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Meadville community honors 25th anniversary of 9/11



AUBRYANNA SNYDER/THE CAMPUS

Firefighters walk up and down the bleachers at the Crawford County Fairground on Sept. 11 to honor the first responders who climbed the 110 stories of the World Trade Center in 2001.

By **EMMA CONTI-WINDLE**
"Ask Allegheny" Host and Producer
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On the morning of the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, dozens of children's heads turned up at a clear blue sky as a commercial airplane soared through it, the sound of its jets, cutting through a silent and somber gathering of Meadville community members.

Minutes later, Crawford County Commissioner, Scott Schell, stood at the podium on the top of the steps in front of the Crawford County Courthouse and addressed the crowd that surrounded them at the Crawford County 9/11 Memorial Service and Emergency Services Memorial Dedication. He began his speech by thanking the faculty and staff at Seton Catholic School for bringing students to the memorial, gesturing to the young children dressed in red uniforms, sitting cross-legged in the grass in front of the stairs.

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Students collect 380 pounds of trash during annual French Creek Cleanup



WES PRICE/THE CAMPUS

Allegheny students pose with the trash they collected along the side of routes 6 and 19 in Saegertown during the 2026 French Creek Cleanup on Sept. 12.

By **WES PRICE**
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The rustling of plastic debris, the sound of trash being piled into cars and the rushing of French Creek accompanied the 414 people who attended the annual French Creek Watershed Cleanup on Sept. 12, according to Wendy Kedzierski, the director of Creek Connections, a partner of the event.

Throughout the day, community members, environmental organizations and Allegheny College students engaged in a friendly competition to see who could gather the most trash from in and around Crawford County's most prominent waterway.

The annual event is organized by the French Creek Valley Conservancy with support from many local organizations and businesses.

See CREEK | page 8

PennDOT to hold public meeting on local roundabout construction project



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PENNDOT

The intersection of North Main Street, Allegheny Street and Limber Road, where PennDOT is considering building a roundabout, is highlighted in red.

By **NATHAN GEORGE**
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Construction of a long planned roundabout near Allegheny's campus will be the focus of a public meeting which will be held on Thursday, Sept. 24, in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) issued a press release on Tuesday. Sept. 8, announcing updates on the roundabout construction project at the intersection of North Main Street, Allegheny Street and Limber Road.

"At the open house meeting, attendees will have an opportunity to view information and provide feedback about the project, including current traffic and road conditions and the proposed roundabout," the press release stated.

"Project team members will be available to answer questions and provide information throughout the open house," The release continued.

In an email, PennDOT media contact Jill Harry wrote that the North Main Street intersection "is listed as a priority area for safety improvements for vulnerable roadway users (VRU), which is a designation we use to refer to pedestrians and bicyclists."

"A roundabout is proposed as a traffic calming measure to slow traffic moving through the intersection and also serve as a gateway of sorts to make drivers heading toward campus aware that there is a high pedestrian area ahead," Harry added.

The update follows years of deliberation since the roundabout project was first proposed.

See PROJECT | page 2

Gator2Gator moves to LinkedIn

By **PAIGE KAGENI**
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For Allegheny's upperclassmen, the question of what comes after college may be an arduous one. That's why the Center for Career and Professional Development's (CCPD) mission is to help students find the answer that works best for them. This help comes in numerous forms: resume consultations, interview coaching and practice, and browsing internships and employment opportunities on Handshake.

Gator2Gator, another useful asset, is helping to bridge the gap between students and their potential employers. In an email sent to students on Sept. 1, the CCPD shared that a Gator2Gator LinkedIn group was going to be added to their lineup to further aid users in their post-graduate planning.

A July 2024 press release describes Gator2Gator as a valuable resource for students looking to form connections for employment opportunities.

"Through the Allegheny platform Gator2Gator, there is an encyclopedia of alumni who are eager to connect with students and each other to offer career guidance, professional networking and advice on anything from relocation to how to get into a particular industry," the release stated.

Executive Director for the CCPD Erin O'Day-Frye, spoke with The Campus on the importance of Gator2Gator to those looking to bolster their connections ahead of their entrance into the workforce.

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In this week's Campus...

ASG TALKS FINANCE

Staff Writers Anton Hodge, '27, and Wes Price, '28, share notes from Tuesday's ASG General Assembly, which covered important information about club budgets and school funding.

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ONE YEAR LATER: A PERSPECTIVE OF CHARLIE KIRK

Contributing Writer Xeniator Kamara, '30, shares how her perspective on politics has changed since Charlie Kirk was assassinated a year ago.

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ALLEGHENY FOOTBALL TEAM STARTS SEASON WITH 2-0 RECORD

Allegheny's football team looks to build on a promising offseason. Contributing Writer Jeremy Downing, '30, previews the season.

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FRIDAY
H: 75° L: 53°
Rain: 3%
Sunrise: 7:04 a.m.
Sunset: 7:25 p.m.

SATURDAY
H: 73° L: 62°
Rain: 65%
Sunrise: 7:05 a.m.
Sunset: 7:23 p.m.

SUNDAY
H: 67° L: 57°
Rain: 55%
Sunrise: 7:06 a.m.
Sunset: 7:22 p.m.

Letter-from-the-editors: Why The Campus signed an amicus brief in Pointer v. Phelps

By **EDITORIAL BOARD.**

THE CAMPUS
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The Campus Editorial Board voted to support an amicus brief on Aug. 31 in support of Pointer v. Phelps, joining 40 student publications and 15 student editors from both large and small colleges across the country. The brief was filed by a Student Press Law Center-led coalition consisting of the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, the Associated Collegiate Press, the College Media Association and the Society of Professional Journalists. It emphasizes the important role that student journalism plays at colleges nationwide and warns of the threat to the First Amendment and student press freedoms nationwide that are at stake in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals'review of the University of Alabama's closure of two student publications.

The amicus brief — a legal document filed by an entity with an interest in the case, but who is not a party in the case — urges the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to reverse the decision made by the federal district court. We signed onto the brief in our capacity as a nonprofit, editorially independent newspaper. Allegheny College is not a member of the Student Press Amici and did not otherwise participate in the Student Press Amici's brief in support of the plaintiffs.

We believe the brief provides a strong argument for the potential damage to the First Amendment and student publications across the nation that this ruling could cause.

In Dec. 2025, the University of Alabama suspended two student-run magazines, "Alice" and "Nineteen Fifty-Six," claiming the outlets were "unlawful proxies" for discrimination because they primarily focused on women and Black students. Eight students sued the university, alleging it violated the First Amendment. In May, a federal district court held that the university likely did not violate the First Amendment. In reaching that preliminary decision, the court effectively held that the student magazines were government speech, not an independent perspective. That decision, the brief notes, is contrary to six decades of case law securing the independence of student media at public colleges.

"Collegiate student media uphold the great traditions of the Fourth Estate — serving as watchdogs of government officials and fostering the 'marketplace of ideas' that American colleges and universities ought to promote," the brief states.

Student journalists should be able to rely on the freedoms offered by the First Amendment without fear of repercussions when publishing content that touches on topics that might be uncomfortable or unpopular.

"The next student journalist who uncovers a university president's research fraud, finds evidence of toxic mold in campus housing, or has sources claiming public funds have been misused, will have to ask before reporting whether her publication is next on the chopping block," the brief argues.

Choosing between reporting the truth or the threat of persecution is exactly the chilling effect on journalism this case seeks to avoid. If editors and writers believe their publication's mission can be turned against them, they may avoid covering race, gender, inequality, politics or other topics that are in need of independent journalism.

The Campus has served as a learning ground for student journalists for 150 years. An environment that promotes free speech and creates a public forum is more important today than ever before. The mission of The Campus cannot be met if each topic being reported on carries the risk of the dissolution paper. The protection of the First Amendment must remain extended to student journalists so they can write for their respective student publications and present diverse perspectives without fear of retaliation. The Campus remains committed to ensuring that student press freedom is preserved.

