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Allegheny College raises tuition by three percent

By **CODY BAUMEISTER**
News Editor
baumeisterc@allegheny.edu

While students continue to struggle to pay for higher education, schools across the United States are raising tuitions again as the 2019-20 school year approaches. Allegheny College is among those schools scheduled to increase tuition by 3 percent for the upcoming academic year.

Allegheny College is set to increase its tuition by $1,220, raising the tuition to $48,760 for the upcoming academic year. This tuition increase raises the entire total for attending Allegheny College to $61,900 which is an increase of $2,220 from the previous academic year.

Even though this increase of 3.6 percent might present worries to current Allegheny students, it is not the highest increase in the last five academic years. The 2015-16 academic year saw an increase in total charges of 4.37 percent, which was followed by another 4.15 percent increase in the 2016-17 academic year.

The decision to raise tuition by 3.6 percent was made in the fall of 2018 and was agreed upon by the Finance and Facilities Committee. The FFC is a committee of faculty, staff, administration and students that meet to discuss the college's budget and finances.

To make the decision, the Consumer Price Index and the Higher Education Price Index were used in tandem with other resources to analyze what an appropriate tuition increase would be, according to Eileen Petula, Allegheny's executive vice president.

Petula said the students involved with FFC were responsible for helping to create the financial model that was used to make the decision to raise the cost of attending the college.

With the increase set, Petula said the increase decision was approved with student financial concerns in mind and the increase was set at a price that still makes Allegheny affordable for a broad range of students.

See **TUITION** | *page 3*

'When I hear the n-word'

IDEAS Center hosts open dialogue about campus racism



ETHAN WOODFILL/THE CAMPUS

Students and faculty listen to discussions about racism and the n-word on campus Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in Quigley.

By **ETHAN WOODFILL**
News Editor
woodfille@allegheny.edu

> In my opinion, it doesn't matter if you're a minority. If you're not black, you should not be using that word, period. Even though you've still gone through different struggles, that word is not for you, it was not used against you."
>
> —BRIANA WATSON
> Class of 2019,
> Allegheny College

About 20 students and faculty members attended a discussion regarding the n-word and racism on Allegheny's campus to share their views on the issue as well as potential solutions to the problem.

The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center and the Office of Residence Life hosted a discussion, "When I Hear the N-Word," on Tuesday, April 2, at 7 p.m. in room 126 in Quigley Hall. The open dialogue was led by justin adkins, associate dean, director of the IDEAS Center.

adkins opened the discussion by noting several requests for a chance to talk about the issue of racism, specifically the usage of the n-word.

"I grew up in a community where white kids didn't say the n-word at all," adkins said, "but then, older people in my family did use the word every once in a while. Growing up, I learned to say something to them about it."

adkins said he was shocked about the usage of the word in conversations with several students over the past few years, and that this sparked the idea for a dialogue. The discussion was then opened to students to share their experiences.

Briana Watson, '19, shared an experience from her first year when she was walking in downtown Meadville with a friend. A black pickup truck sped by and someone shouted the n-word at her.

"It's happened many times on campus as well," Watson said. "They sing songs at parties. It's a recurring thing on campus, which is really annoying."

Breanna Blair, '19, said she came to the discussion to learn more about the topic.

"Whose word is it? Blair asked. "Should people be allowed to say it in songs? I don't say (the n-word) ever in songs."

That sentiment was echoed by Angelica Perez-Johnston, associate director of the IDEAS Center.

"I think it's interesting that (Blair) brought up 'whose word is it to say,' because that's probably the biggest question," Perez-Johnston said."Especially on a predominantly white campus: Who can say it and who can't say it? I will be perfectly clear, now, in saying that no white person on the face of the planet should ever say it for any reason. If you take anything away from this conversation, that should be the one thing that's taken away."

Blair noted that an Asian co-worker once said any minority could use the word and wondered whether that was appropriate.

"In my opinion,it doesn't matter if you're a minority," Watson said. "If you're not black, you should not be using that word, period. Even though you've still gone through different struggles, that word is not for you, it was not used against you. Even if you're Asian or Hispanic, that's not your word."

Perez-Johnston asked the group to expand on the context, why the word is not appropriate for non-black people to use.

"It wasn't used against you," Watson said. "During enslavement and even in the civil rights era and post-(civil rights era), (the word) wasn't used for you. This was used against us and we took it back and made it our word. You were not called that word. You're still not called that word. So, you shouldn't be using that word."

See **RACISM** | *page 2*

Warren, Dixon, Wilson to receive honorary degrees

By **SARA HOLTHOUSE**
News Editor
holthouses@allegheny.edu



WARREN



WILSON



DIXON

A global leader in the LGBTQ Christian community, a representative of private universities and a Meadville community member and educator will all join Allegheny's seniors at their upcoming commencement in order to receive honorary degrees from the college.

Nancy Wilson, David Warren and Armendia Dixon will receive degrees in the Doctorate of Humane Letters category for work in their individual fields. The three scholars will be added to the list of scholars Allegheny has previously honored with degrees. Nominated scholars can come from all over the world, not just the Meadville community.

President James Mullen said in order for a scholar to be chosen they have to have a certain distinction in their field of work.

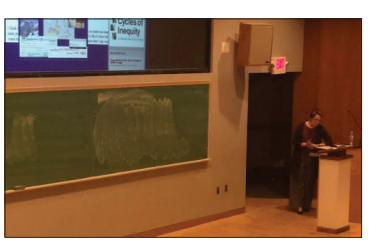
"Every year by tradition, we give degrees to individuals that we believe adhere to the values of Allegheny," Mullen said. "They are also people we hope the graduating seniors will see their individual achievements and be inspired by those achievements … I believe the people who receive degrees set a remarkable example and we should all be inspired by them."

Mullen described the process Allegheny has to go through in order to choose the scholars each year. Anyone is able to nominate a scholar to be considered for an honorary degree. The nominations are sent to Mullen. Then he brings the nominations to the faculty for a vote. After the vote takes place among the faculty, the nominations are sent to the Board of Trustees who also vote. Mullen is then tasked with calling each of the scholars to inform them of the honor and to allow them to accept it, which Mullen added is normally under the category of Doctorate of Humane Letters, but may change depending on a scholar's field of work.

Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, will be receiving a degree for his work with the NAICU for the past 25 years. Warren has represented private colleges and universities on issues of appropriation and taxes over those years and will be retiring in June.

See **DEGREES** | *page 2*

IN THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS



ETHICS OF GENETICS
Lisa Parker visited Allegheny Tuesday, March 26, to talk about genetic enhancement.

Page 5



CONDRAGULATIONS
Allegheny College Gender and Sexuality Alliance hosts its second annual drag show.

Page 7

A DIFFERENT KIND OF ART
Allegheny's Aikido club brings sense of belonging for students on campus.

Page 8

FRIDAY H 52° L 44° Rain: 90% Sunset: 7:50 p.m.

SATURDAY H 59° L 41° Rain: 10% Sunrise: 6:55 a.m. Sunset: 7:51 p.m.

SUNDAY H 67° L 58° Rain: 40% Sunrise: 6:53 a.m. Sunset: 7:52 p.m.

TUITION

from page 1

Petula also said she does not foresee any sudden decrease in the number of students that will enroll in the upcoming school year due to the tuition increase.

Some students, however, think the increase in tuition might have adverse effects on the amount of students who apply to Allegheny.

"The school wants more students to come here," Hannah Minick, '19, said. "But I guess with the tuition increasing, it will counter affect Allegheny's goal to enroll more future students."

Students and Petula agree that the college provides great value for its cost, especially after understanding that Allegheny offers scholarships and other forms of aid to incoming students.

David Ahlers, '22, has attributed the generous financial aid package he received to be the main factor in his decision to attend Allegheny College.

"I got a pretty generous financial aid package," Ahlers said. "Yes, it was the deciding factor (on attending Allegheny College)."

Students currently attending the school agreed with Petula about how the student aid packages are a large reason for students deciding to attend Allegheny over a different school. The amount of financial aid that the school gives students has been a deciding factor for those who chose to attend the college.

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>
> —HANNAH MINIK
> Class of 2019,
> Allegheny College

"One of the major reasons for students to enroll at this college is because of the school's financial aid," Minick said.

According to Petula, Allegheny offers competitive pricing for the quality education that is offered. Petula believes that other schools that are listed in the same price range as Allegheny may not offer the same opportunities and quality of education that Allegheny offers.

Even though Petula does not foresee problems with the tuition increase,Minick believes that the increase will cause problems for students attending Allegheny College.

"I feel bad, my dad is paying for my college and I have two siblings in college with me," Minick said. "I feel more pressure to do well in order to not waste what my family is paying for. If I wasn't an upcoming senior, I may have considered transferring."

Minick is among many students who attend Allegheny who have taken out loans to help pay for schooling. An increase in tuition means an increase in loans, which causes problems for students like Minick.

"Some of it my dad is paying but the rest I will be paying after college," Minick said. "With the loan increase, I'm more likely to go straight to finding a job instead of going to graduate school."

The increase in price has also left Ahlers trying to understand why he is paying so much to come to Allegheny College.

"I do take out loans and the tuition spike makes it more difficult to rationalize paying so much, especially since I don't know exactly where it's going to go to help with my education," Ahlers said.

DEGREES

from page 1

"I think this honor is like a thank you for the past 25 years," Warren said. "It's always a grand honor and surprise to receive a degree, and it's always great to hear from my good friend, President Mullen."

Warren has been awarded 24 honorary degrees in the past, saying that having the 25th one be from Allegheny is special because of his previous experience with the college.

