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Gator Day moved to Election Day

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

For the first time in its history, Gator Day will coincide with Election Day thanks to the work of student ambassadors involved with the Andrew Goodman Foundation. The foundation has partnered with Allegheny College for 10 years to support civic engagement efforts on campus.

Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Political Participation Andrew Bloeser advises Allegheny's chapter of the Andrew Goodman Foundation.

"This is one of the most significant, I think, accomplishments of the Andrew Goodman Foundation students at Allegheny," Bloeser said. "Later this month I'll be involved in some planning with a number of other folks at the college about what Gator Day programming is going to look like, and how we promote Election Day activities at Allegheny is going to be part of that conversation about Gator Day for the first time ever."

Efforts to move Gator Day to Election Day began in 2019, with the intention of mobilizing more student voters on a day when they may have more flexibility in their schedules. The idea was ultimately approved by administration before the COVID-19 pandemic caused Allegheny students to be sent home, and effectively canceled Gator Day.

Amya Ruiz, '20, and George Ackerman, '21, served as AGF ambassadors during their time at Allegheny and were instrumental in getting Gator Day moved to Election Day. Ackerman explained that the inspiration for advocating that the annual celebration be moved to promote voter and civic engagement came from talking with fellow AGF members from around the country at a conference in 2019.

"Getting Election Day off for students was one of the points that we thought we could make happen," Ackerman said of the event.

Both Ackerman and Ruiz were new to AGF at the time, and were the only two members of the club on Allegheny's campus, as other members were studying abroad. Ruiz's passion for activism drove her to fight for the switch— even when the initial answer was "no."

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50 years of environmental science

How the 'weakest science' became Allegheny's hallmark program

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

It's hard to miss the signs that Allegheny is environmentally-conscious. Look around campus and you will find examples like Carr Hall's Carrden and the solar panels atop Steffee Hall of Life Sciences. Look beyond, and you'll still see the reach of the Environmental Science and Sustainability program in additional solar panels throughout Meadville, in the revitalized Meadville Market House and in the sprawling PennDOT sign artwork upon entering Meadville.

You also needn't look far to find a student majoring in ESS — there's a good chance you are one yourself — or a faculty member who is in some way affiliated with the department. Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, '02, explained that, in the midst of climate crises, sustainability is relevant to everyone.

"Whether you call it sustainability or not, it's impacting your life," Boulton said. "So even if you think that you don't care about sustainability, it's impacting your food, it's impacting the quality of the air you're breathing, it's impacting the weather."

However, the program has not always been as prominent as it is today, nor nearly as supported. Fifty years ago, the Environmental Science program — which did not yet include Environmental Studies or the term "Sustainability" in its program description — was started out of the biology and geology departments, and the first students to graduate with a degree in environmental science at Allegheny did so in 1973.

Christine Scott Nelson '73 Endowed Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Eric Pallant was hired as the first full-time professor of the department in 1987. Alongside a biology professor who had a joint appointment with the ES department, Pallant shaped the department at a time when graduate programs in environmental science were unheard of and when interdisciplinarity and the sciences were mutually exclusive.

"We were in the natural sciences division, and were known as the 'weak science,' for anybody who was dropping out, who couldn't handle the real sciences— biology and chemistry," Pallant said. "They could go to ES and do just fine."

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Earth Day programs span week

By **PAIGE KAGENI**
Staff Writer
kageni01@allegheny.edu

With Earth Day rapidly approaching, the environmental groups of Allegheny's campus are getting creative with their Earth Week events. From April 20 to April 28, events will be taking place across campus for the enjoyment and education of Allegheny, with a specific emphasis on this year's worldwide Earth Day theme; Plants vs. Plastic.

Sofia Maass, '24, president of Allegheny College Bird Club, explained the events being hosted by her group. To kick off the events, there will be a Presque Isle Walk collabing with Allegheny Outdoor's Club on April 20th. Then, on Monday evening from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., Bird Club and Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Jesse Swann-Quinn will be hosting a screening of the National Geographic special "Great Migrations" in Quigley Auditorium.

"I think it's just really important, at least from the Bird Club perspective, to preserve biodiversity. I hope our events will get more people involved with Bird Club and more of our conservation-type projects." Maass said. "We've had nest box building and trail maintenance in the past, so I think it'd be really cool to get more people involved into that through this."

London Dejarnette, '24, president of Allegheny's chapter of the Food Recovery Network, spoke about the events FRN would be hosting that week.

"We have two events that are happening." Dejarnette said. "One is a screening and spaghetti and meatball dinner. We'll be screening 'Cloudy With A Chance Of Meatballs 2.' We just wanted to have a fun way to talk about food waste. A lot of the time we talk about food waste, it's kind of sad and doesn't really attract broader student stakeholders, so we wanted to do something that was somewhat fun."

Dejarnette also spoke about informational tabling at McKinley's on Friday, April 26. Called 'Weigh The Waste,' it's an event that all FRN chapters host and provides information concerning composting and food disposal. At the end of the event, FRN representatives will weigh the waste to directly see the amount of food being disposed of by students.

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Student presents to ASG on harm reduction policy



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Cat Marchando, '26, prepares to present about harm reduction policies to the Allegheny Student Government at the General Assembly on Tuesday, April 16.

By **SAMI MIRZA**
Editor-in-Chief
mirza01@allegheny.edu

Trigger warning: this story contains mention of a fatal accidental overdose

The Allegheny Student Government heard a wide-ranging presentation on a potential drug policy group on campus at its General Assembly on Tuesday, April 16. Cat Marchando, '26, a neuroscience major, told ASG that she hopes to establish an Allegheny chapter of the international nonprofit Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

SSDP advocates for "harm reduction," an approach to preventing substance abuse that aims "to get help with people who are struggling where they need it," Marchando said.

As an example, she pointed to fentanyl, specifically stories of a three-year-old overdosing on the synthetic opioid after getting into her parents' substances, and police officers overdosing while handling the drug. This can happen, Marchando said, because fentanyl can be absorbed "transdermally" — through the skin.

"There's people out there, very bad people that can put fentanyl on dollar bills, on your car, handle, on a gas station pump, to essentially make you unconscious for what they want from you," Marchando said. "This is something that we shouldn't be scared of. This is something that we should fight back against, and take action on and speak about here at Allegheny."

However, medical professionals have pushed back on the idea that touching fentanyl can cause negative effects or overdose; in an October 2022 Q&A with U.C. Davis Health, Dr. Daniel Colby wrote that the only confirmed cases of transdermal fentanyl exposure happened through doctor-prescribed skin patches.

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In this week's Campus...

THE CAREER CENTER'S BENEFITS

Jim Fitch, associate director of career education, shares the many ways the Center for Career and Professional Development can help Allegheny students prepare for and succeed in their career journey.

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CLIMATE CHANGE QUANTIFIED

Contributing Writer Milo Watson, '26, uses graphs to visualize the ways climate change has impacted us and our planet.

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PROFESSORS FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Allegheny's Environmental Science and Sustainability professors and faculty speak about what environmental issues they focus on and what gives them hope for the future.

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FRIDAY H: 59° L: 42° Rain: 83% Sunrise: 6:33 a.m. Sunset: 8:06 p.m.

SATURDAY H: 52° L: 32° Rain: 10% Sunrise: 6:32 a.m. Sunset: 8:08 p.m.

SUNDAY H: 51° L: 33° Rain: 8% Sunrise: 6:30 a.m. Sunset: 8:09 p.m.

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The program soon brought in capable and passionate students, however. Environmental science offered tangible experiences, like building the Student Experimental Garden in 1994, which Pallant explained included funding, researching and creating space for the plants in the garden.

"The first time we took our junior seminars, we made them real world projects, which was a real break from the biology model," Pallant said.

Pallant hired Professors of Environmental Science and Sustainability Rich Bowden and Terry Bensel in the few years after his arrival. Bensel — who is also the current chair of the department — expanded on this philosophy.

"Students learn by doing — we don't just learn stuff, we learn how to do things, we learn how to solve problems," Bensel said. "That's always been the philosophy of ESS, which is hands-on, community-based, community-engaged, applied learning. It's not like we don't have lecture classes … but that is always in the service of applied, problem-solving, engaged learning."

Boulton can speak from experience; her time as an ESS student encouraged her to not only pursue environmental work beyond graduation, but to return specifically to Allegheny because of her existing connections within the community.

"I know that one of the reasons I felt comfortable coming back — compelled to come back — is that my experience at Allegheny was not just on campus," Boulton said. "And that was very much driven by my work with the environmental science department."

The appeal of real-world work is also part of what has grown the department over the years. An increased amount of student interest has meant hiring more staff; new staff attracts new students, and the cycle continues, Bensel explained. A large part of the program's success has also come from trusting new faculty to teach about their passions.

"We don't get into the weeds about, like, 'We need to hire a person who does this kind of environmental policy for this period in this country,'" Bensel said with emphasis. Instead, the philosophy is: "Try to hire really good people, and then get out of their way," Bensel said.

Pallant echoed a similar sentiment.

"We've always hired what I think is the best teachers, ever, and we've always done real world work," Pallant said.

One of these recent hires is Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Adrienne Krone. With a background in studying and teaching religious studies, Krone was one of the original humanist voices added to the department.

"What humanities can do is not only give people information about what that (climate change) will mean for them and help them understand through narrative storytelling, through other perspectives, through other forms of communication," Krone said. "But also, what are communities already doing and how can we learn from each other and collaborate across all sorts of class, race, national boundaries, etc. to start to move toward solutions?"

Hiring professors with interests in the humanities also opened the door to interdisciplinary approaches to environmental problems. Pallant explained that interdisciplinarity was not always part of the program in the way it is now.

"When I started in '87, the culture was: We need to be interdisciplinary about the sciences; we need to have biology and chemistry and geology all working together to understand environmental problems," Pallant said. "By the early 90s, we realized we can count and calculate what all the environmental problems are, but that didn't solve them. We can count how much carbon dioxide is going into the atmosphere, how much acid rain is falling— it didn't change anybody's behavior, so we need to get the right policies and the right economic incentives in place. So the next people we hired were actually joint appointments with economics and political science."

