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Bocchi ban confirmed

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Is Matthew Bocchi, '13, banned from campus? The answer, it would seem, is yes.

In an email statement to The Campus responding to a Nov. 4 article on an alleged ban against Bocchi, Vice President of Enrollment Management Ellen Johnson confirmed that Bocchi was not allowed on Allegheny's campus.

In the article, Bocchi claimed that he was never formally notified that he was banned from campus and that he only heard of it from other sources: first from a brother of Bocchi's fraternity — which he still advises as a member of the national organization — and then from a fellow alumnus who added Bocchi to the guest list of an alumni event before being told Bocchi was banned.

"With respect to Mr. Bocchi being notified of his access to campus, a persona non grata (PNG) letter was sent by certified mail to Mr. Bocchi by the College but not accepted after three delivery attempts by the US Postal Service," Johnson wrote in part.

"Certified mail" is a system of ensuring that a specific person receives a letter or other piece of mail. According to CertifiedMailLabels.com, the recipient must sign for the letter for it to be "accepted," meaning that if an individual is not home or does not answer the door when a delivery attempt is made the letter is just not delivered.

One possibility is that Bocchi had changed addresses by the time the PNG letter was sent.

"I've moved probably three times over the past two years," Bocchi said when presented with the statement. "I have never received a letter where I've been living. I also travel for work. But my attorney's name and office has not changed, and they have received nothing."

When the letter was not accepted, Johnson wrote that the college tried contacting Bocchi through different means.

"Due to the certified letter not being accepted, the PNG letter was then delivered by email to Mr. Bocchi," Johnson stated. "More generally, any person who is issued a PNG order is informed in writing by Public Safety. These orders are reviewed (on) an ongoing and as needed basis."

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Remembering Danielle Duncan

Community mourns student and peer

By **ROMAN HLADIO**
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Community members embrace and console each other after the vigil held in honor of the late Danielle Duncan, '26, in the Henderson Campus Center on Monday, Nov. 14. Students, faculty members and administrators spoke about their experiences with Duncan in her short time at the college.



Associate Professor of Spanish Barbara Reiss eulogizes her FS 101 student. "I keep remembering these weird little details," Reiss said. She told the crowd that Duncan was just beginning to discover who she was as a student and person.



The community gathered en masse for the vigil, filling the outer rim of the campus center's lobby. "There's nothing more important abou the Allegheny community than the people who make up the Allegheny community," said President Ron Cole, '87, in his brief address to the crowd.

WLC hosts Culture Night

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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The lobby of the Henderson Campus Center was decorated with colors and filled with students on Thursday, Nov. 10, as the department of world languages and cultures hosted "Culture Night."

The event provided attendees with food and music from the different cultures represented in the WLC department — Arabic, Chinese, French, German and Spanish — and included dances and skits prepared and performed by students in WLC classes this semester.

Culture night was intended to give students in WLC classes the opportunity to showcase their learning in an experiential and creative manner, according to the Department Chair of World Languages and Culture and Associate Professor of French Briana Lewis.

"The short subtitle the department gives to the event is 'Language Student Showcase' because that's exactly what the event is about," Lewis said.

Lewis said that students in language classes were incentivized to participate in the event but it was not mandatory for them to participate.

"Many professors in (WLC) classes required students to showcase their learning in some way outside the classroom and others even offered extra credit for students who participated," Lewis said. "Many students wanted to get involved themselves simply for the experience and the excitement of sharing your work with your peers."

Apart from providing students with an avenue to display their learning, the event also focused on community building and spreading awareness and knowledge of other cultures.

"We are so lucky to have students from all over the country and all over the world at Allegheny," said Assistant Professor of Arabic Reem Hilal. "Culture night is a great event to not only entertain the campus community but to also make them aware of the importance of diversity and what it means to live together in a multicultural environment."

Professor of Spanish Barbara Riess assumed the role of master of ceremonies at the event. This was starkly different from her involvement in the inaugural Culture Night in the fall 2021 semester.

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In this week's Campus...

DON'T BE TOO HARD ON YOURSELF

Associate Professor of English John MacNeill Miller discusses the fine line between hard work and rewarding work — and how to tell the difference for yourself.

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FOOD FOREST CELEBRATES FIRST HARVEST

The Sustainability Design Team provide updates on the "food forest"initiative which was first concieved four years ago.

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XC FINISHES STRONG

A snowy trip to the NCAA's Great Lakes Regional last weekend capped the regular season for Allegheny's cross country squads.

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FRIDAY H: 31° L: 20°
Rain: 15%
Sunrise: 7:13 a.m.
Sunset: 4:57 p.m.

SATURDAY H: 28° L: 21°
Rain: 3%
Sunrise: 7:14 a.m.
Sunset: 4:57 p.m.

SUNDAY H: 27° L: 20°
Rain: 48%
Sunrise: 7:15 a.m.
Sunset: 4:56 p.m.

ASG holds moment of silence for Danielle Duncan

GA discloses finances, discusses shared governance and Krampus re-recognition

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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The Allegheny Student Government honored Danielle Duncan, discussed shared governance and set satirical publication The Krampus on the road to ASG recognition at their General Assembly on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

The GA started with a moment of silence for Duncan, who was killed last Friday, Nov. 11 in a traffic accident in Mercer County.

"Over the past few days, I have heard time and time again how appreciative Danielle was of the Allegheny community, and I'm certain she would be proud of us now," said Senator Lorenzo Scarnati, '26, who introduced the moment of silence. "The show of support at Monday's vigil was incredible, and those who spoke provided wonderful insight into Danielle's life at Allegheny."

Following the moment of silence, Dean for Student Success Ian Binnington also spoke, sharing both the resources made available to students that week and his own reflections on the tragedy.

"Nobody in my position wants to get the call that I got on Saturday morning, and yet I cannot imagine how much worse the call must have been to Danielle's parents on Friday night," Binnington said. "I don't have words to express the depth of my sorrow and the depth of our sorrow as a community."

Binnington added that Interim Dean of Students Trae Yeckley had spoken to Duncan's father.

"He has expressed gratitude for the support of the Allegheny community," Binnington said. "He has expressed how much his daughter felt a part of the Allegheny community and how much she enjoyed being here."

In her report, ASG President Veronica Green, '23, shared a new rubric proposed by President Ron Cole, '87, which was designed to clarify the decision-making process used by the shared-governance system.

During the moderated discussion that followed, Senator London Dejarnette, '24, asked what the point of shared governance was if ASG was just being kept in the loop but not able to make changes.

"I think it's important to know that there are situations on campus where ASG as a government only really deserves to be informed of stuff that is happening," Green replied. "Then there are other situations where we believe that there could be a discussion where we are consulted, but then there's like, who makes the decision? We shouldn't be making every decision."

Class of 2026 President Sam Ault also noted that additional channels — specifically pairings between the ASG cabinet and the college president's cabinet.

"In a way, we end up consulted through that more informal way," Ault said. "That's also worth considering."

After the meeting, Green said the rubric was a step in the right direction for shared governance. "I think it's an administration doing exactly what they're supposed to do," Green said. "The bar is on the floor, compared to the previous administration. I'm not sure if we will have more say necessarily, but at least now we are guaranteed a seat at the table."

Part of the college's shared governance structure is a series of committees that include representatives from staff, faculty and students. ASG appoints the student representatives to these committees, but Green said the body has only been able to fill the student seats on the Council on Diversity and Equity, Finance and Facilities Committee, and Study Away and Campus Internationalization Committee.