"I used to be president of Ohio Wesleyan University, and there we used to compete against Allegheny all the time," Warren said. "I knew the president (of Allegheny) back then, and I remember the thing Allegheny did for President Sullivan (of Allegheny) when he retired was they had him do a free throw in what is now Jim's Gym, and if he could get more than one in a row all the students would get free pizza. Well, he made 10 in a row."

Wilson is being honored for her work in the church, specifically as a global leader for the Metropolitan Community Churches, from which she is now retired, and as a leader in the LGBTQ Christian community. Wilson is a graduate of Allegheny's Class of 1972.

> My favorite professor said, 'I hope you will learn that it's okay to be academically talented, but it gives you a responsibility to know how to treat others.' That is how I see it. We need to learn how to value other people and make sure we know that each person isn't only valued but sacred. And I think it's most important to know that we can't do much alone because our lives involve others so much. I think when people work together they can move mountains, and maybe more, maybe they can move the world. I'm glad that Allegheny shares with students how to collaborate with people, because that makes things happen for the good of everybody."
>
> —ARMENDIA DIXON
> Director of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mentoring Program,
> Meadville Middle School

"I knew from the time that I was around 12 or 13 years old that I wanted to be a part of ministry," Wilson said. "There were very few women involved at that time, but I had a great experience with ministry and felt very connected to preaching. I think it was a sort of a gender bending thing at that time, though."

Wilson said for her to receive an honorary degree was a great surprise, and an additional warm and welcome connection to Allegheny.

"Allegheny was where I came out as a lesbian, and (the school) really helped in my path into ministry," Wilson said. "I came out at the end of my time at Allegheny. It was very hard to be an open LGBTQ person at that time, but there were many supportive people at the college at that time, including the chaplain and some professors. It wasn't easy for many in the LGBTQ community then, even at Allegheny. I'm glad that Allegheny is much more diverse now than it used to be."

Wilson added that with everything that is currently happening within the United Methodist Church on the issue of LGBTQ involvement, she is happy with her current choices in that they led to her no longer being part of the Methodist Church.

Dixon is being honored for her involvement in education for over 58 years. She is currently the director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Mentoring Program at Meadville Middle School. Dixon has been awarded many different honors in the past, including the Governor Raymond P. Shafer Award for Distinguished Community Service last year, but this will be her first honorary degree, saying she was speechless when she received the call from Mullen.

"I've always been excited about learning," Dixon said. "I loved all subjects, from science and biology to reading and literature. But I really became interested in teaching when I was given a unique field assignment while at Jackson State (University) during an internship."

Dixon said her internship gave her the opportunity to work with veterans returning from war, and having the opportunity to learn from them while also teaching them was a great joy for her and let her know she was where she belonged.

"Having a doctorate in curriculum and instruction, I've been exploring in depth what it is that young people and those seeking lifelong learning need to know," Dixon said. "I know that we need the foundations like reading, writing and computation, but I think we need more than that to be able to move through society."

Dixon said while she was in college, she had a 7:30 a.m. honors class taught by her favorite professor who said something during the class she still remembers and believes in.

"My favorite professor said, 'I hope you will learn that it's okay to be academically talented, but it gives you a responsibility to know how to treat others,'" Dixon said. "That is how I see it. We need to learn how to value other people and make sure we know that each person isn't only valued but sacred. And I think it's most important to know that we can't do much alone because our lives involve others so much. I think when people work together they can move mountains, and maybe more, maybe they can move the world. I'm glad that Allegheny shares with students how to collaborate with people, because that makes things happen for the good of everybody."

In a similar vein, Wilson added that during her time at Allegheny during the height of the Vietnam War, being at Allegheny taught her the importance of activism.

"I learned through my experience (at the college) just how important activism and being a part of a movement or a team is," Wilson said. "Allegheny taught me that young adults can change the world, and can change history."

RACISM

from page 1

Sydney Francis, '21, agreed with Watson, adding that the word isn't always used maliciously, but that doesn't make it any less degrading.

"One thing that really bothers me about the word is that most of the time, people don't use it maliciously, and they feel excluded and (wonder) why they can't be a part of it," Francis said. "Having that word be used against you as a tool … if somebody used that word against me it means 'your life doesn't matter to me. You could die right now and it wouldn't matter. Your mother's tears don't matter to me.' It carries a lot of weight, and if you're not the person carrying that weight on your back, then you don't get to say the word."

Naomy Garcia, '19, said that the n-word hurts her personally.

"The word still affects us, black people, today, and that's also why I don't like people using it," Garcia said. "It has so much history and so much background that still carries on and affects me every day. Every single day that I step out as a black woman in this country, that word affects me. For people to even use it as a joking manner or in a song, that hurts me. Me, personally, that hurts me."

One question arose about whether the word carries a similar negative meaning when black people use it. Garcia said that she has personally debated this question.

"I feel like, now, whenever I hear the word being used amongst the black community, it's more of a sense of brotherhood, sisterhood and love," Garcia said.

adkins asked how white people can collectively start changing the behavior of using the word. Watson said that this conversation gets tiring and that white people can educate others as to why the word is not appropriate to use.

"That's where white allies step in," Watson said. "It's your job to correct people to not say that word."

Perez-Johnston said white people may become uncomfortable to be confronted or to be called out for saying an inappropriate word.

"But the thing that white folks have to realize is that our students of color don't have a choice of the discomfort of being in their own skin," Perez-Johnston said. "And they have to live that every day, so, your five minutes of discomfort … is a lifetime for us."

The discussion transitioned into how the campus community can be educated about the word's nature without putting the burden on black students. Some people suggested more posters such as diversity posters that are found in some residence halls. adkins asked whether the Allegheny Orientation Common Reading books were helpful, as they discuss racial diversity. Several students noted too little time was spent discussing the books.

"You read it over the summer, you meet one time with a random group of people, and you never talk about it again," Francis said. "If you don't read it, there are no consequences."

adkins reported that there was over 90 percent participation in the 2018 Common Reading, "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The Common Reading experience also now includes a panel discussion and a meeting with students' FS classes. adkins said that some FS professors will use the reading this fall in their courses and that the goal is for the book to be a component of all FS courses by the 2020-21 academic year.

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>
> —SYDNEY FRANCIS
> Class of 2021,
> Allegheny College

"But, y'all are saying we need something more," adkins said.

Blair suggested a combination of the Common Reading and a course similar to the sexual assault bystander training that Women's Services offers to students to help educate people about diversity and inclusion. adkins said that there are now summer modules that cover sexual assault, alcohol and diversity. Some students suggested that the courses are a "one and done" thing that are forgotten quickly after completing.

Many students in the dialogue appreciated the opportunity to share their experiences, concerns and questions about the issue.

"I really liked this discussion," Blair said. "And now, being able to stand up to friends, I have amazing things to say to them about why (to not use the n-word). But, this (discussion) is voluntary, and the people who probably need it the most aren't the people who are going to show up."

Both students and faculty expressed hope that conversations and educating people about racism can lead to change.

"I'm a Mexican-American," Perez-Johnston said, "and I have a meme on my door that says 'Oh, you're Mexican? Then, why do you look white?' I've been challenged on this campus on numerous occasions by students that don't know any better and feel as though they can challenge everybody and their identity. It's a meme and a conversation starter. People do ask questions because it's a humorous way to begin a conversation."

Thompson talks revisions to college policy in ASG

By **MARLEY PARISH**
Editor-in-Chief
parishm@allegheny.edu

Everybody makes mistakes; everybody has those days — even Allegheny students. This imperfection is being taken into consideration as part of the 2019 review of the Student Code of Conduct policies, specifically regarding students who are disqualified from graduating with Latin honors because of academic violations.

In its general assembly Tuesday, April 2, Allegheny Student Government was visited by Dean of Students April Thompson to discuss the proposed revisions to college policies as part of the 2019 revision process.

The Code of Conduct revision process is completed by subcommittees whose members consist of staff, faculty and students who work to revise and update current college policies. Thompson said Allegheny's current policies are littered with inconsistencies and inaccuracies, so those involved in the updating process wanted to make sure all policies matched across all campus resources like The Compass and the academic bulletin.

"We wanted to provide students greater input into decision making, so this is what we have as a proposed plan from the subcommittees," Thompson said.

ASG members were given a bound copy of the proposed changes to the Student Code of Conduct, so they could review potential edits.

"There are some big themes here," Thompson said.

The broad policy changes, Thompson said, aim to correct "policy mismatch."

"What this does is try to align all of the policies and to confirm that all of the policies have gone through governance, which means that they have all been approved of by you," Thompson said.

A majority vote cast by Allegheny faculty and members of ASG is required in order to approve changes to the Student Code of Conduct policies. During her presentation, Thompson said the subcommittees were not able to confirm whether or not ASG had voted to approve some of the policies outlined in the handbook.

"We went back to the history of the latest ones that we could confirm had an ASG vote, and then we build the new policies from those," Thompson said. "In the future, we're putting this together in such a way that it should never again occur that any policy gets passed from this section of The Compass that doesn't have ASG approval."

Potential edits focus on changing Allegheny's current "single adjudicator" appeals process to a board system.

"One person investigates the cases, meets with the student, issues a finding — responsible or not — and then issues a sanction," Thompson said. "If the student is unhappy with that sanction, they can appeal it to a board, and at the board level, there are students on the board and staff members and faculty on the board. By the time the student gets to the board they have already been found responsible by Joe Hall, (assistant dean of students), and so, we were concerned that students needed a presumption of innocence before they appear before the board."