The early 2000s saw a recognition of the arts as part of the discipline, and in 2018 the then-separate Environmental Science and Environmental Studies majors were combined into Environmental Science and Sustainability. The cut and dry data of climate science needed to cater to a wider audience, and could only do so through the humanities.

"We were a little slow to get on this— to realize we could get the science right, we could get the policy and economics right and it still didn't change the world," Pallant said. "We needed humanists, we needed artists, we needed musicians, we needed dancers, we needed writers to change the way people thought and felt about the environment."

Boulton explained that this interdisciplinarity taught her how to think about environmental problems in a number of ways. In her current position, Boulton helps students — primarily those majoring in ESS — shape their environmental work around their passions.

"It's made my job so much easier that I can think like an ecologist, but I can think like a social scientist and I can think like an artist," Boulton said. "It really helps me to do all the different types of my job in a better way because there was a lot of overlap and interdisciplinarity in the program."

As an environmentalist with a focus in economics, Bensel echoed this sentiment.



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

The sun shines through the floor-to-ceiling windows of Carr Hall, the building that houses the environmental science department, on Thursday, April 18.

"It's not that you have to know everything, but you don't just adopt a very narrow, reductionist lens to the work that you do," Bensel said. "You understand how your work connects to and is situated in these larger conversations that we have about sustainability and culture and history."

Each of the professors and Boulton emphasized that working alongside students is what has helped the college achieve its major environmental milestones, like achieving carbon neutrality in 2020 and participating in the Better Buildings challenge starting in 2011.

As Bensel explained, the collaboration between students and faculty is a virtuous cycle; students are inspired by the commitment of faculty to tackling environmental issues, while faculty are inspired by the new perspectives that students offer. Much of that, he added, comes from the fact that the department is focused on the "wicked problem" that is the climate crisis. With no simple solutions, professors explained, students and faculty are on the same team, tackling the same problems.

"I don't think we would have gotten the climate neutrality (agreement) when we did if groups of ESS students — mostly in junior seminars — hadn't done the legwork to figure out how you do that," Bensel said. "I don't know which is the chicken and which is the egg, right, but our students inspire us, so we're inspired and we give it our all."

The program — which has graduated at least 1,500 students since its implementation, according to Pallant — has proven to be anything but a "weak" science.

"I think the key is we have really worked hard to make an otherwise really depressing topic as fun as possible — and as satisfying as possible — and, as much as we could, make us feel like we're doing everything we can to make the world a better place," Pallant said.

EARTH

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"Not to be like, 'Oh, students eat less,' but to be like, 'This is the collective effect of our entire student body,' Dejarnette said. "So, we'll be giving out information about food waste there, too. We just wanted to do more broadly engaging events. A lot of the time we have a very specific section of the student body that's attending our student events, so we wanted to engage broader amounts of students because everyone should know about food access and food waste."

Bianca Sanchez, '24, vice president of Green Students of Color Society, described the events the organization is hosting. Their festivities will begin Monday, April 22, where GreenSOCS will attend the ASG Open Tab event at Grounds for Change. GreenSOCS is also hosting a community bike ride event at the Senior Circle at 6 p.m. Then, all sustainability groups on campus will be involved with the Trashion Show in the lobby of the campus center on Friday, April 26 at 6 p.m.

"I will be speaking at it," Sanchez said. "That fashion show's a big one; we make outfits out of trash and scraps, and it's a really fun one."

GreenSOCS is also hosting a campus cleanup on Saturday, April 27 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

"We did it two years ago and this year we're doing it again," Sanchez said. "We're going to be meeting at Brooks Walk, but there's also going to be a sign-up sheet going around soon. I'm really excited for this year because, typically when we do Earth Week, GreenSOCS and the other clubs, we correspond a bit for different events. But, we wanted everything to be super collaborative this year, working together and supporting each other."

Julia Sonen, '24, president of Students for Environmental Action, discussed her involvement with the Trashion Show and campus clean-up, as well as a free clothing swap on Wednesday, April 24, in the campus center lobby from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

"The goal is to really make people think about the land and the space, and everyone's interactions with consumerism and the environment — whatever it means to them," Sonen said. "I think different Earth Days have different focuses. I know two years ago it was really focused on environmental justice, which I think was one of my favorite Earth Week themes, but it always changes."

The entire goal of these events is more than just connecting with students for an enjoyable experience; it's also about educating the community about humanity's place on this planet.

"We all live on this Earth," Sonen said. "We have to exist with that in mind and with the recognition of the limited resources of everything on this planet, including ourselves. I think anything we can do to help people break cycles that allow them to forget that is really important."

GATOR

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"I came to Allegheny with the intention of doing community organizing work and finding a way to make a sustainable living out of that," Ruiz said. "Me and George were reaching out pretty relentlessly and we were just kind of getting the runaround."

Attempting to communicate with administration and sharing flyers for the cause proved to be a dead end, according to Ruiz. After a meeting with President Ron Cole, '87 — then provost and dean of the college — the decision to move Gator Day was brought to other members of administration. The proposal was approved in 2020.

"We kind of did it through the framework of holding administrators accountable to their claim — to Allegheny's claim — to civic engagement," Ruiz said.

Bloeser said that civic engagement is at the core of AGF's mission.

"For a lot of the students who have gotten involved, they have interest in doing this at least while they're at college, sometimes beyond," Bloeser said. "There's an opportunity to develop a skill set and some practical knowledge for how to do civic engagement work that people can take with them long after they graduate, after they've made a difference here and now at Allegheny."

Civic engagement efforts include voter registration, get out the vote initiatives and providing education resources to students. AGF's "Vote Everywhere" program — of which Allegheny is a "Founding Fifteen" campus, involved in the program since its beginning in 2014 — is designed to support voter registration efforts on college campuses.

"Today, Vote Everywhere partners with America's colleges and universities to provide resources, visibility, and mentoring to a national network of student leaders who involve their peers in participatory democracy through long-term voter engagement and public policy initiatives," the foundation stated in an April 1 press release.

Bloeser expressed that the work of civic engagement is always essential, regardless of when major elections take place.

"Civic engagement is sort of like a muscle," Bloeser said. "If we work at it, and we put in the repetitions and we use good form, we can build up that muscle, we can make it strong, but it requires continued use. So the importance of civic engagement work is that we need to be involved in it all the time. At least, we need some proportion of our citizenry, some proportion of our campus community, actively thinking about civic engagement all the time."

And training the muscle that is civic engagement has paid off: there was a noticeable increase in voter turnout among Allegheny students after the college began collaborating with AGF. In 2012, approximately 50% of students voted in the presidential election. In 2016, that had risen to well over 60%, according to Bloeser.

"We're very proud of the accomplishment of helping to increase those numbers and we're proud of the accomplishment of sustaining those numbers, because that doesn't happen automatically," Bloeser said.

Leading up to the 2024 presidential election, there is work for AGF beyond moving Gator Day. A webpage dedicated specifically to voter education at Allegheny — a project that also began and was utilized in 2020 — is in the works, along with a strategic Instagram presence.

Bloeser emphasized that he is continually impressed by the efforts of students involved in AGF to increase voter turnout and knowledge, but also in students' continued efforts to promote equity and diversity in civic engagement— something that has been a core principle of AGF from the beginning.

"You try to be a good advisor to students because they're developing their first sort of experiences with these things, but you also end up learning a lot when you advise students who have the kind of ambition and values that these students do," Bloeser said.

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"You can't overdose on fentanyl by touching a doorknob or dollar bill," wrote Colby, who studies substance use disorders.

Marchando said that SSDP neither condones nor condemns drug use on college campuses,

"We're trying to say that we need to maximize wellness on campus in any way, form that we can," Marchando said. "We need to build a soulful community that's really emphasizing that we are all human."

Marchando's 20-minute presentation covered a number of topics relating to harm reduction, including the science of addiction and a proposal to add a module on overdose education to already required drug and alcohol training for incoming students. Marchando asserted that such a module would have saved the life of Cinna Krushel, '27.

"If you're a person that cares about others and you see this (training), you can now know how drugs interact, what to do if someone's overdosing on something," Marchando said. "We all got an email last semester about a freshman sadly passing unintentionally. If someone was there, if someone knew how to do this, we would have another life."

Krushel died in mid-September, a few days after being rushed to the hospital following an accidental overdose caused by a mixture of over-the-counter medication, including caffeine; antihistamines used in allergy medicine; synthetic codeine, a pain-relieving ingredient in adult cough syrup; and mitragynine, the active ingredient in a pain-relieving plant called "kratom." Call logs showed that emergency services arrived on scene seven minutes after 911 was called, with Krushel transported to the hospital 24 minutes later.

In a follow-up email Wednesday evening, Marchando clarified that she thought that Krushel's passing may have been preventable with additional resources, but those resources would not guarantee a different outcome.

"if we had the proper education, if narcan was accessible, and Cinna knew not to mix substances, she may not have accidentally overdosed," Marchando wrote in the email, referring to a brand-name version of opioid-overdose antidote naloxone. "this is a sad topic and i get you're writing the newspaper, but this topic isn't black and white, im so sorry if i misspoke. people knew her, and her story is important, but we cannot change the past."

During the GA, Marchando also spoke about the types of substances students use — and noted that the list did not include many opioids that naloxone works against.

"It's about alcohol, it's about cannabis, it's about nicotine and it's about cocaine," Marchando told ASG. "Cocaine is used on campus and it's something that, whether we like to talk about it or not, it's probably the biggest issue that needs to be addressed immediately, because people cannot buy cocaine from a dispensary. People buy cocaine from the street. And if they don't take a fentanyl test strip to test their drugs, what can happen?"

In her follow-up email, Marchando declined to comment on how she knew cocaine was being used on campus.

"some students are using it," Marchando elaborated. "its in certain groups. you and the campus do not deserve to know how i know, because it was in the confidence of someone relaying their substance abuse to me. i have met so many people in different situations that feel im a trusting person to keep their use anonymous."

In an interview following the GA, Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley said they were not aware of any reports or investigation into cocaine use on campus.

"That doesn't mean that it's not happening on campus," Yeckley said. "But what I can say is it has not — I was also kind of taken a little bit aback by that statement."

In addition to speaking about drug use on campus, Marchando also criticized some aspects of the college's response to reports of marijuana use in residential halls.