"We've been struggling with that marketing aspect of the college committees to students," Green said. "They either don't know what (the committees) do or what the power that they have, or they don't know whether or not the students have an equal voice as faculty or staff that sit on the committee."

Green hopes that having a rubric that clarifies the shared governance system will make students more aware of — and interested in — what they can do on a college committee.

During "new business," ASG approved satirical news publication The Krampus for the first round of voting.

"I want it to be an outlet for people to tell jokes they want to," Aidan McGrory, '26, one of the organizers, told the Senate. "It will sort of be similar to the actual 'Campus,' but just these stories that are completely made up and satire — and don't worry, we'll make it very clear that it's satire."

The Krampus, originally founded in 2011, lost ASG recognition in late 2019 after publishing a satirical article titled "Allegheny Student Traumatized By Meadville Mall," which made light of members of the Meadville community. According to a story published by The Campus in February 2020, the Krampus article included references to "moms with neck tattoos and way too many children" and shops that looked like they had been "closed for years."

The Krampus was re-approved by ASG in early 2020, but the club died out again when the pandemic hit later that year.

Green asked what McGrory's plan was to prevent a similar situation from occurring again.

"The system will be: someone writes a story, it goes to a head writer and then the faculty member checks it to make sure that it's not, you know, like that," McGrory replied.

After the meeting, McGrory said that the club plans on publishing online to save costs, and will release around five stories every two weeks.

On the financial front, ASG approved $3,000 in budget requests for this week during the report of Director of Treasury Adriana Solis, '23. Solis also released preliminary spending data from Financial Services in a spreadsheet linked to the meeting's minutes. According to the data, ASG and its recognized clubs have spent slightly more than $21,000 in the first two and a half months of the academic year, against a General Fund of around $364,000 and a surplus fund of more than $400,000.

The Senate voted to cancel the GA next week, due to Thanksgiving break. ASG will hold its next GA on Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.

CULTURE *from page 1*

"Being up on stage gave me the opportunity to connect more deeply with the event as I got to learn the names of all the performers and even got to know some of them better," Riess said. "It was also great to be able to connect with the audience rather than being behind the stage … it was a more vibrant and colorful experience this year."

The event started with Riess welcoming attendees to the event and was followed by the distribution of food from stalls set up towards the center of the CC lobby.

After attendees found their chairs and settled down with their food, the first of the twelve performances started.

Students in Spanish 110, 215 and 315 compared and contrasted the differences between past and present Mariachi music by performing "Cielito Lindo" by Quirino Mendoza y Cortés and "Amor Eterno" by Rocío Dúrcal.

Next, the German department put on three performances.

First, beginner students performed a rendition of "Das Wochentage" — a children's song used to learn days of the week. Second, intermediate students attempted animal-themed tongue twisters. Last, advanced students performed a song and dance routine from an iconic scene set in the 1920s from the 2017 Netflix drama series "Babylon Berlin" led by Gabrielle Susoiu Tcaciuc, '23.

The French department followed with two skits. The first was a mime charade guessing game led by French Teaching Assistant Loïc Filipe-Hémery and students from French 215. The second was a skit performed by students from French 215, 305 and 360 titled, "An American in Paris." The skit informed the audience about the difficulties one can encounter when they do not speak the local language of the place they are in.

The Chinese department provided entertainment towards the ending of the event with four song and dance performances.

Several students from Chinese 110 and 215 performed a choreographed "Square Dance" and were followed by singing and traditional dance performances by students from Chinese 305.

Quila Gustave, '24, performed a fan dance as the final performance of the Chinese department and the penultimate performance of the culture night.

Gustave said that she choreographed the performance along with creating a costume design.

"I love dancing and I wanted to combine it with my learning in Chinese," Gustave said. "Towards the end of the performance the crowd was getting excited and I decided to freestyle some moves to keep them going."

After Gustave's popular performance that merited applause and chants from the audience, the Arabic department put on a dabke dance involving students from Arabic 110, 150 and 215.

Dabke is a traditional dance from the Levant area and is particularly popular in Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon, according to Hilal.

"People do the dabke on happy occasions but people used to do the dance in the past as a test when someone would build a new house to see if it was sturdy," Hilal said. "People would go to the roof of the new house and do the stomping style dance but now it has become an art form."

Hilal said that the dabke is a skillful art form that is easy to participate in but difficult to master.

"We had all different skill levels amongst the seventeen students that started the dabke performance," Hilal said. "Some of them in higher level classes performed more complex moves and we even had two students step out of the line and do individual moves."

Ayah Sham, '23, and Julia Sonen, '24, were the two students who performed individually during the dabke, which was made open for the audience to join at the conclusion of the event. Much of the crowd joined the line dance including students and faculty members.

Jah'farri Brown, '24, was amongst the students who joined in during the dabke dance.

"I loved the event," Brown said. "I had never thought about the number of cultures in the world and the history and depth that they each have.

Lewis, Riess and Hilal all saw the event as a success and were proud of not only the student attendance but also the student involvement in the event.

"We had roughly 15 students per language participating in the event so that's over 50 students showcasing their learning," Lewis said.

Lewis said that the WLC department hosts two flagship events across the academic year, the Culture Night in the fall and the International Film Festival in the spring.

"During the International Film Festival, we show and hold seminars on movies from the different languages we have in our department," Lewis said.

The film festival will occur over five weeks during the upcoming spring 2023 semester.

The idea of a Culture Night was afforded by a self-study by the WLC department in 2019 that called for making languages more visible and accessible to students on campus, according to Lewis.

"Each department has to do a self-study process every ten years to evaluate things that are going well and things that could be improved," Lewis said. "Another idea that came from it was the introduction of an Arabic minor."

Riess said that although the WLC department only hosts two flagship events per year, it hopes to become more involved with different student organizations on campus in order to raise awareness of the diverse cultures represented on campus.

"Collaborating with the international club was something we thought about this year and hope to make it happen next year," Riess said.



Photo contributed by **The World Languages and Cultures Department**
Students line-up to try food from the five different food stalls provided at the culture night on Thursday, Nov. 10 in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center.



Photo contributed by **The World Languages and Cultures Department**
Arabic language students perform the dabke dance towards the end of the event.

Envisioning land acknowledgement

Professors, Deans host conversation in GFC

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
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Students and faculty gathered in Grounds for Change for the fourth installment of the DEEPly Sustainable series on Friday, Nov. 11. Hosted during Native American Heritage Month, this section sought to teach attendees about the ongoing development of an "Indigenous Land Acknowledgement" that Allegheny may adopt in the future. Beyond educating attendees about the existence of the land acknowledgement, the event encouraged conversations about the subject and answered questions.

The informal, interactive conversation was led by Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, '02; Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Delia Byrnes; Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Jesse Swann-Quinn; and Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Assistant Professor of Community and Justice Studies Heather Moore Roberson.

"A land acknowledgement is a formal statement recognizing Indigenous peoples as the original and enduring stewards of the land now known as the United States of America," read a document displayed during the event on a large screen.

"It's really about raising critical consciousness about histories that are often erased," Byrnes said after the event. "I think opening up the conversation and normalizing the conversation about the fact that all of the U.S. has stolen Indigenous land is really important for raising awareness and empowering students to think about what political movements they want to get behind, what kind of actions they want to take themselves."

The document displayed at the event contained three drafted versions of the Land Acknowledgement the college could adopt that varied in length, with the longest being for events, the middle-length for posters and programs and the shortest for email signatures.