If this change is approved, cases would be investigated just as they are now, and the student would meet with Hall. The student and Hall or the student and another staff member, assigned to the case by Hall, can either agree to an outcome together. If the student and staff member are unable to agree on a solution or if the student denies responsibility, the student is then entitled to have a board hearing. During this hearing, the student would begin the meeting with a "presumption of innocence."

Support options for students during hearing processes was also a topic of discussion. Currently, students have the option to pick an adviser of their choosing within the Allegheny community; however, Thompson said there has been a recommendation to allow students to select an adviser who is outside of the college — meaning a parent, an attorney or another individual in the student's life.

"The recommendation is that we allow students to choose anybody they want …" Thompson said. "We think the best choice for a student is a trained adviser who actually knows the process, but I don't want to make that judgment for students."

Thompson said there are pros and cons to this system, but one point Thompson highlighted was the minimal involvement advisers have in specific cases. Currently, advisers are not allowed to read case reports; however, Thompson said the proposed edits work to remove that limitation from college policy.

"My concern is that how can advisers actually advise you if they can't read the material?" Thompson said. "... The record belongs to the student, and the student can designate, if they would like, their adviser to have permission to read the report at the student's request."

During the faculty reading of the proposed changes, Thompson said members were hesitant to allow attorneys to serve as advisers.

While his gut reaction was to let students choose whoever they want as their adviser, Jason Ferrante, '20, chief of staff, said it may present an "equity concern" for students who cannot afford an attorney.

Because Allegheny's system is meant to be a "restorative justice" system, Ferrante said he thinks bringing attorneys into the discussion would make incidents more serious than they may need to be.

An additional policy change would give students more rationale behind sanctions if they were to receive one by the college.

Each section Thompson discussed focused on a different branch of college policy: Purpose, college authority, academic conduct, non-academic conduct, organizational conduct, sanctions, disciplinary records, interpretation and revision, general college policies and FYI only.

One change Thompson touched on states that if someone is accused of discriminatory harassment, the dean for institutional diversity must be involved in the case handling and decision process.

The college has clarified when it permits officials from entering a student's room or locker.

The proposed change reads: "With authorization by the dean of students, public safety officers or a designee of the dean of students may enter and search a student room without the student's consent to respond to an emergency, or, based on reasonable suspicion, investigate violation(s) of College policies."

ASG President Camila Gomez, '19, suggested adding a definition to explain what constitutes "reasonable suspicion."

"We've learned that this document contains a whole lot of definitions that we probably just need to have a definitions section," Thompson said. "And make sure that all of the terms that might be ambiguous get defined for students. We can add that one."

The academics section of the Student Code of Conduct has, for the most part, stayed the same, according to Thompson; however, there were various forms of college academic policies, so the revision process wanted to create consistency across college resources.

"The Honor Committee had one version of the academic code, the compass had one version, and the academic bulletin had one version so they collapsed them all into one version," Thompson said.

Students asked that the deadline to challenge issues of academic conduct be extended to give students more than five days for the appeals process. After deliberating between five and 45 days, Thompson said 14 calendar days has become the suggested timeline.

"They have a full two weeks, calendar days to appeal," Thompson said.

The "big, exciting" section Thompson discussed was proposed changes to Allegheny's non-academic conduct policies.

"We wanted to make clear to students that they could report in multiple ways," Thompson said. "Currently the code says you can only report a violation in writing, and some students are just not comfortable putting things in writing, so we offered interviews. People could be interviewed rather than being in writing."

Thompson said the college is trying to be more detailed in its descriptions of what students can expect in the reporting process. One additional edit suggests a "mutually agreeable resolution," meaning that if both parties are able to compromise and agree on an appropriate solution, the case is resolved without a formal board hearing.

"I've used this system at a previous institution, and about 90 percent of the cases end up getting resolved through mutual agreement," Thompson said. "If you're drinking a beer, and you get caught drinking a beer underage, there's not a whole lot to dispute, and if you and the conduct officer can agree on a reasonable outcome, then that's how it gets resolved."

If a student neglects responsibility for the issue and an agreement is not reached, there are two options. The first option consists of a five-person board hearing where the student is viewed with a presumption of innocence and then judged by the board members. This option would only be available if suspension is a potential punishment for the issue at hand.

The second option is available for minor incidents where suspension is not a possible outcome. The student would be judged by a board of his or her peers in residence halls. These boards would be advised by a college official or faculty member.

"This is an effort to help students really be responsible for adjudication for what happens in their own residence halls or in their own community," Thompson said. "Mostly, these are noise violations, pot smoking, having a beer, having a party, and they're usually things that involve community impact."

Potential outcomes from the student board would result in community service requirements in exchange for the violation.

Members of residence life are not allowed to sit on the student boards, and students would be selected through an application process. First-year students are not eligible to serve on the boards, and a pool of 25 students would hear cases.

Ferrante suggested including an additional definition to help distinguish between major and minor violations of college policy to help students know the difference.

"There's also a difference in doing something one time and doing something over and over again," Thompson said.

The section on college sanctions will be reviewed during the Fall 2019 semester because the subcommittee responsible for revisions asked for more time to review edits. Thompson also said more confidentiality agreements would be involved in the process because more students would be in positions of authority while serving on these peer boards.

One change, Thompson discussed, pertained to student eligibility for graduating with Latin honors. During the revision process, a suggested change would switch wording from "will" to "may" in regards to disciplinary records and academic violations.

The proposed edit reads: "All potential recipients of Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude will be screened for Honor Code violations. The sanctions of probation, suspension or expulsion received for academic violations may disqualify a student from consideration for Latin honors."

Thompson said if a student has ever been on probation, he or she is unable to graduate with Latin honors; however, that may change with the 2019 revisions.

"We wanted to change the 'will' to 'may,'" Thompson said. "It's a big deal with faculty, so we're probably going to leave it as 'will' and move this to the academic bulletin because the Code of Conduct is not really where this should live."

While the change has been proposed, Thompson said she is unsure of whether or not it will pass. Most concern stemmed from the probation stipulation because students can be placed on probation for minor acts like stealing the 13th plank or moving lounge furniture into a dorm room.

Other edits consisted of office title updates to improve policy accuracy.

ASG will vote on the proposed changes during its next meeting on Tuesday, April 9. If the changes are not passed by both ASG and Allegheny faculty members, the current Compass will remain in effect until the next revision process.

"There is a backup plain if this doesn't get a majority vote," Thompson said. "And the backup plan is we just live with the same rules and policies and everything that are in place right now, and several students have said they were concerned about that plan."

Thompson urged ASG members to "please vote on something." Faculty will be presented with the second reading of revisions Thursday, April 11.

Read the full story at alleghenycampus.com

Crime Blotter

Editor's Note: The weekly Crime Blotter is compiled using the Daily Crime Log available on the Office of Public Safety's web page. Crimes reported may still be under investigation. Crimes listed below are collected the Thursday before publication.

Mar. 31, 2019
Walker Hall
Disorderly Conduct, Drug Possession, Harassment.

Mar. 30, 2019
North Village
Alcohol violation.

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since 1876

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Advertising (724) 421-3271
Box 12, Allegheny College
520 North Main St. Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

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Play collegiate sports to gain a second family

By TAYLOR RENK
Opinion Editor
renkt@allegheny.edu

You know a college athlete when you see one. They are the ones who get excused absences from classes, get tons of free gear and are pretty much the only students on campus comfortable enough to sit through a college lecture fresh off their mid-day, sweaty treadmill workout. Sounds like the life right? In all seriousness, it is much harder than it looks. Let me share my personal experience of playing collegiate soccer.

First of all, we have no off-season. No matter division 1 or division 3, you have no life. Pre-season brings you to campus two weeks before the normal move-in date, where you have two-a-day practices, team meal and team activities spread sporadically throughout each day. From the moment I wake up until the time I go to sleep, I live, eat and breathe soccer for two weeks straight.

Once the season starts, there are practices every day except game days, which every college athlete looks forward to. I mean, who does not like to compete? Soccer season, much like any other fall sport begins in August and can last until the end of November, which means we begin the season playing under the sun, and can end the season playing in inches of snow. From sun burn to frostbite, we endure it all.

Once the season ends, the off-season lifts begin, along with the "non-mandatory," but totally mandatory, captain-led pick-up practices. Along with team commitments, the self-desire to stay in shape for the next season hits,which basically puts us in the gym every single day of the week. Our in-season is extremely hectic, and our off-season is just as, if not more, hectic. And that is just the physical demand of playing collegiate athletics.

While fulfilling the commitments to the athletic department and to your individual team, you must also keep your grades up. For the average college student without extracurricular activities, maintaining a decent GPA is a difficult task in itself. Imagine completing those tasks while physically drained, sleep deprived and with four fewer hours of your day to complete your work well and on time. Sounds much more difficult now, doesn't it?

Additionally, if an athlete's GPA drops below a 2.0 for a semester, you are on academic probation and are no longer allowed to play until it rises above that threshold for an entire 15-week period. Universities and colleges hold their student-athletes to a higher standard, both on the field and in the classroom, threatening athletic ineligibility if there is a slip in academic performance, while also enforcing normal school academic requirements for eligibility which threaten expulsion if you maintain a GPA less than 2.0 for two consecutive semesters.

The equation from the outside looking in appears pretty simple. Work hard and maintain peak performance both on the field and in the classroom. Unfortunately, it is not that easy. Everyone has days were they are mentally and physically exhausted, and they just need a break. Those times usually hit mid-semester, in the meat of the schedule when there is no time to rest. Not only are you depleted, but all of your teammates around you are drained as well. That is when you not only have to take care of yourself, but as a member of a team, you are responsible for those around you as well. These are the moments that you realize that all of the stresses of the high demands and the hard work that has been put in are all worth it, because you have a solid group of people around you who are there to rally with you.

