

ASSAULT

Any additional information will be released at the discretion of the MPD, likely when charges are filed or a suspect is arrested, Basinger said.

In both the original Sept. 22 message and a follow-up email sent Thursday, Sept. 28, the college offered safety advice: avoid traveling alone at night, do not let strangers into buildings and know who to contact in an emergency. The college also reiterated support for survivors of sexual assault in the follow-up email.

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“The only person responsible for sexual assault is the perpetrator,” the college’s email read in part. “We acknowledge the danger and damage that silence causes. It is necessary to break the silence that too often shrouds conversations of abuse and sexual violence.”

Students can also download the college’s “Omnilert” app to receive alerts from the college and report emergencies.

Both Public Safety and the college’s regular staff have stepped up patrols inside and outside of dormitories, as well

as routine walkthroughs by resident advisors, according to Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley.

“Our public safety office has decades of experience, and we have one of the best-trained public safety offices that I’ve worked with,” Yeckley said. “So, when we see them walking around, we see them here late at night on campus. I have the utmost faith and trust in our public safety.”

Last month’s attack comes just under four years after a 2019 assault in Ravine-Narvik Hall,

after which the college updated its physical security infrastructure, including adding cameras and installing ID scanners on residential buildings, The Campus reported at the time.

Yearly report

Public Safety also released the annual Crime and Fire Safety on Saturday, Sept. 30. The report — required by the federal Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 — states that there were six forcible sex offenses in 2022, down from 10 in 2021 and seven in 2020.

There was one case of dating violence in both 2022 and 2021, down from three reports in 2020. There were three cases of stalking in 2022, compared to one in 2021 and four in 2020.

The largest increase was in disciplinary referrals for drug offenses, which jumped to 51 in 2022 from 31 in 2021 and 28 in 2020. The largest decrease was in disciplinary referrals for liquor law violations, which fell to just eight cases in 2022 from 33 in 2021 and 26 in 2020.

STARLINK

“That space is so cavernous that we were kind of losing connectivity in it, so now we’re going to put it in the Blue Room,” Yeung said. “It’s a more confined space and will have a better experience.”

Yeung is holding out hope that the campus center lobby will not experience similar problems, but said that IT may need to rework the placement of the satellite dishes if students report user difficulties.

One of the technology’s factors Yeung anticipates being unable to ad-

dress is the weather. Since the dishes rely on satellite connection to function, cloudy and rainy weather have the potential to create interference in the signals, unlike on a cloudless and sunny day.

While the dishes’ specs claim there is no limit to the number of users they can handle at a given time, Yeung said there will be an upper limit that will only be learned through experience.

If the two Starlink satellite dishes work well for students, Yeung said IT

will order more.

Core Switches

The replacement of the core switches will likely make a significant positive impact on network connectivity by increasing the throughput the network can handle and preventing it from getting regularly overloaded and shutting down, Yeung said. The replacement of the core switches will take place on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 6 to 10 a.m. — during which there will be no internet available on campus, according to an Oct. 3 campus-wide email from President Ron Cole, ’87. Once the installation is complete, there should be a fully stable wired network without intermittent drops.

Access Points

IT also recently ordered a new wireless controller and 800 new access points to replace all of the Wi-Fiber access points on campus so that they can “just do it the way we should have done it at the outset,” according to Yeung.

Wi-Fiber — the company originally brought in to update the campus network infrastructure before being let go in July 2023 — installed 2,276 access points across the entire campus, which Yeung says was too many and is causing interference issues.

“We don’t need that many if it’s a solid, sound access point,” Yeung said. “The range will be bigger and be able

to penetrate walls more appropriately, so we don’t need as many. That’s part of our struggle now, we have so many.”

Yeung hopes the equipment will arrive in late October, at which point IT will prioritize installation in residential halls.

“We’re going to go as fast as we possibly can,” Yeung said. “We’re going to use existing wiring and try to get 95% of the way good, knowing that when we get into the summer we’ll need to do some cleanup and run new wires to put the access points exactly where they need to be so there’s the correct spacing and overlap. We’re just going for speed so we can get you guys functioning the way you want to.”

