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Allegheny responds to East Palestine spill

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

A train carrying a wide range of industrial chemicals derailed on Friday, Feb. 3, in East Palestine, Ohio — just 80 miles from Meadville. Many of the chemicals that were spilled during the wreck are carcinogenic and known to cause acute and long-term adverse health effects.

"We understand that there has been concern expressed in certain segments of the media about the train derailment and chemical spill in East Palestine, Ohio on February 3," the college wrote in a statement to The Campus on Friday, Feb. 17. "We know that the event was significant and had real consequences for the inhabitants of East Palestine and their neighbors. We want to assure you that Allegheny takes the health and safety of its community very seriously. Allegheny College is unaware of any dangers posed locally to health and safety from the East Palestine incident."

The college has been in contact with the Crawford County Emergency Management Coordinator, who has reaffirmed that neither the federal Environment Protection Agency nor the State Department of Environmental Protection have issued any directives to Crawford County.

While East Palestine and Meadville are both located within the Ohio River Watershed, Meadville is located upstream, which means any potential contamination of water sources in East Palestine will not affect Meadville.

Still, many students have been worried about possible air contamination on campus. Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Matt Betherum said he shares similar concerns.

"I haven't seen anything definitive about how far those toxins reached in the airshed in the aftermath of the disaster, but it's a possibility, at least, that this community could have been exposed to probably what would have been relatively low levels of anything that got into the air," Betherum said.

Betherum teaches environmental policy and believes the severity of the derailment came as a direct result of multiple "bad actors" working in conjunction with each other over the past year.

During the summer of 2022, rail employees threatened to strike nationwide if they did not receive better employment benefits and safer working conditions — which included the installation of updated safety features on trains and tracks. Betherum said rail companies opposed employees' demands because they were too expensive. The companies wrote a labor agreement that did not satisfy employees, which the Biden administration then helped to pass on Dec. 2, 2022.

"The railroad industry has got a special carve out that goes way, way back because of how important the railroads were for moving goods around the United States," Betherum said. "And so the federal government does have the authority to bust a strike, in essence. They don't call it that. What they call it is, 'We're going to moderate an agreement here.' Well, it just so happens that they decided to adopt the agreement that was written by the rail industry which didn't meet virtually any of the workers' demands, including the safety stuff."

See TRAIN | *page 3*

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



WILLIAM LOWTHERT/THE CAMPUS

Students dance together at the Get Down Decades Dance on Friday, Feb. 17, at the Schultz Banquet Hall.

See BHM | *page 2*

SLE to launch Engage after spring break

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

Move over, MyAllegheny: There is a new web platform for student events on campus.

More than five months after initially planned, the rollout of club management software Engage is set to begin this week, opening a new chapter in the way students and clubs interact with each other and the wider community.

"We were trying to find a solution to the problem of people saying, 'I don't know how to get involved with a club,'" said Assistant Dean for Student Leadership & Engagement Eric Stolar. "'I know they're there and I know they're having events but I don't know how to get in contact with them.'"

The platform works by giving each student organization a centralized space on Engage to coordinate all sorts of activities. Club leaders can see their budgets in real time, privately share documents among individual cabinet members, and post events on a schedule for the wider student body to see. The Engage platform is already used by a number of other schools, including the University of Portland and Boston University.

Engage was originally set to launch in time for a training for all clubs in mid-September, but resurfaced only a few weeks ago, when Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley mentioned it during an Allegheny Student Government General Assembly. Stolar cited turnover in SLE as part of the delay.

"The (staff member) who had that knowledge and background with Engage left the college at the beginning of the fall, so we lost some of that familiarity with the program, so that was me and Gloria Burgess, our Student Life Coordinator, getting some time to get used to the website ourselves and to kind of learn that lens of it," he said.

See ENGAGE | *page 2*

Tumultuous week for ASG

Closed session held midweek

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

The Allegheny Student Government began the process to grant itself the power to determine what clubs are members of the Culture, Identity, and Leadership Coalition in an "emergency" General Assembly on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 15. ASG — as well as invited leadership from CILC clubs — gathered to discuss amendment 22-05, which would shift power to determine CILC membership from the IDEAS Center to ASG.

Publicly, proponents say the amendment would centralize ASG's authority as the sole representative of students on campus. A document in the meeting minutes argues that the move is necessary because CILC clubs are currently required to meet with a staff member who makes them uncomfortable. But despite being advertised to the public, all but two minutes of the Feb. 15 discussion on the amendment were spent in closed session at the suggestion of ASG President Veronica Green, '23.

"As a word of advice from me, during the discussion point of the amendment, I recommend that we move to a closed session," Green told the Feb. 15 GA. "Therefore, if there's any information provided from Cabinet or our guests, that they do not fear some sort of retaliation or any sort of journalistic writing from The Campus."

On a motion from Class of 2025 President Nicole Recio Bremer, the Senate voted 11-4 to close the meeting. Anyone who was not a member of ASG or a CILC guest was removed from the session until the meeting reopened more than an hour later.

Article II, Section 5, Subsection 4 of the ASG constitution stipulates that a closed session can be convened "if one of the following conditions are met:

a. The General Assembly is discussing the appointment, the performance, or the dismissal of a member of cabinet, senate, or an appointed member of a College Committee.

b. The body must discuss the reallocation of any ASG specific funds.

c. All discussions held in a closed session shall remain in the closed session and shall not be discussed thereafter, this includes the closed section discussion within the minutes."

In an email to The Campus after the meeting, Green said that the ASG constitution's wording regarding closed sessions was flexible enough to allow uses like the Feb. 15 meeting.

See CILC | *page 3*

Amendments stall in GA

By **ROMAN HLADIO**
Editor-in-Chief
hladior@allegheny.edu

Allegheny students are set to get stronger with the introduction of a new weight exercise club and further debate on two constitutional amendments.

The Allegheny Student Government called their Tuesday, Feb. 21, General Assembly to order at 7:31 p.m. They officially approved Lift-Up as a club, proposed a new amendment and talked about disciplinary proceedings following last week's emergency assembly on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

ASG President Veronica Green, '23, opened with a statement regarding disciplinary action to be taken against ASG officials following the Wednesday, Feb. 15, emergency meeting.

"It's been brought to my attention that some people in this room did not maintain their responsibility of holding their seat in this room, and did not honor their confidentiality agreement, and did not honor the fact that people's personal experience is not theirs to talk about," Green said.

Green's role is to run the student legislature as the president of ASG, she explained, and in performing that role she and the current administration have done a lot to maintain and increase trust in ASG among the student body. To this point, she said, she believed ASG had done a good job.

"This room is about to get a lot more empty in the coming weeks, and I just want to say that I am disappointed in those individuals," Green said.

Green said that Judicial Review Board complaints have been filed against the individuals, and that the Rules Committee is currently reviewing them. Article V Section 2, Subsection b, of the ASG constitution states that "Should the case be deemed to not have constitutional basis, the case shall end at the rules committee."

If there is constitutional basis, the case will be brought before the conclave of the JRB — a group of three students appointed by the Attorney General. Members of ASG are not allowed membership on the JRB. Both the accuser and representatives of the accused will have an opportunity to present a case on the issue's constitutionality before a decision is made.

"As we move forward in talking about both amendments tonight and the CILC (Culture, Identity and Leadership Coalition) constitution in the coming weeks, please understand that people's personal experiences are not yours to have opinions on," Green said.

See GA | *page 2*

In this week's Campus...

SELF-PORTRAIT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Ron Cole, '87, recounts his experiences at Allegheny, exploring how he ended up back at the college at four different points in his life.

Page 4

WAR IN UKRAINE

The Russian war in Ukraine began one year ago today. Ukrainian international students have come together to host a day of reflection and education.

Page 5

ADMITTED STUDENTS DAY

Admitted students were invited to campus on Monday, Feb. 20, for the first Admitted Students Day of the semester. The students, should they matriculate, will be members of the class of 2027.

Page 8

FRIDAY H: 26° L: 18° Snow: 7% Sunrise: 7:03 a.m. Sunset: 6:04 p.m.

SATURDAY H: 39° L: 25° Snow: 15% Sunrise: 7:01 a.m. Sunset: 6:06 p.m.

SUNDAY H: 41° L: 25° Rain: 10% Sunrise: 7:00 a.m. Sunset: 6:07 p.m.

BHM
from page 1



WILLIAM LOWTHERT/THE CAMPUS

Shawntea Mahdi, '23, sells tickets for the Soul Food Dinner event that occured on Sunday, Feb. 19, at the Schultz Banquet Hall.



WILLIAM LOWTHERT/THE CAMPUS

Daniel Stanton (left), a teller from Marquette Bank, leads Allegheny College students through a financial literacy workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 15. During the workshop, he talked about how it was not bad to be "Balling on Budget" and that to find success in life, a person needs to know how to wisely spend money.

GA
from page 1

"If they wanted to reach out for assistance in certain departments — if they wanted your personal commentary, they would have asked you for it. We were there to listen. We were not there to comment on whether or not it was credible, on whether or not you personally — we were not there to invalidate other people's experiences. We were not there to share them with other people as well."

A discussion totaling about 35 minutes took place in the midst of "new business," as Director of the Treasury Adriana Solis, '23, announced "Amendment 22-06." This new amendment was a response to last week's "Amendment 22-05." Both amendments seek to add an eleventh article to the ASG constitution defining CILC membership. Class of 2023 President Shira Haus, a sponsor of the second proposal, referred to it as "the middle ground."

"After the GA last week, some members of CILC organizations that were not able to attend the meeting kind of voiced their concerns about the amendment to me, and I believe, you know, as a ruling body, our job is to represent our constituents, and they were kind of worried about ASG having too much power over CILC status in general, especially since the IDEAS Center functions as, like, advising and overseeing CILC clubs in some ways," Haus said.

Amendment 22-06 — which was authored by Solis and sponsored by Haus; Class of 2023 Vice President Jasmin Meyer Jaafari; Director of Communication and Press Kyrie Doniz, '23; Class of 2024 Vice President London Dejarnette; Class of 2024 President Juliana James and Senator Hunter Goerman, '25 — more explicitly states that both ASG and the IDEAS Center must approve when an organization seeks CILC status or when an organization's CILC status is challenged.

Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jaelyn Valentin, '25, worried that some CILC organizations would not be comfortable with Director of the IDEAS Center Lisa Nicole Smith having such a direct amount of control over CILC organizations as a result of the amendment.

Valentin went on to claim, without citing any specific evidence, that Smith has not read the CILC constitution and said Smith has not contacted her regarding needed revisions despite efforts to collaborate.

Smith did not immediately respond to a request for a comment Thursday.

"We all have a general understanding, have access to the CILC constitution, but you guys have read the CILC constitution, it is a hot f------- mess, pardon my French," Valentin said.

Later in the conversation, both Green and Haus noted the impermanence of ASG as an institution, how the student government will always have a high turnover, and that it is the job of the government to make amendments that are clearly understandable for future cabinets.

After the discussion closed, Senator Gary Murray, '26, put forward a motion to vote on amendment 22-05. The 7-7 vote on the motion, with two abstentions, failed because it required a supermajority, which was not met.

Amendment 22-06 was tabled, with Director of Community Relations William Lowthert, '24, and Senator Lorenzo Scarnati, '26, both suggesting at separate points in the discussion that the language be improved before voting ensues.

"So as of right now, the process for becoming a CILC organization or losing CILC status is still completely up to the director of the IDEAS Center?" asked co-Director of Student Affairs Cam Lesher, '24.

"Yes," ASG Vice President Rudra Schultz-Ray, '23, responded.

In "unfinished business," the assembly put Lift Up, a club which promotes inclusivity in strength-based sports and exercise, to its second round of voting. The club passed its second round of voting, with no nays and one abstention from Senator V Belcher, '26.

"Your club is now existing," Schultz-Ray said to Lift Up's two representatives after the vote.

The assembly approved the use of $150 from the CILC fund for food purchased by the Association of Caribbean Students for their movie night, according to Solis.

Lowthert announced that he has been in communication with Meadville business Cup n' Spoon to host a Boba Night on campus. Lowthert said the event would either be before or after spring break.

The meeting ended at 8:32 p.m., with Class of 2026 President Sam Ault abstaining from the motion to close the meeting.

ENGAGE
from page 1

The work was complicated by backend details in getting the platform running, including importing the 100-odd student organizations on campus and setting up login information for every student.

"We were expecting to have a little bit more time in the initial build of the website that we just lost out on," Stolar said. "It took us a little longer to get in and be able to do some of those fine details and making sure we were presenting something that was going to be actually usable."

While the website is up and running, it is not populated with any events. This week, SLE will be connecting with club leaders to get that ball rolling.

"We'll give them probably about a week or so to do some internal work and engage with that special access to club leaders," Stolar said. "After that — we're looking now at after spring break is when we'll start rolling it out to the more general population."

Unlike MyAllegheny or social media, which is often limited to announcing events that day or in the next few days, this schedule can extend days or even weeks in advance — which Stolar hopes will streamline students' ability to find events they're interested in.

"Maybe those things get posted once or emailed once and can kind of get lost in the influx of other materials you're getting," Stolar said. "Engage will always be updating. It will always be live. So you can always log in and find something that way versus having to look through your email to find more information on an event you might have seen."

This new schedule of events could open new doors for club planning. Grounds for Change — which regularly hosts club events — sees Engage as a possible way to expand coordination with other student groups.

"It definitely sounds like it could be a good idea and a possible way to make our schedule more known and available," said GFC Treasurer Marshall Ramos, '24. "Then again, it's years of systematic work that we've built into our operations that would have to be changed."

Where most room spaces on campus can be reserved through the Scheduler platform, GFC's space must be reserved through the club itself to centralize information for the café's leadership. Changing this system, Ramos said, requires developing new procedures and a careful weighing of pros and cons.

"I definitely think it'll come down to our events team and what they feel," Ramos said. "I think that if we do make the switch, it'll be a year or two down the line, once the platform's settled and we can work around different bugs and stuff."

Beyond the schedule, Ramos thinks that the platform will make leadership changes in student organizations easier to handle.

"It sounds like it can centralize some of the information on clubs, which I know is a huge problem," Ramos said. "As a member of many different clubs, officer transitions are some of the worst things to deal with."

Since the platform can host club constitutions and other documents critical to running a student organization, transitioning materials from one student to the next is just a matter of changing who can access what.

"When we go in and put Student X as the next president, all of that information that president had access to in Engage will automatically go over to that next person, so we don't have to worry about making sure there's that email follow-up or trying to share Google Drives or something like that," Stolar said.

Included in the information club leaders can access is a live look at clubs' budgets and finances, which ASG officials hope will prove more palatable than its current update system of sending every club a spreadsheet with their current budget balance about once a week.

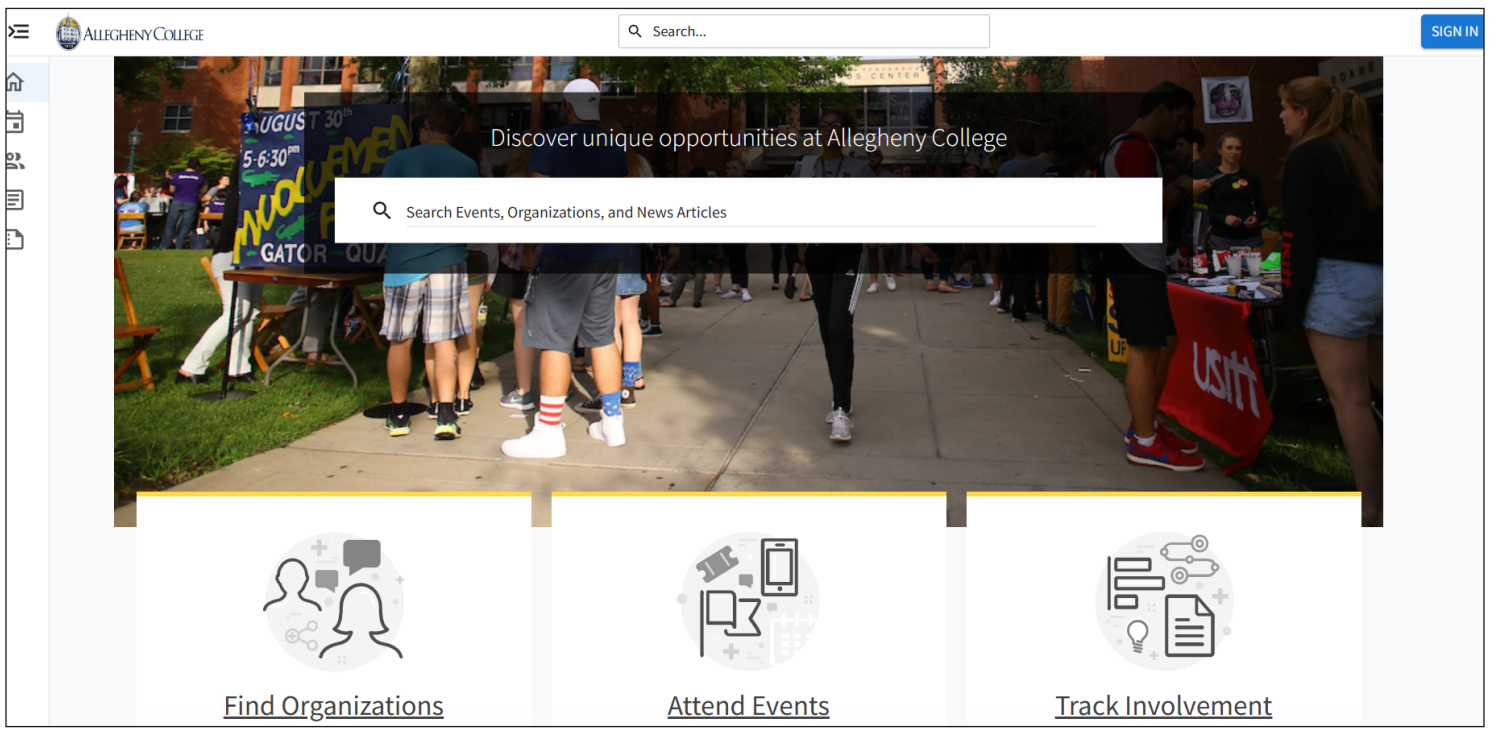
"I've had complaints about the structure of it and it being in a more readable format, so this is just for us to make it easier for clubs to look," said ASG Director of Finance Adriana Solis, '23.

However, ASG's underlying fund request processes will remain in place, according to Solis.

"The process and the timelines and everything are still going to be the same," Solis said. "We're not going to change that. It's just so that I don't have to send out weekly emails with this really disgusting-looking spreadsheet with all the club names and all their transactions and their club budget … it doesn't really change the process."

Solis is looking forward to the platform empowering clubs to put their events into the public sphere and connect more efficiently with their financial status.

"I'm excited for clubs to get their own platform," she said. "I know that's been a lot of conflict in the past, if clubs want to be able to promote their stuff and get access to their financial information so that they can accurately plan their events a lot quicker than the turnaround is in ASG."



Source: ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

Engage's landing page includes links to events and ways to get involved.

CILC *from page 1*

"The constitutions verbiage is not that we can 'only' have closed sessions, the examples provided work as examples," Green wrote. "The content of the meeting required that ASG protect those who wanted to voice their opinions from retaliation or public documentation, such as The Campus."

While the contents of the closed session are not to be discussed outside of the session, the meeting's public minutes include a document titled "Summary of Events" that alleges a term used in several emails from IDEAS Center Director Lisa Nicole Smith was transphobic. Screenshots of the emails were linked in the document.

The document was written by Co-Director of Student Affairs Cam Lesher, '24 — who also serves as the president of Allegheny's All Gender Equity Society. Lesher co-introduced the amendment with Green.

"I feel that the proposal that we have is important for ensuring that student groups that belong in CILC will not be forced to leave CILC because of being uncomfortable meeting with Lisa Nicole since she previously expressed that CILC Presidents that do not have monthly 1 on 1 meetings with her are not abiding by the rules of CILC and their status would be reconsidered," Lesher wrote in the document.

Both Lesher and Smith declined to comment.

When The Campus began contacting CILC members about the allegations, Green wrote in reply to a request for comment that she was "worried about the nature of this article."