Even though there are moments in the season when you are mentally, emotionally and physically drained, your team keeps you going, and that is what makes every single season worthwhile. During the four years you spend as a member of a collegiate athletic team, you build a second family, and those people make the experience desirable.

Yes, we play for the competition. Believe me, nothing feels better than the sound of a rowdy crowd cheering you on as you play a big rival. The feeling when the final buzzer goes off and you have won a huge game is one of the best feelings in the world, but what makes those moments so great is that you have people to celebrate with.

My teammates have become my best friends — the people I go to for anything and everything. They are my running partners, my study buddies and my absolute favorite people to binge watch TV shows with. You become so close with them because they can relate to exactly what you are going through at all times. My teammates have gotten me through the toughest moments in my life, and that does not just include midnight fitness tests or day-long study sessions before finals. That means the ups and downs of life. No matter what, I always have them to lean on.

That is what the life of a college athlete is actually like. It is admirable, but for completely different reasons than people usually think. The excused absences and athletic gear are great and all, but our lives for the four years we are in school are hectic 24/7. We never get a chance to just sit back and relax, because we, just like everyone in college, want to make the most of our experience. Being a collegiate athlete is great, and I have my peers to thank for that.

College in itself is not easy. Adding athletics to the equation, along with any other extracurricular activity that you partake in will make the experience even more demanding. But being surrounded by a group of people who are there to help you succeed every step of the way makes it 100 times easier. Plus, it is easier to run a brutal fitness test knowing that everyone around you is suffering just as much as you are. Play collegiate sports — it is worth it.



Photo from Vox.com

Release the reports, the public deserves it

By SHANE OSTROM
Opinion Editor
ostroms@allegheny.edu

Robert Mueller's notorious and long-awaited report regarding the findings of potential Russian interference during the 2016 presidential election was recently finished and handed off to William Barr, the current United States Attorney General. It seems, however, a new battle over the public's right to know the findings is afloat.

Barr, a Trump-appointee, is currently the only individual outside of the Special Counsel themselves with access to the full report. He states that a redacted version of the report will be made public and available to congress by mid-April. This has raised much criticism from the public and congress alike — why does the Trump administration get to redact the report to its liking? Could there not be a potential conflict of interest?

The Special Counsel investigation had a relatively narrow scope, and for this reason, opponents of Trump mistakenly speak of the investigation as if the investigation was into Trump himself. In actuality, unless Mueller's investigation discovered a smoking gun that proves Trump was in cahoots with Russian entities to affect the election — which is not impossible given the fact that he met with Vladimir Putin five times in complete secrecy and seems to trust Russia more than his own intelligence bureaus — Trump will not be directly implemented in the report.

This has not stopped Trump from behaving as if he was, in fact, the target of the investigation. Within 48 hours of being handed the report that exceeds 300 pages, Barr released a four-page summary that states, "The Special Counsel states that 'while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him.'"

Shortly after, Trump responded in a tweet: "No Collusion, No Obstruction, Complete and Total EXONERATION. KEEP AMERICA GREAT!"

Even brazen claims to exoneration were called into question. If the report, which theoretically did not incriminate Trump directly based on the scope of the investigation, did in fact exonerate Trump, why does it need to be redacted? And more importantly, why does it need to be redacted by the Trump administration? Of course, little information is made publically available in regard to the contents of the report, but if there does happen to be something incriminating, accepting a redacted document from the accused party would be accepting a historically blatant cover-up.

There is also significant pressure on Mueller himself to appear impartial, which is why he is likely allowing congress to fight over the report. There are no legal measures in place preventing Mueller from discussing the report or even refuting statements made by the Trump administration, but as soon as he opens his mouth, the power of the report is lost and instead the discourse of the investigation would become a game of he-said he-said — a game that Trump, admittedly, wins more often than not.

Democrats in congress are also unsatisfied by the summary of Mueller's report. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Barr's summary of the report "condescending" and "arrogant," and went on record saying that democrats need to draw their own conclusions from the report. Six different house committees have demanded the full report by Tuesday, April 2, and said that they might subpoena Mueller himself if it is not delivered to them.

At this point in time, regardless of the findings of the report, we as citizens must rally behind the right to know what the Special Counsel's findings were. Conceding to lame excuses such as "confidentiality" repeated by bureaucratic Trump administrators would be an incredible disservice to American democracy.

At least it seems that democratic members of congress are skeptical of Barr's summary of the report and his decision to redact information before passing the contents on — but is skepticism enough? What if Barr misses the April 2 deadline imposed by congress? It will all come down to congress's will to hold the responsible parties accountable, which they arguably have a poor track record for.

Republicans have the upper edge in today's political climate. If democrats in congress fail to hold political actors responsible for their actions, they fail at their jobs and American democracy will slowly crumple at the will of a powerful political minority. But if democratic congress members do take action, they are subject to complaints that they were acting in partisan interests — a relatively empty sentiment, but nonetheless potentially damaging to democratic candidates of the 2020 elections.

Democrats have mostly taken the "high road," presenting themselves as neutrally as possible in regard to holding political elites accountable while performing their legislative tasks. But unsatisfactory track records and failures to put their foot down beg the question, is the high road the road we should be on? There's always something to be said for professionalism, but when professionalism takes the back-burner to shameless misinformed attacks on civil discourse and partisan ulterior motives, is it not a good time to fight back?

Political norms have been utterly destroyed over the past few years, and part of what makes it so concerning is the fact that long-established norms are very different from laws — for example, the President of the United States referring to a pornstar on Twitter as "horseface" is unprecedented and disrespectful, but does not break any official laws. Mitch McConnell shutting down senate votes that were passed through the house unanimously is also in his legal power, no matter how diabolical his intentions appear.

Perhaps lawmakers never imagined a situation in which a president or his administration would break these norms and never bothered writing them into law — but regardless of why certain actions are legal, society as a whole must consider why these things are legal and respond to these behaviors accordingly. Gaining political advantage through actions that are extremely questionable, but technically not illegal, still warrants consequence on behalf of the governed.

As previous precedence is broken, new precedence is set. If congress fails to hold responsible parties accountable, it will not only remain legal, but remain normal to attack celebrities on Twitter, to have secret meetings with adverse nations, to cover up information in the public's interest, to intentionally spread misinformation and attack the media. It is no easy task, but a perfect place to start would be releasing the full, unredacted Mueller report to congress so they may make judgments and come to a consensus on what information, if any, needs to be redacted for the public. Any other action would be unacceptable.

Letter to the editor: An urge to remember

By RORY SIMPSON
simpsonr@allegheny.edu

Forget. That is all it seems we humans can do these days. Forget the dark days of rigid hierarchical societies, in a world devoid of democracy. Forget the profound change sparked throughout the world at the onset of the American and French revolutions, setting a world precedent for fully functioning democracies.

Forget the incredible technological and cultural innovations that came about during the first and second industrial revolutions. Forget the sacrifices made by so many during the World Wars, in the name of world democracy and staunch opposition to tyrannical fascism and sadistic genocide. Forget the hardships and atrocities most third world countries go through everyday, at the hands of "civilized western nations," so that the western world can stay on top. Forget the basic human need for water, food, hygiene and medicine, in so many impoverished regions.

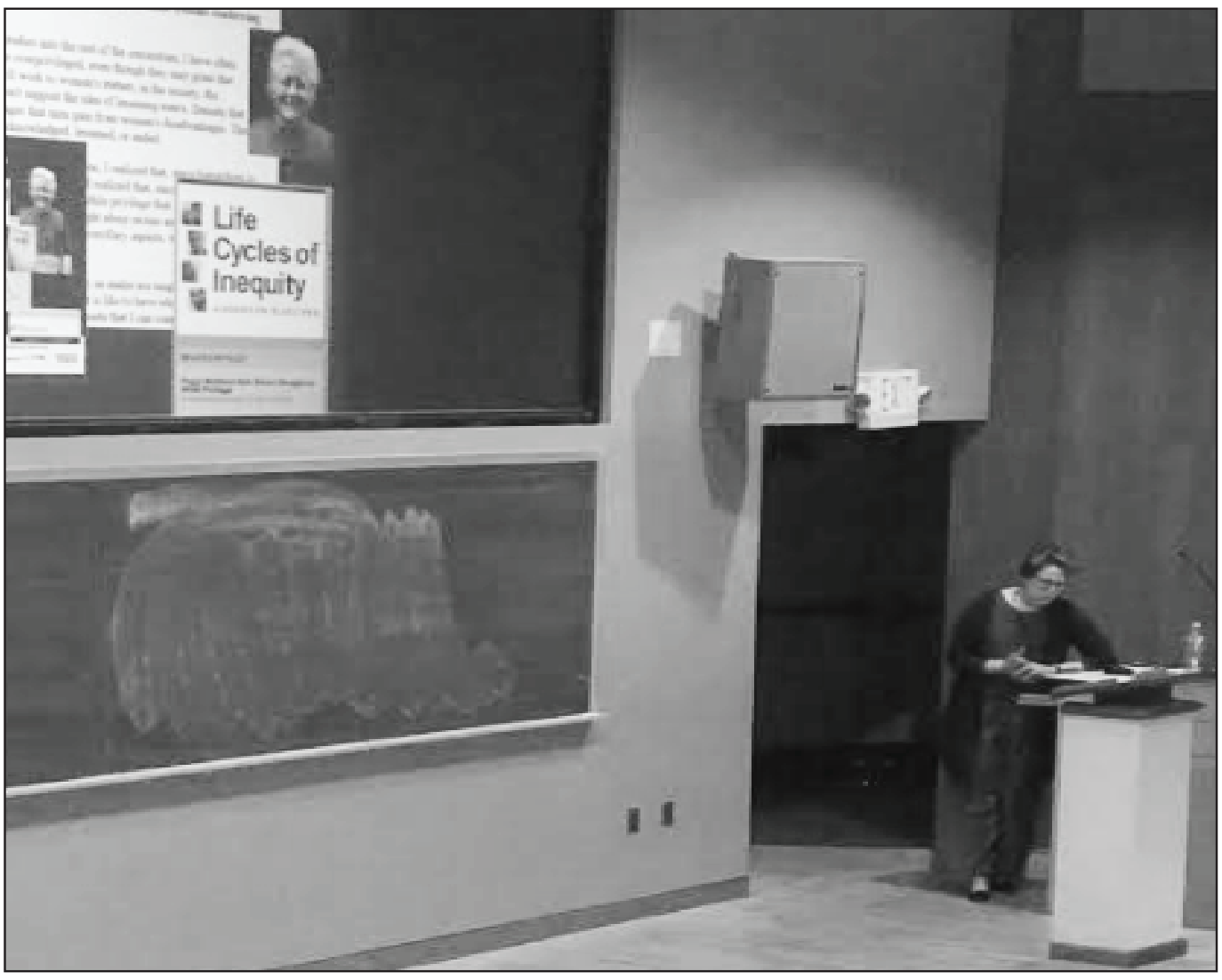
Forget the fact that regardless of skin color, nationality, and language, we are all human beings, on this wonderful planet we call Earth, together. Forget the fact that we are on the precipice of the most cataclysmic and irreversible event in human history; global warming. We are so caught up in our own consumer driven, individualistic mindsets, that we forget the need for immediate communal global action, united not as a nation, but as a people; mankind.