"Addressing situations through email with like, 'Hey there's cannabis use in Edwards and this is federal law and this is what will happen to you if you continue to use cannabis' only incites fear, stress and spite into people," Marchando told ASG. "If someone's a hard drug user and you tell them to stop, they're going to say 'F— you,' they're going to say 'I'm going to do it more, I'm going to hurt other people more because you are policing me.' The second you are done policing people and you tell them, 'This is what will happen, truthfully, if you are caught using drugs,' they'll say, 'Hey, I can reach out to these people because they're concerned and they care and they're not going to hurt me.'"

Yeckley — who oversees student conduct — said after the meeting that it was "not uncommon" for their office to send emails to floors or halls after an increase in fire alarms or complaints about drug use.

"There are things, by federal law, that we have to do in order to ensure that we keep our funding," Yeckley said. "I have seen, any time that I've sent out that email, we do see a decrease in complaints or noticeable smells of marijuana. It doesn't mean it's not happening in the building … but it does, in my experience in this position, it does show that at least the students are reading that and sometimes students aren't quite aware of how much the smell of smoke travels, or the impact that it can have on the neighbor who said he has asthma."

More broadly, Yeckley said that Allegheny's conduct policies are based on "transformative justice" and focus on conversations about why a student is using drugs and provide resources for support.

"You may end up on a warning, you may have to write a paper, but for the most part, it is a 'What's going on, why is it going on, and how can we help you?'" Yeckley said.

Marchando's proposal is not to create a new independent group to serve as the college's chapter of SSDP, but to house programming and outreach within an existing club — though this proposal was not up for an ASG vote.

"A chapter on campus through the Neuro Club is what I would love for you guys to approve," Marchando said. "We really need an open and honest discussion about drug use in a safe, judgment-free space, whether that be on campus, off campus, wherever."

During a brief Q&A session following the presentation, ASG Senator and Vice President-elect Ray Colabawalla, '25, asked if Marchando was looking for specific funding from the student government. He also asked if Marchando wanted to see more class events like one hosted in early November by the junior class senate.

> "We're trying to say that we need to maximize wellness on campus in any way, form that we can. We need to build a soulful community that's really emphasizing that we are all human."
>
> —CAT MARCHANDO
> Class of 2026

"More of those but more talk about what truly happens," Marchando replied. "More talk about the alcoholism culture, whether it be in fraternity-sorority culture, or in the other half, and we'll talk about the division on campus specifically. Everyone knows there's a divide between certain people here and the other people, and we need to stop thinking of people as other."

ASG's final General Assembly — where next year's president and vice president will be sworn in and the Senate is expected to hear a proposal for a major project — is set for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.

Ask Allegheny

What environmental problem are you passionate about solving?



Left: Katherine Hoehl, '25
Major: Environmental science and sustainability
Minor: Biology
"I find the agricultural system in the U.S. really interesting because it's a system made to feed so many people but there's so many things wrong with it and it's so unsustainable."



Right: London Dejarnette, '24
Major: Environmental science and sustainability
Minor: Community and justice studies
"Food waste, probably above all, and I would say so because it's a problem everywhere."



Left: Rosaria Betton, '26
Major: Environmental science and sustainability
Minor: Creative writing
"I am very passionate about getting youth more involved in environmental problems and I feel like it could be a really good outlet especially for kids."



Right: Rachel Ditzenberger, '25
Major: Environmental science and sustainability
Minor: Education studies
"I'm passionate about solving urban heat related issues because they cause a lot of health and just other environmental concerns. That's what I'm doing my senior comp on."

CRIME BLOTTER

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

April 17, 2024
Theft
On campus
Referred to MCPD

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Advertising (814) 332-5386
Editors newspaper@allegheny.edu
Box 12, Allegheny College
520 North Main St. Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

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Sustainability is for everyone. Let's teach it that way.

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
News Editor
westbrook01@allegheny.edu

By **MILO WATSON**
Contributing Writer
watson03@allegheny.edu

Outside the bounds of Allegheny's neatly divided areas of academic study, environmental problems impact all forms of life on Earth — including you, regardless of your college major. We can see how pervasive environmental problems are in the Canadian wildfires that blanketed the northeastern U.S. under a thick, hazardous smog this past summer; in the accumulating research proving microplastics are now found in more than three-quarters of tested human blood; and in the rapidly depleting water supplies in the western U.S.

The scale of environmental problems tests the limits of even our conceptualization of them. Climate change transcends all boundaries — geography, wealth, time, power, language and identity. Winners and losers are collective; either everyone benefits from keeping the planet's warming under the 1.5-degrees Celsius target set in the 2015 Paris Agreement or everyone endures a hotter planet with wilder, more dangerous weather. To secure a stable, healthy future for everyone on Earth, everyone needs to be engaged.

Allegheny has recognized environmental sustainability as a core value, founding one of the nation's first environmental science programs in the 1972-73 school year, achieving carbon neutrality in 2020, constructing LEED-certified buildings, and diverting and composting kitchen waste in dining halls, among a long list of other programs and accomplishments that grows each year. Our efforts have led to recognition from the Department of Energy and the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium.

The question that follows is: How can Allegheny assure that its students will carry the core value of environmental sustainability with them into their post-college lives?

Make it a distribution requirement.

The opening lines of Allegheny's Institutional Learning Outcomes statement declare that the school expects "graduates to be capable and farsighted leaders and rational and responsible citizens equipped to meet the challenges confronting all society."

And there has never been a problem that requires as much mass collaboration of capable, far-sighted, rational and responsible leaders as the climate crisis demands today.

In order to fulfill this institutional learning outcome and prepare students for lives as global citizens, Allegheny's sustainability distribution requirement would educate students on how to create systems through which everyone can thrive equitably.

"That includes non-human stakeholders, like the ecosystem," said Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Delia Byrnes.

Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, '02, said that students themselves have already quietly built this into their own educational paths through college. The last time Boulton tallied it up prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 40% of students took ENVSC 110 "Intro to Environmental Science" at some point during their time at Allegheny, even though just 15% of Allegheny students were environmental science majors.

Topics that ENVSC 110 typically covers invoke skills and ways of thinking that are applicable to all types of cross-discipline problem solving. This includes assessing stakeholder perspectives; understanding "wicked problems" that are difficult to solve because of their complicated, variable, contradictory and uncertain nature; the intersections of science and society; the history of the environmental movement; and how the climate crisis came to be. Informed decision makers of the future need to be able to make decisions that promote wellbeing for the environment, the economy and people in both the short run and long run.

"It's feasible that if we required all students to take some sort of sustainability distribution where we introduce the sort of longer-term broader thinking, it might expand how they think about the things that they're interested in anyway," Boulton said.

This would not represent a new course of study, but an integration of the way citizens of tomorrow need to see the world.

"One of the things that's really exciting about that idea is that sustainability is not a topic — it's a way of doing things, whether that's a business venture, an educational venture, or something else," Byrnes said.

Recent shifts in the job market indicate that the integration of sustainability into other majors could unlock more post-graduation paths for students.

In an article titled "Sustainability went mainstream in 2021," the Harvard Business Review stated that "virtually all of the world's largest companies now issue a sustainability report and set goals; more than 2,000 companies have set a science-based carbon target; and about one-third of Europe's largest public companies have pledged to reach net zero by 2050."

At the same time, the Securities and Exchange Commission recently passed a rule requiring "that U.S.-listed companies publicly report their greenhouse gas emissions, climate-related risks and information about their plans to transition to a low-carbon economy."

This recent uptick in environmental targets means that regardless of whether you're an intern at Microsoft, Netflix, JP Morgan Chase or Toyota, being able to link your own career goals to environmental sustainability outcomes will make you a "highly competitive candidate," according to Associate Director of Alumni and Employer Engagement Autumn Parker, '16.

"When I think about Allegheny and playing a part in that, we're coming from a cross-disciplinary educational background, where we see everything is interconnected and intertwined," Parker said. "So if we're preparing students for the future, not just as professionals but as people who are going to be responsible for continuously purposeful, meaningful work to society, you have to show them what that actually looks like."

While ushering seniors through their final year at Allegheny and into the job market, Byrnes said that she has increasingly seen employers prioritizing a background in sustainability.

"I think it's actually especially coming out more in business fields or STEM fields that you wouldn't necessarily associate with it," Byrnes said. "So yeah, I think it could only be an advantage when people are going out into the professional workforce."

Adding in a sustainability distribution requirement could open up new opportunities for students who don't necessarily see themselves as part of the environmental science major. A sustainability distribution requirement that gives credit for ENVSC 110, for example, would incentivize more students majoring in political science to take ENVSC 380 "Climate & Energy Policy," which many political science students don't take because of the ENVSC 110 prerequisite, despite credit offered for the course in their major.

Other potential classes that could deliver on sustainability-related learning outcomes include classes like GHS "Introduction to Global Health Studies," GHS 322 "Climate & Health," and GHS 324 "Environmental Health," ENGL 116 "Literature and the Environment," ART 142 "Industrial Design Principles," ENERG 105 "Intro to Energy & Society," and ENVSC 352 "Environmental Justice."

There are potentially even other pathways to sustainability education in majors that don't immediately come to mind, like integrative informatics or computer and information science.

"I think there's a tendency to talk about computer science as this sort of de-material realm. It's the cloud, it's virtual, whatever," Byrnes said. "And there are real physical material correlates to that that do have impacts."

The groundwork for a sustainability distribution requirement has already been laid through a variety of courses connecting individuals, the environment and their communities. The college's "Sustainability" page states that "Allegheny College encourages the development of citizens who actively promote sustainability. Our students learn about environmental issues and stewardship at each step of their education," although we have yet to actually formalize this as a distinct learning outcome.

"I do think it's everyone's responsibility to be thinking about environmental sustainability and environmental well-being overall," Byrnes said.

It's time that the school expands once again upon its community's support for thoughtful, long-term citizenry.

"Sustainability issues are making it into your lives if you breathe, if you eat, if you want to go outside and take a walk, if you want to travel," Boulton said. "So I think there's a lot of ways that sustainability issues are very personal, even if you're not recognizing them as sustainability issues."

Adopting a sustainability distribution requirement will continue to place Allegheny at the forefront of nationally recognized climate change education and prepare students for pressing issues other universities have yet to focus on.