The college’s supply chain delays are not unique. The COVID-19 pandemic caused an ongoing worldwide shortage of computer chips, according to CNN. The chips are used in almost every piece of internet technology the college currently needs. Yeung said there is nothing the college can do to speed up the procurement process.

While they wait, the IT team has been chipping away at any problems they can. There are five or six data closets in each building on campus and in each of those data closets are a mixture of new and old core switches that are “fighting with each other,” according to Yeung. IT is working to take the old core switches offline and decrease that interference. While the process is not

difficult, it is time-consuming and requires meticulous, methodical work.

“We’re trying to weed out the older Cisco switches, and you’ll see improvements as we’re able to take each of them offline,” Yeung said.

Still, due to insufficient infrastructure labeling by Wi-Fiber, IT is struggling to identify what is causing many of the connectivity problems on campus.

“We have peaks where it (the internet) works well and other times where you can’t get connected again,” Yeung said. “Logically it doesn’t make any sense. If all things are the same, it should work the same. But that is not what we’re experiencing and the equipment that we have, we just don’t have enough visibility into it to figure out why that is. The new equipment, we will. There are tools built into it that allow us to scan and look and analyze and we just don’t have that with what we have today.”

Yeung is unsure if the visibility tools were not included in the Wi-Fiber infrastructure, if they were not configured correctly or if the college didn’t pay for them.

“I’m not sure where the gap is there,” Yeung said.

Students can visit the IT Help Desk in Murray Hall or submit a ticket through IT’s website to request a free ethernet cord and adapter and get their wired connection port turned on in their dorm rooms.



IMAGE SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A Starlink satellite dish sits on a wall in Ternopil Oblast, Ukraine, on Nov. 24, 2022. The technology has been used to provide internet to war-ravaged regions of Ukraine.

ASG

Binnington presented slides and diagrams with students’ responses; the most-requested features were hammock stands, followed by a multi-use pavilion, athletic courts, firepits, picnic tables, and even a fountain.

“I actually think this all coheres into the general theme of the students that responded wanting a space to kind of relax, to hang out, to enjoy themselves in the outdoors,” Binnington said. “There is very little desire to simply have a new lawn.”

Part of the equation, Binnington said, is to consider if new projects will be usable during cold weather as well as sunny climates.

“Now it’s lovely, but it’s not going to be lovely by the end of October,” Binnington said. “You’d have a month or two in the beginning of the fall and you’d have a month or two at the end of spring — so we’ve got to think about what we do in the middle.”

In the context of the weather, Binnington said that a pavilion or similar multi-use structure would make the most sense. However, he also acknowledged that developing a structure like that would take more time than setting up hammock stands.

The Cafisch site process will be slotted into the college’s larger Comprehensive Master Planning process, and preliminary ideas will be presented to the Board of Trustees when they meet later this month, Binnington said. After that, he said he expects to be back at ASG at the end of this semester or the beginning of next semester to receive student input on final project plans.

“There’s a decent chance that ground doesn’t get broken for anything major until next spring ... but I think there’s a decent chance that even for the seniors, by the time you graduate in May, some of these things can have come to fruition,” Binnington said. “This is not necessarily a project that we see taking years; a lot of the ideas that you have are things that we can do relatively quickly.”

In response to a question from Class of 2026 President Lorenzo Scarnati, Binnington said that the feedback form was still open as of Tuesday evening, and that students may still be able to use

“The longer you wait, the less likely it is that your idea is going to get included,” Binnington said, adding that additional votes for already-popular items likely would not make a difference. “If you’ve got a significantly different idea, something you don’t see represented in here, then absolutely, but do not delay.”

Reports and Appointments

Director of the Treasury Hunter Goerman, ’25, announced some changes in the financial system. The check request will soon be able to be viewed and completed entirely on the Engage platform. The PDF part of the reimbursement form will be available on Engage as well, while the Google Form for reimbursements will remain in place.