"I respect The Campus and the want to write in upcoming changes in ASG," Green wrote. "However, I am also aware that others have been emailed to comment on 'accusations against Lisa Nicole.' The only individual who discussed Lisa Nicole, was Cam Lesher and the minutes reflect that."

At the Feb. 21 GA, Senator Jasmine Meyer Jaafari, '23, said that questions about Smith's conduct were central to the Feb. 15 closed session and a motivating factor behind the prroposal to amend the ASG constitution.

"The concern that we brought up with Lisa Nicole was that she was going to take some sort of retaliatory action to hurt the CILC organizations," she said during a discussion on the topic.

However, Green pushed back on the idea that the amendments proposed were related to allegations against Smith.

"The motivation behind the amendment of last week was not directed at the current director of the IDEAS Center," Green said. "It was meant because, in my time, I've had to explain the CILC constitution to three people in the IDEAS Center. There's so much turnover there that the concept of being able to understand the IDEAS Center role with so many people in collaboration with ASG, there's too much confusion, and there's also too much personal bias. ASG has more checks and balances in order to determine CILC status rather than it being one person."

CILC does have its own power structure. Established in 2021, the CILC constitution outlines a second legislative body similar to ASG but explicitly to support and represent "systematically marginalized student populations."

While the CILC constitution does not say who can determine which clubs are in CILC, Article VII, Section 3 of the CILC constitution stipulates that ASG's powers are to "provide funding for all organizations" and that "any amendments to the ASG Constitution must be voted upon in the Senate passing with the requirements in both constitutions."

Furthermore, Article II, Section 4, Subsection II of the CILC constitution states, "Any action by Allegheny College and the Allegheny College Student Government within CILC not specifically outlined within this Constitution violates the spirit of cooperation between these interdependent bodies."

However, during the few minutes of open discussion on Feb. 15, Class of 2026 President Sam Ault argued that giving ASG authority over CILC clubs centralized student leadership over all clubs.

"This amendment is going to make a lot of sense, just in that ASG is supposed to be the representative body of the student body, and we are in all other cases the orchestrator of clubs," Ault said. "This amendment just makes a lot of sense logistically with ASG being placed in charge of the clubs. It's true of every other club. It should be true of CILC clubs."

It's unclear what weight the CILC constitution holds, given there is no record that the body has ever met as a legislature. According to ASG Parliamentarian Ankitha Pamula, '24, the CILC constitution is currently being reviewed by ASG Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Jaelyn Valentin, '25, who called the document a "hot f------- mess" at the Feb. 21 GA.

On a practical level, CILC is a group of 20 clubs for under-represented students that have access to additional workshops, collaboration opportunities and funding through the IDEAS Center, with the power to determine which clubs are in CILC resting with the IDEAS Center Director.

The Feb. 15 meeting was the first time the General Assembly convened outside of its regular schedule since digital record-keeping began in 2013, and was announced just over 24 hours before the meeting was gaveled to order.

"The urgency behind the meeting was due to ASG being made aware of behaviors and interactions between CILC organizations and the IDEAS Center," Green wrote in an email to The Campus after the Feb. 15 session. "The 'emergency' aspect was that we needed to make a decision on this amendment prior to next Tuesday's meeting. Given the situation, we could not wait for the next two Tuesdays to vote on this amendment. I am sure other senators will agree."

At least one senator did not agree with Green's explanation: During the Feb. 21 GA, Class of 2023 President Shira Haus said that despite what she saw as legitimate concerns from CILC clubs, the process felt rushed. Haus did not specify what those concerns were.

"We formed this amendment in response to real concerns coming from CILC members and CILC board members," Haus said. "Obviously, we can keep working on it, but I also have to say the original amendment was proposed pretty abruptly, and we didn't really talk about the amendment. We talked about other things — which are important, obviously — but we didn't really discuss the amendment and I feel like we need to consider some alternatives."

Haus' alternative was an alternative constitutional amendment that would have shared the decision-making powers on CILC status between CILC, ASG and the IDEAS Center.

Though the original amendment — 22-05 — was approved for the first time on Feb. 15 by a vote of 13-1, the amendment failed its second vote on Feb. 21, with senators split 7-7. The second amendment supported by Haus — amendment 22-06 — was introduced at the Feb. 21 GA but tabled for later discussion after a 35-minute debate on the topic. For now, the power to determine CILC status remains with the IDEAS Center and its director.

TRAIN *from page 1*

The passage of the labor agreement prevented employees from striking and did not significantly alter their working conditions. Officials are still uncertain what specifically caused the train in East Palestine to derail, but experts interviewed by Vox say it is likely that if specific safety mechanisms had been installed, the derailment would not have been so devastating.

While train derailments are dramatic events, they are not uncommon. The Federal Railroad Administration reported approximately 1,000 train derailments in 2022.

"We don't hear about it most of the time because usually they don't explode and f------- spew toxins everywhere, although that happens too, you know, with some regularity," Betherum said. "This isn't a brand-new thing. The only reason why those things haven't been put in place is because of the lobbying power of the rail industry, basically."

Betherum believes Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg could have used his authority to mitigate the potential for the disaster by enforcing a wide variety of safety mechanisms for trains and tracks. Buttigieg's lack of action raises red flags for Betherum.

"My sense of it — and again, this is just my take on it — is because his political aspirations don't lead him to really give much of a damn about the job he's supposed to be doing," Betherum said. "Instead, it's all with an eye on a future presidential run. I think that's what he is most focused on."

The remediation effort for chemical spills is a long, work-intensive process, and cleanup of the affected area has been ongoing since hours after the derailment occurred. The effort to deal with contaminated soil is still underway, but the EPA reported on Feb. 19 that their tools did not detect any air or water contamination in the area. However, Delphine Farmer, a chemist at Colorado State University, told Vox that she believes the tools the EPA is using to measure air contamination are not reliable in an outdoor setting. Furthermore, she said scientists are not entirely sure what level of exposure to the chemicals is safe for humans in the long-run.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine encouraged residents of East Palestine to return to their homes on Feb. 8, assuring them that measurements of the air and water showed no significant signs of contamination. However, PBS reported that upon returning, many residents experienced headaches and eye irritation — among other symptoms — and are concerned that the area is not as safe as officials are promising. Additionally, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources estimated that approximately 3,500 fish were dead in surrounding surface waters as a result of the toxic spillage.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Delia Byrnes teaches environmental justice, which focuses on the idea that all people have the right to equal environmental protection under the law. She said that while it is too early to know if there will be specific populations who are disproportionately impacted by the derailment in East Palestine, the event could potentially follow historical trends.

"If we want to think about the aftermath of events such as these, we know that historically, national trends suggest that some communities — such as those that are predominantly white and middle-to-upper income — often benefit more, compared to their BIPOC and low-income counterparts, from social and infrastructural investment to prevent and mitigate disasters when they do happen," Byrnes said in an email.

She also said it is important to think about where railroads are located in relation to a community's relative wealth and how as a result, certain populations might be disproportionately impacted by train-related disasters.

While the derailment did not occur in Meadville, it is possible Meadville could suffer a similar catastrophe in the future.

"It's a scary situation for anybody who lives anywhere a rail line goes through in the future where a similar type of disaster could happen in their neighborhood sometime," Betherum said. "You know, we've got rail tracks that run right through Meadville. I don't know what's on the trains that come through Meadville, but conceivably something like this could happen right here."

Betherum hopes East Palestine continues to recover from the train derailment and that the town's story will serve as a wake-up call for Americans all over the country.

"This one — for whatever combination of reasons — does feel like it's grabbed the public's attention a little bit more," Betherum said. "It does seem like it's getting some more news coverage, again, for whatever reason. So it's awful that it happened, but now that it has happened, the hope is that something can come out of it that strengthens our protection system so that nobody else has to go through this."

CORRECTIONS

An article in the Feb. 17 edition of The Campus, "Lunch with the Deans," incorrectly quoted Dean for Student Experience Ian Binnington. Binnington said the idea was partly inspired by open hours held by "then-Provost, now-President Ron Cole." Binnington also said that while he could not commit Cole to participating, Cole's involvement in the program's future was a possibility. The online edition of the article has been updated to reflect this.

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.

February 18, 2023
Criminal Trespass
Campus Center
Pending Investigation

February 19, 2023
Alcohol Violation
Ravine Hall
Referred to Dean

February 20, 2023
Theft
Vukovich Center
Pending Investigation

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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Sarah Brammell Comedy columnist

Annaliese Stone Graphic designer

Michael Crowley Faculty adviser

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

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A self-portrait of the president as a young man

By **RON COLE**
Contributing Writer
rcole@allegheny.edu

How did I end up sticking with Allegheny — both as a student and for many years afterward? That's the question from Opinion Editor Sydney Emerson, '23, that prompted me to write this reflection on my Allegheny journey. I first arrived at Allegheny as a student from a single-parent home in Brooklyn, NY. How did I end up sticking with Allegheny? I attribute that to purpose. Not my purpose, at least not early on, but the altruistic purpose of others who inspired in me a growth mindset, intellectual curiosity and the value of community. Allow me to share a few examples.

Early in my Allegheny journey I discovered the joy of being part of something larger than myself as a member of the Allegheny Civic Symphony. I had that opportunity because Tom Wood, an Allegheny music professor, believed in me as a first-year student and nurtured in me a love of music in a way that I hadn't understood before — the way in which playing in an ensemble is something larger than oneself as part of the shared human experience; the way in which music crosses cultures and brings communities together. While I hadn't planned on it, this led me to minor in Music, playing violin in the Civic Symphony and a baroque ensemble, opening for me a way of understanding the world that I hadn't known before. Tom Wood had purpose.

Alongside my minor in music, as I pursued my major in geology, I found professors and mentors who cultivated in me a love of learning driven by curiosity and discovery. Imagine that, knowing for the sake of knowing. In this spirit, I've always been drawn to mountains — the contrast with the world around them inspires in me a wonder for how they form, which drew me into wanting to learn more, leading me to the study of geology. Did you know that the top of Mount Everest has layers of limestone that formed in a shallow ocean? It took the collision of India northward into Eurasia at the rate of a few centimeters per year to close that shallow ocean and push what was once the seafloor 29,032 feet into the atmosphere. Did you know that when Africa and North America collided during the formation of the supercontinent Pangea, there were mountains in eastern Pennsylvania that probably rivaled Everest? I remember the first time that Professor Wayne Brewer helped me and other students visualize this during a field trip — my world exploded into four dimensions — the dimensions of space plus time. Wayne Brewer had purpose. Then I wondered, where'd those mountains go?