The above editorial represents the majority opinion of The Campus newspaper editorial board. The editorial board consists of Co-Editors-in-Chief Aubryanna Snyder and Ben Stavnezer, News Editor Maddox Brown and Features Editor Lorena Silva Soares de Oliveira.

ASG discusses club budgets, college funding

By ANTON HODGE
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By WES PRICE
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Allegheny Student Government met on Sept. 15 to hear a guest speaker, consultant Nick VanDemark, speak about upcoming student engagement research. Two new senators for the class of 2027 were also sworn in.

The meeting Tuesday started off with attendance followed by the swearing in of Carly Beers '27 and Skyler Fatola '27, the two new senators for the class of 2027. After finishing their vows the general assembly greeted them with rapid knocking on the tables.

"I'm really excited to communicate ideas from our senior class to have a voice on this campus," Beers said in a follow-up interview.

Consultant Nick VanDemark explained his upcoming research into student-community engagement as "Trying to prove students with more connections off-campus are having a more complete experience; get more jobs, relationships, everything and gathering that information based on direct surveys." VanDemark explicitly noted the ineffectiveness of emailed surveys. A long-term goal for the program, which will last at least four to five years, is to determine, "Do students think of Meadville as home? Or like they're just visiting for the semester?"

Several ASG cabinet members had suggestions and advice for how to connect with students. ASG President Ella DeRose, '27, emphasized the importance of interacting with specific student cohorts and the trends of their specific groups. Director of the Treasury Anna Turhan, '27, built on an idea expressed by VanDemark of utilizing the introductory freshman courses to suggest utilizing JSEM and SSEM courses as potential information gathering sites for more advanced students.

Turhan led off cabinet reports by announcing the finance committee has reviewed 63 club budget applications, some of which were "repetitive," and will be conducting final approval this week.

Director of Finance Daniel Servey, '29, informed ASG of a tentative meeting time with the Allegheny College CFO to discuss club budgets on Wednesday, Sept. 23. Additionally, full release of finance request forms are pending, alongside work continuing to establish the funding process of student organizations under new systems. No budget expenses [were recorded] for ASG this week were recorded.

"Budgets this year are aligned with what ASG has been greenlighted by the college, there is a slight disparity, and that's the reason why it's taken us so long to get the finance requests out," Servey said. "It is a lot of having to go through club budgets and seeing what is necessary, what is unnecessary and what ASG can actually provide funds for."

> "We so far haven't dipped into cutting any mandatory operations to clubs. Anything the club needs funding for to operate, they will be able to get."
>
> —DANIEL SERVEY
> *Class of 2029, Director of Finance*

In an upcoming meeting he hopes to secure all the funding needed to actually provide for the budgets of clubs on campus. Servey also warned that there may be cuts to club budgets,

"We are certainly not targeting any clubs specifically with funding cuts. As far as it is right now, we are working with a pretty good budget for what we have, and all of the cuts across the clubs do seem pretty equitable," he said. "We so far haven't dipped into cutting any mandatory operations to clubs. Anything the club needs funding for to operate, they will be able to get."

Co-Director of Student Affairs Brandon Thompson, '29, continued to encourage ASG members to join the dining committee, a body open to all students that meets with Parkhurst to discuss ongoing issues and student concerns.

Attorney General Mary Evans, '28, announced the judicial review board of three members who evaluate disciplinary issues among ASG have been selected and will be introduced at the next General Assembly.

Class Senate reports began with Class of 2027 President Reese Forella announcing the class has begun to plan an upcoming event for the semester.

Class of 2028 President Kerrigan Swartz introduced planning for a Grounds for Change open tab on Oct. 2 was being developed.

Class of 2029 President Aaron Navarette announced the beginning of planning for future events and possible tabling in the Henderson Campus Center lobby.

Class of 2030 President Ayesha Huq announced a tabling event in support of voter registration efforts was underway, with hopes to introduce collaborative efforts down the line.

DeRose announced the search for a director of sustainability was ongoing and had several candidates.

ASG introduced two new motions of business, the first rounds of voting on Allegheny College Investment Club and Allegheny College Bangladeshi Student Association, both represented by ASG class of 2028 Senator Nehal Rafin and student Keyliannys Peralta Garcia, '30. Both clubs passed the first of two required voting rounds to gain recognition, with 20 votes of approval and none against or absent.

PROJECT *from page 1*

In Feb. 2017, former press officer for PennDOT's District 1 Jim Carroll described the roundabout to The Campus as a potential long-term project amid a multi-year effort to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection.

Allegheny students, faculty, administrators, and local government authorities have worked to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of North Main Street, Allegheny Street and Limber Road, since the death of Hannah Morris, '17, on Oct. 29, 2015.

Morris, who was struck by a car and later succumbed to serious injuries, is one of a few students to incur physical harm on North Main Street. As recently as Nov. 2024, an Allegheny student was struck by a car and sent to Meadville Medical Center with minor injuries according to *The Campus*.

Ideas proposed to improve pedestrian safety have also included lowering the North Main Street speed limit, raising the intersection to improve motorist visibility and adding lights to signal pedestrian crossings on North Main Street, the last of which was implemented in 2016.

In addition to the upcoming public meeting, PennDOT created a webpage on the agency website where residents can track the progress of the roundabout project. At the time of writing, the website described the roundabout as in the "design" phase, the second of the project's four phases, with construction projected to begin in 2028 and conclude in 2029.

Webpage visitors are also invited to virtually share feedback on the project by clicking a blue button to "Submit a Comment." A virtual plans display and public comment period will extend from Sept. 24, through Oct. 8.

The release says that individuals unable to attend the upcoming meeting or access the project webpage can share their input with PennDOT Project Manager Chris Boyer-Krantz via email (chboyer@pa.gov) or phone (814-678-7379).



BEN STAVNEZER/THE CAMPUS

Cars wait to turn at the intersection of North Main Street, Allegheny Street and Limber Road.

NOTICE: Vukovich Patio repairs to begin Monday

CONTENT PROVIDED BY PHYSICAL PLANT

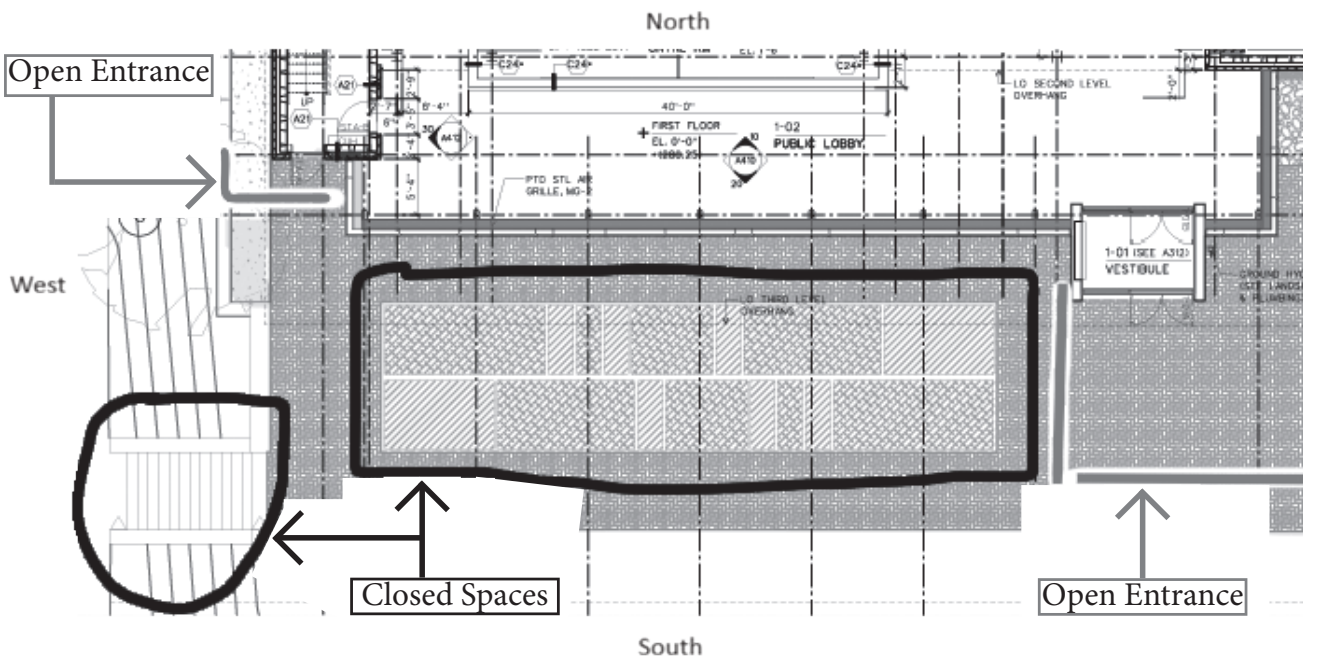
Portions of the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts patio as well as the southwestern staircase across from Alden Hall will be temporarily closed in late September.