"While at Allegheny College, I live and work on the ancestral homelands of the Erielhonan, Haudenosaunee, and Lenni Lenape peoples," read the email signature.

Swann-Quinn said that people should not alter the language of the statements in order to preserve the integrity of their research. Still, if adopted, the Land Acknowledgement would function as a "living document" that evolves as new perspectives enter the conversation.

The idea for the Allegheny College Land Acknowledgement originated in an ENVSC 210: Environmental Research Methods class co-taught by Byrnes and Swann-Quinn in the fall of 2020. COVID-19 prevented the class from pursuing a normal research project, so they chose to explore local Indigenous history. According to Byrnes, she is one of only two people with a humanities background in the Environmental Science and Sustainability department. She also has a history in Indigenous storytelling. This, coupled with Swann-Quinn's interest in the political struggle of land ownership, led to the class researching and compiling information for the future development of a land acknowledgement.

"One of the things that really let us know as we were working on this class that we were on to something that needed to be explored more was that it was really hard to find information about Indigenous history in this area," Byrnes said during an interview. "And that's a problem because the entire U.S. is stolen Indigenous land and we need to be aware of those histories."

Before connecting with Brynes and Swann-Quinn, Boulton had already started working on a land acknowledgement for Allegheny, approaching it from the perspective of exploring how sustainability and Indigenous struggles are interconnected.

"In (climate justice work) there is a lot of conversation going on right now about how we should be thinking about privilege, identity and structural racism — issues that are wrapped up in our institutions — and how we need to really acknowledge them and break them down," Boulton said during the event. "Structural racism is not about what you do, but about what you don't do. We are not necessarily an overtly racist institution, but we are an institution that's 200-years-old. The time of the founding of our college brushes up really closely against Indigenous land stewardship in this area. We're thinking about (the land acknowledgement) from the framework of how it overlaps with the environmental issues we have now, which in my mind is very much based on an extraction (of land, labor and resources) mindset."

> The entire U.S. is stolen Indigenous land and we need to be aware of those histories."
>
> —DELIA BYRNES
> Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability

Assistant Professor of German Julia Ludewig asked the presenters what they knew about the conditions under which settlers forced Indigenous people off the land currently occupied by the college. Boulton explained that there is not much existing information concerning the topic, but that she knows there was a series of treaties between settlers and leaders of the regional tribes that were illegitimate due to a lack of understanding from the settlers about the governing structures of Indigenous tribes. Ludewig suggested that a history student or a paid assistant researcher could be tasked with learning more about the topic in the future. Boulton said she liked the suggestion.

During the event, attendees discussed whether the Land Acknowledgement was purely a performative act.

"One of the things that was really important to (Swann-Quinn) and me was thinking about the land acknowledgement not as a one-and-done or performative statement, but thinking about it as an ongoing project and an entryway into building meaningful relationships with Indigenous neighbors (and) having dialogues as a community," Byrnes explained to the audience.

The presenters envision a future working group composed of students and faculty who would contribute their voices and perspectives to the development of the Land Acknowledgement. Assistant Professor of Art History and Director of Allegheny Art Galleries Paula Burleigh added that large-scale changes must start by taking a first step.

"There is something really powerful about taking words that might not be a part of our everyday lexicon and reinserting them to cultivate that normalization, like the way we do with pronouns," Burleigh said. "Even though it seems like a really small gesture, I think it's really important."

The Land Acknowledgement is still in the development stage. The presenters hoped that the DEEPly Sustainable event would be the start of many more open conversations with the broader campus community.

"What we don't want to happen is that there's this Land Acknowledgement that's floating in existence and no one knows about it and no one has been a part (of) or privy to conversations about the utility and the meaningful value of a land acknowledgement until it comes out and is on the website," Roberson said.

According to Roberson, the Land Acknowledgement may have already gone through some of the approval process before she became the Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. However, because she was not present for that, she wants to start the approval process with governing bodies on campus over again.

"I'd like these conversations to happen more than once with different governing bodies," Roberson said. "So even if there's a possibility that it's been done before, I'd like to do it again just to make sure we're doing it our due diligence."

In the future, the presenters envision the Allegheny College Land Acknowledgement potentially being posted alongside the statement of community, used at events, included in syllabi and programs for events and added to email signatures. The presenters recognized that their work would not end with the adoption of the Land Acknowledgement. Long-term, they hope that Allegheny will be able to foster a future relationship with the nearby Seneca tribe and collaborate with surrounding universities that have Indigenous studies programs to bring more education about Indigenous histories to campus.

"Land acknowledgements are valuable, but empty without doing action-oriented work that supports historically underrepresented groups," Roberson said. "Land acknowledgements are important and should be adopted into college policies, but if that's the only work we're doing, then we have missed out on an opportunity to be more reflective and learn more about the histories of communities of color in this region."

BOCCHI *from page 1*

However, Bocchi said that the last email he received from the college was an alumni newsletter called "The 13th Plank" on Dec. 16, 2021, and that he did not receive any communication of a ban from campus. He also said that he has received no follow-up since the Nov. 4 article.

"I have received no communication from any representative or current employee at the college since the story came out, and neither have my attorneys," Bocchi said.

In the article, Bocchi described what he considered pressure to return to in-person work and travel when he was employed at the college in early 2021. At the time, Bocchi had a "reasonable accomodation" to work from home due to a chronic health concern.

An employer pressuring an employee to violate the terms of a reasonable accommodation could be a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. While Bocchi filed a charge of disability discrimination with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, he did not pursue a lawsuit against the college.

"While we do not discuss specific personnel matters, we want to clarify that Mr. Bocchi voluntarily resigned from his position at the College and the College denies any claim of violation of the ADA in respect to his employment," Johnson wrote in the statement. "The EEOC summarily dismissed the charge approximately 15 months ago."

Bocchi said that he obtained a "right-to-sue" from the EEOC in August 2021 after the agency did not bring him and the college to the mediation table within 90 days.

"(The right-to-sue) means they aren't saying anybody's right or wrong, they're saying, 'we don't have the time to investigate it, so go to the courts,'" Bocchi said in the Nov. 4 article.

Bocchi also provided a copy of the "right-to-sue" to The Campus to back up his claim.

Johnson did not respond to a follow-up request for comment or to provide a copy of the PNG letter to The Campus. The college has maintained it has acted within its rights and that Bocchi voluntarily left.

Bocchi said that the confirmation of the ban made him "concerned" for Allegheny.

"I don't know how you have an academic institution that just bans people from campus because they disagree with you," he said. "It's just like, who are they going to ban next?

"Where does it end?" Bocchi added.

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.

November 8, 2022
Weapons Possession
On Campus
Unfounded

November 9, 2022
Act 64 (Drugs)
Edwards Hall
Referred to Dean

November 12, 2022
Criminal Mischief
Schultz Hall
Unfounded

November 14, 2022
Criminal Mischief
Ravine Hall
Referred to Dean

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Int'l education month: the simplest way to get your degree

Professor encourages students to take it easy in college and life

By **JOHN MACNEILL MILLER**
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Psst — hey, you! Stick around for a second. I'm glad I ran into you here, on the back pages of The Campus — a place relatively free from the prying eyes of parents and other professors. Here, we can talk frankly. And we need to talk frankly, because I've got a simple suggestion for how to approach college … and maybe even how to approach your whole life.

Are we alone? Okay, here goes:

A good way to get through college — a good way to decide what courses to pick, what clubs to join, what major to declare and what jobs and internships and leadership roles to pursue — is to find the easiest path and take it.