Bob Dylan gives a clue in his song "Blowin' in the Wind" when he asks in his croaky voice how many years a mountain exists before it's washed to the sea. This was the basis for my senior project, Dylan-inspired, identifying mineral grains that were eroded from mountains and deposited in a small ocean to form sandstone that's now exposed in the Hudson Valley region of New York — by knowing those minerals in the sandstone, one can piece together the mountains that were once uplifted and eroded. Like doing a puzzle, but without having the picture on the lid of the box. From this, with the contagious enthusiasm and mentoring of my comp advisor, Professor Bob Schwartz, I was able to reconstruct a facet of tectonic plate collisions that happened some 400 million years ago. Fascinating. And driven by tenacious curiosity. Bob Schwartz had purpose.

Now I'll get a bit vulnerable and let you know that as a student, in my first term at Allegheny, I was not yet Alden Scholar material. It was also hard to pay for college. So after my first term, I returned to Brooklyn, got a job loading trucks at night, and reconsidered my future — wondering whether college was right for me.

After a few landline phone calls with Schwartz, my academic advisor, who somehow managed to get in touch with me — this was the 1980's when cell phones and email were still things of the future — I returned for the second term with a spark of a growth mindset.

When I found my way back to campus, I was somehow contacted by Milosh Mamula, the director of financial aid, who helped me with a plan to continue paying for college. I also somehow got connected with Nancy Sheridan who was an academic support specialist — aka, an early version of the Maytum Center for Student Success that we have today. Soon after, I somehow became involved with community engagement and volunteered in Meadville. When I did poorly on an exam in my psychology class, Professor Mary Hudak somehow helped me understand how to learn from failure — the spark of growth mindset was getting brighter.

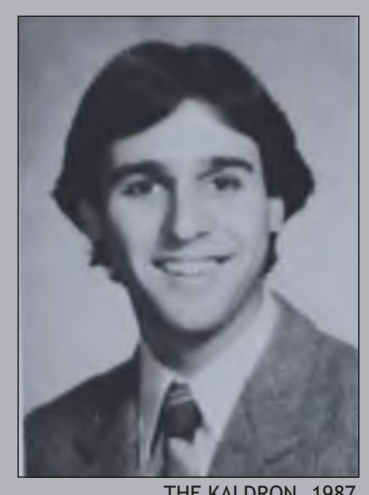
What I came to understand is that behind each of these "somehows" was someone whose sense of purpose was to serve — by guiding and supporting me and other students so that we could flourish and graduate with pride in what we accomplished. I have the wonderful vantage to see this same theme holding true today — whether in the classroom or lab, on the playing field, on the stage, or with any number of other learning experiences across campus.

Upon graduation, I more fully appreciated the value of my Allegheny education as I found myself superbly prepared for graduate school with research and communication skills, diverse perspectives, and the confidence in knowing how to learn. This foundation continued to serve me in my professional work in environmental consulting and then, full circle, as a faculty member at Allegheny in my teaching, scholarship and mentoring of students. These fundamental skills still serve me today, in a role that I certainly hadn't imagined when I walked across the Commencement stage on Bentley lawn in 1987.

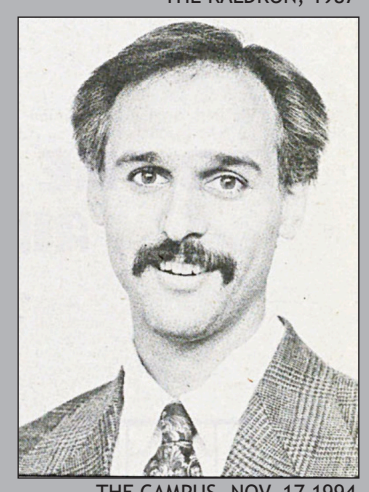
So, how did I wind up sticking with Allegheny? As a student, it was the unwavering purpose of faculty and staff that gave me support and inspired me to learn and grow. Now, years later, it is the unwavering purpose that has been ingrained in me for the success of Allegheny students throughout the arc of their experience. Looking back, I feel pretty good about what I gained from my Allegheny education, and today I remain absolute in my conviction for Allegheny.

Students, if I may offer a few words of advice — embrace your Allegheny education and trust that Allegheny faculty and staff are preparing you with purpose for success on paths that you may not even know exist yet.

From graduating in 1987 to joining the faculty in 1994 to serving seven years as provost and dean of the college to being appointed interim president in 2022, Cole has spent 34 of the 40 years since his matriculation at Allegheny College.



THE KALDRON, 1987



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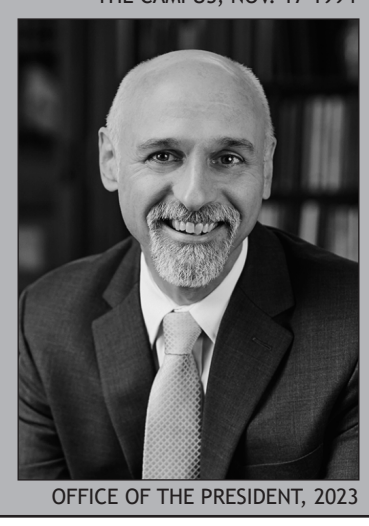

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, 2023

Keeping the 'human' in the humanities

Director of writing contemplates artificial intelligence's place in the classroom

By **D. ALEXIS HART**
Contributing Writer
ahart@allegheny.edu

The heart palpitations and hand-wringing in my academic field of Writing Studies began in early December 2022 when headlines such as "The College Essay Is Dead" in The Atlantic and "Freaking Out About ChatGPT: Artificial intelligence can crank out passable student essays in seconds. What are we going to do?" from Inside Higher Ed began appearing and being shared and discussed on numerous list-servs and social media groups.

Given our training as researchers as well as teachers, these initial Chicken Little "the sky is falling" posts were quickly followed by posts from folks who were testing the capabilities of ChatGPT by giving it actual assignment prompts from their classes or asking it to assess some of their own students' writing.

During this initial fervor, I sought reactions from the group on campus to whom I often turn for richly-informed discussions about writing and the teaching of writing: the writing consultants. I began our December professional development meeting by asking the consultants if they had heard of ChatGPT, if they had tried using it and if any of the writers with whom they consulted had referred to it. A few consultants had heard of it, but none had tried using it, and they hadn't had any writers bring it up in conversation. I proceeded to hand out an example of writing ChatGPT had generated in response to assignment prompts written by Ashley Squires, assistant professor of English and writing center director at Avila University. While the consultants agreed that the AI-generated writing was a bit "uncanny" in its mimicry of academic writing conventions, they quickly turned to talking about how they would consult a human writer of the text — a text that might be "passable," but did not sufficiently fulfill the conditions of the prompt and was generally vapid and voiceless.

After I expressed my appreciation of their careful reading and thoughtful feedback, I shared with them some of the comments ChatGPT had provided in response to one of Squires's student's writing, as well as her acknowledgment that while some of the AI's suggestions were not good, some were similar to advice that she would have given the student.

> Having an AI generate text may well be more efficient, but the process of learning that occurs through the act of writing is lost. "
>
> —D. ALEXIS HART
> Professor of English and Director of Writing, Allegheny College

As we continued our discussion, the consultants repeatedly returned to what they felt were the uniquely human values of producing written texts. Why, they asked, would they completely cede the work of generating writing to a bot when the purpose of their writing process is to learn about a topic, to think critically about it, and to express themselves to an audience of other human beings? And they all agreed that a bot couldn't produce truly creative writing because it couldn't draw from lived, embodied experiences. I smiled at the sincerity of their perplexity, and suggested it was likely why they had become writing consultants in the first place.

Of course, the writing consultants are not representative of all student writers, and the difference between producing writing and writing to learn is often overlooked. Here I agree with the Writing Across the Curriculum professional organization, whose statement on AI writing tools argues, "Writing to learn is an intellectual activity that is crucial to the cognitive and social development of learners and writers. This vital activity cannot be replaced by AI language generators." Having an AI generate text may well be more efficient, but the process of learning that occurs through the act of writing is lost.

Similarly, professors may be lured by the efficiencies of AI-generated responses to student writing, but if they delegate this work to AI, they will lose out on the opportunity to learn from their students' writing — one of my favorite aspects of teaching writing — and the students will lose out on receiving responses from real human *readers*, not just artificial *editors*.

However, I'm not naive enough to think that all or even most students and instructors will eschew the efficiencies of natural language processing AIs. So, during the first class meeting of my FS102 this semester — which happens to be titled "The Robots are Coming!" — I told the students that I was not going to attempt to prohibit their use of AI text generators. Instead, I was going to ask them to acknowledge any help they received from AI — including idea generation, sentence structure, source summaries or citations — and describe how they incorporated it into their writing. I also told them that I would not accept any work wholly produced by an AI.

Because I scaffold the writing instruction and assignments in my classes, rather than simply assigning writing and collecting and "marking up" the finished product, students move from generative invention and brainstorming through revisions of multiple drafts for which they receive oral and written feedback, consider their choices and create revision plans before turning in the draft that I assess. Doing so, I hope, helps the students see that much of the hard work of writing and critical and creative thinking happens in revision. And it's that work of thinking and making informed choices that I'm most interested in engaging in with them.

Seven years ago, my science fiction book club read "The Word Exchange" by Alena Graedon, a dystopian novel set in the near future in which people have become so reliant on technology to provide them information and complete their thoughts that when an evil corporation creates a virus that inserts gibberish in place of actual words, people panic when a "babble pandemic" ensues. Back then, in 2016, autofill was mostly confined to text messages — it hadn't become prevalent in word processing, and the canned suggested responses in email were not common. During our book club discussion, I speculated that as more people opted for the efficiency of autofill, our language might begin to flatten and become less expressive. Back then, it seemed unlikely. Now, not so much. As a teacher of writing, I will continue to try to inspire in students the desire to write to learn, and I will continue to respond to that writing as a human reader. I hope others will do the same.