Nothing else will halt this irreversible slide into an uninhabitable world for not only our children and their children's children, but for all of the other trillions of organisms we share this planet with. Amidst squabbling over Brexit, the spreading of malicious rhetoric that only further fractures us as a race, and arguments over immigration practices and political views, we forget the need, the basic ethical and moral obligation, to protect our planet and all of those we share it with.

Regardless of nationality, political beliefs and opinions, it is time we remember. Remember that we owe everything to this planet. Remember where we once were. Remember how far we have come. And remember where we could go.

'It takes a village, privilege and individual effort'
Lehman lecture explores ethics of genetic enhancement

By **HANNAH SCHAFFER**
Science/International Editor
schafferh@allegheny.edu



HANNAH SCHAFFER/THE CAMPUS

Lisa Parker, philosopher and professor at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, presented her lecture titled, "Genetic Enhancement: A Game Changer for Sports and Social Justice?" on Tuesday, April, March 26, 2019, in Quigley Auditorium.

> "Systems of sport and justice identify inequalities that need to be addressed in order to ensure a level playing field. They begin with the normative ideal of equality of opportunity and work backwards to determine which inequalities are so substantial that they undermine the notion of a level playing field."
>
> —LISA PARKER
> Philosopher and Professor, The University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health

In its simplest form, genetic enhancement is the process of selecting genetic material to modify human traits.

Lisa Parker visited Allegheny Tuesday, March 26, to talk about genetic enhancement. Parker's lecture, titled "Genetic Enhancement: A Game Changer for Sports and Social Justice?" discussed the fairness of genetic enhancement, as it pertains to sports.

Parker is a philosopher and professor of human genetics at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, and her research is centered around the ethical management of pharmacogenomic research and genetic enhancement.

In addition to her work at the University of Pittsburgh, Parker is an investigator for an international ethics research ethics training program, sponsored by the Fogarty International Center, focused on China. Through the Fogarty International Center, Parker has also facilitated ethics trainings in New Delhi and Kolkata, India.

"Before we get started, I need to acknowledge the donor for this lecture," said Kirsten Peterson, director of the health professions office.

Parker's visit to Allegheny was funded through a donation from Jack Lehman, '54. Lehman funded both Parker's lecture and a portion of the medical ethics course that is currently being offered.

"Although Jack is no longer with us, he died a couple of years ago, his legacy lives on," Peterson said.

This year marked the 14th annual Lehman Medical Ethics Lecture at Allegheny.

Previously, the school has welcomed guest lecturers such as Mark R. Wicclair, who presented a lecture titled "Conscientious Objection in Health Care: Deciding When to Accommodate Health Professionals." Similarly to Parker, Wicclair is a philosopher who teaches at the University of Pittsburgh.

"It is my very great pleasure to introduce Dr. Lisa Parker," Steven Farrelly-Jackson said. "I met Lisa at a conference last year and told her she would be a wonderful person to come up here."

Farrelly-Jackson is an associate professor of philosophy at Allegheny, whose research focuses on philosophy of literature, epistemology and global health ethics.

"Her work is further distinguished by her use of feminist approaches to bioethics questions and then the critical analysis of bioethics as a social practice," Farrelly-Jackson said.

Parker began her lecture by suggesting that students think about biological advantages and impediments in order to think more clearly about social advantages and disadvantages.

"Ultimately, I want to consider the notion of deserved or earned advantages," Parker said. "I want to focus for a while on performance enhancement in sport, and then later I will turn to broader social context."

"Our genome is quintessentially natural, given and beyond our control," Parker said. "We used to think our fate was in the stars, but now we know that in large measure, our fate is in our genes."

Parker explained genetic testing companies capitalize on genetic research to offer testing on sport performance genetic aptitude.

"Some parents and individuals take advantage of such testing," Parker said.

Parker said this type of genetic testing is advertised to give parents and coaches early information on their child's predisposition in sports, including speed and endurance. However, many critics do question the test's reliability and can cause children to be unfairly pressured and miss opportunities to build character.

During Parker's lecture, she explained that forms of genetic modification include preimplantation and prenatal detection of relevant genetic material, which allow for the implantation of selected embryos or the termination of pregnancies that do not produce certain genetic material.

"Children born would have an increased likelihood, but no guarantee, of demonstrating superior athletic aptitude," Parker said.

Advancements in modern science are making genetic modification less risky. According to Parker, genome editing is becoming easier and more practical.

Parker mentioned that newly emerging techniques and procedures for genetic modification have been successful in mice, rats and monkeys.

"Assuming that genetic modification is relatively safe, then to decide whether genetic enhancement is permissible or impermissible, we need to decide whether the intervention is fair," Parker said.

Parker explained the ethics of genetic enhancement essentially boil down to questions of fairness.

"The whole point of training and strategy and playing the sport is to obtain and demonstrate strategy advantage over competitors," Parker said.

Parker said the advantage alone is not the problem. Therefore, the problem does not reside in the advantage alone, but instead, how the advantage is obtained and if it is unfairly gained.

An unfairly gained advantage is one that is unearned, unmerited or undeserved, according to Parker.

"This interpretation is problematic in the context of sports," Parker said. "Think about athletic ability, the born athlete. Did she deserve being a born athlete and her athletic ability?"

Genetics, when they are not modified, form what can be called a "natural lottery." Some people benefit from this lottery and are born with unearned advantages, while others are not.

"Differing natural ability are a result of the lottery," Parker said. "Those advantages and disadvantages of nature are beyond the control of the individual."

Therefore, Parker argued that the problem with genetic modification is not actually that the modification results are unearned. Instead, the problem must be that access to technology to perform genetic enhancement is both unearned and unfairly distributed.

However, problems associated with unearned and unfair distribution also occur outside genetic enhancement, according to Parker.

For example, some children are born into families that prioritize sports and spend great amounts of money on private coaching, while other families either cannot afford those resources or do not care to spend their money on them.

Advantages such as being able to afford a renowned coach are not earned, yet they are not considered to be unfair.

"The concern instead is that enhancements, like steroid use or gene doping, are unfair because they disrupt the fundamental goals of sport and violate its particular conception of fairness," Parker said. "Neither sport nor just societies seek equality of outcome. Instead, both seek a level playing field."

The restrictions on athletes are not put in place to ensure that all athletes are equal, but that differences in outcome correlate with differences in ability and motivation, Parker explained.

Sports do not seek equality of outcome. Instead, sports specifically seek inequality of outcome.

"Systems of sport and justice identify inequalities that need to be addressed in order to ensure a level playing field," Parker said. "They begin with the normative ideal of equality of opportunity and work backwards to determine which inequalities are so substantial that they undermine the notion of a level playing field."

An argument Parker brought up during her lecture was that the entire concept of sports is to test athletic ability and not the ability of modern technology.

Recent revelations in sport enhancing drugs and genetic enhancement have caused the athlete to no longer be the one responsible for his or her successes.

"(Success) does not result from an age or a developed ability, which is the point of the competition or test, " Parker said. "Rather, it results from an external factor, the ability of one's body to efficiently utilize a drug."

Parker continued, arguing that society must focus on disadvantages over advantages, and a society must decide which social disadvantages should be prevented from undermining equality of opportunity.

"All theories of justice seek to eliminate at least some formal and informal barriers to the exercise of one's abilities," Parker said.

Historically, sports do ban items, such as steroids and polyurethane swimsuits, because these items give athletes unfair advantages. However, there are no restrictions on other things, like how much coaching an athlete can receive or the quality of shoes a tennis player can wear.