"It's easy to argue that with sustainability being a core value of this institution that we would want to send people out into the world who understand that core value," said Sustainability Coordinator Kurt Hatcher, '07.

Environmental sustainability prepares students to be the rational, capable, far-sighted leaders our institution promises.

"Allegheny students aren't just thinking about themselves," Parker said. "They're thinking about the world, and that's what sets them apart. It makes them ready to be part of it."

5 things I wish students knew

By **JIM FITCH**
Contributing Writer
jfitch@allegheny.edu

Graduation season is upon us. As the Allegheny College Class of 2024 prepares to walk across the commencement stage, I, too, am preparing for a commencement of my own. This June, I will retire following 26 years of service at the College, first as an adjunct professor during the 1998-99 academic year and then as a member of the career center team beginning in August 2000. Over the years I've learned a few things and have observed things that I wish students knew about "their" Center for Career and Professional Development and the skilled team of career development professionals who are here to work with them.

College is not just about earning a degree; it's also about emerging into adulthood and preparing for life after graduation. Among the many resources available to students, the CCPD shines like a North Star, offering guidance, opportunities, financial support and direction on the path to post-graduation success. Yet, many students overlook or underutilize this invaluable resource. Here are five things that I wish every student knew about the Allegheny College CCPD.

1. Start early:

Perhaps the most crucial piece of advice is to start utilizing the career center early in your college journey. Don't wait until your senior year to seek guidance on post-graduation plans. The earlier you engage with the team, resources and services offered by the career center, the better prepared you'll be to make informed decisions about your academic and professional path. Whether you're a freshman exploring majors, a sophomore/junior searching for internships or a senior drafting graduate school admissions essays or looking to connect with dynamic employers, the career center is here to support you at every stage of your college career. One of our past mantras was, "If we don't know you we can't help you." Get into the CCPD early, let us get to know you and know your interests, enlist us as part of your support team. The career center team is here to support you as you seek success beyond the campus.

2. Once is not enough:

"Why didn't I know about (fill in the blank)?" is one of the recurring questions that figuratively "drove me nuts" over the years. This calls most memorably as a question asked by a student who'd missed the opportunity to apply to interview with Deloitte when they recruited on campus. Clearly irate, he dropped in to ask why he hadn't been aware of the opportunity. Visiting the CCPD the first time is only the beginning. Whether coming in to ask for assistance with the job or internship search or to clarify career interests, plan to meet with a career coach multiple times.

Just as a series of individual workouts leads to fitness, multiple meetings with career coaches over one's Allegheny education leads to career readiness. The CCPD team has years of experience working with students as they've sought to identify opportunities to explore their interests and engage their skills. Frequently, simply having someone to actively listen as one thinks aloud can be an asset. We are all evolving human beings; an objective observer may hear and see patterns that the individual student is unaware of. Also, if we get to know you, we're able to pass on opportunities that may be of interest as they present themselves.

3. Utilize the extensive services:

The Allegheny career center is more than just a place to dust up your resumes and search for internships. We offer services designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the job market and be "Career Ready." From career coaching and mock interviews to workshops on salary negotiation and creating a resume that beats artificial intelligence, our center is a one-stop shop for all things career-related, with many of the resources like Big Interview, Handshake and Gator-2Gator available 24/7. We also oversee the awarding of nearly $250,000 in funding designated to support students who need financial support to make the completion of an internship a reality.

One size does not fit all when it comes to career advice. We recognize the individuality of each student and each student's career aspirations. Meeting with a career coach individually allows us to provide personalized guidance that's tailored to you. Whether you're undecided about your major, exploring different career paths, or preparing for graduate school, career coaches are here to listen, advise and offer support every step of the way.

4. Take advantage of networking opportunities:

We've all heard the saying, it's not what you know but who you know. As a twist, I believe that it's who knows you and what you are capable of contributing to a role and an organization that leads to jobs, internships, and graduate school acceptances. The CCPD facilitates valuable networking opportunities that can open doors to future employment. From opportunities to meet with alumni over Homecoming weekend to Allegheny-specific job fairs and on-campus employer interviews, the career center team connects students with professionals who can offer insights, mentorship, job leads and interviews. Building these connections early can pay dividends in the form of clarity of interests, opportunities and direction throughout your career. In my experience, when someone exercises genuine curiosity and reaches out to alumni, or anyone for that matter, with open-ended questions about how they got started in their careers, trends they are observing, etc, that individual will be happy to share their story. At some point in the conversation, the individual will probably turn the table by asking, "tell me about yourself," which provides you the opportunity to share an introduction and perhaps your resume. I've reached out in this way with questions to authors and magicians I admire which have resulted in chances to meet them and ongoing friendships.

5. Draw upon resources beyond graduation:

Your relationship with the career center team shouldn't end when you receive your diploma. The CCPD offers resources and support to alumni as they navigate the ever-changing landscape of their lives and careers. Whether you're seeking a career change, negotiating a salary or looking for ways to advance professionally, Allegheny's career center can continue to be a valuable resource long after you've left campus.

In conclusion, the career center is an indispensable resource for college students embarking on their professional journey. By taking advantage of the comprehensive services, tailored guidance, networking opportunities, post-graduation support, and starting early, students can position themselves for success in the competitive job market. Remember, your college experience is not just about what you learn in the classroom but also about how you prepare for the opportunities that await you before and beyond graduation. So, don't overlook the career center — it could be the key to unlocking your future success.

Quigley's renovation should keep its charm

By **SASHA HOLGUIN**
Contributing Writer
holguin01@allegheny.edu

Allegheny College announced late last month a $14 million donation from three alumni families, including a $5 million gift from the Tillotson family designated for Quigley Hall. This was the latest in a series of other large gifts from alumni families. The money designated for Quigley will be used for the "modernization of Quigley Hall, transforming it into a state-of-the-art space that reflects the stellar programming and faculty" according to the College's announcement. It feels like there's news about gifts and renovations all the time now. In February, Allegheny announced $21 million in gifts, $10 million of which is designated for renovating Brooks Hall. Reis Hall is currently undergoing its $2 million dollar renovation, and the newly-renovated Bentley is only about two years old. This is exciting news! Seeing that people care about Allegheny and its students and are investing in its future is cause for celebration.

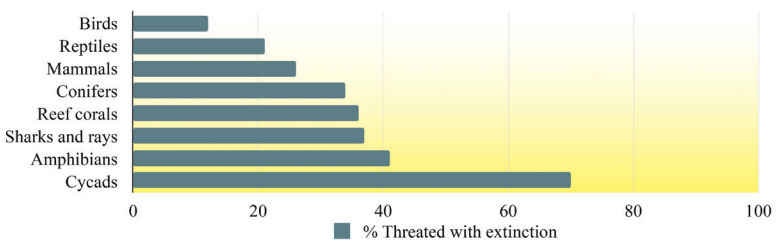
However, with all the construction on campus concerns will arise. Brooks is a dining and residential hall— where will students eat and live? And what effect will it have on Walker and the students that will live there? My concerns about Quigley are more trivial than access to basic needs. The language of modernization — which was also used in the Brooks Hall announcement — concerns me because it communicates a move toward boring, cold and gray aesthetics. My only request with the renovation is this. KEEP QUIGLEY COOL! Quigley was built in 1953; it looks and feels like it. The mid-century style immediately envelops you as you're welcomed by the building's warmth. Right now Quigley has some of the most interesting architectural features on campus that should be preserved. A hallmark of mid-century modern design is the combination of multiple building materials and Quigley executes that well. The glass block wall is such an iconic feature of the building that people can't help but notice when they first walk in. It contrasts all the red brick beautifully and adds so much visual interest to the building. The glass blocks are also an architectural feature particular to this region's industrial history. Pittsburgh was the center of the US glass industry from the 1840s to the 1950s and produced countless glass blocks. The wood paneling in the auditorium and through the building makes the building feel intimate and welcoming. And don't even get me started on the circle windows and door handles! It's so much fun, and is another feature that makes Quigley special. Surrounded by greenery, the building is fairly inconspicuous from the outside, however the building is still gorgeous. The large windows and clean lines — also common features of mid-century modern design — are striking. The building has so much character that shouldn't be removed.

The building definitely needs updating, no question about that. It lacks accessibility; there are no accessible bathrooms in the building. It can use new insulation, new windows, better ventilation and better Wi-Fi connectivity. One time during a class, my professor joked the walls must be made of lead because of how poor the connection is. Spaces designated for gathering or studying can open up so many opportunities for community building and intellectual development. My gripe isn't with modern architecture, minimalist aesthetics or the color gray, it's with renovation and redesign efforts that strip old buildings of their character. It turns them into cold shells devoid of joy or history. Students are spending hours in these buildings, they should be welcoming spaces that feel good to be in.

I'm no architect, just someone who watched too much HGTV as a child and has a love of old buildings, but I feel the Bentley Hall renovation was well done. It preserved the building's character while still updating it to fit Allegheny's current needs. You can see the intention and care put into preserving it; walking through Bentley you feel the reverence the designers had for the building. A similar approach can hopefully be taken with Quigley; keep the character but fix the structure. Allegheny College is over 200 years old, that is a long, rich history that these buildings are a part of. Please give Quigley Wi-Fi, accessible bathrooms, and new carpets — the building definitely needs it — but keep the mid-century vibe alive!