I know that's not what a professor is expected to say. College is supposed to be difficult, right? No one achieves success by taking the easy route. Getting really good at something requires hard work. Your job as a college student is to set goals for yourself, meet the challenges that stand between you and those goals, then grit your teeth and fight your way through them like some Hollywood hero. Success, and happiness, and a meaningful life will be there waiting for you somewhere on the other side.

But what if there aren't any rewards on the other side of all that work? Or what if they're there, but they don't feel so rewarding when you finally reach them? Worst of all, what if there is no "other side" to the challenges and they just extend … forever? If all the glamor of future success were stripped away from the work being asked of you now, would you still do it?

I'm not asking these questions to confuse or depress you. I'm asking these questions because they matter. You should ask them, and if you want to figure out what you love and what you value, you should begin trying to answer these questions now, while there's still plenty of time left.

Well-meaning mentors who stress the importance of working hard and facing challenges aren't wrong. It's true that college is rife with challenges, and it's true that successfully getting through college requires hard work. But those are only partial truths. For the fuller truth, replace "college" with "life." Life is rife with challenges. Successfully getting through life requires hard work. And doing any work well, regardless of the sector or field you end up in, will be hard.

In fact all work is equally hard — and all courses of study, too. There is no so-called easy major, no easy job and no easy life if you are committed to doing it well. But if you're in college, you're also experienced enough to have realized that not all work feels equally hard … not to you. You may have even found some work that comes to you quite easily.

That work is not necessarily in the areas where you've been most successful. It's wrong — even dangerous — to assume the dopamine rush of a good grade, a prestigious award or a pay bonus constitutes some magical sign from the universe that you've found what you're "naturally good at" or "meant to do." These snippets of external validation are indicators that others value what you've done, which is nice in its own little way. But it's not the kind of thing that will keep you springing out of bed for the months, the years, the decades of work that will become your life.

None of us knows what rewards lie in wait for us down the road. We can't even be sure what jobs or skill sets will be needed in the future. Many people mold their educations — even their entire lives — around imaginary visions of what attaining a particular career goal would feel like. Others base their choices on shaky assumptions about what future employers might want. You are free to play such guessing games if you wish. But there is another, easier route.

> In fact all work is equally hard — and all courses of study, too. There is no so-called easy major, no easy job and no easy life if you are committed to doing it well."
>
> —JOHN MACNEILL MILLER
> Associate Professor of English, Allegheny College

Instead of gambling your life on what others might want or what future successes might feel like, you can pursue work that feels rewarding to you — and you can pursue it right now.

Because there is, for you, some form of work that will feel like its own reward. Some part of you will still recognize the work is hard. But the hardness will feel worth it — and that will make it feel comparatively easy. You will try harder at it than anyone who is driven by some far-off hope or some grudging sense of duty. And so you will grow, and you will feel the reward now. Eventually you may even get better at this work than everyone around you, precisely because you actually care about it.

Maybe you have already found this work. But finding it can take time — so if you want that kind of work and that kind of life, start looking now. It may be that for you the easy work appears in certain classrooms, or in the lab, or on a field, or in a community center. Look around. Put yourself out there, and try classes and activities you never heard of or thought about before.

Finding the right work may be hard. But once you find it, be wary of anyone urging you down more dismal, more tortuous roads with the beguiling promise of future rewards. It's only the finding that should be hard. If you can do that, the rest will come easy.

November is International Education Month. This op-ed is part of a month-long series on education.

Anything but a gator

By **DAWIT KAHESAY**
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In early November of 2022, a 14-foot-long wooden Gator statue was placed between Reis and Brooks Halls. The wood for the statue was salvaged from a fallen red maple tree next to Carnegie due to a storm in July 2021. Usually, the wood would be discarded or cut for firewood, but due to the involvement of the Allegheny and Meadville communities, the wood was repurposed for a different cause. The overall level of collaboration that took place was exemplary as Physical Plant had the idea of salvaging and repurposing the fallen tree after Meadville city workers cleared the remnants of the storm, even commissioning local chainsaw artist Brian Sprague to transform part of the wood into the beautiful sculpture we are presented with on campus.

One thing of note is the location of the sculpture, as I think it is situated in a terrific spot. It will garner attention from the students who frequently travel through Brooks Walk, as well as family, friends and alumni, who normally attend events around or at Brooks who will be seeing the statue on full display for their stay on campus.

Did we really need another gator on campus though? I don't think so. The long-standing gator in front of the Henderson Campus Center stands for Allegheny and its vision, yet that same gator is being labeled the "piss gator" by a majority of the campus community, as it has been urinated on more than a handful of times. With past events and actions in mind, I don't think we should have chosen to get another gator statue.

The newly implanted statue has a deep brown outer coat while being 14 feet long with a stiff body structure; I can only imagine what type of blasphemous nicknames we students will come up with.

Something more abstract that hasn't been seen here at Allegheny would've been a better choice. Instead of a gator, do a bald eagle to represent American pride or a black bear for some of the sightings that have happened around campus. Literally, anything would do because it would be different. Allegheny has the resources, capabilities, and workforce to build some truly beautiful structures on campus, but they don't. I'd like to wake up and look at something that gets my gears going, something that gets me thinking. If I am waking up to the same gator I see everywhere else on campus, I'd be desensitized from the meaning behind the gator which takes away the feeling of novelty altogether.

The issue I have with the statue is purely the choice of subject, and type of animal in this case. The gator is irreplaceable for the Allegheny community, but the newest installation of the gator is lackluster. The statue might be in place currently, but the landscaping around the area is still set to be completed in the spring, which gives me hope for more than just a gator. Maybe I just need to see the gator in a new light and a new background would most definitely help.

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YA? Why not?

By **SYDNEY EMERSON**
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For seven years, I became a verifiable expert in Young Adult literature. Roll your eyes all you want, book snobs.

I belonged to a book club through my public library from sixth grade until I graduated high school, a book club which exclusively read YA books. My membership in that club, combined with the fact that my mother is a middle school librarian, means that I have enough YA books at home to build a fortress — or at least an igloo. Yet, I took none of them with me to college and I very rarely talk about them.

Why? I think it has something to do with me trying to take myself seriously as an English major. I've always been a voracious reader, but I became deeply insecure about the type of books that I spend my secondary school years reading once I got to college and met all the over-prepared, Dostoevsky-and-Hemingway-toting professorlings who populated my humanities classes. I felt like I had unsophisticated literary tastes and this somehow made me unintelligent, a two-bit talent in a room of geniuses.

This, of course, is utter nonsense.

Categories are useful in certain situations. Grocery stores, for instance, would be an utter disaster without proper categorization and labeling. To an extent, libraries and bookstores benefit from the same system. But when we draw lines around the intellectual status of certain genres, we limit our potential and condescend to those whose taste is unlike our own.

In the case of YA, the genre suffers from a lesser status because it is primarily about and for teenagers, a group of people whose interests and passions are reasonably easy to invalidate and patronize. By the same token, YA books are often written in casual and accessible prose, a red flag in the world of literary snobbery. How could a novel possibly be filled with important themes and beautiful language if it is easy to read? The more snooty readers among us think that complex ideas can only be presented in complex packages, that anything worth reading must make the reader feel a certain level of page-by-page agony.