The ASG 2022-23 cabinet is not the leadership students deserve

By **ROMAN HLADIO**
Editor-in-Chief
hladior@allegheny.edu

Eleven months ago, as the fires of the 2022-23 Allegheny Student Government Presidential Election settled, one thing became clear: The 2021-22 cabinet did not trust their successors. Almost a year later, and it's abundantly clear that this cabinet has no respect for those whom they govern.

Week after week for the remainder of the semester, our ASG column — written exclusively about general assembly — told the tale of distrust in this handoff of power. The first two 2022-23 cabinet nominations came on May 3; neither was approved. "ASG appoints cabinet members at last General Assembly of the year," was the headline of our final ASG column of the 2021-22 academic year. Of the nine candidates for cabinet positions put on the table during the meeting, only four passed. In two students' shared bid for positions as co-directors of student affairs, the motion only passed when one of the students was dropped entirely.

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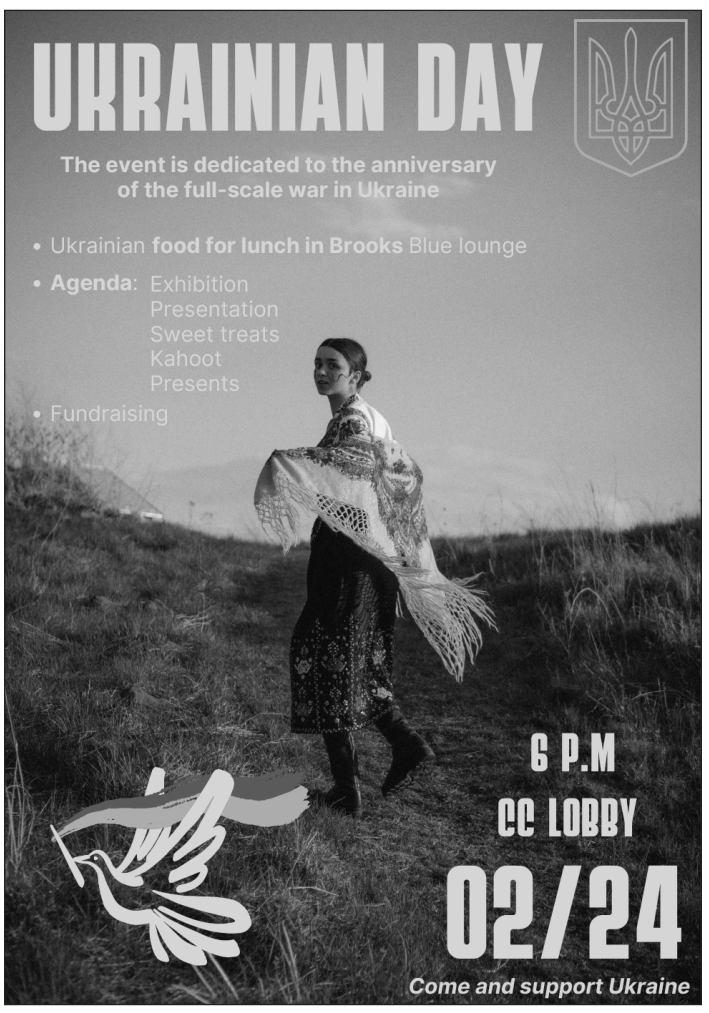
Ukrainian students commemorate one-year anniversary of war

By **MARIIA HLYTEN**
Staff Writer
hlyten01@allegheny.edu

On this day a year ago, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Russia attacked the entire territory of the country with missile strikes in the early morning of Feb. 24. This is a new stage of the Russian-Ukrainian war, which has been going on since 2014, when Russia annexed the Crimea peninsula and Sevastopol, and occupied certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the eastern territories of Ukraine.

Ukrainian students at Allegheny have prepared an event dedicated to the anniversary of the war in Ukraine. They will share how they got to Allegheny and what they went through before coming to the U.S. in addition to sharing the stories of those who died in the war. The event will take place on Friday, Feb. 24 at the Henderson Campus Center from 6 to 8 p.m.

Daria Kutova, '25, a student from Ukraine, was at home, in the small town Vyshneve near Kyiv when the war started. She recalled every moment of that morning.



The poster for Friday's vigil.

"The lives of all Ukrainians were divided into before and after," Kutova said. "I still remember my mom's words like 'Dasha wake up, the war has started, pack your stuff.'"

There was not enough time to think things through. Kutova explained how, in the rush, many Ukrainians simply grabbed a bag and threw things into it.

"They should have packed their entire lives in one backpack," Kutova said.

The war in Ukraine has had a devastating impact on the civilian population, with thousands of people losing their lives and millions more being displaced from their homes, according to a United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report. The war has also led to a humanitarian crisis, with many people lacking access to necessities such as food, water and healthcare.

Being far away from home Allegheny Ukrainians continue to lead their own "informational frontline" while the others protect Ukrainian territories.

"Every single day we can spread the information and talk about Ukraine and the war happening right now," Kutova said. "It's important to help people and to be aware of everything that's going on in the world because you never know what will be to your country one day."

Professor of History and Global Health Studies Kenneth Pinnow echoed this sentiment, as he outlined the cost of democracy for Ukraine.

"People are fighting to live as they want, to be respected as a people, as a culture, and to preserve those democratic gains that they have," Pinnow said.

Kutova previewed the event's program. Aside from the presentation about Ukrainian culture and history, she said there will be exhibitions about how Ukrainian students found their way onto Allegheny's campus.

Another exhibition, which will be shown the same day in more than 45 universities throughout the world, is called "unissued diplomas."

"We will uncover the story of 20 students who hold their education, but then just went to protect their country and died during the war," Kutova said. "And they would never become graduates."

Pinnow liked the idea of showing real students' life stories and how they changed within the year of the war. He mentioned how the students who took part in the Experiential Learning seminar in Ukraine in 2018 built their connections within Ukraine and now they feel the war more personally.

"I think this event is important because it's a way to move beyond the news and to move beyond the generalities to connect to specific stories and individuals, specific people," Pinnow said.

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> People are fighting to live as they want, to be respected as a people, as a culture, and to preserve those democratic gains that they have."
>
> —KENNETH PINNOW
> Professor of History and Global Health Studies, Allegheny College

EIC international

Not your average walk in the park

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

I ran to class today.

No, not the frantic 100-meter mad dash from your dorm because you missed your alarm, or the semi-jog when you're halfway across campus and might be late but are not sure yet. I'm talking a 10-kilometer cruise from Jabal Amman to the CIEE Study Center near the University of Jordan, dodging traffic and breathing dirty exhaust up and down hills.

I embarked on this fit of insanity because of a scheduling conflict with my normal Monday evening workout with Running Amman, a group that runs three times a week in various parts of the city. To make up for the 10 km I would have done with them, I decided that a run would fit nicely into my morning schedule.

As I was running, I thought about the shoddy draft I originally had planned for this column, an attempt to examine how so many of the things I took for granted at Allegheny — internet, plentiful water, easy access to food — were complicated in Amman by barriers of language and anxiety. It was a good idea, but like a lot of good ideas, it suffered from poor execution.

As the kilometers wore away under my feet, though, I saw this run as emblematic of my experience here in Amman. I cut my teeth running through mostly flat suburbia, racing through parks and cornfields. At Allegheny and in Virginia, I took on two-lane country roads, bereft of traffic and full of fresh air. Very often, I'd just pick a direction, run for a while, then turn back.

Amman could not be more different. The urban environment is full of secondhand smoke and the exhaust from cars older than I am. No route is a straight line: every road twists and turns and GPS is often a must.

And the hills. Oh, the hills.

The city was originally built on seven hills, and today spans over more than 20. Flat space is really only found at the peaks — intra-city travel is typically a process of descending one hill and climbing another.

My run was no different, though the hill up to the study center was excruciatingly gentle. You'd think that a small incline would be no big deal: it's only a little bit of an added vertical climb. But over four, five, six kilometers, it adds up. For a runner used to relatively flat ground, broken by steep, dramatic Appalachian hills, it's a fresh challenge.

I also ran, for only the second or third time, with a pack on my back. A modern education requires modern equipment: a phone, power converter, notebooks, ramen. I left my laptop and other heavy accessories at the center, but even still I had a couple of pounds on my back. It made me feel, for the first time, that running was not just a form of difficult cardio but a versatile form of travel.

Running, for me, has always been to race. It's how I got into the sport in the first place: running for my high school cross country team. With this competitive mindset comes expectations — even with my racing days long gone — that I should push myself every day, to focus on getting the most out of every workout.

Today, my focus was on getting to the study center, distracting my mind and letting me just … run for the first time in a while.

All of these combined to an unforgettable experience: darting in between traffic, climbing the incline of the westbound side of Shari'a Jamaiah, slipping past food carts and other pedestrians. It was a proper adventure, seeing new places and doing a familiar activity in a totally unfamiliar style. It was, as the kids say, a "core memory."

We often associate defining moments in our lives with big changes: proposals, graduations, funerals. But with my run, I found a defining moment in the mundane, a memory that will stay with me as a fresh adventure I thoroughly enjoyed. This curiosity and joy at even the smallest things is the spark that drives so much of studying abroad, and can make even a semi-boring commute a grand adventure.

> This curiosity and joy at even the smallest things is the spark that drives so much of studying abroad, and can make even a semi-boring commute a grand adventure."
>
> —SAMI MIRZA
> Class of 2024

Aftershocks

The ramifications of the Turkey-Syria earthquake

By **ELANOR BONTA**
Features Writer
bonta01@allegheny.edu

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Turkey and Syria on Monday, Feb. 6, the largest seismic movement the country has faced in nearly a hundred years, according to The Guardian. The death toll from the natural disaster has surpassed 46,000 as rescue teams search for any remaining survivors.

"The area is very active," said Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Tamara Misner. "It's not surprising that an earthquake of this magnitude happened. It's right at the juncture of a number of tectonic plates on their boundaries. And it's not surprising there was an earthquake of this magnitude, although earthquakes this large don't happen very frequently."