Analysis: 5 graphs that tell the climate story

1: Percent of species threatened with extinction by taxonomic class



Data courtesy of the International Union for Nature and Natural Resources

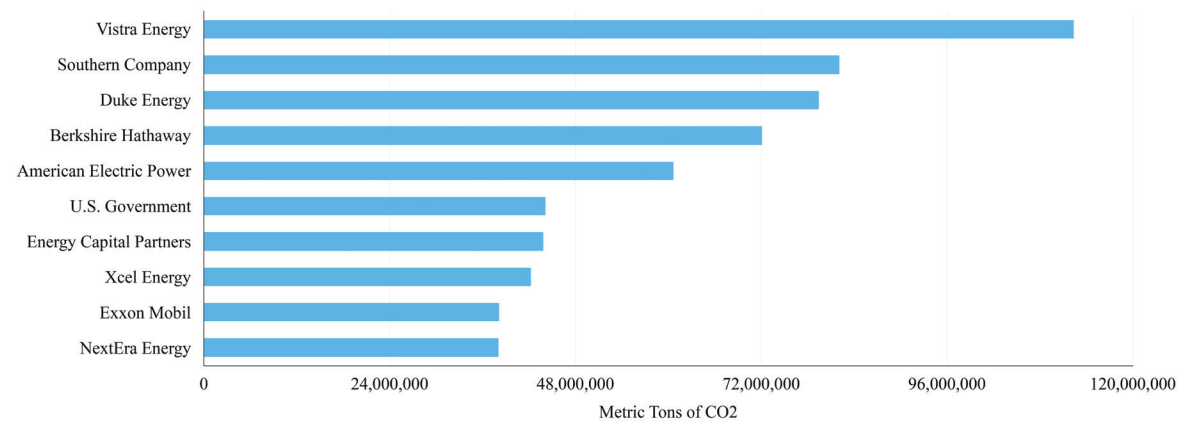
According to the International Union for Nature and Natural Resources Red List, cycads are some of the most threatened organisms on Earth. 70% of these palm-like plants are threatened with the end of a tenure of at least 66-million-years of evolution on Earth. Preserving biodiversity on Earth means that we have to put efforts towards supporting the continued existence of less charismatic organisms, including ones that photosynthesize, slither and sting.

By **MILO WATSON**
Contributing Writer
watson03@allegheny.edu

Part of what makes understanding recent large-scale environmental issues so difficult is their size. In order to protect the dusky gopher frog, we have to know quantities like the size of their habitat, how many of them are left and how quickly their habitat is diminishing year after year.

To improve air quality, we need to understand the current number of pollutants, their effects and set plans in place that achieve the healthy limits in a timely manner. But human brains are designed to compare quantities, not count them. Graphs make it easier for us to visualize these kinds of comparisons that usually appear on paper, engaging our instinctive visual comparison skills to identify priorities.

2: Metric tons of CO2 emissions released by top 10 U.S. CO2 polluters in 2021

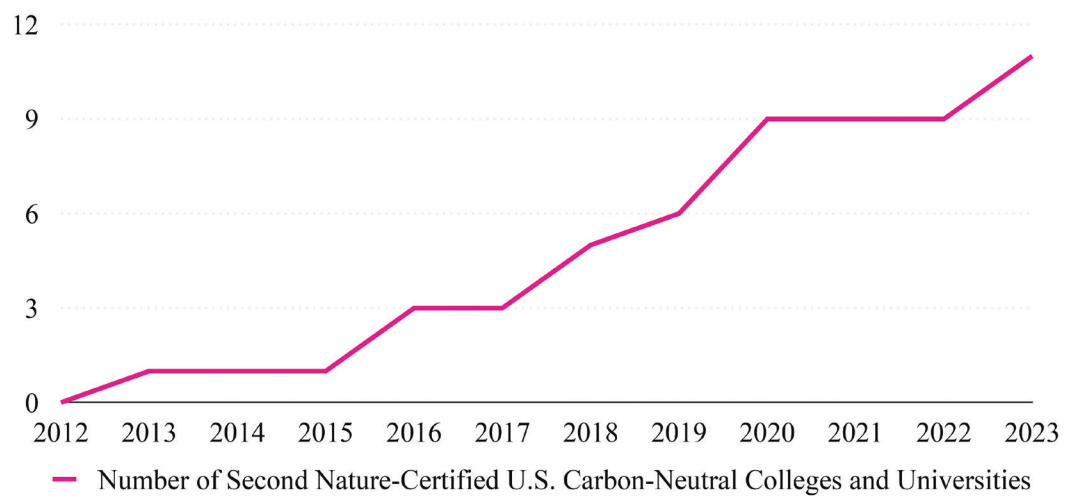


Data courtesy of the University of Massachusetts Amherst

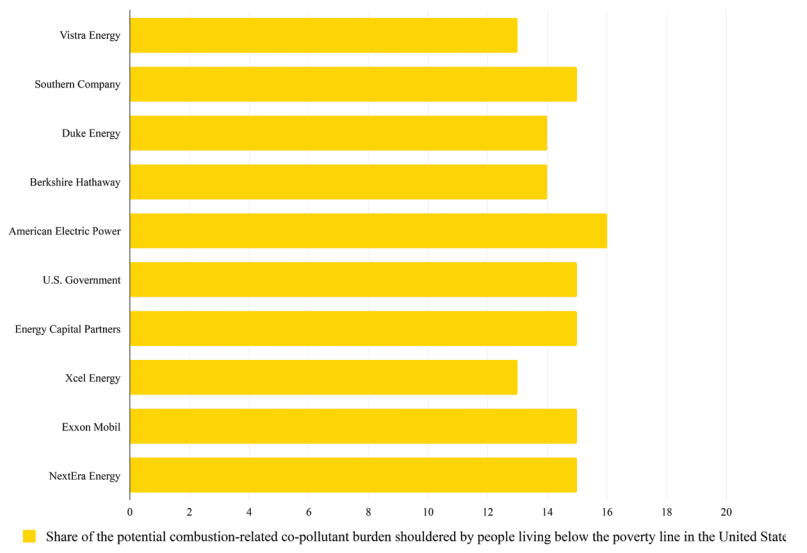
In 2021, Vista Energy, Southern Company, Duke Energy, Berkshire Hathaway, American Electric Power, the United States Government, Energy Capital Partners, Xcel Energy, Exxon Mobil and NextEra Energy released a combined 613,111,564 metric tons of CO2 in the United States alone, according to the University of Massachusetts Political Economy Research Institute.

Their individual contributions are so large that the software I used to make these graphs wouldn't even begin to display the average American household's still-enormous 11 metric tons of CO2 emissions alongside these companies, displaying the importance of industry regulations and the widespread adoption of zero-emission energy sources in the fight against warming global temperatures caused by increased levels of this greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.

4. Number of Second-Nature carbon-neutral certified colleges and universities over time



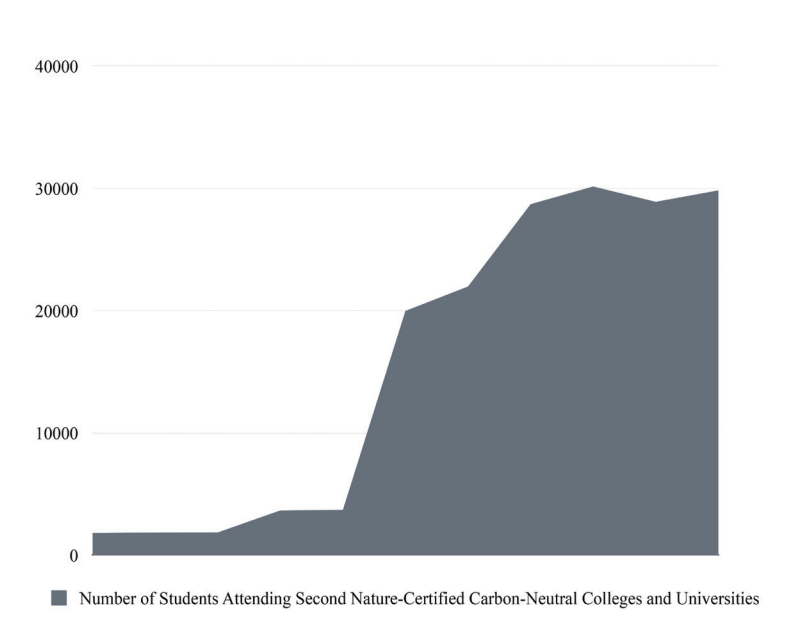
3: Disproportionate impact of air pollutants on low-income families



Data courtesy of the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Assuming that each company's CO2 emissions are proportional to the amount of other pollutants like particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxide and other potential toxins released through fossil fuel combustion, the same UMASS team found that families living on low incomes disproportionately inhale the largest concentrations of pollutants. By looking at population data from the 2019 American Community Survey within a 10-mile radius of each facility, the researchers found that these top 10 CO2 emitters tend to house their most intensive facilities in areas with lower average incomes. There is no safe limit to outdoor air pollution exposure, and its effects can cause many of the United States' leading causes of death like cancer, heart disease and stroke.

5. Number of students attending Second-Nature carbon-neutral certified colleges over time



Data courtesy of schools certified by Second-Nature

Left: In 2020, Allegheny College, Colorado College and Dickinson College joined American University, Bates College, Bowdoin College, Colby College, Colgate University, Middlebury College and University of San Francisco in becoming certified carbon-neutral by climate-action non-profit Second Nature. Since then, Hampshire College and Catawba College have joined their ranks.

While the 11 current carbon-neutral colleges and universities are only a small fraction of educational institutions in the United States and are mostly small campuses, their success paves the way for other larger institutions to do the same. As seen in similar stories about colleges and universities divesting endowments from fossil fuels, the first schools to divest did not hold very much of their endowment in fossil fuels. As the movement has picked up steam, researchers are noticing that a "large endowment or high dependence on endowment are no longer strict barriers to [fossil fuel divestment] for most schools." The same may hold true for carbon-neutrality in higher education.

Top: Data pulled from a variety of sources suggest that as of this fall, close to 30,000 students in the United States were living and learning on carbon-neutral campuses.

Perspective on Earth Day with Matt Bethurem

By **ZAYNAB JEBUR**
Science/International Editor
jebur01@allegheny.edu

April 22, 2024 will mark the 54th annual Earth Day. It was first held in 1970 through the efforts of Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, the coordinator of his environmental campaign Dennis Hayes and his staff. It was originally celebrated nationwide by people marching and protesting on school campuses or in the streets.

I sat down with Professor Matt Bethurem of the Environmental Science and Sustainability Department and asked him a few questions about Earth Day.

Zaynab Jebur: April 22 this year is the 54th year we've celebrated Earth Day; how did it look 54 years ago?

Matt Bethurem: So, what we saw with the first Earth Day, I mean, it's a thing that has changed quite a lot over that time period. And so what we saw, the first one was like, genuine public outrage from a large sector of the United States population, that was seeing things like the Cuyahoga River catches on fire in Cleveland, a big, very visible oil spill happened in off the coast of Santa Barbara, and California.