Think of it this way: reading books is like training for a race. Some books, like Joyce's "Ulysses," are long, hard, windy days on the trail. They're the distance runs that seem like they will never end but ultimately make you feel fulfilled and proud of how far you've come as a runner. YA books are, to me, recovery days. They're simpler. Slower. They put less strain on your muscles. Despite this, though, they still help you build your endurance. They still contribute to your growth as a runner — that is, as a reader and a thinker.

Though the bulk of my YA-reading days are long behind me, the fact remains that two of my all-time favorite books — that's "A Northern Light" by Jennifer Donnelly and "Truly Devious" by Maureen Johnson, for those of you keeping score at home — fall into the YA genre. Why? Because the protagonist in both books is a sixteen-year-old girl. That's really where their similarities stop — one takes place in the rural Adirondacks in 1906 and the other at an elite boarding school in present-day Vermont. One is a haunting gothic tale of grief and escape; the other is a suspenseful and witty murder-mystery. But, because both books center around the perspective of a teenage girl and are marketed to a similar demographic, they are lumped together into a category that, at this point, serves to demarcate work of "lesser" literary value.

Look around the YA section at your local bookstore and see just how many of those books fit into this category. Look at your library and ask yourself why these books are being separated into their own solitary shelf, away from prying eyes. Look at popular culture for the same condescension — someday, when I have more column inches, I will write about the reduction of "The Hunger Games" from a serious work of literary art to a teenybopper dystopia all because the protagonist is, once again, a sixteen-year-old girl. For now, however, we start thinking more carefully about how we categorize things — especially books — and subsequently judge those categories.

In my book — pun very much intended — anything that gets a non-reader reading is worth publishing. Every book has value, and the day that we start taking YA novels as seriously as we take Dickens or Tolstoy is the day that our little literary hearts will grow three sizes.

Until then, if anybody needs any good YA novel recommendations, you know where to find me.

Allegheny alumna returns for undergrad seminars

By **LOTTIE MATEYAK**
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Allegheny alumna Emily Pfeufer, '08, a doctor in plant pathology, returned to campus this past Thursday, Nov. 10, to share her experiences and wisdom about the world after undergraduate studies.

Pfeufer originally returned to Allegheny in September for Blue and Gold Weekend when she earned an induction into the Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame for her success on the Track and Field team in long and triple jump.

"She reached out and asked if we could have coffee," said Professor of Biology Catharina Coenen. "And I said, 'You're a plant pathologist and I am teaching two classes this semester who should meet you. I would love it if you could come talk to those classes.'"

Plant pathology is the study of diseases that affect plants, which can be caused by pathogens or environmental conditions, according to Science Direct.

Pfeufer was unable to conduct her talks in September due to the nature of her research, Coenen explained.

"We had to work with some clearances at the USDA in order to get her cleared for the classroom visits and for giving a public seminar on her research," Coenen said.

Pfeufer works with Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit at the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, according to the flyer published detailing her seminar. Given its nature as a federal job, she was unable to make private comments to The Campus without clearing the interview with her agency.

Pfeufer's research examines potential threats to American food security that may arise in response to climate change — specifically plant diseases caused by "oomycetes." According to the American Phytopathological Society, oomycetes are small, fungi-like parasitic water molds.

"Plant pathologists tend to be completely under-acknowledged in their contribution to world food security," Coenen said. "In my mind, they are major contributors to world peace because agricultural failures lead to hunger, which tends to lead to violence."

Pfeufer's evening research seminar detailed her recent findings on the oomycete genus Phytopythium and its relevant species. According to the flyer, her team has found that higher temperatures and increased irrigation in response to climate change may increase Phytopythium-induced diseases in US-grown citrus plants. Her seminar summarized this ongoing research that has been years in the making.

In addition to giving a public seminar on her research, Pfeufer also attended multiple mentoring meetings with Coenen's students to discuss options in the biological sciences after finishing undergraduate education.

"I was really excited about the opportunity to give students an idea of what a career in plant pathology could look like," Coenen said. "(But), I wanted (these events) to be attractive to students who could not at all see themselves doing agriculture. I wanted them to be able to get something out of it even if their main interest might be medicine, or completely different kinds of fields of scientific inquiry."

While the evening seminar focused on Pfeufer's scientific research, the classroom visits focused more on advising individual students, answering questions and offering advice.

"(Pfeufer) focused a lot on (explaining) it's important to do what you like, and to try different things because even if you don't like what you try, it still helps you find what you do like," said Kaylee Sadowski, '24.

The talks in class focused mostly on understanding the application processes of both graduate schools and the workforce, Sadowski explained. Pfeufer offered advice on how to best present yourself in these situations.

"We talked about interviewing nerves, how scary they are," Sadowski said. "And she said to think about as you're interviewing them too, and that they chose you. So just be yourself."

In addition to the in-class talks, Coenen also worked with Liam Jones, '23, co-president of the newly-reformed Allegheny chapter of the biology honor society Beta Beta Beta — commonly known as "Tri-Beta" — to organize an informal luncheon with Pfeufer.

"Liam was very excited about having a speaker visit as part of Tri-Beta's program," Coenen said. "And so we organized a pizza lunch as part of the visit."

Tri-Beta, a national biology honor society, briefly disbanded its Allegheny chapter during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the officers then were unable to pass the leadership along. The club was reestablished this past fall by Jones and Co-President Hanah Simmons, '23.

"I've been trying to get it started up again since last year as a first semester junior," said Jones. "(It) took a lot of work. Eventually, we got people on board and it all fell into place, and we were able to start it up this year."

Jones heard about the research seminar Pfeufer was set to give through Coenen. They decided to set up the luncheon using funding from the Darling Distinguished Speaker Fund, which was established to facilitate experiences with educational speakers for students.

Jones said that one of his goals in organizing the luncheon was to give students the opportunity to learn about fields of science that are not really present in the Allegheny curriculum.

"I know that there's not too many people interested in botany," Jones said. "It's kind of a field that we don't have at Allegheny. One of my main goals when restarting Tri-Beta was to try and do a lot of interests like zoology, microbiology, genetics, and when an opportunity to have someone from the field of botany came through I jumped at the idea."

Emma Ruhl, '23, a student in Coenen's class on microbiology and attendee of the luncheon, echoed the sentiment.



PFEUFER

"I thought it was really interesting," Ruhl said. "I think it's a really interesting opportunity to kind of get to know other careers in the bio department because sometimes I feel like we're limited."

The lunch setting was also intended to provide a more relaxed environment for students to have more of a conversation with Pfeufer.

"It was very relaxing," Ruhl said. "It wasn't like, 'Oh my god, I'm so nervous. What do I say?' But everyone seemed very chill. So it was nice."

Students expressed mixed feelings about how the advice they received from Pfeufer affected their ideas about their future plans. Some, like Sadowski, came away from the talks feeling more confident about their career paths.

"I just thought (Pfeufer's advice) was a good little confidence boost for interviews," Sadowski said.

Others felt a little less clear about what their future career path may look like.

"It was helpful, but also it kind of made me a little more confused, in a way," Ruhl said. "It was just a lot of information to take in. I think it was beneficial to hear about that, especially coming from an alum, but it was also still iffy for me because I'm still kind of in the process of thinking about what I want to do after graduation."

Regardless, both students still expressed interest in attending more organized talks like this in the future.

"I hope they're able to sponsor more," Ruhl said. "I was very happy to hear that Tri-Beta sponsored them too."

Tri-Beta meets biweekly in Steffee B102. Students of all majors are invited to join and share in a love for science.

"We're looking to grow our club because it's an actual honor society," said Jones. "It's not just a club. It's a nationwide honor society."