"We have to decide how we are going to treat future genetic enhancement," Parker said. "Now we can go on to argue that whether the enterprise of sport can consistently justify its decision with genetic enhancement will depend both on the decision that is made and on what view of individual effort we can ultimately maintain."

Individual effort, including grit and determination, is often considered to be well within the individual's control, according to Paker. However, Parker did suggest that many components of individual effort are actually not in the individual's control and are actually influenced by unjust social practices that are beyond the individual's control.

"It takes a village," Parker said. "It takes privilege and a village that works behind the effort."

The World Anti-Doping Agency, which is an International Olympic Committee initiative, does currently have a ban on genetic modification that restricts anyone with genetic modification from participating in sports.

"The question then becomes, can we tell whether you have been genetically modified as opposed to the product of natural evolution?" Parker said.

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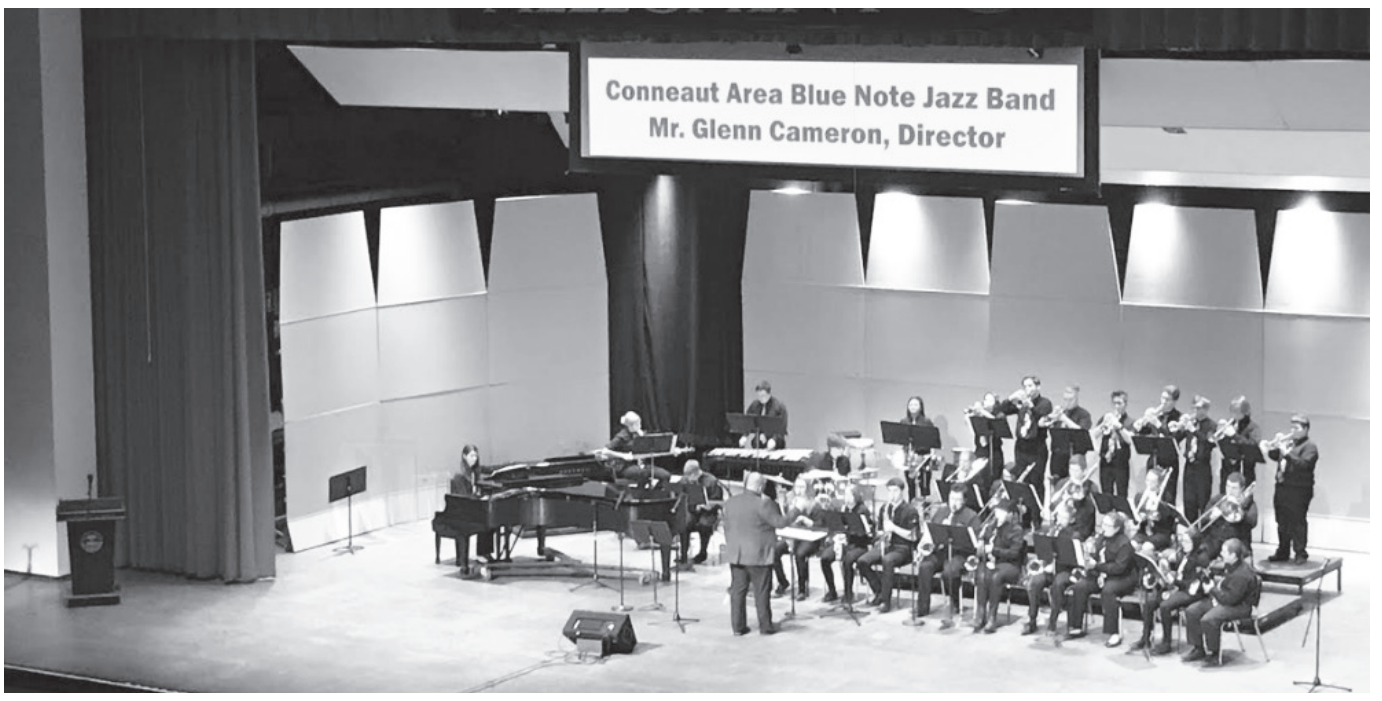


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The right notes

Meadville community comes together for high school, college jazz band festival

By **LAUREN TRIMBER**
Features Editor
trimberl@allegheny.edu





LAUREN TRIMBER/THE CAMPUS

Top: Directed by Glenn Cameron, Conneaut Area Blue Note Jazz Band performed during Allegheny's High School Jazz Band Festival on March 28, 2019, in Shafer Auditorium.
Above: Maplewood Junior/Senior High School Jazz Band, directed by Jamie Gardner, joined Allegheny's High School Jazz Band Festival.

As the lights dimmed over the anticipatory expressions of high school parents in Allegheny College's Shafer Auditorium, music began to play behind the thick curtain while players tuned instruments — one of four jazz bands was about to perform in Allegheny's High School Jazz Band Festival.

Broken only by 10-minute intervals, during which student workers cleared and rearranged chairs and music stands on stage to prepare for each band, the festival's performances transitioned quickly from one high school band to the next, culminating in a set from Allegheny's own jazz ensemble.

"It's such a wonderful experience to play for an audience who loves music, loves jazz," said Glenn Cameron, the director of Conneaut Area Blue Note Jazz Band. "We want to thank you for the opportunity. We really appreciate it."

The second biennial jazz band festival under the direction of Allegheny Instructor Stephen Corsi was held Thursday, March 28. In preparation for the festival, Corsi reached out to several local high schools during the summer before the 2018-19 school year, and, as he continued correspondence with the music directors of each high school, Corsi said he looked forward to involving local schools in Allegheny music in a unique way.

Meadville Area Senior High School Jazz Band, directed by Armond Walter, Maplewood Junior/Senior High School Jazz Band, directed by Jamie Gardner, and Conneaut Area Blue Note Jazz Band, directed by Cameron, performed at Allegheny for the festival, and each director joined Allegheny's band on stage for the final performance.

"I think a large part of (the festival) is the idea of bringing people together for a common goal, harnessing the talents and skills of these kids … to promote their programs, not only at their schools, but to promote our program (at Allegheny)," Corsi said. "(It's about) us bringing out groups … and people realizing the value of music education in public schools."

After working for public schools for over three decades, Corsi said he is aware of how music programs are being cut from curricula. Because of the growing problem, Corsi and his students, as musicians, are the best advocates for music programs, according to Corsi — they all must work together to promote their product, their music.

"We really have to push these programs," Corsi said. "It's a really good way to reach out to the community. There's a lot involved in it."

For the past two festivals, Corsi has gotten three to four local high school bands to play music at Allegheny, and the preparation needed to organize four different bands in a two-hour performance is extensive, according to Corsi.

"There's a lot involved in it," Corsi said. "Everything has to be timed perfectly so that when the first group is done, the second is ready to go. There's a host of students helping with the event. It's nice to go out to an event, but you want it to be memorable."

Percussionist Jakob Drozd, '21, said he enjoyed the jazz band festival, despite the long work day. Like Corsi, Drozd found one of the festival's biggest challenges to be organization, but under Corsi's direction, the performances went smoothly.

"(Corsi) is very, very organized," Drozd said. "He assigned us jobs. It was a lot of organizing the equipment and getting equipment (into Shafer)."

Part of the planning revolved around preparing the stage for the size of each school's band. While Conneaut Area Blue Note's band had 40 students, Maplewood Junior/Senior High School brought 20 students — which meant, according to Drozd, student workers had to rearrange the number and set up of chairs on stage during the brief break between performances.

"It was a challenge, but with all of us helping, it went smoothly," Drozd said.

Amidst the required preparation and setup, Drozd said his favorite part of the festival was playing Allegheny's final song, "Chameleon."

"It's a classic jazz standard," Drozd said. "That's always fun to play. At the end of the concert, all of the high schools were in the auditorium watching us play. It took a lot of set up and coordination, but coming in the end and playing the last number we played was the most fun."

During "Chameleon," high school directors Walter, Cameron and Gardner performed with Allegheny students. Before the festival, however, the directors did not have a chance to rehearse with Allegheny's band, though Drozd said he felt the performance went smoothly.

"They're music educators," Drozd said. "For them, it's pretty easy to just kind of fit right into the ensemble."

Noah Dawgiello, '19, had similar thoughts on performing with the three community directors.

"I believe we assumed it would be more difficult than it was — meeting these people for the first time, except for Armond, walking on for what is quite a difficult piece, having never played with them before," Dawgiello said. "However, they were all three very much conscientious performers, listening to our band and adapting to our style. It went quite smoothly."

Describing the performance as "extremely smooth," Dawgiello said the festival was a good way for Allegheny to reach out to Meadville, especially high school music performers.

"As a strong supporter of the connection between the school and community, it was very encouraging to see such participation of Meadville and the adolescents of Crawford County in engaging with the students of Allegheny college," Dawgiello said. "A thorough crossover rarely seen."

Both Dawgiello and Drozd experienced their first jazz band festival this year — and Dawgiello said his favorite part was the enthusiasm he felt for his senior year performance.

"Sometimes, when you're performing music every day at college, it can get a little bit boring," Dawgiello said. "But having three different high schools come in and play their sets with their youthful enthusiasm and vigor certainly inspired us to get up there in our fourth and final position in youth and liveliness."

After his first jazz band festival, Drozd said he hopes the festival during his senior year will have more of a turnout from Allegheny students.

"I'm excited to see what Mr. Corsi selects for us to play," Drozd said. "I'd like to see maybe a little more turnout. It would have been nice to see more Allegheny kids because it was a nice event."

As he prepared for his next jazz band festival, which will take place during his senior year, Drozd reflected on his experience performing for the Meadville and Allegheny communities.