Over time, erosion has caused the patio to settle beyond design, resulting in improper drainage. The closure will begin Monday, Sept. 21, following Blue & Gold Weekend festivities, and is expected to be complete within four weeks, weather permitting.

The structure is still safe for daily use, but Physical Plant has determined it will need to be addressed before this winter's snowfall and subsequent thaw. While construction persists, a temporary fence will restrict access to most of the patio. The building's primary entrance and the first-floor stairwell exit on its western wall will remain open.

The map at right shows the closed portions circled in black. The grey lines indicate building entry points that will remain open.

If you have additional questions or concerns, contact the Physical Plant office at (814) 332-5378.



GATOR *from page 1*

She says the revamping of the concept had come from concerns that the initial concept hadn't been completely successful for those who used it.

The difficulty came from employers and alumni not appearing on the Gator2Gator platform, where most students congregated, missing the opportunity to connect with them.

"You'll find out when you're out in the world working, going onto another platform to do a thing that may or may not have any students looking for you or other alumni is probably not where you're going to prioritize your time," O'Day-Frye said "The other challenge with that particular platform was that a student could reach out, but alumni would not respond."

The CCPD maintains that serving students looks like facilitating meaningful relationships, such as bringing alumni to campus in search of viable candidates for work. O'Day-Frye spoke of one such instance with alumna Katie Shipp, '09, executive director of I Have The Right To. She brought on two Allegheny students to intern at the non-profit organization dedicated to providing resources for victims of sexual assault.

"That's created some really great opportunities for students. Without that, students wouldn't have been able to have that summer experience," O'Day-Frye said. "They wouldn't have known to connect with Katie, so a platform couldn't have made that relationship. And those are the kinds of things that we want to have happen, because those are the things that are really going to serve our students well."

Joining these efforts with LinkedIn makes these connections more significant. It led the CCPD to explore alternative options for synthesizing experiences like these for students, which naturally drew them to where they already existed.

"We're not replacing a one-to-one, Gator2Gator platform with Linkedin. We are, as part of the whole connecting Gators to Gators, using LinkedIn as one of those aspects of that connection," O'Day-Frye said. "And the rest is, 'Tell us what you want. Connect through your advisors, connect through your faculty, connect through courses, come to Blue and Gold Events."

The aforementioned press release speaks to CCPD's continued efforts to evolve Gator2Gator. It continues, "The Center is in the process of expanding the platform to include groups of people and opportunities that focus on a specific industry or affinity."

What students expect from the LinkedIn group are posts updating them on opportunities that can relate to their major, future field of work, and mentorship according to Director of Employer & Corporate Relations for the CCPD Lucia Conti, '00 With the amount of alumni already in the group, and more to come as the word of the group spreads, there's sure to be something for everyone.

"It's not about a student going and saying, 'Do you have a job for me? Hi, my name is blah, blah, blah, I'm this major, I'm graduating in May. Do you have a job for me?'" Conti said. "It's more about creating that relationship, talking about, 'How did you get where you are since Allegheny? What was your path, and what do you recommend?' And then, through these conversations, if something comes naturally out of that, even better."

> "We're not replacing a one-to-one, Gator2Gator platform with Linkedin. We are, as part of the whole connecting gators to gators, using LinkedIn as one of those aspects of that connection."
>
> —ERIN O'DAY-FRYE
> CCPD Executive Director

Conti also recommends taking advantage of programming that Allegheny offers students gearing up for life after college. Blue and Gold Weekend, beginning Thursday, Sept. 17, hosts a wide array of career fairs, networking events, and keynote speakers; all prime opportunities for students to meet alumni and form meaningful bridges ahead of their graduation. Connections through LinkedIn being conjoined with other efforts on the side of students, even when they don't necessarily apply to what they're studying, can be tremendously beneficial.

"It's ok to try a bunch of different things because the liberal arts education that you're getting here makes you nimble. It's shown that we're lifelong learners, that we have flexibility, adaptability, excellent communication skills, and problem solving." Conti said. "And I think that every Alleghenian walks out of here with that."

The Campus

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CRIME BLOTTER

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

No Crime Reported

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American in name or in actions? One year since the death of Charlie Kirk

By **XENIATOR KAMARA**
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My high school theater director gave us a break on Sept. 10, 2025. As I sat next to my fellow side characters, one of my friends turned their phone around and played a now infamous video.

"Charlie Kirk got shot," She said, as we all watched blood erupt from his neck and his body crumple.

In the moment, I wondered if this counted as worthy of a visit to the school counselor. Now, I see it played for humor online, with neck ache jokes and "Kirkaversary" TikToks that I've admittedly laughed at.

But why? How did Kirk become someone not worth mourning to some, and worthy of patriotic praise to others?

Charlie Kirk was someone I paid no attention to because he fell into the same niche in my mind as other conservative podcasters: big voices concerning topics that barely impacted them.

I had hoped, naïvely, that his death would receive the same attention the internet always gave happenings with their celebrity scandals, similar to Colleen Ballinger or IShowSpeed. Barely any.

When President Trump announced his death on Truth Social, I realized that it wouldn't wash over so easily, not when the President was using his own personal and extremely conservative social media to make such an announcement.

Over the next month, a blur of hatred and fearmongering overtook my social media. There were TikTokers in tears over Kirk, blaming 'liberals' for his death. I saw FOX News anchors insist that the left was heartless for not mourning him the same.

I witnessed skepticism on the shooter's identity spread, presumptions of them being a person of color, someone surely un-American. Then, when the identity of a Caucasian man named Tyler Robinson was revealed, the blame shifted to his transgender partner spurring his actions.

Watching the speculation, I couldn't help feeling it was all incredibly hypocritical. Hateful rhetoric being cited as the reason for Kirk's demise, when Kirk was actively dismissing the number of mass shootings in America as his last words, felt wildly irrational to me.

I consider myself to be a stout advocate for human rights and anti-censorship efforts. In parallel, Kirk seemingly thought himself an advocate of the average American who upheld "American values."

Our definition of American is why I cannot earnestly understand those who mourn him. I believe that the immigrants who moved their families here, legally or illegally, are more American than some born here.

I believe that everyone belongs in America, because we're known as the great melting pot. At the time, I simply thought of my political ideologies as follows:

If the American dream is defined by the ability to become grander than you've dreamt, then I believe that anyone who fights for their future is a far more American individual than the next person, and to uphold those values I'll fight to care about everyone.

> If someone could not extend a hand to their neighbor regardless of color, who they love, legal status or anything else, I can't mourn them nor empathize with their mourners. They would not offer me the same favor, because it would not fit in their definition of what makes an American."
>
> — XENIATOR KAMARA
> *Class of 2030*

In his time as a speaker, Kirk was American in name only. Within the land of the free, Kirk gave his thoughts at AmericaFest 2023, specifically that the United States made a "huge mistake when [it] passed the Civil Rights Act."

My father is a biracial man, my mother is a Mexican woman. There's no world where I see myself, nor anyone I love, believing the United States was superior with segregation. I wouldn't be able to speak my mind, to think or even exist in such a world.

After this revelation, I expanded my politics to include what could never fit. Denying anyone of their voice, I amended, is inherently un-American.

To avoid approaching from a place of ignorance, I familiarized myself with American keystones, like the Constitution, and found more contradictions in the American ideologies that Kirk swore his own.