"Food Forest" celebrates its first harvest

By **CAROLINE MAYE**
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As the year comes to an end, the "food forest" celebrates its first harvest season. What began as an idea by a motivated first-year has been cultivated into a devoted community as it grew to fruition. Today, the forest stands as a landmark of the difference that a group of motivated individuals can make at Allegheny College.

"Honestly, probably my favorite part of my journey in this college is that it was a small group of students," said President of the Sustainable Design Team Ashlynn Peachey, '23. "A group of just really passionate students that put in the work were able to make a change on campus. I think that's the best part of Allegheny is that we could do that."

The idea of the food forest began four years ago with Sebastian McRae, '22, and his dream of bringing permaculture to campus. He worked with professors and student groups like the students for environmental action to form the SDT. Peachey joined this group during the 2019-20 academic year — her first year at the college — on a whim. During the first meeting, she realized that she was in the right place.

"These are my people," Peachey said. "This is fantastic."

McRae's graduation last year allowed the group to transform from a classroom environment to a collaborative effort.

"I think the first few years it was Sebastian coming in and teaching us how all of this was supposed to happen," Peachey said. "But now it truly feels like a conversation. This is a conversation and there's a ton of different voices and there's a million different factors that come into any choice that we make."

The group worked closely with Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, '02, to make a reality of their dream: To transform a plot of unused land into a garden utilizing permaculture.

"Permaculture is a way of learning from nature and mimicking nature to develop planted areas that are going to be the strongest they can be," Boulton said. "The other thing about the food forest is that you are thinking about a stratification of plants: there are fruit trees that are planted which are larger, there are fruit bushes which are planted which are mid-story and then there are smaller understory plants that grow in around it. It uses the space of a garden really efficiently and it's also something that establishes itself and should be self-sustaining."

These alternative agricultural practices stem from Indigenous knowledge, according to Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Jesse Swann-Quinn, the adviser of SDT. One of the goals of the forest is to acknowledge these roots and educate students about them. Last semester, Peachey's junior seminar class, led by Swann-Quinn, earned a grant toward signage that explains these roots and how the practice works.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

The now-dormant food-forest is located next to the Carrden and Carr Hall.

Despite the concept of this forest being almost four years old, SDT only began working on the forest last fall.

"Last fall was the first time we broke ground," Peachey said. "In the spring was a lot of piece-by-piece putting together the food forest. Everything we did was by hand."

The reason for this delay was COVID-19, as the campus shut down for nearly two years, Peachey explained. Now that students are back on campus, the team has been able to work on the forest, which is now establishing itself.

In the spring, SDT planted some of the bushes and trees according to Boulton. After student left for the summer, Boulton and a group of students who work with her set up the rest of the forest, putting the finishing touches on the space.

The forest has an assortment of diverse plants growing within it. Some are native to the region, but all are designed to prosper in the Pennsylvania climate, Peachey explained.

"We have eight different kinds of fruiting trees planted in the food forest and then a composition of like 65 different species surrounding them," Peachey said.

This fall marks the first harvest from the forest, resulting in an abundance of Jerusalem artichokes, which the team plans to make into mashed potatoes to share with the community. Aside from harvesting, the forest does not require much maintenance.

"This fall, the only maintenance that we had to do was cut the top growth off of the Jerusalem artichokes and harvest a bunch of them, and then replant some of the tubers to come back next year," Boulton said. "In the spring we will fill in any holes with new plants. Long term, as the trees and bushes establish themselves more we will have to do some pruning, just making sure that some plants in the garden don't choke out other plants."

The forest is actually part of a bigger effort to increase biodiversity on campus, known as the Forest Resiliency Project. Boulton explained that the project, spearheaded by Swann-Quinn and Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Rich Bowden, is a way to bring together different groups on campus to make a coordinated effort towards creating a more biodiverse campus.

"In its current state, (the campus) is not managed with an eye toward ecological integrity or the ecological services it could provide," Swann-Quinn said.

Through the plan, groups such as Physical Plant, the Environmental Science Department, Students for Environmental Action and alumni "can come together and make some more strategic decisions about those things," Swann-Quinn explained.

As for the future, SDT continues to find ways to improve the forest and the Carrden. Right now, they are figuring out the best way to combat deer browsing, according to Peachey.

"This became an issue in 2020 with the pandemic," Peachey said. "When the students left, deer found the Carrden and so now they are eating plants. They can be really detrimental. The deer will just eat all of the buds off of (plants), stunting growth. The pawpaw trees got hit really hard by deer browsing."

Despite this conundrum, the team remains optimistic about the future.

"It's so satisfying and fruitful to be able to share these ideas with other people and hopefully inspire people to do more and push for more and point out how this campus could be doing better," Peachey said. "We don't have to accept things as they are and we can imagine a better way to see the world, we can imagine the world to be more productive, more sustainable, more caring, more giving and we can make that a reality."

For those who want to make a difference on campus, Peachey recommended talking to anyone and everyone. The best way to make a difference is to find support in like-minded people, she said.

"This is such a receptive campus so just talk to as many people as possible," Peachey said. "Put your idea out there — you'll find that you'll have so much support and find ways to move forward. Anything is possible."

For those interested in getting involved with the food forest, Peachey said to reach out.

"I'm always happy to put people on the email list, come to (SDT) meetings, it's 6 p.m. in Carr every Thursday," Peachey said. "We're always happy to have people here and talk about stuff."

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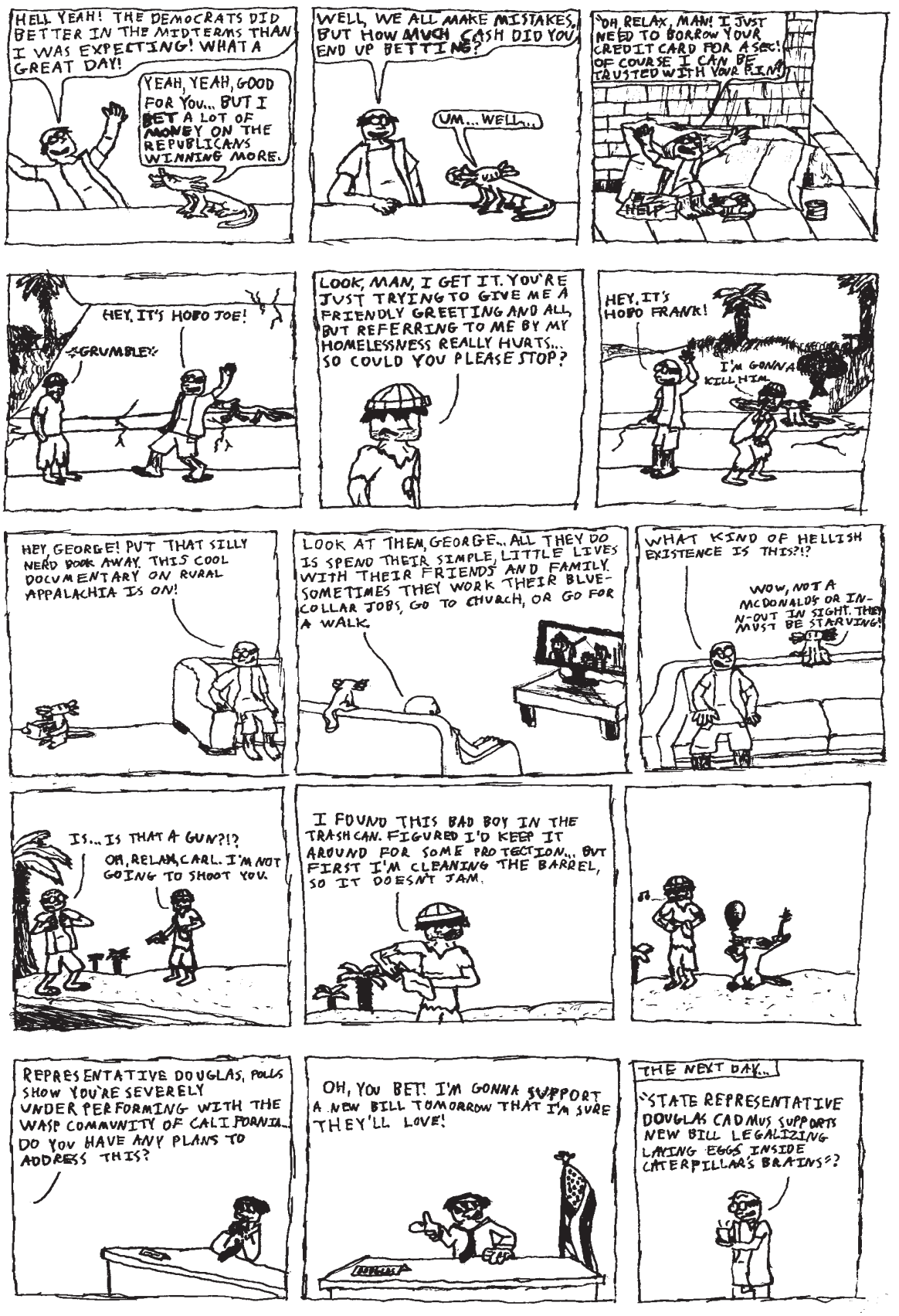
For more information, email Prof. Allison at callison@allegheny.edu or text him at 412-389-8888.