“So starting next week, hopefully, but I will make a formal announcement when it’s up and running,” Goerman said.

Goerman also announced club leaders will only have to attend a finance committee meeting if their request ex-

ceeds \$100.

“That’s to kind of go with the recent uptick in requests,” Goerman said. “Since there’s been so many, I haven’t had time to meet with all of them, so hopefully that makes it easier.”

Goerman’s final budget request totalled just over \$22,000 — \$20,055.55 from the General Fund, and \$2,138.51 from the Surplus Fund.

This is the biggest spending week since April 11, when ASG approved a total of \$24,426 in spending — around \$12,600 from the General Fund, \$9,500 from the Surplus Fund and \$2,300 from the CILC Fund.

Most of the spending came from four clubs, all of which requested more than \$3,500 each from the General Fund. ASG itself received \$3,514 for a sweatshirt event, Union Latinx — listed as Union Latina — received \$3,605 for a movie night and blanket making, Orchesis received \$3,600 for costumes for an upcoming performance and the club hockey team received \$3,560.09 for jerseys and a bus to a game.

That final expenditure — along with a line for “\$235 or \$135” to the Legion of Allegheny Gamers — could be out of alignment with ASG’s last known financial guidelines from the previous academic year.

Those guidelines require that funds for replacing equipment and uniforms for club sports come from the Surplus Fund, not the General Fund.

The only other spending for equipment replacement came in the form of funding for fresh gear for the Outing Club. That \$2,100 was allocated from

the Surplus Fund.

Goerman could not be reached for comment before press time.

During “New Business,” ASG voted to approve a pair of students to serve on college committees.

Zack Wyse, ’25, was approved as the fourth and final student representative to the Finance and Facilities Committee. In his presentation to the Senate, Wyse said he has always been passionate about finance, did an eight-week research project on the topic over the summer and served on the committee last year.

“I think being on the committee again this year will allow me to observe that lens and how the school operates

and manages its funds,” Wyse said.

Wyse was approved with a unanimous vote.

The Senate also appointed Lucia Jueguen, ’24, to serve on the Study Away and Campus Internationalization Committee.

“Since I first came here, I’ve been very involved with the International Education office,” Jueguen said, adding that as an international student and International Studies major, she is familiar with the college’s processes.

Jueguen was approved with another unanimous vote.

Due to Fall Break, ASG will not meet Tuesday. Instead, the next GA will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Dean for the Student Experience Ian Binnington presents the results of a survey to ASG on Tuesday, Oct. 3. The survey asked students what future they envision for the site that previously housed Cafisch Hall.

VOTE

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“Our platform has evolved, but it’s very much kind of rooted in some of the same pieces,” Vogel said.

Vogel said that the council has been able to make headway on housing improvements in Meadville, with both a rental inspection program and a housing action plan currently in the works. The rental inspection program received backlash from Vogel’s opponents, as some thought the program to demonize local landlords.

Nevertheless, Vogel continues her efforts on the housing front. She said the current housing action plan will assess housing needs and identify where the city can most effectively play a role.

“The work that I think still needs to be done is very much around affordability,” Vogel said. “It’s hard for people to afford their homes, and that’s not true only in Meadville, but it’s impacting people here.”

McKnight was not available for comment

Republican candidates Bill Lawrence and Marcy Kantz are running in opposition to the current council members.

Kantz, a Meadville native, recently ran for mayor in 2021 through a write-in campaign, losing by a margin of just over 200 votes. The strength of the campaign encouraged her to try again for a spot on the City Council.

Kantz was motivated to run by her disapproval for local candidates.

“I felt that the ‘local’ part had left,” Kantz told The Campus in an interview last week.

Kantz opposes what she sees as outside organizations’ involvement with city government and wants the council to focus on more leadership. On issues

regarding the economy, Kantz believes Meadville is facing challenges with its lack of business revenue.

Kantz herself has owned and managed multiple businesses. Kantz opened her gym, Keystone Strength, in 2021 and has also owned a daycare, Keystone Kidz, since 2019.