For someone who campaigned on the First Amendment, Kirk rejected the presence of religions, going so far as to state that "Islam is not compatible" with the Western world on his podcast and support the baseless myth that Jewish people secretly rule the world.

Under my new definition, I can't imagine any American feeling such hatred and anger for an entire way of being. Not in the "Land of the Free."

Part of America's own founding was religious tolerance for all. How could one call themselves a patriot when denying one of America's founding values?

I came to a conclusion following Kirk's assassination. If someone could not extend a hand to their neighbor regardless of color, who they love, legal status or anything else, I can't mourn them nor empathize with their mourners.

They would not offer me the same favor, because it would not fit in their definition of what makes an American. I leave the first 'Kirkaversary' with this; I'll do my best to be an American the way America so desperately needs today.

Fall is when getting dressed gets fun again

By **ELIJAH BRIM**
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Some people look forward to fall for pumpkin patches, seasonal drinks, Halloween or football. I look forward to finally being able to put a fit together without sweating through it. Don't get me wrong, summer has its moments, but when it's 90+ outside I have no other choice but to throw on a basic outfit and call it a day. At a certain point, I think staying cool matters more to me than anything else. Fall gives me options again and that's a big reason, like Girl In Red says in her song "We Fell In Love In October," that's" why I love fall."

It is the ideal in between temperatures. It's cool enough to wear layers but not so cold that I have to fully cover myself with a big coat. I can throw on a jacket because it adds something to the outfit as opposed to a huge winter coat so I don't get hypothermia on my walk to class. Switching up my wardrobe might not sound like a traditional fall activity, but it's something I tend to look forward to every year.

Being from NYC and skating have both influenced how I dress. I like streetwear brands like Supreme but I also like designer and vintage clothing. Baggy denim, skinny denim, sweats, trainers, boots and jackets are all implemented in my style. I'd rather not stick to one niche. Juxtaposing pieces that might not seem like they go together is my favorite part about styling.

During the fall my daily fit usually consists of a vintage jacket, a pair of Double RL or Japanese denim with a low top trainer. Usually, I favor a shoe with a similar silhouette to Vans and Converse or even Golden Goose or Saint Laurent sneakers. I like to mix designer pieces with basics because I believe a good fit has less to do with how much everything costs and all to do with how well the pieces compliment each other.

Layering is one of the easiest ways to make a fit stand out because there's so much versatility in the style. I've worn flannels underneath unzipped hoodies with a blank or graphic tee as the base layer. Sometimes I'll put a hoodie under a denim or leather jacket. Long sleeve shirts as well as thermals underneath tees are also a really subtle but creative way to add to your outfit without trying too hard. I like the fact that layering lets me get more out of clothes that I already own. A t-shirt doesn't have to leave my rotation just because summer has, it could now become a part of a different outfit. Unzipping a sweater lets the flannel show, while sleeves coming out from under a t-shirt changes the whole look. Minor details give you more room to make an outfit more niche without fully switching up your entire closet.

> I like the fact that layering lets me get more out of clothes that I already own. A t-shirt doesn't have to leave my rotation just because summer has, it could now become a part of a different outfit. Unzipping a sweater lets the flannel show, while sleeves coming out from under a t-shirt changes the whole look."
>
> —ELIJAH BRIM
> *Class of 2028*

Skating is another reason I take a liking towards a more layered style. In NYC, you're skating around concrete and a bunch of other hard surfaces whether it's in the streets or in the skate parks so utilizing layers as a safety net for avoiding scraping your arms and legs tends to come in handy. But besides the obvious, the combination of baggy denim, sneakers and layered shirts or even just a hoodie not only feels like home but is like second nature for me at this point.

A good percentage of my clothes come from CFS Thrift, where I work in downtown Meadville. I like styling pieces I find there with my own pieces that I've sourced over time. The store has pieces for nearly every style and niche at very affordable rates. When it comes to styling a fit it's always exciting mixing pieces together that each have their own story behind it, old with new, old with old or even new with new. With that being said, any students looking to switch up their wardrobe for fall or just update it should definitely pull up.

Around campus, I notice most students start adjusting their wardrobes as the temperature drops. Then there are some students that keep wearing shorts/skirts & dresses straight into winter. Honestly, I respect the commitment. They might even throw a jacket on their torso with their legs out. As much as I enjoy dressing according to the season, I appreciate people who know what they like, have their own style and stick with it.

Music enhances the feeling of the season for me. Songs like Destroy Lonely's "Usual", Girl in Red's "We Fell In Love In October", and Lucki's "Sunset" immediately feel like fall. Certain songs just match the colder air, earlier sunsets and the changing of campus's look. This is what makes these small routines feel like traditions to me. I don't really need a bunch of big events or festivities to feel like I'm fully capturing the Fall season. Sometimes putting an outfit together and curating a Fall playlist is enough to make a simple walk to class something to look forward to.

The views reflected in Opinion articles are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily represent the view of The Campus newspaper editorial board.

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Football team starts season 2-0

By **JEREMY DOWNING**
Contributing Writer
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After two big wins against Juniata College (27-0) and Anderson University (28-12), the Allegheny College Football Team is now 2-0.

It is a significant milestone for the program. They are in their 4th year under Head Coach Braden Layer, and the last time the team started off this way was under coach Mark Matlak, '78, in 2010.

"It's been 16 years since Allegheny has been 2-0," Layer said. "That's provided a lot of motivation for our players."

This is the result of several years of work, including some tough losses. Wide Receiver Nicholas Burkey, '27, believes that this may be the year that hard work shows some results.

"I feel like we've been building this program well over the last three years," Burkey said. "I feel like we're finally in a good place, and I feel like we're ready to show what we can do."

> I feel like we've been building this program well over the last three years. I feel like we're finally in a good place, and I feel like we're ready to show what we can do."
>
> —NICHOLAS BURKLEY
> *Class of 2027*

Part of the team's mentality is to not think too far ahead, and only keep themselves focused on the next game instead of thinking about the season as a whole.

"Achieving your year end goals only happens if you're able to focus on one week and try each and every Saturday," Layer said.

That approach has already paid off in the first two weeks, but their success is not only from their mindset. The physical talent and performance on the field is just as important, and has been seen on one side of the ball in particular.

"The position group or the area that's going to jump off the film is our front seven [players] on defense," Layer said. In the game against Anderson University, the defense scored nine sacks on the quarterback, which tied an all time college record.

While the team's defense had made its potential clear, that has been in complement with the offense. Under Quarterback Carson Colucci, '28, Allegheny has performed well offensively, putting up 27 points in both games.

"I think it's kind of hard to point to one group specifically. I think the offensive line has improved tremendously from last year," Colucci said. "They really work hard, and they want to be there and they want to learn and they ask questions."

While the successes have been great, they had to endure significant challenges from last season. Allegheny lost many players over the summer on both the offensive and defense.

"I'm the only quarterback who came back," Colucci said. "All the other ones transferred or just didn't play football anymore."

Beyond just the team's quarterback, the offense also lost many other key players. That included their primary running back.

"Our running back led the conference in rushing last year," Layer said. "He now plays at Slippery Rock."

With all of the changes to the roster, including many new players, Layer identified experience as one of the team's biggest areas for growth. He thinks this team has what it takes to make a deep run instead of repeating last year's 4-6 campaign.

"From a lack of experience standpoint, we do make up for it though, in character and talent and work ethics," Layer said.

For Colucci, the main area for growth was on the mental side.

"I think just being able to be confident in ourselves is the main thing for me," Colucci said. "I think last year, there were some games that we might have lost before we got on the field."

Hopefully with a 2-0 start, that momentum will help them keep that confidence going, to reach larger goals. While Layer would love to discuss making the postseason, he has other goals in mind besides that, including the state of the team at the end of the season.

"We want our seniors to leave the program better than they found it," Layer said. "We want to make sure they're leaving here, raising the bar for what the expectation to be an Allegheny football player is all about."