"I always enjoy when people ask me why I play music," Drozd said. "It's because there's a feeling of knowing your performance has made an impact on someone. With younger musicians, you can really see that effect. Especially in this area … it helps them see that what they're doing is worth their time."

Experience community artistry at annual dance and movement studies concert

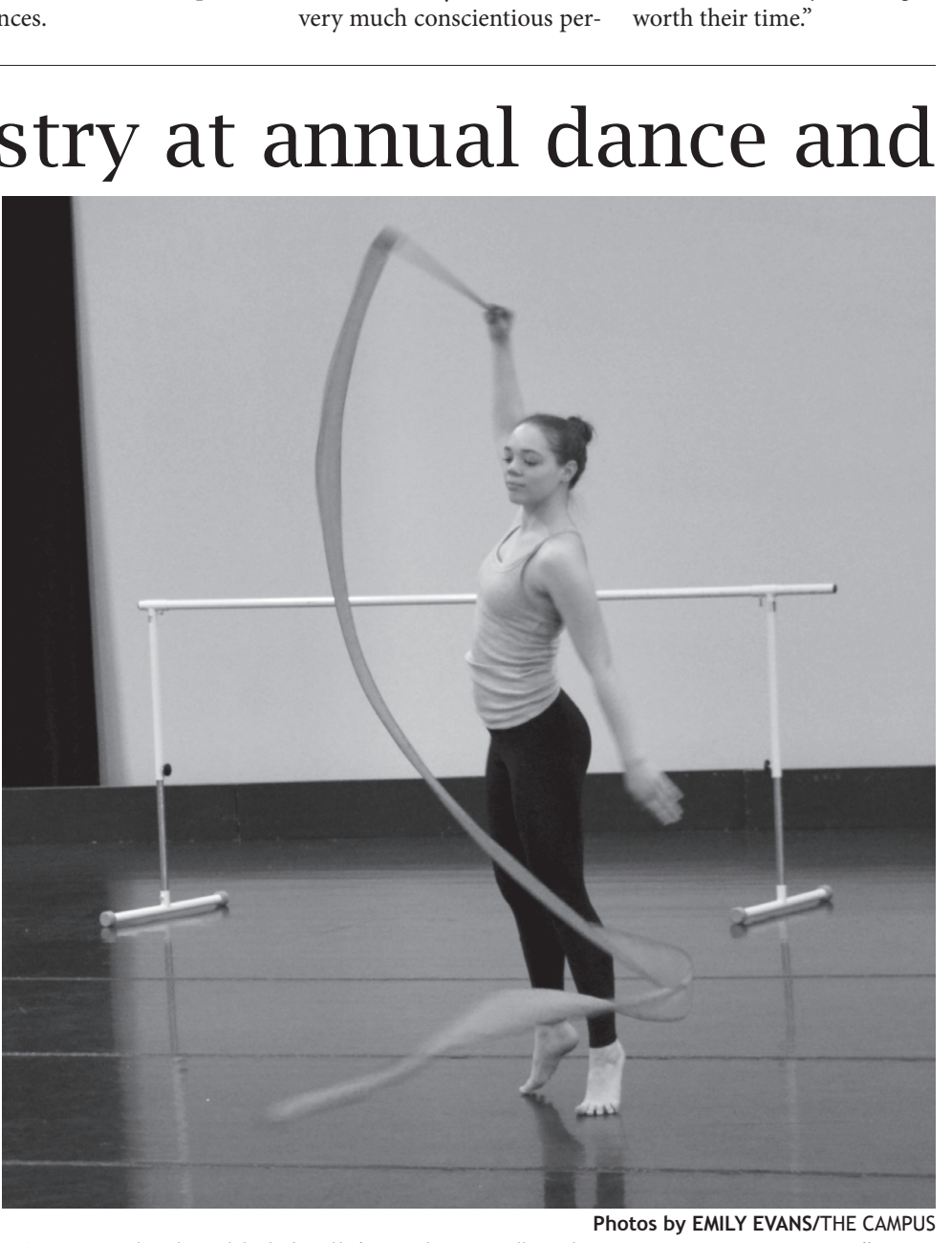
The Allegheny College Dance & Movement Studies Program will present its annual Spring Dance Concert in the Montgomery Performance Space at 7:30 pm on April 11, 12, & 13, 2019. This year's concert showcases Allegheny students in various styles of dance, as well as choreography and performance by local Meadville artists. Several dances will have live music provided by local musicians, including John Hyatt and Allegheny student Bridgette Deeney.

Ballet artist Gretchen Myers will present an intergenerational piece with Allegheny students, Meadville Area Middle School students, and community icon Jan Hyatt who founded Allegheny Dance Studies. Jill Hyatt and Elizabeth Spadafore, two well-known community artists, will perform a duet, and have choreographed a dance that will be performed by Allegheny students set to Duke Ellington music. Another community duo, Jay Hanes and Doug Lodge, will present two pieces, one with a chorus of Allegheny students and community performers. Their dances are set to words by beat poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti from the late 1950s and still relevant to issues of today. A concert highlight is a piece choreographed by Erin Sumerfield '15 with ten Allegheny student performers.

Various other dances include a solo performed by graduating senior dancer Emily Evans, inspired by her Hawaiian heritage. Eleanor Weisman has been working with dancers in two classes to create a unique presentation of human anatomy and a colorful abstract piece with props. Betsy Sumerfield also has a new ballroom dance that will round out the evening's offerings.

The Spring Concert is free and open to the public, but reservations are recommended. Call the DMS office at 814-332-2813 for more information or to make a reservation.





Photos by EMILY EVANS/THE CAMPUS

Above: Michaela Schlichtkrull, '19, rehearses "Anthropogenic Interruptions," on Friday, March 29, 2019. The piece will be performed by the Dance and Movement Studies 580 class, Movement and Meaning at the annual Dance and Movement Studies spring concert running from April 11 to April 13, 2019.
Left: Members of Dance and Movement Studies 200, Landscapes of the Body, rehearse "The Exam" on March 29, 2019.

STEP OUT AND DRAG

Allegheny Gender and Sexuality Alliance hosts annual drag show

By **ELLIS GIACOMELLI**
Features Editor
giacomellie@allegheny.edu

With makeup applied, boots laced and wigs pinned, seven contestants took a collective breath before walking the runway during the second annual drag show, hosted by the Allegheny Gender and Sexuality Alliance Friday, March 29, in the Henderson Campus Center lobby.

The prize for the queen: A Burger King crown with matching crown ring, as well as a $20 Walmart gift card.

"The drag show is all about pride and showing that," said GSA President Ethan Smith, '20. "(The LGBTQ community) is a sizeable minority on campus that exists, so it's about being heard, being seen, and showing the fun side of it."

About 200 Allegheny community members, who were mostly students, began arriving to the campus center runway shortly before 7 p.m. to watch students compete in a lip synching competition for the crown. With a full lobby and additional audience members leaning over the second floor rails, GSA Major Events Coordinator Stephanie Swarthout, '19, made initial introductions. Any tips given to performers were to be donated to TransFamily of NWPA, a service and support organization for the region's transgender community.

The competition was originally to be hosted by Bambi Deerest, Pittsburgh-based drag artist, but a last minute conflict prompted Swarthout to serve as host for the evening. In front of a t-shaped runway, a panel of three judges evaluated contestants in five categories: drag appearance and aesthetic, performance, lip sync ability, energy and audience response.

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>
> —DANNY LARSON
> Class of 2019,
> Allegheny College

Smith and Noah Thompson, '19, former GSA president, served as judges, with GSA President-elect Quinn Broussard, '22, rounding out the panel.

Beginning with Meat Loaf's "Hot Patootie/Bless My Soul" and closing with The Weather Girls' "It's Raining Men," the performance lineup included contemporary hits, 2000s Amy Winehouse and country sensations, "Jolene" and "Save a Horse." Following the seven competitive performances, Swarthout performed as Fister Mantastic to "Sweet but Psycho" by Ava Max, as the judges deliberated.

With a solid decision about the first place recipient, the panel of judges did discuss the second and third place decisions in more depth, Thompson said. Ultimately, Chaztitty, portrayed by Danny Larson, '19, took home the crown for the second year in a row, with first-year Bryce Burtnett's Daisy Dukes placing second. GSA Vice President Sam Paul, '21, as Dixie Normus, placed third.

"It felt just wild and exhilarating and ridiculous," Burtnett said of his first-ever experience performing in drag. "The spirit of Dolly Parton was inside of me."

Burtnett, who performed as Daisy Dukes to Parton's "Jolene," delivered an energetic interpretation of the country ballad and said he wanted to choose an emotionally-driven song rather than a more traditional, upbeat selection for the competition.

As the two-time queen, Larson said the opportunity to perform again for the Allegheny crowd was an honor.

"I'm just really happy with the turnout and the support for LGBTQ people from the community," Larson said.

Such community support, according to both Smith and Swarthout, is at the heart of what GSA strives to provide on campus. Though drag events have been hosted at Allegheny in the past, Swarthout said, the GSA organization was not as well managed as it could have been, and membership has been low the past few years. To contribute to its rejuvenation process, GSA decided to rebrand the drag show last year as the "first annual."

Over the course of the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years, the five-member GSA board has improved membership from four to five regular members to at least 20, according to Swarthout.

"(GSA) means expressing the inclusivity of all LGBTQ folks and allies, and that means everybody, whether they are a part of the LGBTQ community or not, we want to show respect and love to everyone," Swarthout said. "I feel like we've accomplished at least part of that goal and would like to see more of that happen."