And through these big visual events, and some dedicated, largely student led activists, honestly, you had this public awareness raising up around environmental problems in a way that we hadn't seen before in the U.S., not at that scale. And so it was a time when, you know, now Earth Day events are largely kind of commercialized affairs. People go there, they drink beer, they buy T-shirts, they listen to some music or whatever, you know, that's not what the first Earth Day was.

If we had the equivalent today, it would be something like 30 to 35 million people in the streets.

ZJ: That brings me to my next question. Do you think schooling before college is effective at teaching students how important the environment is, like colleges now?

MB: When we've got students coming into the ESS program here at Allegheny, it's not uncommon to have like, especially first year students say that they didn't really talk much about like, say, climate change in their middle schools, or high schools or anything. You know, they heard about it a little bit, maybe they kind of briefly covered in some ways, but nothing that like really gave them full sense of like, what the problem is, what causes it, what we need to do about it, any of that stuff. And so I think that is still really common. And I think that does set not just the individual up at a disadvantage, but like our society as a whole.

We've got like younger people that aren't learning anything about this until they get to, specifically an ESS type program once they get to college, because I think this department is still the biggest one on campus in terms of like student enrollment, but like, what about all the other students take in, you know, history majors, English majors, art majors are they learning about it in their classes in the same way? So education is definitely we need to do better about, I think at all levels and as many ways as we can. We've also got a lot of layers to this, but we've got a society and a culture that has been from my perspective, that's been intentionally manipulated and and had their attention diverted away from focusing on certain issues and environmental issues.

We've got a lot of corporate involvement and corporate control in our government, always. And so, a lot of times we see people that have been suffering with one or more environmental problems for some cases, decades and decades, and it doesn't really get that much attention. Even when we get big events that happened, like a little over a year ago, over in Ohio, there was a train that derailed in a place called East Palestine, Ohio. And it's barely over a year later, and people basically had their air, water and soil poisoned.

ZJ: How can we be most effective to local environmental activists?

MB: There's a lot of different forms of activism and advocacy, but most of the time, when we think about that stuff, it's, you know, a protest march or something like that, something big and obvious, but there's all kinds of ways that people can get involved with those kind of efforts. You can be part of a letter writing campaign or a phone bank campaign where people are calling like elected officials to sort of demand change on a particular issue. I mean, there's obviously anybody that has the ability to offer some monetary support to organizations or groups that are taking certain kinds of actions like that, that's actually helpful. The basic thing of just like actually having conversations with people around you, as tough as that can be.

And so sometimes people start their own, like grassroots types, organizations, it's like, if you don't see anybody else out there doing something that you think needs to be done, you know, you can be a person that starts that, and a lot of other things. Speaking of civil rights, or, you know, when women got the right to vote in the U.S., or the first Earth Day event, like, these were the start of these grassroots level things, these weren't already big organizations that existed, like, you know SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Comittee). It was a student group that played a hugely crucial role in the Civil Rights Movement. And it was just college students that got together and said, "Hey, nobody else is doing this, let's organize something, you know."

And in some ways, we can't, you know, as an individual, like, you can't all by yourself, do something, but you can start something that turns into a bigger thing, and you get other people involved. And that's when real, you know, you can really sort of start pushing for something.

The Comedy Corner

Boeing, a commuting racehorse and asteroid extremities

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**
Staff Writer
klepeis01@allegheny.edu

The Fitchburg commuter rail line struck a boat that was on the tracks on April 10, according to the Boston Globe.

There were no injuries reported and no damage to the train.

"Clearly there was some sort of scheduling conflict," said a passenger aboard the train. "I can't think of any other reason the ferry was using the train tracks."

The Miami Herald reported on April 10 that Delta Air Lines is changing their boarding process.

"We've decided to change boarding entirely," said a Delta representative. "We'll be implementing a Royal Rumble style process, calling individual numbers to board the plane."

Delta added that there will be more overbooked flights due to this, which means passengers will have to fight each other and throw people off the flight in order to reserve their own seat.

CNN reported on April 11 that Boeing has spent an additional $546,000 on personal air travel for their top executives since 2021.

"I don't see what the big deal is," said a Boeing executive. "We had to spend that money so we could fly in an Airbus. You think we're flying in a Boeing? Have you seen the news?"

Erie County Executive Brenton Davis used public funds to purchase six police-like badges for himself and members of his administration, according to the Erie Times-News.

Other county executives in the state — current and former — have questioned the necessity of such badges.

"I probably shouldn't have used public funds," Davis said. "But come on. Who doesn't want to show up on scene and flash a badge?"

An escaped racehorse was found at Warwick Farm station in New South Wales, Australia on April 5, according to Sky News.

"He was just minding his business," said one of the people waiting for the train. "He even took a step back when the train arrived to let people exit before he entered the train."

Centuries-old Roman paintings have been found in the ruins of Pompeii, according to USA Today on April 11.

"This such an amazing discovery," said an employee of the Archaeological Park of Pompeii. "I can't believe we found Roman paintings in an ancient Roman city."

An earthquake shook the southern California desert near Coachella on April 13, according to ABC News.

Reaching a magnitude of 3.8, the quake shook the area near where the music festival's first weekend took place.

No damage or injuries were reported.

"The desert was shaking like crazy," said a dessert vendor at Coachella. "It worked out well for me. My milkshakes basically made themselves."

AP News reported on April 15 that the world's most popular type of coffee, known as Coffea arabica, may be more than a half million years old.

"That's a relief," said a barista that AP interviewed. "I thought I was just bad at brewing coffee, I'm glad to know it's just stale."

A 2,000-foot asteroid passed by the Earth on April 15, according to USA Today.

"It was an astonishing sight to behold," said a Meadville resident who witnessed the event. "The asteroid had 2,000 feet but only 1,000 hands."

Will Smith surprised attendees on April 14 at this year's Coachella, performing his 1997 song "Men in Black" from the film of the same name, according to CNN.

Smith finished his performance by pulling out the memory-erasing neuralyzer and exiting the stage.

"Will Smith didn't perform at Coachella," said one of the attendees at the concert. "I think I would have remembered if he did."

UPI reported on April 12 that a bear had attempted to break into a parked Florida state trooper patrol car.

"He could just be a trooper who lost his keys," said a Florida ursinologist. "If Smokey Bear can be a park ranger, I don't see why this fella can't be a police officer."

A dog missing in California since the summer has been found more than 2,000 miles away in suburban Detroit, according to AP News.

The Houman family — the owners of the dog — were en route to Minnesota when the call came about their dog. Upon arrival they embarked on a 10-hour drive to Michigan to reunite with Mishka.

"I have no idea how they found me," Mishka said. "I told them I was taking a road trip from the West Coast to the East Coast. I was really hoping to make it to Atlantic City."

This week in Allegheny history, as told by The Campus

April 22, 1971

- For Allegheny's second Earth Day celebration, former Governor of Pennsylvania Raymond P. Shafer, '38, delivered the keynote address on April 21 at 7:30 p.m. His speech was meant to kick off the Earth Day events.
- Though The Campus did not run coverage of Earth Day events in their April 13 and 16 editions, Allegheny students found themselves writing praise about how much people cared about ecological issues, despite being in the midst of the Vietnam War.

April 22, 1980

- The Campus ran a preview of the events in their April 16 edition.

Allegheny College, alongside the Meadville community, hosted a variety of events to celebrate the 10th year of Earth Day. Events included:

- Tour of the Linesville fishery and hatchery, Woodcock dam and Meadville waste/water treatment plant
- Lectures and slideshow presentations in the Campus Center and Alden
- A showing of "Sensor Suicide" in Quigley Auditorium with a discussion afterward

April 22, 1988

- In the April 28 edition, The Campus reported that Allegheny's Society for Environmental Awareness celebrated Earth Day with several campus activities to raise environmental awareness. Events included:
  - A petting zoo in front of Alden Hall
  - Planting two oak trees on campus
  - Assisting Allegheny's Outing Club in setting up their informational display in the Campus Center lobby
  - In addition to these activities, there was supposed to be a hot air balloon event that had to be rescheduled

April 22, 1993

- Allegheny's Society for Environmental Awareness celebrated Earth Day the Saturday prior, hosting band performances, environmental awareness speeches and a t-shirt sale. Funds from the T-shirt sale went to supporting research in the biology and environmental science departments.
- In the April 22 edition of The Campus, staff members wrote an editorial calling for Allegheny to become a more environmentally conscious college. Specific grievances were with energy-draining lights and heat, and with loosely-sealed residence halls that required more energy to heat.

April 22, 2001

- For this year's Earth Day, Allegheny College awarded an honorary degree to real-estate environmentalist Douglas Durst. Durst attended Allegheny for two years before graduating from Fieldstone School in 1962.
- On top of receiving a Doctor of Humane Letters, Durst spent the day on campus meeting with faculty and environmental science and studies students.

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

Krone to study Jewish community farming in Boston

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

Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Adrienne Krone is the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship and a residency with the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute in Boston as of this semester. Krone will be continuing her previous research into Jewish community farming in the U.S. and Canada during her sabbatical in the next academic year.

"All of this is to do the book project that I've been working on, on Jewish community farming, which I'm tentatively titling 'Jewish community farming, the climate crisis, and the future of Judaism,'" Krone said.

Krone's background is in religious studies, but her research on these community farms made for a smooth transition into the Environmental Science and Sustainability department when the Philosophy and Religious Studies program was dissolved. She began teaching at Allegheny in fall of 2016 and continued her research throughout her track to tenure.

"My dissertation to get my Ph.D is about religious food movements, and for that project I did fieldwork at two Jewish community farms," Krone said. "I was offered a grant to continue that project and study the entire Jewish community farming movement. I've been to— I think there's about 25 Jewish community farming organizations in the U.S. and Canada."

Her research through the years has come to include students as well.

"In 2017 and 2018, three Allegheny students each of those summers worked with me, doing that research; traveled with me, interviewed with me, did farming with me," Krone said.

Findings from her conversations with participants in these organizations have also influenced what Krone talks about in the classes she teaches.

"I would say a lot of things I teach are related," Krone said. "I'm teaching 'Intro to Judaism' right now, which is mostly about Jewish history and Jewish culture and Jewish religion, but I of course sneak things in at the end and along the way about agriculture."

Krone's research focuses on the connections between farming, faith and sustainable practices in Jewish communities.