> I think the offensive line has improved tremendously from last year," Colucci said. "They really work hard, and they want to be there and they want to learn and they ask questions."
>
> —CARSON COLUCCI
> *Class of 2028*

Colucci outlined the team's goal specifically in terms of seasonal success.

"I think the main goal that we set out to do is we want to play in the postseason," Colucci said.

Reaching that goal will require more than just the players and coaches though. Both Colucci and Layer emphasized the importance of having the support from the Allegheny community.

"Come out and support us," Layer said. "Support the athletes, get out, I want to see you in the stands, I want to see you in the rows and the bleachers cheering on the Gators."

Their next game is Saturday, Sept. 19. at 7:00 p.m. against Waynesburg at Frank B. Fuhrer Field.

Ask Allegheny

What makes Allegheny College feel like home?



Above: Mekayl Maajid, '28
Major: Economics
Minor: Data Science

"My friends."

Right: In back: Olivia Wilson, '27
Majors: Economics and Biology

"Our teammates."

Right: In front: Delaney Daney, '27
Major: Biology
Minor: Psychology

"Our teammates."



Left: In back: Karley Johnson, '27
Major: Neuroscience and Psychology
Minor: Biology

"Our friends."

Right: In front: Kathryn Surdykowski, '27
Major: Biology
Minor: Global Health

"Our friends."

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Market House hosts last Second Saturday of the season

By **AVRI DELAUTER**
Contributing Writer
delauter01@allegheny.edu

Vendors selling locally grown produce, handcrafted goods and more lined the exterior of the historic Meadville Market House on Sept. 12, to welcome this upcoming fall, The Meadville community also celebrated the last Second Saturday of the season.

Second Saturday is a separate, locally organized, event that also allows local artisans to sell produced goods. The farmer's market was hosted by the Meadville Market House in downtown Meadville this weekend on Saturday, Sept. 12. While the organizers are two separate entities, every year they come together to create a space for to sell handmade goods. Market Authority Chair Ashley Mattocks-Rose believes in the power of the market days to demonstrate how tight-knit the Meadville community is.

"It's a place where you have the privilege of knowing the farmer of where your eggs came from, that your kids are eating," said Mattocks-Rose.

From tables of handmade fabric bags and stuffed animals, to stands filled with bountifully fresh produce, the Markey House aims to offer something for everyone to try once. Brandon Wolfe, a horticulturist who works at the Meadville Area Recreation Complex, and a vendor at the farmer's market, appreciates the Market House as somewhere where people within the community have the opportunity to make relationships to last lifetimes with those around them. "I've gotten to meet people who have become my mentors, who run their own farms," Wolfe said. "Garrett Gleeson is one of those people, so he's been a mentor."

> People can see the difference from three years ago — sales are up 23%. The Market House glow up is real."
>
> —JESSE PANE
> Market House Manager

Garrett Gleeson, '11, owns and operates his own farm and participates in these community events.

A huge part in bringing the community together, especially for something like the farmer's market, is to figure out how to allow it to continue to grow and flourish within the community. One major way to do this has been to allow younger generations, especially college students to intern and volunteer for the local farms that are vendors at the Market House.

"I've had interns from Allegheny College, and that's always been a wonderful experience." Gleeson said.

With the help of Jesse Pane, the manager of the Market House, Mattocks-Rose and many others, the Market House has to raised $352,000 to put back into the community from the weekly farmer's markets and other activities the Market House hosts hosts.

> We wanted to support local farmers, and that's what we're all in it for, is to give as much support to the smallest of small businesses."
>
> —ASHLEY MATTOCKS-ROSE
> Market Authority Chair

"People can see the difference from three years ago-sales are up 23%," Pane said. "The Market House glow-up is real."

The "glow-up" in question has been a a series of small renovation projects with the help of approving grants, including door and window replacements. While the Market House has been long standing as a major community attraction in Meadville, the Second Saturday program has also been a key factor factor in helping the Market House grow perpetually in numbers. Starting out as a self-described "grassroots effort" by elementary school teacher and Second Saturday manager Emily Circoria.

With the Second Saturday program taking place once a month on Chestnut Street, they always work closely with the Market House to host their own respective event. They also have the shared goal of focusing on helping local businesses who make and sell products by hand grow and flourish here in Meadville.

"Everything that anyone sells has to be homemade, handmade, home grown," Cicoria said.

While both organizations have been able to work hand in hand to continue providing opportunities for the people of Meadville to build lasting relationships and connections with local farmers and businesses, there always is an underlying sense of worry, especially pertaining to the future of economic stability surrounding farming.

"It's very difficult, these times," Gleason said. "I think it shows there's so few younger farmers."

According to Pane and Mattocks-Rose, the main goal and purpose behind the Market House, and Second Saturdays, is to be able to preserve as much of the industry as possible.

"Of course we wanted to support local farmers, and that's what we're all in it for, is to give as much support to the smallest of small businesses," Mattocks-Rose said said.

The Market House plays a key role in preserving a strong essence and common understanding of the community, as well as an overarching focus on preserving the rich, 156 year history of the Market House.

"We're 156 years old and our job is to keep us going for another day, of course," Mattocks-Rose said. "Set us up for success for another 156 years."

Allegheny Recreation hosts annual Paddlefest



BENAIDEN CHEVILLE/THE CAMPUS
Triyasree Katta, '27, Chezka Quinola, '27 and William Nichols, '27, row a canoe during Allegheny Outing Club's annual Paddlefest held at Woodcock Lake.



BENAIDEN CHEVILLE/THE CAMPUS
Above: Radhika Schelbert, '27, Claire Norris, '27, paddle toward the boat ramp.



BENAIDEN CHEVILLE/THE CAMPUS
Above: Trenton Heasley, '27, guides his paddleboard into the dock.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 18 – THURSDAY, SEPT. 24

Allegheny Sports Schedule Home Games

9/18 FRIDAY	Women's Volleyball Allegheny vs. Fredonia DAVID V. WISE CENTER, 5 P.M.	9/19 SATURDAY	Women's Tennis Allegheny vs. Washingon and Jefferson TENNIS COURTS AT ROBERTSON, 10 A.M.	9/19 SATURDAY	Football Allegheny vs. Waynesburg FRANK B. FUHRER FIELD, 7 P.M.	9/21 MONDAY	Men's Golf Guy and Jeanne Kuhn Invitational THE COUNTRY CLUB OF MEADVILLE
9/18 FRIDAY	Women's Volleyball Allegheny vs. Adrian DAVID V. WISE CENTER, 7 P.M.	9/19 SATURDAY	Women's Cross Country Ben Mourer '07 Memorial Classic ROBERTSON ATHLETIC COMPLEX, 10:45 A.M.	9/20 SUNDAY	Men's Golf Guy and Jeanne Kuhn Invitational THE COUNTRY CLUB OF MEADVILLE	9/21 MONDAY	Women's Golf Guy and Jeanne Kuhn Invitational THE COUNTRY CLUB OF MEADVILLE
9/19 SATURDAY	Women's Volleyball Allegheny vs. Adrian DAVID V. WISE CENTER, 7 P.M.	9/19 SATURDAY	Field Hockey Allegheny vs. Transylvania ROBERTSON BLUE TURF, 12 P.M.	9/20 SUNDAY	Women's Golf Guy and Jeanne Kuhn Invitational THE COUNTRY CLUB OF MEADVILLE	9/23 WEDNESDAY	Women's Soccer Allegheny vs. Westminster ROBERTSON BLUE TURF, 12 P.M.
9/19 SATURDAY	Men's Cross Country Ben Mourer '07 Memorial Classic ROBERTSON ATHLETIC COMPLEX, 9:45 A.M.	9/19 SATURDAY	Women's Volleyball Allegheny vs. Houghton DAVID V. WISE CENTER, 1 P.M.	9/20 SUNDAY	Field Hockey Allegheny vs. Wittenberg ROBERTSON BLUE TURF, 12 P.M.	9/23 WEDNESDAY	Men's Soccer Allegheny vs. Westminster ROBERTSON BLUE TURF, 12 P.M.