With membership growth, the number of participants at the second annual drag show also increased — by two, Swarthout said.

By using this year to "rebuild the foundation" for future GSA members, Smith said, GSA will hopefully organize more major events in the upcoming year and continue to grow.

"GSA provides that community and connections with other LGBTQ people on campus," Smith said. "I feel like that's a big challenge with the LGBTQ community — you don't know who is a part of it, unless they are telling you face to face, and that's easier to do in a GSA setting."



Photos by ELLIS GIACOMELLI/THE CAMPUS

Above: Danny Larson, '19, performs as Chaztitty to "It's Raining Men" by the Weather Girls during the GSA Drag Show Friday, March 29, 2019, in the Henderson Campus Center Lobby. Larson won the competition for the second year in a row. **Left:** Bryce Burtnett, '22, performs in his first drag show as Daisy Dukes to Dolly Parton's "Jolene." Burtnett placed second in the show. **Right:** Sam Paul, '21, as Dixie Normus performs "Save a Horse" by Big & Rich. Paul placed third.





SPRINGFEST 2019: CHOMPERS AROUND THE WORLD

Friday, April 5

International snack bingo night
CC lobby
7 to 9 p.m.

Late night escape
CC 206
7 to 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 6

Yoga and cinnamon rolls
CC 301/302
Noon to 1 p.m.

Main event
CC lobby
1 to 4 p.m.

The YeahTones
Grounds for Change
1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Aikido club brings unique martial art to Allegheny

By **OLIVIA BLAKESLEE**
Sports Editor
blakesleeo@allegheny.edu





OLIVIA BLAKESLEE/THE CAMPUS

Top: Robert Humphreys, Fukishidoin, demonstrates a series of movements with the jo as his students follow along on Feb. 18, 2019.
Above: Humphreys and Christian Clark, '20, demonstrate the way that the movements taught in class can be used in the event of an attack.

The David V. Wise Sport & Fitness Center is home to 21 varsity sports, four intramural sports and 13 club sports. From 7 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays each week, the only martial art among these sports gathers in a dance studio in the Wise Center.

"The general philosophy of the club is to encourage nonviolent interactions and problem-solving," said Christian Clark, '20, Aikido club president.

Robert Humphreys, Fukushidoin, is a United States Aikido Federation (USAF)-certified instructor. The title "fukushidoin" refers to the lowest of three levels of instructors within the USAF.

Humphreys, who is known more simply to his students as "Sensei Rob," led a class of five people with varying experience and skill levels on Feb. 18, 2019.

Humphreys recently taught a spring 2018 course on Aikido, but is currently only instructing students during evening club meetings. He and the members of Aikido club begin each hour and a half-long session of Aikido, an altruistic Japanese art, by removing their shoes and bowing as they enter the studio.

"The idea is that all the stresses of the day are like a backpack," Humphreys said. "When you come in, and you bow, you take that off."

After making any necessary introductions for new club members and arranging the studio with jo, or wooden staffs, at the front with a framed picture of Sensei, Humphreys begins warmups.

"(The jos) don't have any inherent symbolism other than you being able to walk when you leave here tonight," he said.

Humphreys, whose students describe him as "wonderful" and "a goof," moves into a series of basic movements with the arms or legs, eventually incorporating careful movements with the jo. He then combines these smaller movements to begin to create a series of increasingly complex full-body movements.

"I like to compare it to learning the letters of the alphabet," Humphreys said. "Before you can start to make sentences, you need to learn the letters."

Humphreys punctuates his instruction of each movement with a demonstration of its purpose. An experienced student is called to the front to illustrate the way a shift of the arms and a step backward can redirect an attack.

Alexander Marrero, '19, who is one such experienced student, speaks highly of Humphreys's instruction.

"He's an intellectual," Marrero said. "I think he brings to the art a really high degree of receptivity. He's really attuned to pushing you to pick up on the core principles. More often than not, that's just by slowing down, shutting up, and practicing more."

Humphreys incorporates those core principles into the way he teaches at Allegheny. At the Feb. 18 session, he paused between warmups and the core segment of the class to provide a basic survey of the history and philosophy of Aikido.

"Sensei's philosophy was one of altruism, right?" Humphreys said. "He was trying to find a way to redirect the other person's energy. When he was a young man, people still were having live sword fights in the street for honor."

He explained that Aikido was born out of Morihei Ueshiba's desire to stop the needless death and violence that came from constant disputes.

> "We should be loving the world more than we fight with it."
>
> —ALEXANDER MARRERO
> Class of 2019
> Allegheny College

Ueshiba's art was first practiced in Japan in the early 20th century. Ueshiba, who is now known as O-Sensei, or venerable one, was a student of multiple martial arts, according to the Aikido Association of America. His spirituality and sensitivity to the multiple conflicts he saw Japan embroiled in during his 1883-1969 lifetime drove him to create an art meant for "joining the people of the world together in peace."

"We should be loving the world more than we fight with it," Marrero said. "(Ueshiba) incorporated these spiritual principles into his art."

Marrero explained that "simple shifts" like allowing someone to move past you when they move to hit your hand, as opposed to attacking them yourself, "make Aikido profoundly different."

Humphreys said he tries to demonstrate these differences, and the general philosophy of Aikido, in the way he teaches each class.

"Instead of always trying to get there first and hurt the other person, what if I can redirect some of this energy?" he said. "It's this idea of coming together in harmony."

While Marrero commented that Aikido often gets a bad reputation when compared with the more obvious action and aggression of other martial arts, Aikido has grown to have an international presence under the leadership of Ueshiba's son and now his grandson.

The art that now spans both countries and decades is, similarly to other martial arts, structured by ranks.

"It's given by degrees of not expertise, but it's kind of these stepping points at which you are expected to have matured," Marrero said.

Students at Allegheny begin without rank until they take their first test, according to Clark, and enter the Kyu ranks at the sixth kyu level. At this point, Allegheny Aikido purchases the student's United States Aikido Federation (USAF) membership and the student buys a gi, a traditional white uniform made up of loose-fitting pants a robe-like top tied with a belt.

From the sixth kyu level, a student can progressively work toward first kyu by taking a series of tests.

"Each test gets a little more rigorous," Clark said. "Each test also takes a little bit longer to practice for. You have to practice for a set number of full practice days before you can take the next test."

All kyu levels wear a white belt — one of two belt colors in Aikido. Students receive a black belt when they attain Dan status, which begins at first Dan.

"Technically, Dans can count up infinitely, but typically, people only reach sixth Dan," Clark said. "Sixth Dan is like the technical ceiling."

Students of Aikido at this level, who are referred to as Yudanja, are not "masters" in the commonly held notion of a black belt, Marrero said.

"Dan ranks are what we really call beginners because they're expected to have enough principles of their art that they can really start studying," Marrero said. "It's kind of a recommitting."

Marrero's experience with Aikido and its intricacies has been inexplicably life-altering, he said. Marrero first began to explore Aikido with the help of a former instructor who was also seeking some "deeper principles" roughly seven years ago.

"I came to Allegheny and I found that there was an Aikido club, and I trained with (Humphreys) for about two years," Marrero said. "Then I left Allegheny actually, and I entered a monastic internship in Aikido. Something like a monk, but not quite. I didn't take any vows."

Marrero's internship in Burlington, Vermont consisted of performing day-to-day tasks like laundry and of approximately 40 hours of Aikido training per week.

The transition back to Allegheny was extremely difficult, according to Marrero, and over a year later, he is still adjusting. The presence of the on-campus club was vital to Marrero in his decision to return to college.

"Had I not had a place to do Aikido or a community to do Aikido with, I probably wouldn't have come back," Marrero said.

Clark said Aikido's presence on campus has also been an instrumental part of his time at Allegheny almost from the time he came to campus.

"When I came to college, I was interested in martial arts, and I wanted to find a martial art to practice," said Clark, who has now been practicing Aikido for two and a half years. "I was kind of surprised it was altruistic at first. It also kind of agreed with my principles anyway, and I just kept going."

Clark said he was eager to be a part of a club "with people in gis throwing each other around on a mat" and was similarly eager to become president this year.

As president, Clark said he is hoping to implement changes to Aikido club this year, including creating a new website because the existing site has not been maintained since its former administrator graduated.

Clark said Humphreys stresses Aikido's openness to any and all members of the campus community, who can walk into the weekly meetings with no prior experience.

"It's not mandatory that you come to every practice," Clark said. "You have the same status as people who have come to the club every day for the past three years."

As someone who has years of experience with Aikido, Marrero emphasized just how valuable he thinks this particular club sport is.

"I think everyone should come to Aikido club," Marrero said. "It changed my life. I lost 40 pounds and became a Buddhist. It did a lot for me. It's not even life-saving, not even life-changing, it's kind of like life-giving."

WEEKEND EVENTS

Friday, April 5, & Saturday, April 6, 2019
Men's and Women's Track and Field
@ Mount Union John Homon Open

Friday, April 5, 2019 @ 2:30 p.m.
Men's and Women's Tennis vs. Wittenberg

Saturday, April 6, 2019 @ 12 p.m.
Women's Lacrosse vs. DePauw

Saturday, April 6, 2019 @ 12 p.m.
Baseball @ DePauw

Saturday, April 6, 2019 @ 1 p.m.
Softball @ DePauw

Sunday, April 7, 2019
Men's and Women's Track and Field
@ Bucknell Bison Invitational

Sunday, April 7, 2019 @ 1 p.m.
Softball @ Denison

Sunday, April 7, 2019 @ 2 p.m.
Men's and Women's Tennis vs. Kenyon