Kantz’s fellow Republican candidate, Bill Lawrence, has similarly built a campaign on his experiences as a local business owner.

Lawrence is another Meadville native who has owned and managed a gym for the past 25 years and believes the council needs to devote more of its focus to addressing the deficit of Meadville’s budget.

“I don’t know what makes government think that they can keep spending money that they don’t have,” Lawrence said. “You can say, ‘Well, these programs are important,’ or, ‘It would be really nice if our government could pay for x,y and z.’ And I agree a lot of times, that would be nice. But, if you don’t have the money to do it, I don’t see how it makes sense.”

City officials have projected a budget deficit of \$616,000 for the upcoming year, according to the Meadville Tribune.

“If the government is spending money on something, it’s the people’s money,” Lawrence said. “So they have a responsibility to spend it in a way that makes the most sense, and not go into the debt we are now.”

Lawrence has often argued that Meadville should be run as a business.

“In a way, they (governments) are a business,” Lawrence said. “You have money coming in and money coming

out and you need to make sure that money is being allocated to the right places. And you can’t spend more than you’re bringing in.”

Vogel sees the issue differently.

“Yes, our city’s budget deficit is a concern, but what concerns me too is that I think people take a pretty simplistic view,” Vogel said. “I think it’s very easy for some folks to look at the city and say, ‘It’s a business so you just cut your expenses and raise your revenue,’ but it’s not a business. There’s the private sector and then there’s the public sector.”

Vogel explained that by applying business logic, there are only two options to addressing the financial problem: cutting services or raising revenue via tax.

“And we have, and it’s not a popular thing,” Vogel said. “I know I don’t want to raise taxes anymore — I’m a taxpayer.”

As a means to find other sources of revenue, Vogel said the council has been going after money at the federal and state level.

“We’ve been more aggressive in terms of going after grants,” Vogel said.

Kantz voiced a similar opinion on taxation.

“We can’t tax our way out of the revenue problem,” Kantz said.

Kantz identified fixing the budget as both a short and long-term goal. Kantz proposed that Meadville needs to bring in more businesses to draw out leadership and talent. She believes the city needs high earners to increase revenue.

As for cutting services, Vogel explained that there are some services necessary for the betterment of Meadville.

BUDGET

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Ordinarily, that budget presentation comes not long after “Count Day” — the 11th day of classes, when Allegheny’s enrollment number is set — because ASG’s budget is dependent on the size of the student body. Last year, Count Day was on Tuesday, Sept. 13, and by that evening ASG had announced the size of their annual budget in their regular General Assembly.

For the current academic year, Count Day was on Wednesday, Sept. 13; more than three weeks later, and no budget has been presented.

Budget hearings

The club budget hearings were canceled in the spring, and clubs were informed of this prior to the budget application process at the end of last semester.

In an interview published in the Sept. 8 edition of The Campus, ASG President Nicole Recio Bremer, ’25, said that club budget hearings were scrapped by the previous administration.

“That didn’t even happen with (former ASG President) Veronica (Green, ’23) and (former Vice-President) Rudra (Schultz-Ray, ’23),” Recio Bremer told The Campus at the time. “The budget hearings didn’t even happen last semester.”

Those hearings are used alongside budget applications and estimates of the overall ASG budget to develop estimates for individual club budgets.

However, in an interview last month, Green, who graduated in May, said that she had advised Recio Bremer and Ault to hold

off on budget estimates until ASG’s full budget was known in mid-September. In the past, ASG would construct their club budgets based on finance estimates delivered at the end of the spring semester, and throughout the summer.

At the start of last academic year, the budget process stumbled after ASG underestimated their income over the summer. In response, ASG allocated an additional \$50,000 from the Surplus Fund to the General Fund and reopened club budgets.

“I wanted to prevent them from doing three rounds of budgets — one in May, one in the end of August, and then another one in the end of September when they have their actual count — because I felt that that was a lot of wasted time,” Green said. “I did say that they should reconvene in September when they have more of the numbers.”