The tectonic plates that Turkey and northern Syria sit on are the Arabian, Anatolian and African plates. The earthquake was especially harmful because it was shallow, leading to more overall damage to the surface, according to Misner.

"So if it were to have happened deeper, then a lot of the energy could have dissipated before it reached the surface," Misner said. "Because it was so shallow, a lot of that energy made it to the surface, ruptured, and then you could see the rupture. In images, you could see there were offsets of roads that showed how the fault moved."

The tectonic plates are always moving, but when they push against each other, it builds up stress, according to Misner. It is a "network of fault," as when stress was released during the first portion of the earthquake, it then transferred to another part of the fault, causing more distance and a second earthquake to follow.

> The catastrophe is the size it is because of corruption and politically driven mismanagement and misdirection of humanitarian efforts."
>
> —IREM KURTSAL
> Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Allegheny College

"Sometimes you get smaller earthquakes that are just stress relief, so the fault doesn't have a major rupture, but it just relieves some stress by little movement or little slipping," Misner said. "But you'll just keep having more places where stress builds up, and over time, you'll get a release, and you'll have other earthquakes."

Associate Professor of Political Science Shanna Kirschner explained that a lot more than the magnitude of the earthquake impacted the death toll.

"This is a tremendous disaster and I think that it's really important that we keep that front and center — but, of course, there are also political implications," Kirschner said. "We saw very quickly in the first couple of days that the government started arresting some of the contractors involved in building a number of high rises that collapsed. There have been some questions that have already come out in the last day or two about the way that the government allowed those contractors to get around building codes. Not just earthquake building codes, but basic building codes, which clearly is part of explaining the scope of the disaster and the number of buildings that collapsed."

The infrastructure was one aspect that deeply impacted the massive death count, according to Misner.

"I think that when they rebuild in those areas, they really need to think about using different building materials if they can," Misner said. "And part of it is that it's poor. In Syria, they don't have money, but if they could build better structures that are reinforced to withstand earthquakes, that would decrease the amount of damage. Having that infrastructure there would be really helpful for people."

Turkey's building codes had changed after 1999 when an earthquake occurred on the North Anatolian fault, causing great devastation on families and neighborhoods, according to the Associated Press. However, due to the misconduct of contractors, the damage from this earthquake was worse than it could have been with reinforced proper building codes, according to Kirschner.

And even in the earthquake's aftermath, there are still a lot of political and humanitarian struggles.

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Admitted Students Day brings new faces to campus

By **DAWIT KAHESAY**
Staff Writer
kahesay01@allegheny.edu

Allegheny College welcomed prospective students and their guests onto campus on Monday, Feb. 20, for the college's first Admitted Students Day of the semester.

The invited students, should they matriculate at Allegheny, will be members of the class of 2027.

"I'm glad I decided to come here today," said Connor Murphy, an admitted student looking to pursue a degree in biology. "Seeing what the college has to offer has been a blast, especially seeing the student success area and what is available for me to do as a student here."

The college offered a variety of activities and resources for students to get a feel for campus life, featuring a chance to explore the campus with specialty tours for first-time and returning visitors. Students were also able to integrate into a faculty member's classroom to experience academics and talk with the residential life team about any lurking questions.

Through the Enrichment Program, an initiative where high school students are invited on select Fridays to attend specialized lectures at Allegheny, Lauren Pelk has had opportunities to take part in some of the college classes before admissions day.

"I live close to the college so I was able to come here and a professor taught us a topic of our own choice," Pelk said. "My impression of Allegheny is that it is a good college and close to home so definitely made it a viable option."

Financial Aid was available in the Tippie Alumni Center for the duration of Admitted Students Day to handle any questions prospective students might have, ensuring that students have options to finance their education at Allegheny.

"In situations where students are not able to afford the tuition, there is a general review process set in place as well as possible increase to aid comparing our package to the packages from other institutions," said Jade Allen, a financial aid counselor at Allegheny.

The Commitment to Access Program offers Pennsylvania residents whose family's income is $50,000 or less a package with tuition fully covered at Allegheny.

"If it's something outside of the FAFSA, we can work with the students and see where we could help," Allen said. "If there are changes in their financial status from the year of the FAFSA and the current year, adjustments can be made to see if we could somehow increase their aid."

Campus tours were held all throughout the day, helping guests get a sense of the campus and learn some of the history behind Allegheny's walls.

"I didn't know the campus was that old," said Liam Palmer, a prospective student interested in becoming an economics major. "Touring the different buildings, I could see how the college grew."

The weather was favorable on Admitted Students Day, allowing visitors to enjoy the day without the unpredictable temperature fluctuations common in Meadville.

"I liked the idea of a small college, Allegheny was just a name I heard here and there so I decided to give it some attention and here we are," Palmer said. "Coming here today, I got to see what the campus is about and how nice it looks. Talking with my potential professors and classmates also answered questions I had about the school such as which supplementary courses are recommended for my major."

For Murphy, it was nice to get on campus and actually see what was offered at the college.

"There's more to Allegheny than what's on the website," Murphy said.

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Career Education offers inside scoop on how to achieve career goals

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

It may be February, but the Office of Career Education has its sights set on summer. With speakers lined up and plenty of ice cream to go around, the office's "Summer Scoop Series" gave students the opportunity to not only think about their summer plans, but also take actionable steps to see their internship and career goals met in the coming months.

Held in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center, the series started on Wednesday, Feb. 8, with a session about research opportunities on and off campus. The Feb. 15 session, "Developing Career Skills," focused on the work experience of four students and featured career advice from Executive Director of Career Education Brian Collingwood.

"It's really important that we offer opportunities for students to engage with our office, in particular career education, throughout the year," Collingwood said.

Group discussion sessions like the Summer Scoop Series gave students the opportunity to reflect on their past work experiences while looking toward the future, and how those experiences could translate into a future career or graduate school application.

Learning how to leverage past experiences into future career opportunities was a concern that First Year Dean Niki Fjeldal had previously heard from students, leading her to create the series alongside the Office of Career Education.

"We had some feedback in the ASG survey from a student last year that they wished that there was more intentional conversations about how they should spend their summer," Fjeldal said. "So let's create a series."

Each of the student panelists shared a summer work experience that was valuable to them. Experiences ranged from a retail job to volunteer and nonprofit work to starting a small business. Collingwood explained that each of these experiences are valuable, and that there is no blueprint for having a successful summer in terms of career development.

> "Planning for this session in particular, it was important that we showcased a variety of student experiences and really try to touch on the point that one size doesn't fit all."
>
> —BRIAN COLLINGWOOD
> Executive Director of Career Education, Allegheny College

"Planning for this (Developing Career Skills) session in particular, it was important that we showcased a variety of student experiences and really try to touch on the point that one size doesn't fit all," he said.

As the student panelists shared their experiences, they were also asked to share the skills that they acquired. Collingwood then explained how those experiences could be represented in a resume or interview setting.

Allison Rose, '23, explained that she gained leadership and communication skills from her work at a nonprofit organization.

"Being part of a nonprofit that focused on academic enrichment, I was acknowledging the equity behind academics," Rose said. "Realizing that — even in life in general — there is never going to be one solution. Solutions have to be adaptable."

The conversation then shifted from the panelists to include the audience. Collingwood asked each student to reflect on their past work experience as well as think of the connections they have in their life already that could connect them to a work or internship experience in the future.

Personal connections, college connections and community and public connections are all valuable and accessible resources when it comes to starting a job search, Collingwood explained.

"If you're looking for an internship, job or work experience, what have you done in each of these areas to maximize your chances of landing something that would be transformative for you?" he asked.

Collingwood suggested that students create measurable goals for themselves to become more career-ready. The first step could be small, he explained, like updating a LinkedIn profile or reflecting on past experiences.

"What can I be doing in the next week?" Collingwood asked students. "Something you can measure, something you know you can do that is time-based."

The session concluded with a demonstration on how to utilize various career-related resources like Handshake, Gator2Gator and LinkedIn.

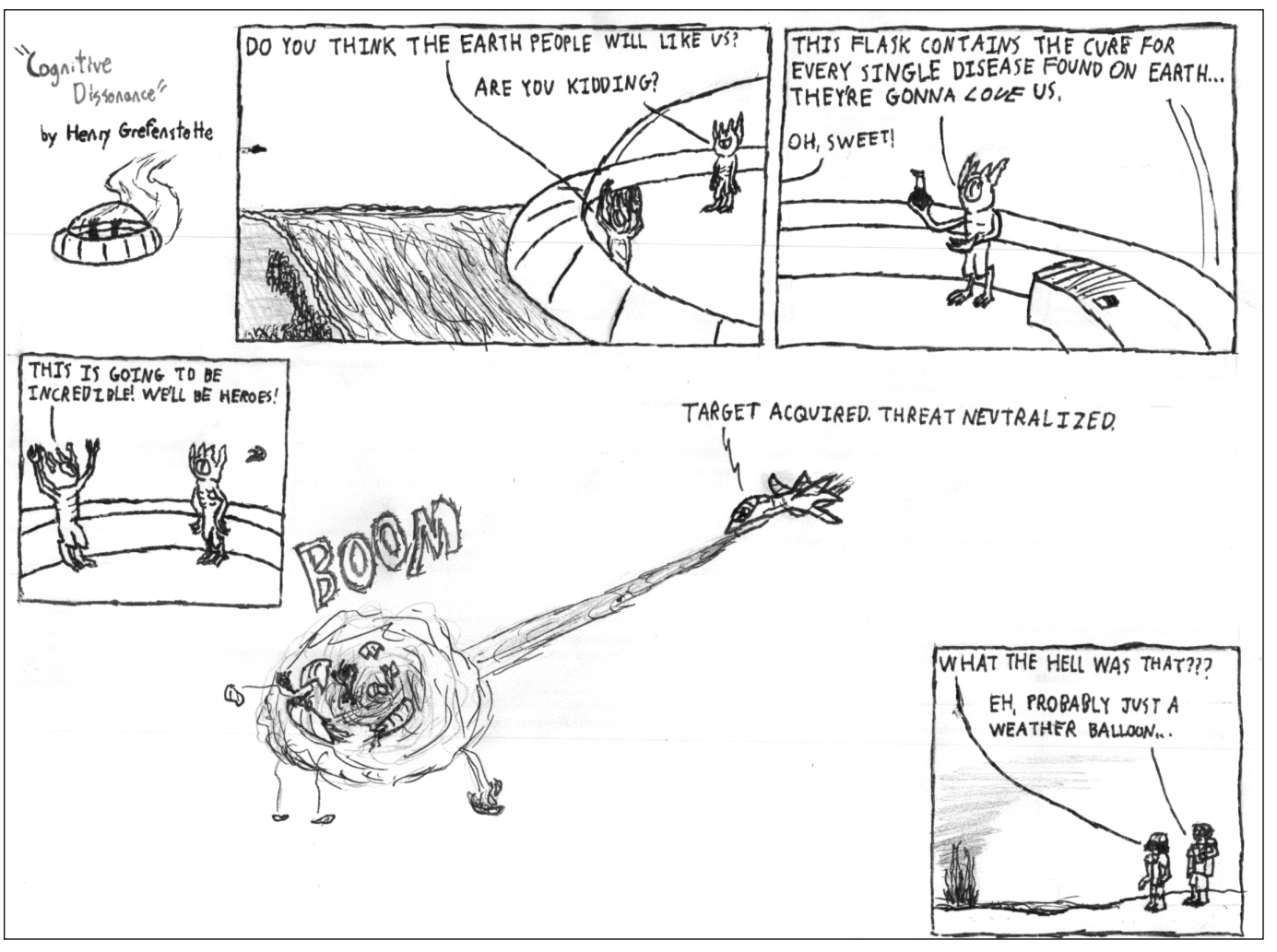
Liz Herweg, '26, found the peer element of the session particularly useful.