"If you look at the Hebrew Bible, the ancient Israelites were an agricultural people; they were very connected to the land," Krone said. "So a lot of this is a project to reconnect Jews to literally their roots through roots, but with this eye on, there's not going to be a future if we don't do something about this now. And so a lot of this is directly engaged in climate mitigation and environmental advocacy work as well."

Krone's primary mode of research has been in interviewing participants of the organizations she visits, along with doing the physical farming work herself. In talking with participants, Krone explained that she is interested in how religion and sustainable farming are both reasons



KRONE

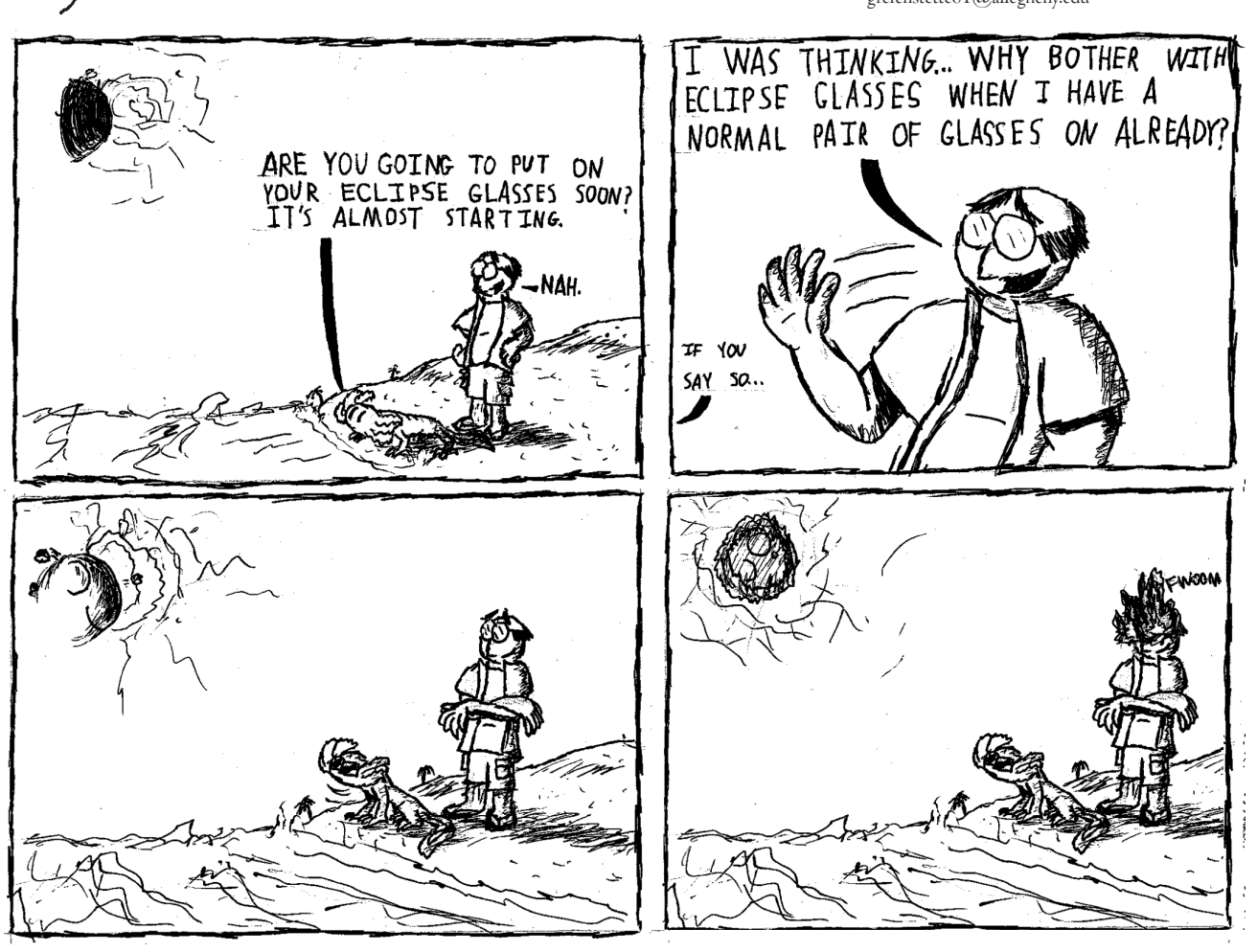
as to why someone would participate in a religious farming organization, specifically.

"People could farm a lot of places— they're choosing to farm in Jewish places," Krone said. "What is Jewish about the work that they're doing? How are they connecting to this as a Jewish person? How is it helping them develop both a Jewish identity and an identity as maybe a farmer, or a gardener or wherever they're going to go in the future?"

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>
> —ADRIENNE KRONE
> Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability
> Allegheny College

Cognitive Dissonance

By **HENRY GREFENSTETTE**
Editorial Cartoonist
grefenstette01@allegheny.edu



‘Wear and Tear’ show features student textile art

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
Staff Writer
zavala01@allegheny.edu

The Student Art Society aimed to display student textile art through their gallery which featured a variety of different styles and themes.

On Wednesday, April 10 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. SAS transformed the student-run Boxx Gallery into a diverse display of talents within textiles, including crochet and fashion pieces.

President of the Student Art Society Jane Grabowski, ’24, said she spearheaded the project to bring opportunities for people to learn about how galleries work in terms of installing and de-installing artwork.

“I want it to be a nice community space where people can come together and share about art,” Grabowski said. “I am really interested in DIY community art spaces and I want the Boxx Gallery to be that.”

Bridgette Reeb, ’25, said she submitted a green crochet shawl, “Dewdrops at Daybreak,” and shared that her art usually has a level of personal significance to it.

“I started it during the pandemic when I was living alone in the middle of Southwest Georgia,” Reeb said. “I had a friend named Julie Aggie who was very kind to me and even though we had a lot of theological differences, she was a very kind person and she always commented very positively on the stuff I did.”

Aggie died from cancer during the pandemic, so Reeb continued the shawl, as she had been planning to gift it to Aggie.

“I think I was thinking of her basically every time I picked it up,” Reeb said. “We all lost people but she had a really tough time and her family really relied on her.”

Because the gallery did not have an information placard for the pieces, Reeb said the exhibition felt like indirect emotional communication.

“It is a way of being intimate with others without being completely intimate with them,” Reeb said. “I am glad that there is a space like the Boxx Gallery and an organization like the Student Art Society because I think it is a really important opportunity for people to be able to feel as though their artwork is valid.”

Reese Forella, ’27, said her journey in crafting her crochet flowers began in high school when she had to submit a project and felt she had an interest in crochet.

“I purchased all the materials and I just watched YouTube videos to follow along,” Forella said. “It probably took three weeks to make all of those.”

Reese said that while a main gallery exists, she thinks the Boxx Gallery is valuable because it is important to display non-traditional academics.

“That’s how people express themselves and it is what they’re good at so I think it’s really nice to have a space that honors that,” Forella said. “I am just proud that they look like flowers because the project was very ambitious for me and it took a lot of time and I am very good at running out of patience.”

Alyssa Gent, ’27, said the Boxx Gallery was their first experience submitting artwork to a show and gained practice from being included. While not everyone’s work was created specifically for the art gallery, Gent’s work was created for the showing.

“I didn’t expect a lot of feedback because I had gone to take a picture with my parents and then go home,” Gent said. “But when people saw me take a picture with my art I was bombarded with compliments.”

Much of Gent’s inspiration came from having to create a piece for the gallery because she usually has a higher creative drive when under pressure.

“I had only decided to start making it 48 hours before it was due and so like I hadn’t created anything that fast in a while,” Gent said. “It is not necessarily artist block, just sort of lack of inspiration in the first place because I don’t desire to create all the time.”



EVELYN ZAVALA/THE CAMPUS
Flowers crocheted by Alyssa Gent, ’27, sit on display during the “Wear and Tear” exhibition on Wednesday, April 10.

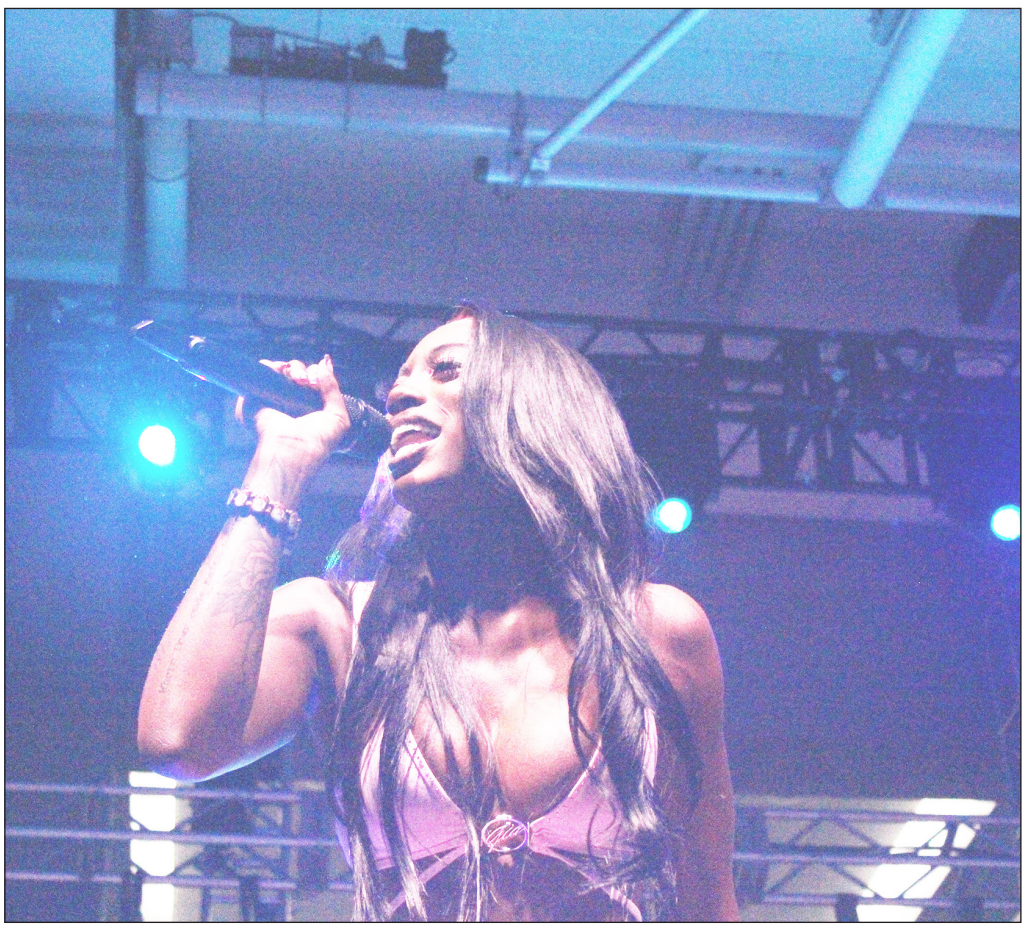
Gent said they think having art galleries is important at Allegheny because it is a liberal arts college.