ASG did not reconvene with finalized budgets, however. Instead, they announced at the beginning of the semester that formal club budgets would be done away with entirely and that all funds will be appropriated directly from the General Fund.

ASG’s current Financial Guidelines lists out six funds that student organizations can pull from:

- Annual budgets, for regular club activities.
- The General Fund, for special events or programs not covered by the annual budget.
- The Speaker Fund, for bringing a speaker or lecturer to

- campus.
- The Student Action Fund, to develop a project that will “improve the overall campus life experience for the student body.”
- The Surplus Fund, for purchases of uniforms, equipment, or other items with long-term uses.
- The CILC Fund, for members of the Culture, Identity and Leadership Coalition run through the IDEAS Center for diversity programming.

Those funds, including the club budgets, are defined in the budget proposal sent to the Senate.

The Financial Guidelines also state that “ASG budgets are allocated in the spring semester for the following academic year.”

ASG’s financial system can only be amended with a vote from the Rules and Finance committees. Until they’re changed, last year’s guidelines are still in effect, according to Green.

“That is a responsibility of new administrations — if you’re going to shape the financial processes, you need to put it in writing so that there is some sort of lawbook,” Green said. “Technically they’re still following our rulebook — Rudra and I’s — and our rulebook says that club budgets are a thing ... If they disagree with anything that we had in our financial policies, they still technically need to follow it until they bring forth their own revisions.”



“All in all, I think we all want a clean, safe, health Meadville. I think we all have that in common. So issue by issue is going to be different, and how every issue is settled is going to be different.

—BILL LAWRENCE
Republican candidate
Meadville City Council

Lawrence, with his campaign’s focus on the city budget, argued against more government programs.

“We keep wanting to do projects and spend money,” Lawrence said. “I’m saying let’s get our house in order first.”

Another aspect of Lawrence’s campaign is to be an advocate for the entire city, calling for unity of ideas alongside transparency and open communication.

“There’s a lot of business people that have put a lot of money and time into Meadville, donated a lot of these things,” said Lawrence. “They don’t think that they have a place at the table right now, and they’re alienated sometimes. I would invite those people to the table to make sure we’re getting all the input from everyone.”

Lawrence later criticized McKnight and Vogel for the way they hold their meetings. He said that the current council says their meetings are open to the public but lack true transparency.

“They have a lot of meetings during the middle of the day when nobody can go to them,” Lawrence said. “Or meetings at the last minute, announced the previous day. Most people should be at

work at that time.”

A more participatory government is something that Vogel said she has worked towards since being elected in 2019.

“It’s hard to articulate this to folks, but there was so much when I first got on city council and Larry and I were in the minority on council —there were so many decisions that were made in our executive sessions and behind closed doors,” Vogel said. “The first time around we were talking about participatory government, and that’s still something we want to continue to deliver on and improve on.”

Each candidate runs on a platform outlining the matters they deem most concerning. For Vogel and McKnight, this means improving Meadville by implementing programs designed to address its needs. For Lawrence and Kantz, this means focusing on the city’s revenue, business and budget.

“I think we all want a clean, safe, healthy Meadville,” Lawrence said. “I think we all have that in common. So issue by issue is going to be different, and how every issue is settled is going to be different.”

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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CRIME BLOTTER

Editor’s Note: The weekly Crime Blotter is compiled using the Daily Crime Log available on the Office of Public Safety’s web page. Crimes reported may still be under investigation.

September 30, 2023
Harassment
On Campus
Referred to Dean

October Energy Challenge is back for the 13th year

By **ZAYNAB JEBUR**
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Taped to the doors of each dorm hall, there is a piece of paper that lists out how much every dorm hall has reduced their energy consumption and how much money has been saved. Every year during October — National Clean Energy Action Month — Allegheny College encourages its students to reduce their energy consumption for one month to see how much money and electricity they can save.

Students might see the information on the posters, but students do not see how that information is recorded.