"It was nice to hear from students themselves and get introduced to resources," Herweg said.

The final session of the Summer Scoop Series took place on Feb. 22, focusing on clinical healthcare experience. Collingwood and Allegheny's other career coaches can be found in the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library or via career@allegheny.edu for individual meetings.

Cognitive dissonance

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



Library's Comps Coffee House supports senior projects

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

The senior comprehensive project is Allegheny College's most rigorous and significant requirement for students to complete their education. Seniors refer to the semester they work on their projects as "comping season." The Maytum Center for Student Success and The Writing Center hosted a "Comps Coffee House" on Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 7 to 11 p.m. in the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library Collaboratory.

The event is scheduled to occur two more times on Thursday, March 16, and Tuesday, April 11, to give students several opportunities to receive help from writing consultants or take advantage of the quiet place to work alongside other students, according to Third- and Fourth-Year Class Dean Jonathon May.

"This idea actually came from survey results that we did with the senior class," May said. "So, Alexis Hart — the director of the Writing Center — and myself came together to talk about how we could offer support and more resources to seniors who are comping."

According to the survey results, May said students mainly were looking for social spaces and support rather than resources on how to improve their writing or develop their projects.

"They wanted a space where they could come together, sit together, write together and feel that sense of camaraderie and accountability," May said. "We really were thinking they would want faculty to come in and do presentations talking about how to put together a senior comp, but they shared with us that they felt prepared for their junior seminars and they felt prepared from their departments to actually tackle the comp."

The event began with students sharing the title or topic of their senior project which was intended to have a community-building effect on the group. The first half-hour was centered around venting, where students could talk about their challenges and highlights in their project process. The event provided writing tips, coffee, cookies and water.

Bill Nese, '23, heard about the event through flyers and May reached out to him about attending the event.

"I thought it was cool that I had a space to work on my comp," Nese said. "I know originally it was supposed to be once-a-week for an hour, but even the once-a-month thing is nice because I like that we have time to set aside to edit what I have and feel more confident about it."

Nese said that one of the benefits of being in a space where everyone is working on the same goal is that he has more motivation and is not distracted as easily.

Writing consultant Rebecca Pechmann, '24, said seniors do not generally utilize writing consultants outside of the event, but within the space she did field a few questions.

"I think the most common question I get is people coming in and asking me to look at something to see if it makes sense," Pechmann said. "I think a lot of the time I am not the same discipline as the comper so I can't offer discipline-specific suggestions. I can definitely learn about the discipline from the comper and then maybe offer more suggestions, but I think it usually questions about clarity."

Pechmann said that the best thing a student can do when working on their project is step away from it from time to time to see it from an outside perspective.

"I think a lot of times if you are writing you just get so caught up on what you want to say that it can be hard to look at it with a fresh set of eyes," Pechmann said. "I think taking even just a short break can be really powerful."

To prepare upcoming seniors for their senior projects, a panel called "Demystifying Comps" featuring seniors, alumni and faculty will be hosted during Junior Appreciation Week which is from March 20 to March 24, according to May. The purpose of the event is to further support students with the projects in the upcoming year.

"They will talk about their experience and what comping did for them when they got in the job market," May said. "Those panel talks will be on Monday, March 20, at 7 p.m."

May said the Comps Coffeehouse will result in higher quality work this year because of the additional set of eyes provided by the writing consultants.

"It's really going to enhance the work they're going to be able to produce because I don't care who you are as a writer, and I write a lot myself," May said. "When you get an additional set of eyes on your manuscript or your document, that enhances it."

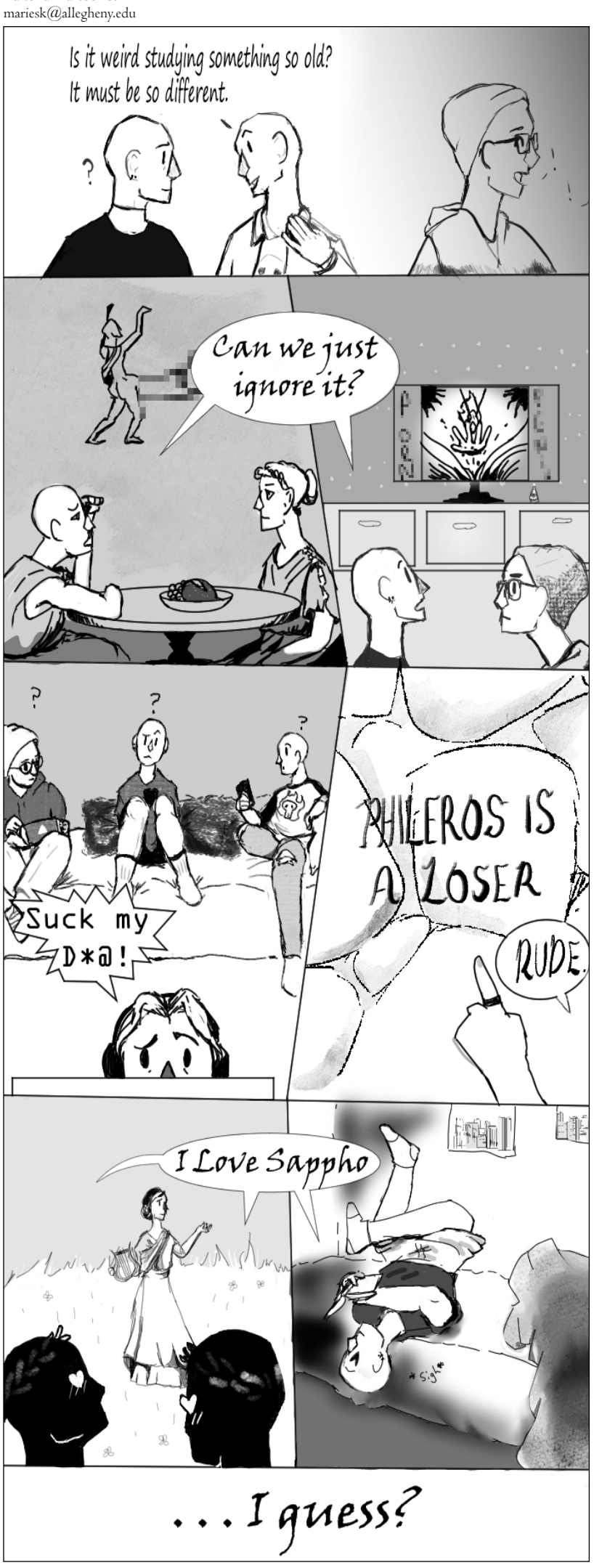


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY SHEREEN BHAN

Writing consultants pose in the library collaboratory. The Maytum Center for Student Success and the Writing Center joined forces to host the Comps Coffee House.

Maybe not so different after all...

By **KAI MARIES**
Editorial Cartoonist
mariesk@allegheny.edu



Time for a laugh!

By **SARAH BRAMMELL**
Comedy Columnist
brammells@allegheny.edu

America is facing a new threat, this time in the form of a rapidly-approaching herd of "super-pigs," a crossbreed between wild hogs and domestic pigs, that first escaped captivity in Canada. These ingenious pigs have survived the harsh winters by tunneling into the snow to form cozy dens, complete with cattail bedding.

The impact that the pigs will have on Allegheny College when they arrive can only be speculated on, but out of the many basements they could tunnel into in order to make a den, The Campus recommends Little Arter Theater or Oddfellows for two reasons.

First, both have an abundance of molding academic supplies that would make the pigs feel right at home, as they could use them to create bedding. Second, these basements are generally avoided by students and staff alike, so the pigs could make themselves at home, start families and devour unsuspecting students that were just looking for the bathroom in peace.

North Little Rock High School and the Center of Excellence in Little Rock, Arkansas are moving to online learning this week due to a different animal infiltrating their hallowed halls of learning: bats. Superintendent Gregory J. Pilewski announced on Tuesday that "out of an abundance of caution," no one but staff working to remove the bats would be permitted on the premises the next day.

If NLRHS wanted to avoid spending some extra cash to hire an exterminator, they could have simply employed the method of many liberal arts schools: let the students do it as an athletic enrichment activity.

I have seen a student wearing a baseball glove snatch a bat out of midair in the middle of a hallway in Brooks. I have watched as two other students used a fitted sheet to make a barrier and chase a different bat down the hall in Walker and, eventually, into Brooks where Baseball Glove could take care of it. If NLRHS really cared about its kids, administration would arm them with long sleeves, butterfly nets, and vouchers to MedExpress for rabies shots and allow them, in true American fashion, to try a trade.