Friday funnies, featuring a fresh cartoonist!

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



"Ghost Stories" by Doctor Sparks blends local history with fiction

By **SAM HEILMANN**
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It was a dark and stormy night as students and professors filtered into Ford Chapel to listen to the "Ghost Stories" of Karl Smith, '11. After a brief rehearsal and some technical adjustments, Smith — or "Doctor Sparks," as he is known in his performances — took to the stage.

Though Smith is a professional storyteller who has made a living from his craft, he traditionally performs for a younger audience. At Allegheny, Smith studied English and physics. On his website, he describes himself as "Mister Rogers meets Bill Nye," giving science lessons through original stories. Ghost Stories was its own kind of performance, reminiscent of Smith's experience as a historical interpreter in New Mexico.

"I love telling stories to kids," Smith said. "It's really fun. But I really missed the dark, dramatic storytelling I used to do in front of a campfire."

Hosted by the Student Experimental Theater on Nov. 11 and Saturday, Nov. 12, the show blended fact and fiction, as well as personal and local history. Each of the stories took place at Lake Arthur in Moraine State Park. Some of the characters in the stories were former Allegheny students, while others were members of Smith's family. Each story was based in the true history of Lake Arthur, which is 55 miles south of Meadville, but exaggerated some elements to build a narrative.

"I was really excited to do something for an adult audience, and to incorporate a lot of my own family's history — and a lot of the research that I've done about (Lake Arthur) — into this ghost storytelling show," Smith said.

Prior to his career as a professional storyteller, Smith was still finding ways to combine his love of science and storytelling — something, he says, that was encouraged during his time as an Allegheny student. His interdisciplinary interest in both English and physics was something that Smith brought to the college experience, but was nevertheless developed as an undergraduate.

"The idea of science storytelling, that I would find a way to merge these two things together — it came directly out of the Allegheny experience, I think," Smith said.

The encouragement to merge those different interests came from both of Smith's undergraduate advisers: Professor of Physics Doros Petasis and Professor of English Ben Slote. Both advisers helped Smith realize that his two distinct interests, biophysics and storytelling, could make for an interesting career.

Slote in particular, who helped organize the Ghost Stories event, emphasized Smith's ability to not just think, but rather to exist, outside of the box. As someone who went on to receive his biophysics Ph.D. and start his own storytelling business, Smith met the "unusual combinations" standard of Allegheny.

"We think of ourselves as having to go out and fit into the little boxes that are out there, and Karl, to his great credit, had the desire to keep trying to push into the world a space that actually conformed to him, not the other way around," Slote said.

According to Slote, Smith's various interests were something that led him to, and were ultimately enriched by, the Allegheny experience. As an English professor, Slote was able to witness first-hand the passion Smith had for storytelling, and knew that, since Smith was also focused on scientific courses, he fulfilled the Allegheny question, "Why be just one thing?"

"He's a great embodiment of something that seems very Allegheny to me, which is you don't have to let go of those other sides of yourself," Slote said.

Even beyond his time at Allegheny, Smith sought to keep both of his passions alive. Pursuing a biophysics Ph.D. did not offer much room for storytelling, so Smith had to get creative.

"Whenever I went to graduate school, there was very little opportunity to tell stories, and so I had to find some way to keep that creative side of myself alive," Smith explained.

The solution? Writing stories for a dime, for anyone who cared to talk. Smith would ask for a prompt from passersby and craft a story for them using his typewriter. The experience was a novel way to develop his creativity as a storyteller and meet new people.

"(The experience) has been consistently one of the most beautiful, strange, whimsical things I've ever been privileged to do," Smith said.

His career as a professional storyteller seemed like an inevitability. After working through various mediums to tell his stories — including a television pilot aired shortly after graduate school — it appeared that stage performance was the best way to engage and connect with his audience. Given that Smith enjoyed performing for kids most of all, a stage show was a way to engage his audience even more.

"It became this stage show which actually made much more sense for the audience that I was targeting," Smith said.

But on that stormy night, "Doctor Sparks" had returned to his roots for "Ghost Stories," performing, this time as an educator, the stories that started during his time as a student. The hour-long collection of stories were woven together with equal parts suspense, history and fictional liberty. One story of a 1960's teenage romance connected to a story of the attempt to catch an elusive, 72-foot-long catfish, and both stories tied back to the story of a mysterious murder that took place a century prior. Doctor Sparks' animated-yet-suspenseful style of storytelling captivated the audience in the chapel.

Students highlighted the original style of Karl Smith's performance, pointing out the uniqueness of a story that blended fact and fiction, across overlapping timelines.

"I was drawn in the entire time, and I hung onto every word that he said," said Victoria Smith, '23.

Doctor Sparks' performance ended with a round of applause and a thank-you to Slote and the members of SET. He talked about the research that went into crafting his stories — that many of the people were real, even if the content of the stories, he joked, "may not have happened that way."

Smith's other work can be found on his website, doctorsparks.com.

Former Navy officer talks realities of serving



ELANOR BONTA/THE CAMPUS

Bridgette Reeb, '25, speaks with her husband, Jim Reeb, on her military experiences at a Veterans Day talk held in Oddfellows 105C. Reeb is a current Allegheny student who left her position as a Naval officer in 2012. She then joined the National Security Agency as a cryptologic linguist, listening to foreign communications for the military, before resigning in 2017.

"The beauty and cruel reality of the U.S. military is that it is one of the very few ways to escape systematic poverty for the physically fit young person. I took full advantage of that."

—BRIDGETTE REEB
Class of 2025

FAST FACTS: Women in the Military

Those serving in the military who are able to become pregnant are not provided with abortion services. As was the case with Reeb with her pharmaceutical injury a year ago, female officers are oftentimes not taken seriously when they seek medical care.