“I think for the most part it’s not fostered to the point it could be but I think the art galleries really create a creative space that seems like a characteristic that should be more prevalent here,” Gent said.

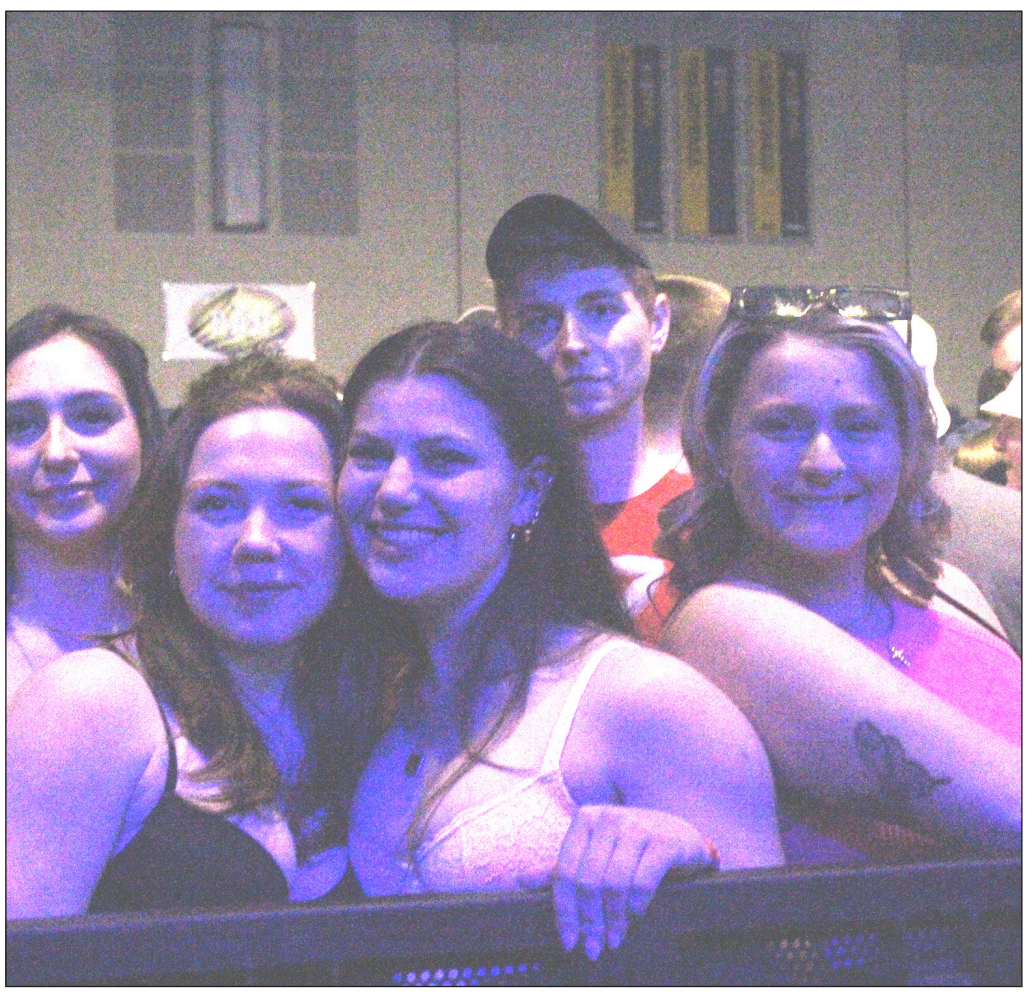
The 2024 SpringFest MEC Concert



RAY KRISHTUL/THE CAMPUS
Opener NLE Choppa raps to a crowd of students at the 2024 SpringFest concert.



RAY KRISHTUL/THE CAMPUS
Headliner Flo Milli performs at the 2024 SpringFest onstage in the Wise Center’s Mullen performance arena.



RAY KRISHTUL/THE CAMPUS
Students stand at the crowd barrier next to the stage during the concert on Saturday.

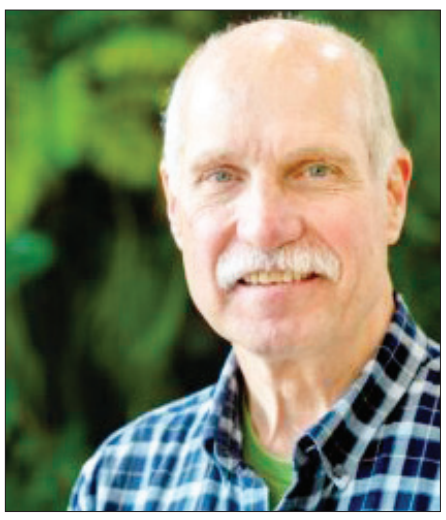


RAY KRISHTUL/THE CAMPUS
Students standing on the bleachers raise their hands in a heart shape for NLE Choppa.

Ask Allegheny

Environmental science and sustainability professors and faculty

What is one of the major environmental issues you as a professional focus on, and what, if anything, gives you hope for the future?



TERRENCE BENSEL

Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Science

One of the major environmental issues that I focus on is energy use and the environment, and in particular the energy transition away from polluting fossil fuels and towards renewable energy alternatives. It's fair to say that I've been an advocate for such an energy transition for almost 45 years now, first as a student activist and then, eventually, as an academic and a professor. It's also fair to say that much of that time has been frustrating as well-financed, fossil fuel-funded campaigns have undermined investment in renewable energy development and deployment, while short-sighted analyses claimed that renewables were far more expensive than fossil fuels while completely ignoring all of the social and environmental externalities associated with the latter. In the last 5-10 years all of that has begun to change; rapidly and dramatically! The bulk of new electric generating capacity being added in this country today is in the form of wind, solar and other renewables. Onshore wind power and utility-scale solar projects are now among the cheapest sources of electricity to develop. Could we be doing more? Yes. But the change from just 10 years ago is remarkable and long overdue, and for that I have more hope for the future.



KURT HATCHER

Sustainability Coordinator

It's tough to call out a single issue that I work on, because our office touches so many different aspects of campus operations. That being said, one that has been most interesting to me since I started in this position has been the intersection of sustainability and diversity, equity and inclusion. The 2 areas share similarities: they must be fairly infused into the culture of the institution, they require us to examine the way we do things and be open to change, and they represent core values that we continuously aspire to (rather than jobs to do, or endpoints to achieve).

Two things give me hope. First, I've seen so much change in the last 17 years. Things happen slowly, incrementally, sometimes painfully so, until they don't. And once we see a huge change unfold, it seems obvious and inevitable in hindsight. The part that required persistence and sacrifice, organizing, and marching and voting is sometimes forgotten. I try to keep the long view in mind, even when the short term outlook seems bleak. Second, I have worked with incredible students who go on to do meaningful and necessary work. They persist, sacrifice, organize, march, and vote. The odds of success appear much greater once you know that our ranks are growing every day.



DELIA BYRNES

Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability

As someone working in the interdisciplinary field of Environmental Humanities, the major environmental issue I focus on is how we tell stories about the environment and how those stories materialize in specific human-environment relations, from extractivism to interdependence; from climate despair to hope; from neoliberal individualism to multispecies community. I have immense hope for the future, which is re-ignited every time I learn about the work of grassroots activists who push us beyond a carbon-constrained world. I'm especially inspired by the global Blockadia movement, which encompasses the civil disobedience of the Pacific Climate Warriors, the #NoDAPL water protectors, and a vast network of direct action protests against fossil fuel infrastructure. I'm also inspired every day by the commitment of Allegheny students to social and environmental justice!



RICH BOWDEN

Professer of Environmental Science and Sustainability

I love studying and being in forests because they are so darn interesting and they are simply beautiful. It is phenomenal that a tree can use an invisible gas in the atmosphere to produce a visible object that can tower hundreds of feet aboveground, and that provides homes to wildlife, holds soil in place, recycles water, and provides wood that we can use.

There is an enormity of hope in each student who learns about forests, and who appreciates their beauty and function. I am encouraged by local organizations like the AC Watershed Conservation Research Center, the French Creek Valley Conservancy, the Northwest PA Woodland Association, and the Foundation for Sustainable Forests that all work actively to protect forests and help local landowners protect their forests. I'm also excited by numerous ways in which forest science is being used by forest managers in creatively and sustainably use forest ecosystems.



ADRIENNE KRONE

Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability and Religious Studies

A lot of my academic work focuses on the intersections between religion and agriculture, like my current project on Jewish Community Farming. I find hope in the work that religious communities are doing to move us towards smaller-scale sustainable agriculture systems. I also find hope in the local efforts in this area. I recently joined the Meadville Market Authority and I am so inspired by the work our team at the Meadville Market House is doing to support and promote local farmers and artisans.



WENDY KEDZIERSKI

Director of Creek Connections

The major environmental issue I focus on as a professional is watershed health and educating people about the issues and their part in improving conditions for the future. Working with young people gives me hope because they are so caring and willing to do the work needed to make things better. We are beyond the debate on whether change is happening and focusing on what we can do right now to address the changes to come. Seeing students discover living creatures in their local waterways never gets old. The students are full of curiosity and wonder and once they see the complex ecosystem doing its thing, they want to find out how to keep the ecosystem thriving into the future.



IAN CARBONE

Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability

My work focuses on energy systems and climate change. The pace of our accelerating energy transition gives me hope. Global renewable energy development increased by 50% between 2022 and 2023. Experts predict that this growth will continue to accelerate over the next five years.

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