“We read submeters and electric meters to calculate a baseline directly preceding the challenge for both individual buildings and campus as a whole,” said Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, ’02. “Once the challenge begins, we read the submeters and electric meters weekly and enter data in a spreadsheet which is designed to calculate the use for the week and then compare that to the baseline to determine the per-

cent change for that building and for the campus overall.” Though it is referred to as a challenge, it is not a competition between dorms. Instead, it is a campus-wide effort to reduce the college’s energy consumption, according to Boulton.

But not every hall is strictly used for student living. Brooks Hall is attached to the dining hall, and Schultz Hall has a banquet space, health center and several administrative offices. For this reason, the Office of Sustainability displays the results as a reduction percentage.

“That’s why we do all of the results in percent reduction because it helps normalize,” Boulton said. “We are more focused on the overall results for the campus and everyone contributing to that, rather than putting all the dorms against each other.”

Trying to conserve energy this month is about all students working together to be more sustainable, as well as saving money that could go towards more efforts to become a more environmentally-conscious campus. The emphasis is on the community, Boulton said.

This year will mark the 13th time the challenge has been conducted since its introduction in 2010. It slowed down during the COVID-19 pandemic, so it is not as well-known to the student body as it has been in the past. Because of that, Boulton wants more students to be aware of the challenge.

“Turning off lights when you leave your room, maybe not leaving a fan running when you’re gone, turning off Christmas lights, shutting down computers at night, unplugging chargers, even gaming systems,” Boulton said.

These methods of conserving energy are especially important as the challenge helps students start to understand the link between energy usage and money, which will prepare students for their life after college.

“The whole thing is designed to encourage students to do that, recognize where there are possibilities, see how individual action can add up to cumulative impact,” Boulton said.

But the energy conservation is not isolated to just October. Looking at energy usage on campus in the years

