ultimate goal of building a roster of 20-25 women.

Ross said the college has hired a head coach for the Women's Flag Football team and that she will be starting in two weeks. The new coach will be responsible for building the team's schedule for the spring, and the college has provided a set budget for the team to travel for competitions. The competitions will be similar to the jamboree event from the past spring.

“Just in western Pennsylvania alone, there's at least six schools in the PAC (Presidents' Athletic Conference) who have flag football,” Ross said. “If all six in two years time maintain their status, we'll have enough teams to be able to host a conference championship for the sport and get an automatic qualifying bid to the NCAA tournament.”



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BILL ROSS

The Allegheny women's flag football team huddles around a coach at the Steelers Jamboree for women's flag football on March 29.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BILL ROSS

At the Jamboree, the Allegheny women's flag football team played two scrimmages against Franciscan University of Steubenville and Bethany College.

‘Bio Blitz’ at Carrden documents campus wildlife

By **PAIGE KAGENI**

Staff Writer
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From birds to butterflies, students observed all sorts of wildlife and plant life in the Carr Hall Garden at this year's Bio Blitz.

The event was organized by the Office of Sustainability, the biology department and the new Green Coalition — an amalgamation of numerous environmental clubs at Allegheny. The event was held on Sept. 5, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and featured the usage of iNaturalist, an app for citizens to share scientific observations for identification.

Green Coalition Co-Secretary Lauren Buettner, '26, hopes that events like the BioBlitz can be educational and fun for all those involved.

“I feel like these events help bring us together as a community, as Allegheny College, (to) learn more about nature and connect people more with nature,” Buettner said.

She hopes that students are able to learn more about the Carrden and its greenery that might go unnoticed on one's hurried way to class.

“So far, I'm shocked about the amount of monarch butterflies we found around here,” Buettner said. “Those have been really interesting. There's also a pawpaw tree, which I know produces fruits that taste like bananas. It's really cool. So that was cool finding them here.”

Emma Stephens, '29, was just passing by the Carrden when she happened to notice the event taking place. She spoke about the number of monarch butterflies seen around the garden and house finches perched on the trees.

Stephens believes that events like the Bio Blitz are significant because they raise

awareness about sustainability and the programs going on at Allegheny.

The idea for the event was developed in part because of her work with the Carrden and her observations of the animal and plant life, inviting students to come and see for themselves. The event-goers utilized the iNaturalist app, where photos can be uploaded for identification. Monarch butterflies, bees, finches, and other insects, animals and plants were all seen during the afternoon.

“We thought it would be fun to invite people into the space and engage them into the garden,” Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, '02 said.. “A Bio Blitz is a fun way to do it. It's citizen science, so it's all of us collectively making observations about what we see.”

For the Office of Sustainability, that's one of the many goals of events like the Bio Blitz: Sharing the collective observations of participants will allow for a greater understanding of the environment Allegheny finds itself in. While the Office of Sustainability is still planning a wider variety of events, Boulton is optimistic that more areas on campus could be picked for future observation.

“I love the idea of eventually just picking another plot and doing Bio Blitzes of the entire campus,” Boulton said. “It could even be up at Robertson in the woods, that would be a completely different kind of BioBlitz.”

In the days, weeks and months following the Bio Blitz, the office hopes the event will encourage students to be more thoughtful about the environment around them. The iNaturalist app can be continuously used when discovering something new or unknown on campus, further engaging with nature. In turn, it can inspire users to make changes in their behavior to help the planet

in any way they can.

“We can do this here and maybe we can build that up, but you all are going to graduate and go live all over the place,” Boulton said. “This is a really cool way to meet people, engage with your environment and just build community.”

The office encourages students to partici-

pate in these events to know more about the place they live, work and study. Some students who've never thought to stop in the Carrden can enjoy its scenery and become educated about the environment.

“I want people to feel like, as much as the rest of campus,” Boulton said, “this is a place for people to enjoy.”



PAIGE KAGENI/THE CAMPUS

Nyomi Longhi, '29, snaps photos for the iNaturalist app at the Bio Blitz in the Carrden on Sept. 5.