9/11 *from page 1*

"A few minutes ago, a jet flew over top of us and did anybody's heart skip a beat?" Schell paused for a moment. "Yeah, it never dawned on me until that happened, and this is not a planned event — the plane is apparently just taking off from the airport. That's the last sound a lot of people ever heard. Give that some thought."

The crowd of community members, which included law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency services personnel, stood in pensive silence.

Schell's speech was one of several addresses made by community leaders at the event, including Meadville Mayor Jamie Kinder, Stone United Methodist Church Pastor Domingos Fernando, Crawford County Commissioners Eric Henry and Christopher Seeley and Chief Evan Kardosh of Meadville Central Fire Dept.

The impromptu flight of the jet overhead brought a heightened level of emotion and community to the annual event held in remembrance of the 2,977 people who, according to the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, were killed in terrorist attacks in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania that were carried out by al-Qaeda terrorists who hijacked four commercial planes.

Along with anecdotes, prayers and interpretations of the impact of the attacks on the nation, the program also included a reading of the 343 firefighters killed responding to the attacks. The reading was performed by 35 people, starting with Chief Kardosh and ending with three students of Seton Catholic School, and was followed by the ringing of a bell, in three sets of five rings.

Kardosh explained the meaning of the bells. "It signifies the start of a turn. It signifies when people are called out for a response, and most importantly, it signifies those when they have finally returned home or may never return home," he said. "The ringing of the bell signifies those who were not able to complete their tour, and we will carry their memory with us."

The bell was rung throughout the ceremony, which paused at each of the timestamps from the day of the attacks.

A special memorialization, unique to this year's service, was the dedication of the Emergency Services Memorial, a monument that Schell said will honor past, present and future first responders in Crawford County. Two firefighters pulled the black sheet off of the monument with four engravings, one each for emergency medical services, fire response, police and the Crawford County Department of Public Safety, as the crowd applauded.

9/11 Memorial Stairclimb

One of the people who read from the list of the 343 first responders was Brian Knickerbocker, a firefighter with Meadville Central Fire Department.

On the day of the attacks, Knickerbocker and his wife flew out of Boston Logan International Airport, from which two of the hijacked planes departed, mere hours before the plane hit the north tower of the World Trade Center. Now, he is the lead organizer of the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb, a fundraising event to support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, a congressionally founded nonprofit, in remembrance of firefighters who died in the line of duty.

Those participating in the event had the opportunity to climb the Crawford County Fairgrounds grandstand 17 times, an approximate equivalent to the number of steps required to reach the top of the 110-story World Trade Center towers, which were destroyed in the 2001 attacks.

Knickerbocker has been leading the event since its inception in 2021.

"The first year we did it, I had a flag I was carrying with a plastic pipe. I remember, you know, just to get people riled up, kind of banging on the metal steps. Obviously, it's not — we're doing this motion, but you don't have people coming down the stairs or hurt and injured. You don't have smoke and the smell of, the jet fumes, you know, the bad stuff, and the adrenaline of looking up and seeing 70 stories above you, there's a fireball that you gotta go fight," Knickerbocker told a class of Allegheny College journalism students. "So we obviously don't have anything like that, but it's still just trying to keep the memory alive of what happened."

To accommodate the work schedules of anyone who may have wanted to attend the event, there were two scheduled stairclimbs, one at 11 A.M. and one at 6 P.M. At the evening event, as the setting sun shined down on the silver bleachers, Knickerbocker watched proudly as people of all ages, some dressed in weighted vests, and others in full firefighting gear marched the stairs, high-fiving and sharing words of encouragement.

One of the things that really stood out to him this year, Knickerbocker said, is how many more present-day adults were not alive for the attacks, making it more important for acts of remembrance and education to occur.

Tyler Gable, 19, and a fourth generation firefighter, placed similar importance on preserving the memory of those lost in the attacks.

"I'm doing this to honor the brothers and sisters we lost 25 years ago," he said, standing at the bottom of the grandstand. "Now, I wasn't around, but I know people that were and I have a lot of respect for them, a lot of respect for the fire service in itself."

Gable joined the fire service seven months ago and runs with both Hayfield Central Hose Company and Fellows Club Fire Department in Conneautville.

Alexander Vincent, '27, has been volunteering with the West Mead 2 Fire Department since his first year at Allegheny College, although it's a commitment that goes back even further.

"My dad was in the military when 9/11 occurred," Vincent said. "I was born oversees. It was never a question."

Claire Conti, '30, is in her first year at Allegheny College, and her first month volunteering for West Mead 2. Her mother decided to join the Army shortly after the attacks.

"9/11 was one of those things that pushed her to do it and so, that kind of inspired me," Conti said. "I mean this is a really cool thing giving back and being able to do something like this is just amazing."

Echoing the backstories of Vincent and Conti, Gable said that the main influences on his choosing to become a firefighter were those closest to him.

"Family has a big influence on me. I may not see eye to eye with a lot of my family members," Gable said. "I know that when times matter, they've got my back and they're willing to go to hell and back for me."

Social implications of 9/11

This feeling of connection, loyalty and community that Gable references, seems to have been a national feeling in the wake of the attacks, even for those who were not first responders.

Kelly Boulton, '02, director of sustainability at Allegheny College, and Brenna Dykta, '03, remembered the connection on Allegheny's campus in the confusing and devastating first hours after the attacks.

Boulton was in class when the first tower was hit, and in an era without cell phones, she didn't hear about the attacks until after the class had concluded.

Having found her way to McKinley's Food Court, which at the time, had television monitors that often broadcast the news, she stood in the packed room watching as events unfolded..

"You know what McKinley's is normally like, right? Like, it's a lot of talking, a lot of moving around. It was dead silent," Boulton said. "It was a bunch of us all just like looking up at the TV and there was much less movement, much less talking. Then it was just quiet."

As more of the events of the day unfolded, Boulton recalled that students were checking in on each other, and sticking together to navigate their reactions, regardless of whether they really knew one another very well. But along with this newfound closeness between students as a result of the attack came a question she remembers many asking: Who did this?

Boulton, who had just returned from a semester in Israel, recalled being disturbed by theories held by news outlets in the early affirmation of the attack, that Palestine had perpetrated the attack.

"I was upset because when I was in Israel, I had traveled a lot in Palestine," she said. "The people that I met are still some of the most dear people to me, and I knew that, like, we were talking about them as if they were awful humans, and that wasn't my experience at all. So the pointing of fingers was happening in a wild way."

Dykta, who was also on campus at the time of the attack, lived in one of the only houses on campus that had cable and remembers 15 people squeezing into her tiny living room to watch the news. The following summer of 2002, Dykta interned in New York City, where she has now lived for 10 years, while clean up operations were still going on.

When she returned to campus in fall 2002, inspired by her experiences in New York City, she wrote her senior comprehensive project on the media's portrayal of the attacks and the cultural implications it had, including the establishment of a good and an evil. Connection and community were a few of these implications, and so was blame.

"I think, looking back with a more critical eye, everyone was just sort of, like, OK, we're in this together, whatever needs to be done, and we support George Bush," said Dykta. "You know, he had, like, an insane approval rating."

Throughout her research, Dykta found that there was dominant sentiment for revenge against the perpetrators of the attack, which left little room for productive discussion into who was responsible and how the United States relates to other nations. In her 2003 senior comprehensive project, she cited Nietzche, writing, "unceasing pain keeps an event in memory," in describing the violent imagery that she argued the United States news media gravitates toward, especially in its remembrance of the attacks. She also wrote about the ways in which photos of the attacks helped to dominate collective memory, and on the 25th anniversary of the attacks noted that this may have muddied the opportunity for more complex discourse about what was happening culturally at the time of their occurrence.

"There was no sort of time to pause and say, OK, well, who did really do this? What is the right thing that we should do next? There was not really discussion. It was just kind of like, if you're not with us, you're against us," Dykta said. "Then there was more dissent, then there was more, you know, opportunity for conversation, but at that point, it was then, like, almost too late, because the train had left the station."

Melody Devries, professor of communication and media studies at Allegheny College is trying to bring that train back around.