Promotion is more difficult to come by for women. Reeb scored higher than her husband on her defense language proficiency test and yet he rose more quickly in the ranks.

As Reeb's husband, Jim Reeb, detailed, a senior officer did not know the protocol for periods and was "stressed" by women's need for rest when they had period cramps, in spite of the other work put into accomodating women.

"When I got to my ship, the commanding officer said to me, 'we're going to make sure you're a success.' And I said, 'no, sir, I'm going to make sure I'm a success. If you don't evaluate me on my actual performance, it's a done deal for all of us. We're going to lose trust in each other.' He was a little taken aback by this."

—ALEXIS HART
Navy Veteran, Director of Writing and Professor of English, Allegheny College

"Decide what is worth it for you. You'll have to give up something. You decide what cause is worthy of that. What you're willing to give up for that. And, for me, if I had to do it all over again knowing that it would cause me two major neurological disorders, five knee surgeries ... and finally going to college at 39 despite a Master's worth of credits, I'd still do it all over again. Because the connections I've made and the things that I've learned are the reasons I'm still alive today. It's not pretty. It's not perfect. But I wouldn't choose anything else in the world."

—REEB

Cross Country kicks it into gear for Great Lakes Regional

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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Allegheny's cross country season has come to a close for both the men and women after competing in the NCAA Great Lakes Regional at St. Vincent College on Saturday, Nov. 12. The women placed 7th out of 34 teams while the men placed 19th out of 38 teams.

"The crowds were huge," said Leuca Hanish, '23. "I was super excited to be able to go and experience it."

The weather provided another obstacle for the runners to maneuver around. For the first time all season, snow hit the course and freezing temperatures were in play, with runners bundled up and banded together.

Some perceived the snow as a lump of coal in their stockings, while others viewed it as an early holiday gift and took the opportunity to enjoy running in weather conditions not typically seen.

"(It) was so fun," said Peter Lantz, '24. "It started snowing as soon as the women started running, and you could see the dusting on the course."

The women built upon an already impressive resume this year. They came in as favorites to win the Presidents' Athletic Conference and delivered on the expectation.

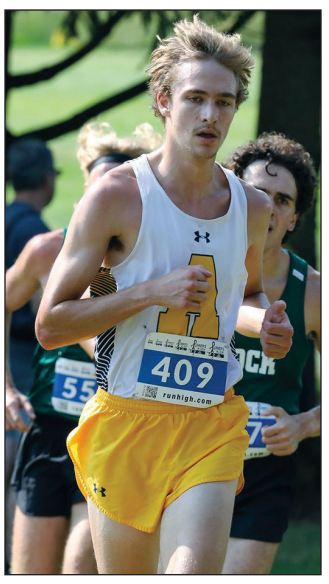

Photo courtesy of **Gator Athletics**
Peter Lantz, '24, competing during the PAC Championship race. Lantz placed 10th overall and helped the Gators take second place at the event. 31 seconds ahead of his time was Sean Heintzleman, '24, who placed fourth overall.

They brought home the gold once again in back-to-back seasons, owning two different conferences after making the switch from the North Coast Athletic Conference a year ago.

Hanish was among the most consistent runners on the roster. She came into the year with a chip on her shoulder, having rejoined the team after a break following her first year. Hanish never finished outside the top three on her team in addition to setting a new personal record for every race she ran throughout the course of the season.

"I'm really happy with how I improved throughout the season," Hanish said. "People all have good seasons and bad seasons. I just hit a really good time in my career."

Another impressive senior for the Gators this past season was Megan Aaron, '23, who placed 40th overall at the Great Lakes Regional, good for third among the Gators. Aaron has put a long list of achievements together during her four-year tenure at Allegheny, most recently earning second team All-PAC for finishing 8th overall at the Conference Championship race.

Aaron was also named a 2021 NCAC individual champion after outpacing everyone in the conference last year, which earned her a trip to the NCAA Division III National Championship. Still, Aaron's experience was not built through winning despite her great accomplishments — rather, it was built through her companionship

"I'll definitely miss my teammates and the bond that we have," Aaron said. "This year in particular our team was really close."

The men's team also had a plethora of positives to take away from the season, notably in their first place finish at the Connecticut College Invite and their second place finish at the PAC Championship.

Two Gators that had a big impact for the men were Lantz and Sean Heintzleman, '24. Both consistently put up big numbers, and both will return as seniors next year.

Heintzleman was honored with first team All-PAC after earning fourth place at the PAC Championship. He was also the best runner for the Gators during the Regional, and beat his personal record for the eight kilometer race by 33 and a half seconds.

Heintzleman placed 75th at the regional, though in almost every other event his time would be good for a national bid. The competition was fierce and brought some of the best runners in the country toe-to-toe with the Gators.

"I was certainly surprised by the quality of the competition," Heintzleman said. "But I think everyone, even people who have gone before, were as well. Despite the fact that we're known as being the strongest region in the country, the margins by which that were true this season I think were unprecedented."

If the Gators want another crack at this level of competition next season, Lantz said they would need to set a tone similar to that of the women, who were able to lift themselves to the top of the conference. It motivated him and everyone else to keep setting a new standard of winning throughout the culture of Allegheny.

Though they need to perform and compete for themselves, it was also essential to Lantz that the team still stays tight. He recalled a story of both the men and women going out to Olive Garden the night before the conference meet.

The catch was the men had planned to grow out a mustache for the championship. They were granted seven days from the time of their last meet to groom the best mustache they could. Lantz said the reactions to their scraggly tufts of fur on the women's faces were priceless as they boarded the bus for dinner.

The Gators have plenty of steam heading into the offseason. Everyone expects to keep the bar raised and continue adding to their legacy that has already been set in stone. The program is seeing some of the best there has been at Allegheny, encouraging all athletes to better their game and work hard.



Photo courtesy of **Gator Athletics**
The Allegheny Women's Cross Country team hoisting the championhsip flag after winning the Conference tournament on Saturday, Oct. 29. It was their first time winning back-to-back titles since their 3-peat during the 2015-17 seasons.

Women's Basketball lose to Westminster, fall to 0-4

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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The women's basketball team has gotten off to a tough start this season, dropping their first four matches.

Their most recent defeat came from Westminster in the James P. Mullen Arena of the Wise Center on Wednesday, Nov. 16, as the Gators dropped the game 42-62. They have not had an easy route to sucess, already facing two top-25 opponents: the No. 22 John Carroll Blue Streaks and the No. 17 St. John Fisher Cardinals.

In an interview before the season began, Head Coach Kelly Muffley invited the rigorous schedule to the team, stating it will make them better down the road learning to play through adversity early in the season.

The Gators will hit the road for the next three games, taking on Fransiscan, Bethany and Case Western Reserve and looking to turn the results around.



Jess Bickart, '26, scores an open layup in the second half. She finished the game at the top of the point column for the Gators. Her final line consisted of nine points, one assist and two rebounds.



Alexis Caldwell,'23, hoists herself above the Titans' Gracie Schill. Caldwell finished the game with six points and six rebounds in the Gators defeat.



From left to right: Caldwell, Bickart, Emily Lauer, '25, Sarah Santicola, '26, and Jasmyn Fisher, '25, take the court to start the 4th quarter.



Sofia Genaro, '25, reaches to block a Westminster shot under the basket. Genaro finished the game with six points and three steals.