Florida introduced a bill last week that would end one of the favorite pastimes of its resident canines: sticking their heads out of car windows. Those in favor of the bill say that it would protect man's best friend from debris-related injuries. However, with Florida's current political agenda, the aims of this bill may be more sinister.

While enclosed in their cars, dogs won't be able to freely read billboards or smell the sweet scent of Miss Dior coming from the open doors of a drag brunch. Let dogs live; let people live; stop closing the car window on equal opportunity.

Baseball laces up for trips to Beckley and Tucson

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
Sports Editor
chandler01@allegheny.edu

The Allegheny baseball team will swing their way into the 2023 regular season with road trips to Beckley, West Virginia, and Tucson, Arizona. The Gators will play in a three-game set against John Carroll University on Saturday, Feb. 25, and Sunday, Feb. 26, at Linda K. Epling Stadium. Following the season opening series, they will fly across the country to play at the Kino Sports Complex in Tucson.

The pandemic put strains on the team's travel ability over the past several years, which meant Tucson — a regular spring break trip for the team — was put on hold. It is the first time they will return since the 2019 season, meaning all team members across the board will experience it for the first time.

"We are definitely excited for it," said team captain Chase Chodkowski, '23. "We play in warm weather for the first time in probably four years, but it is another good experience to bond with the guys."

The Gators will play a variety of opponents, including Minnesota's Gustavus Adolphus and Bethany Lutheran, California's Claremont-Mudd-Scripps and Ohio's Otterbein across eight games beginning on Saturday, March 4. The Gators will take a 40-man roster on the trip, exactly half of which are upperclassmen.

Chodkowski wants to soak in the experience after his first two seasons were a whirlwind of disappointment and shortened campaigns.

"One last year with the boys," Chodkowski said. "We all get to play together, it will be an 'older guy' led team, and hopefully we can do some great things."

Allegheny is ranked third in the Presidents' Athletic Conference for the preseason rankings this spring. They made their return to PAC in the fall of 2022 after previously leaving to join the North Coast Athletic Conference in 1984, where they remained until the switch back. Last year, Allegheny finished 24-15, narrowly missing the playoffs.

Upon the Gators' arrival back home from Arizona, they will compete in a non-conference doubleheader matchup against Houghton University on March 18. It will be the first time competing on the newly-renovated Robert Garbark field, which features an infield composed of artificial turf.

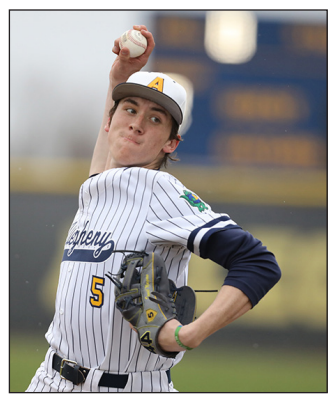
"Everything is restarting in a good way," said center fielder Ryan Dougherty, '24. "I am excited to see the alumni (who donated to the program) and the success that we think we will have this year."

Dougherty has started since his first year with the Gators, and was named to the NCAC All-East team in 2021. He has one of the best gloves in all of Division III baseball, as has committed only one error in his career on the field: in a game against Wooster last season the ball took a bad hop off the fence which gave Doughtery trouble with gaining possession. It was the scorer's decision to credit him with the error when the baserunner advanced to third base due to the bad hop, but the call was controversial at the time.

Nevertheless, Dougherty's superiority in the outfield comes from his read off of the bat. He said he uses the sound of the contact to determine his path of direction. This helps him gauge whether he should take an immediate step back or come in to make the catch.

"I work on getting a good first step and reading the ball of the bat," Dougherty said. "(The sound) depends on whether it is a lefty or righty hitter. Whenever you hear a louder sound you know they barrelled it and that you have to run further back. If you hear they do not get all of it, you know it is a ball that will slice away from you, or that you will have to come in."

During batting practice, Dougherty and the rest of the outfielders — the "O-gang" — will regularly head to the grass and shag fly balls. They take the reps seriously, which allows for more practice and a better simulation of what a game-styled hit would look like as opposed to a ball off of a fungo bat.


PHOTOS COURTESY OF GATOR ATHLETICS

Left to right: Conor Deasy, '23, Daniel Morgano, '23, and Bobby Kusinsky, '23, make up the "three-headed dragon" as all three head into their senior season on the bump.

Another key element that could make or break the Gators' season is the flamethrowers. Conor Deasy, '23, Daniel Morgano, '23, and Bobby Kusimsky, '23, are all heading into their final season on the bump after leading the pitching staff for the past three seasons. Chodkowski referred to them as a "three-headed dragon."

"We all compete, we push each other every day, we are always competing for that title of 'ace,'" Kusinsky said. "It helps us push each other — push us in practice and push us during the games. Whenever one of us is pitching the other two are right up there on the fence always cheering, encouraging, helping each other out during the games, trying to keep each other level headed."

Kusinsky held the lowest ERA on the team last year. He was an All-NCAC Honorable Mention, and is a pivotal part of the Gators roster. His elite control and sharp movement on the breaking stuff allows him to make hitters look silly. He has a high spin rate on his fastball, which makes it appear to come in significantly faster than it shows on the gun. Though he sits in the mid- to upper-80s, Kusinsky deceptively brings the heat that can seem like it is in the 90s.

The question remains, who will be the fourth starter for Allegheny this year? Out of the 310.1 total innings pitched last year, 177 of those were soaked up by the three aforementioned arms.

Brent Herrmann, '24, was next in line with 19.2 innings pitched a year ago. He has been working on the hill as a starter throughout the fall season and could be the guy to fill that role. If Herrmann gets the job, he will also provide the starting rotation with a southpaw arm to mix it up for the Gators.

The team has a lot to prove. They received numerous top-25 votes last year, but never made the official list. In a new conference with a new field, the team hopes to show out and make some noise with first pitch right around the corner.

"Anything short of a PAC Championship (would be disappointing)," Chodkowski said. " It is very realistic for us and that is what we are setting our eyes on. That is our goal."



ANNALIESE STONE/THE CAMPUS

KC Johns, '24, (left) and Caden Hinckley, '23, (second from right) receive honors at Senior Night. Although Johns is only a junior, he will be graduating early and this will be his last semester at Allegheny.

Senior Night Lights

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
Sports Editor
chandler01@allegheny.edu

Over 800 fans were in attendance to celebrate the elders on Senior Night at the James H. Mullen Jr. Arena on Saturday, Feb. 18. After the pre-game ceremony, pandemonium filled the air with both the women's and men's team delivering victories in convincing fasion. Sofia Genareo, '25, led the way for the women with 17 points and 16 boards in a 71-58 victory over Waynesburg University. It was Genareo's first double-double of her career. Right behind her was Alexis Caldwell, '23, who, in her last regular season game with Allegheny, dropped 15 points while shooting 7-14 from the field, in addition to snagging five rebounds. The men went above and beyond in following the women's performance, taking down the Yellow Jackets 111-62. Six Gators scored in double-digits, and Isaiah Portis, '26, led the way with 21 points off the bench. Caden Hinckley, '23, finished with 15 points, eight rebounds and one block — passing Jordan Rawls, '20, for second place in all-time career boards. This marks the most points scored by the team since the 2003-04 season when Allegheny dropped 128 against Westminster College.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GATOR ATHLETICS

Endraya Abraham, '23, (third from left) and Alexis Caldwell, '23, (fifth from left) with their families on senior night. Abraham dealt with injuries throughout her career, but still worked with the Gators as a student assistant coach.

Carr, men's tennis ready to take on spring season

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
Sports Editor
chandler01@allegheny.edu

Ethan Carr, '26, has put up an impressive first-year campaign for the Allegheny men's tennis program. He has dominated on the court, racking up seven victories throughout singles and doubles play during the fall. Providing an immediate impact on the roster, Carr looks to keep things going with the spring under way and was added to the "Players to Watch" list by the Presidents' Athletic Conference.

One of his early standout performances came during the Intercollegiate Tennis Association tournament in St. Louis, Missouri. Hosted by Washington University from Friday, Sept. 23, through Sunday, Sept. 25, Carr and his doubles partner, Anton Hedlund, '25, went on to win the East Region consolation bracket.

This was no small feat. After dropping their first match in the main bracket to No. 2 nationally ranked Case Western Reserve University's Chris Provenzano and Sahil Dayal — who played in the 2021-22 NCAA Division III Championships for CWRU last spring — the tandem battled back with five consecutive victories in a row to win the event, with the last via a walkover.

"That was a great opportunity," Carr said. "(Now I am) looking forward to the season here."

Carr and Hedlund have seemed to find good chemistry throughout their partnership this season. While Hedlund provides the power with his flaming serves and strong hits, Carr provides the finesse and touch to keep opponents on their toes.

Carr has been playing the game since he was three-and-a-half years old. His mom was the one to introduce him to the racquet, and he has been playing ever since.

"My mom lived in China," Carr said. "Whenever she came to the States and married my dad, she figured tennis is a great retirement sport. She helped me pick it up as she picked it up, and we both kind of fell in love with the game at the same time."

From King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, Carr attended Harriton High School and knew Allegheny was a good fit for him. He appreciated the small size of the school, which included a good student-to-faculty ratio.

Carr not only saw the strong academic presence Allegheny had to offer, but he was forthwith accepted into the tennis culture. With just over one semester under his belt, Carr has found his home and enjoys the Gator atmosphere.

"I am really liking Allegheny," Carr said. "Being able to do things my freshman year as soon as you get on the team, it is a great opportunity."

The Gators have another great opportunity with competing at a high level the rest of the spring. They were named the PAC favorites after winning nine matches last season in the North Coast Athletic Conference. Though the team started off with a small blemish to Case Western in an out-of-conference matchup, they have plenty of time to leave their mark and redeem their high praise.

Allegheny will compete against Oberlin on March 1, followed by their spring break trip down to Hilton Head, South Carolina, where they will play four different teams from March 4 through March 12. From there, conference pay begins in the Swamp versus Franciscan University on March 24. High hopes and expectations are riding on this season, but players are confident they can deliver.

"We want to remain humble, but at the same time we want to recognize that we have the potential to go big and go far," Carr said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GATOR ATHLETICS

Ethan Carr, '26, returning a hit during a match earlier in the season.