Humor as a way of dealing with the tragedy

Devries, who is from Canada, was in third grade at the time of the attacks and has been teaching at Allegheny since 2023, takes care in class discussions surrounding the events of Sept. 11 and the media discourse that surrounds them in hopes of facilitating discussions that open her students up to new perspectives. In her Communication, Media, and Culture class, she interrogates the shifting of 9/11 discourse to include online jokes and memes.

"I think that jokes are objectively a powerful medium for delivering content. They can reduce tension around things," Devries said. "But that reduction of tension around things is not always a good thing.

Devries is particularly critical of jokes about the attacks that deal with the races of the hijackers and masterminds behind them, and believes that they contribute to a more racist and Islamaphobic social dialogue.

"But then at the same time, I've been known to partake in the 9/11 joke, and I think that primarily, these jokes do something really fascinating where they take that thing that has become the holy grail for American patriotism, and they allow us to critique it, right? They take it off its pedestal, and they say, actually, like, why are we so obsessed with this? And they allow people to bring in broader and broader contexts, like racism against Muslim or Arab people, or, like, the propagation of American supremacy globally," Devries said. "So I think that these jokes are important."

And the content of a joke or piece of media is only half of the battle. Devries encourages her students to examine their habits of engaging with media, so that maybe Dykta's hope for a more introspective look at the United States' domestic and foreign relations and history might take place.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani Controversy

"If you have a habit with engaging with a certain kind of media or certain kind of media narrative, it's easier for you to take that on as part of yourself and as something you also believe and for you to incorporate that into your conception of the world that you live into," said Devries, specifically referencing the recent controversy surrounding Mayor Zohran Mamdani, New York's first Muslim mayor.

Former Mayor Rudy Guiliani, who served as mayor at the time of the attacks, as well as other critics of Mamdani publicly stated that Mamdani should not attend the memorial ceremony in New York City, according to The Guardian.

Devries disagrees.

"I do think it's important for a Muslim mayor to be there, not for the purposes of like needing to like prove himself per se. He shouldn't have to do that, but just like, because it showcases that we can be about more than that in moments when it matters," said Devries. "We can take moments of memorial, like true memorial. and make it about those individuals in that memory."

'Right kind of tribute'

It would seem as though regardless of where a person is from, what they believe, or the age-old question of where they were and what they were doing the day of the attacks, most seem to have a memory, or at least an awareness, of the day or its meaning that has become important to their cultural identity. These memories and identities can look different. Neither Devries, nor Boulton nor Dykta participated in a memorial of the attacks, unlike Knickerbocker and other members of the fire departments in the area, and still, all have given deep thought to the event.

Dykta goes so far as to avoid social media on the anniversary of the attack so as to not see footage of the attacks and said she did not plan to go anywhere downtown, where the memorial is taking place. She noticed nonetheless, that the city felt different, quieter, and more somber on Sept. 11, 2026, and wondered if it could have been especially due to the 25th anniversary.

She became emotional as she recalled a moment last week: A flight back from Pittsburgh took her up the East River, and over "Tribute in Light," a commemorative public art installation featuring two beams of light shot four miles into the sky.

"I do think it's really poignant," Dykta said. "I think it's a very simple thing that they started doing, but it just feels like the right kind of tribute."



LORENA OLIVEIRA/THE CAMPUS

Meadville authorities apeak on the steps of the Crawford County Court House, on Sept. 11.



LORENA OLIVEIRA/THE CAMPUS

Civilians and first responders bow their heads in a moment of silence to honor the lives lost in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

CREEK *from page 1*

The cleanup itself is a chance for the local community to connect with each other and take care of their landscape as Mai Pham, '30, points out.

"I think it creates a great relationship between school and the town and the people," Pham said.

Interest from the community in communal cleanup efforts is important to many of the organizations that work in and around the creek, as well as fostering goodwill between the college, local businesses, and the community itself. Josh Arnold, a species recovery biologist for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission thinks this goodwill extends beyond the community into protection of the environment.

"I think it's a great way to bring people together for a common cause, and the big thing in environmental conservation is getting the community involved," Arnold said. "When people get out and touch and interact with the rivers, they're more likely to be aware of them and want to protect them."

The French Creek Watershed is home to more than 100 species of fish and 27 different species of freshwater mussels, four of which are listed as federally endangered, according to Bryan Winston an assistant research scientist with the watershed Conservation Research Center. He was at the picnic following the cleanup for volunteers with specimens of the native fish and mussels.

"Pennsylvania has the second highest number of stream miles within the entire United States behind only Alaska. Most of those streams had never been surveyed before," Winston said.

These streams are rich in life and have come under threat as a result of pollution and erosion caused by human driven landscape change. Filter feeders, like mussels, which feed off of tiny microorganisms and organic nutrients floating downstream are highly susceptible to changes caused by human activity. When too much sediment gets into a creek, French Creek mussels literally choke on the sediment. Fish and amphibians like the famed eastern hellbender and mudpuppies can similarly die off as their environment becomes hostile to them. Volunteers contribute to maintaining a healthier environment for our native species.

"Volunteers help to move a lot of pollutants out of the river. Hellbenders especially need really clean, clear waters," Arnold said. "Trash in the river slowly leeches chemicals into the water that will then absorb through the skin and potentially make them sick. Removing all of the trash, helps keep all the waters clean, and it allows them to have a good clean habitat that they need."

Teams this year removed 25,680 pounds of trash from in and around the creek, according to reporting by The Meadville Tribune. Many local organizations in town were a part of this effort, sending out teams to clean and protect a vital waterway in this community.

At the Crawford County Fair Grounds where the volunteer picnic was held, teams came together to refuel on hamburgers, hotdogs, cold ice tea and collect their French Creek Cleanup 2026 volunteer shirt. There were also several partner organizations tabling at the picnic, selling merch and talking about the importance of the work done.

Cheryl Zalik of the Foundation for Sustainable Forests, whose work relates to forest management pointed to ties between this kind work and her own.

"If you have forests, you don't have erosion. So all that dirt and salt and everything isn't going into the watershed, it keeps the water clean," she said. These connections between other organizations, people and their work make for a connected community.

"A lot of people who are supporting these organizations support our organization, whether they be conservationists, water or forest people, whatever. We all realize the importance of everything on the planet and make it work for people, water and animals," she said. "These are people who do care, who do care about the world and what it has."



BEN STAVNEZER/THE CAMPUS

Liam Shields, '27, and Grace Moon, '28, examine a jaw bone from roadkill found on routes 6 and 19 during the French Creek Watershed Cleanup.



BEN STAVNEZER/THE CAMPUS

Vivian Potts, '27, pulls part of a car bumper from the weeds along routes 6 and 19.



NIKI HINEMAN/THE CAMPUS

Jaden Thomas, '29, carrying a grill, and Kailyn Magalich, '30, hauling a trash bag, collect the trash at Shadybrook Park they picked up to be weighed later at the Crawford County fairgrounds.



NIKI HINEMAN/THE CAMPUS

Milo Garrett, '29, carries an old scrap of metal and a toy car he found among the trees at Shadybrook Park.

Blue and Gold Weekend Schedule

Friday, Sept. 18

Gator2Gator Etiquette & Networking Luncheon
12-1:20 p.m. // Schultz Banquet Hall
A guided networking lunch for students. By invitation only.

Computer and Information Science Department Social & Panel Discussion
1:30-2:30 p.m. // Alden Hall
CIS Students, Faculty, Technical Advisory Board Members, panelists, and regional computer and information science alumni are invited for a meet and greet and panel discussion

Archives Open House
2-3 p.m. //Room 304, Wayne and Sally Merrick Historic Archival Center, Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library

Celebrating the Life and Career of Professor Emeritus Earl Adams
4:30-6 p.m. // Tillotson Dining Room, Patricia Bush Tippie Alumni Center
Join current and retired faculty, alumni, and family members and friends of Earl Adams for light appetizers and refreshments. Remarks will begin at 5 pm

Allegheny Gators Women's Volleyball Game vs Fredonia Blue Devils
5 p.m. // James H. Mullen, Jr. Performance Arena, David V. Wise Sport and Fitness Center

Blue & Gold Celebration
5-8 p.m. // Gator Quad (Rain Location: Henderson Campus Center Lobby)
Join fellow Gator family members and alumni in Gator Quad for an evening full of fun, free activities including a caricaturist, music, and more. Trivia kicks off at 5:30 p.m. — come dressed in your blue and gold! Treats will be available in the quad from Parkhurst, Kona Ice, and French Creek Kettle Corn with station takeovers featuring pub specialties for dinner (5-9 p.m.) in McKinley's.

Playshop Theatre: Revel/Reveal
7-7:45 p.m. // Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre, First Floor, Vukovich Center for Communication Arts
Under the creative leadership of Susaan Jamshidi '01, Allegheny students perform a devised piece that celebrates the transformations that come about at this time in their lives.

Allegheny Gators Women's Volleyball Game vs Adrian Bull Dogs
7 p.m. // James H. Mullen, Jr. Performance Arena, David V. Wise Sport and Fitness Center

Competition of the Muses (formerly Greek sing)
8-9:30 p.m. // Shafer Auditorium, First Floor, Henderson Campus Center
Enjoy choreographed songs, singing, lip-syncing, and short acts performed by members of Allegheny's fraternities and sororities. This is family-friendly — and, whether you're Greek or not, a fun Allegheny tradition.

Saturday, Sept. 19

Allegheny Gators Cross Country Invitational – Ben Mourer '07 Memorial Classic
9:30 a.m. // Robertson Athletic Complex
The Men's 8k race starts at 9:45 am and the Women's 6k race begins at 10:45 am. Awards to follow at noon.

Life Long Learners: Travel. Learn. Connect.
10 a.m. // CREATE Lab, Located at the top of the stairs in Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library
In the session moderated by Professor Ishita Sinha Roy, hear stories from fellow alumni who traveled to India in summer 2026 and discovered more than just an amazing destination. Hear what makes traveling with fellow Gators so meaningful, and get a sneak peek at exciting faculty-led alumni tours in 2027 and 2028. Learn how you can join upcoming online information sessions, explore tour offerings, and register for your own lifelong learning adventure.

Open House at the Allegheny Lab for Innovation & Creativity (ALIC) at Bessemer
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. // 764 Bessemer St, Meadville, PA 16335, Suite 105
Get a firsthand look at Allegheny's new branch campus and hear from Executive Director and Associate Professor of Art Byron Rich about how the space is equipping students and professionals with critical and technical skills, fostering industry collaborations through R&D, and driving regional economic growth. Thirty-minute guided tours begin at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Please park at the south entrance near the flags.

Allegheny Gators Women's Tennis vs. Washington & Jefferson Presidents
10 a.m. // Tennis Courts at Robertson, Robertson Athletic Complex

Alpha Chi Omega Alumnae Blue & Gold Bagel Brunch
11-12:15 a.m. // Alpha Chi Omega Suite, Brooks Hall
Alpha Chi Omega alumnae are invited to join current sisters in their newly renovated suite for a bagel brunch. Please feel free to bring family and friends!

Baseball Alumni Game
12 p.m. // Robertson Softball Field, Robertson Athletic Complex

Allegheny Gators Women's Field Hockey vs Transylvania Pioneers
12 p.m. // Robertson Blue Turf, Robertson Athletic Complex

Ben Mourer '07 Memorial Social Gathering
12:30 p.m. //Robertson Complex Picnic Shelter
Current athletes, parents, alumni, and community members are welcome.

Allegheny Gators Women's Volleyball Game vs Houghton Highlanders
1 p.m. // James H. Mullen, Jr. Performance Arena, David V. Wise Sport and Fitness Center

Saturday Shenanigans
1-3 p.m. // Caflisch Lawn
GAP presents Saturday Shenanigans, featuring fun pastimes like: Adrenaline Rush inflatable obstacle course, a multisport inflatable station, and tie-dye.

Playshop Theatre: Revel/Reveal
2-2:45 p.m. // Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre, Vukovich Center
Under the creative leadership of Susaan Jamshidi '01, Allegheny students perform a devised piece that celebrates the transformations that come about at this time in their lives.

Allegheny Gators Softball Alumni Game & Tailgate
3 p.m. // Robertson Softball Field, Robertson Athletic Complex

Shuttle from Campus to Robertson Athletic Complex
3-10 p.m. // A continuous shuttle will be provided to the Robertson Athletic Complex and back to campus. Pick-up at Highland Ave., outside Henderson Campus Center for the shuttle to Robertson Athletic Complex

Faculty & Alumni Vocal Recital
3:15 p.m. // First Floor, Ford Memorial Chapel
This Music Department program features sopranos Carol Bowler Niblock '02 and Vicki Jamison.

Parent & Family Reception featuring an Academic Open House and Resource Fair
3:30-4:45 p.m. // Robertson Athletic Complex
Join us for a special reception where you can connect with fellow Allegheny parents and family members, meet representatives from the Parent & Family Council, and enjoy refreshments and conversation. While you're there, explore the Academic Open House and Resource Fair—an opportunity to chat with Allegheny faculty about academic programs and interdisciplinary work, and meet staff from offices such as the Maytum Center for Student Success to learn more about academic advising and support services.

TailGator Dinner and Spirit Zone
5-7 p.m. // Robertson Athletic Complex
A Gator celebration for the entire Allegheny community! Food, Gator swag, music, and fun! Dinner and admission to the game are free. Parking is available in the grass tailgating lot.

Allegheny Gators Football vs Waynesburg Yellow Jackets
7 p.m. // Frank B. Fuhrer Field, Robertson Athletic Complex

Sips & Giggles
9 p.m. // Henderson Campus Center Lobby

Saturday, Sept. 19

Tri Delta's All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. // Schultz Banquet Hall
Tri Delta's annual fundraising event for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is back! For $5, you can get all-you-can-eat chocolate chip, plain, gluten-free, or berry pancakes along with water and lemonade!

Men's and Women's Golf Annual Guy and Jeanne Kuhn Invitational
11 a.m. // The Country Club of Meadville

Men's and Women's Golf Annual Guy and Jeanne Kuhn Invitational
11 a.m. // The Country Club of Meadville

Allegheny Gators Women's Field Hockey vs Wittenberg Tigers
12 p.m. // Robertson Blue Turf

Ford Chapel Mass
12-1 p.m. // First Floor, Ford Chapel
Mass will be held by the Newman Catholic Campus Ministry.

For the full Blue and Gold Weekend schedule, visit the Allegheny website using the QR code below:

ADVERTISEMENT

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE 1815
CENTER FOR CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT 22 — COFFEE & CAREER (OPEN TAB)
10:30 AM-NOON | GFC

SEPT 22 — CMU GRADUATE PROGRAM FAIR
11:30 AM-12:30 PM | CC LOBBY

SEPT 22 — LEVERAGING LINKEDIN PART 1: BASICS OF USE, PROFILE CREATION, & MAXIMIZATION
4:00 PM-4:45 PM | CC303

SEPT 23 — UP MEDICAL SCHOOL PRESENTATION (PIZZA PROVIDED)
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM | STEFFEE B102

SEPT 29 — LEVERAGING LINKEDIN PART 2: OPTIMIZING YOUR JOB SEARCH & NETWORKING
4:00 PM-4:45 PM | CC303

CCPD SPOTLIGHT

Preparing2Launch Mini-Conference

Wednesday, Oct 7 @5:30pm - Thursday, Oct 8 @2:00pm
Tippie Alumni Hall & Cup and Spoon (Cussewago Square)

Are you a junior or senior getting ready for what comes next? Join the Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD) for Preparing2Launch, an exclusive two-day mini conference designed specifically to help upperclass students think intentionally about their future plans after graduation.

Register in Handshake by 11:59 pm on Sunday, October 4

*Don't miss out on potential internship & career opportunities. Check out Gator Hub daily!

Looking for a job or internship, CCPD events & registration, or scheduling an appointment with a staff member? Check out Handshake!

career@allegheny.edu