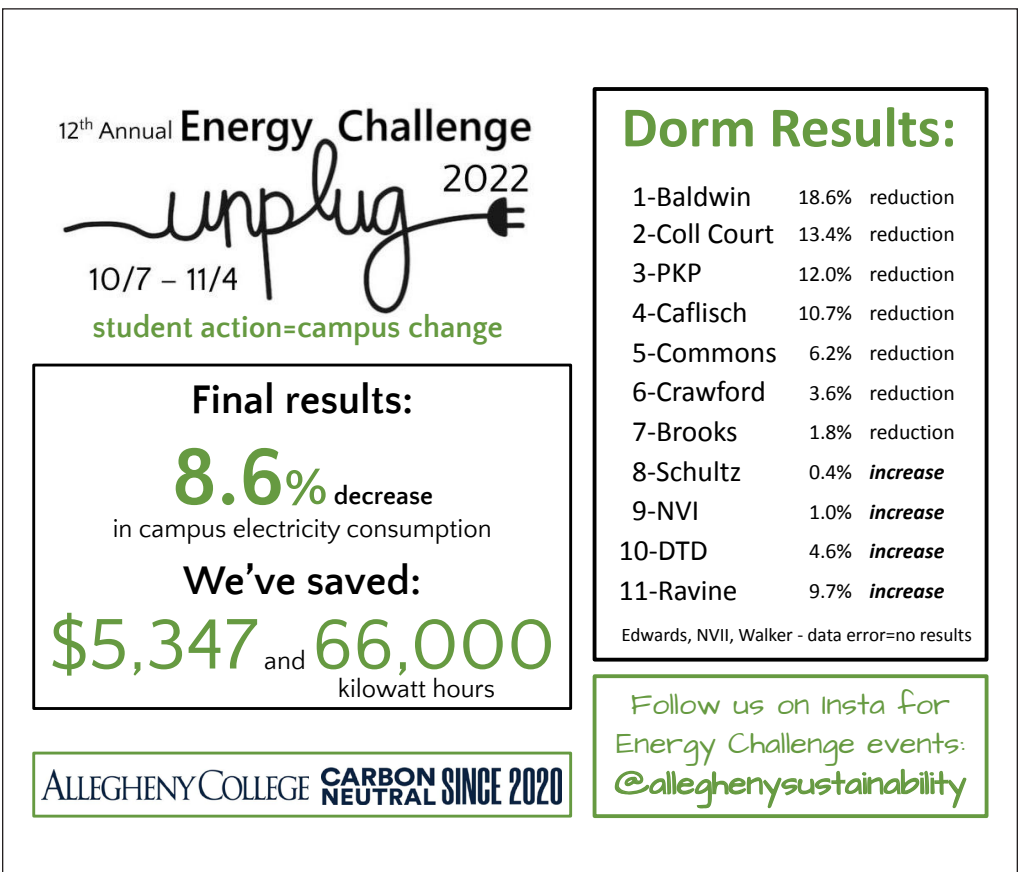


PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLEGHENY OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY
A flyer from the 12th Annual Allegheny October Energy Challenge shows overall cumulative and individual halls’ energy reduction, as well as money and kilowatt hours saved.

before the challenge and comparing it to now, the energy usage never gets as high as it used to before 2010.

“In the years that we have done the challenge, it never bumps as much as it did, so ideally students are incorporating it in.” Boulton said. “We really just encourage people that they do not have to sit in their individual rooms without the lights on, go to common areas and gather.”

This year, Students for Environmental Action plan on continuing their yearly tradition of baking homegrown potatoes on an open fire, ac-

cording SEA President Julia Sonen, ’24. Students can gather and enjoy a meal that does not use any electricity.

“The energy challenge really does work,” Sonen said. “Last year, we raised enough money to half-fund a green box machine and ASG matched it, so we got an extra green box machine—there used to be only one on campus. In the past, they have put up solar panels on Steffee, and this is just with the savings on campus. When we work together, we create change.”

The October challenge is meant to bring students to-

gether whether that’s through events hosted by clubs, gathering where there is always light or reducing energy usage by just turning off lights.

“The goal for this year is to build it back up, to make it more fun and recognize that work actually contributes to the college’s sustainability goals,” said Boulton.

The money saved even goes back to the students, usually towards projects that will make the campus more sustainable. It is about making an impact on our environment on a small scale.

The science behind Wi-Fi: How the network works

By **PAIGE KAGENI**
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If you’ve been anywhere on campus for the past month, you’ve most likely noticed a number of things; Gator Quad construction, art gallery showings, football games and other numerous events and happenings. However, you may have noticed one ever-present thing that’s a popular conversation topic: Wi-Fi. Ever since the beginning of the semester, internet connection has been hard to come by, constantly going in and out or not working at all.

The fall 2023 semester has proven to be a challenging year for the Information Technology team, who have been taking tickets from students and staff alike concerning internet connections.. For IT, its been their mission to make the current day better than the last, at least as far as the internet is concerned. In an interview last week, Systems Administrator Doug Tomer and Chief Information Officer Katrina Yeung spoke about their experience work-

ing to fix problems ranging from simple internet connections to repairing multidirectional cables from across state lines.

First, Yeung explained how the internet works on campus. Two 10-gigabyte fiber-optic cables from Pittsburgh and Cleveland connect to a router in the Pelletier Library, providing connection to the wider internet. After going through a firewall, it connects to a core switch, which is “the brains of the network,” according to Yeung.

Cable lines physically go from the core switch to each building. One switch is for wired networks — including cameras and door locks — while the other is for wireless connections. As for the issues with connectivity, Yeung says it’s the instability of the core switch.

“We’re struggling with the viability of what was installed, and so we’re working to get new equipment to stabilize the network,” Yeung said. “The first piece we’ll get is this core switch. Once we have that, the wired network should stabi-

lize a ton and we’re hoping that we’ll see some improvement in the Wi-Fi then.”

Because of this massive strain on IT, it has been difficult to work on other problems that they might have otherwise been better equipped to deal with. Tomer said his work as a systems administrator has been interrupted as a result of devoting his time to this problem.

“I’ve had to put a hold on a lot of that work to concentrate on helping out with the network work,” Tomer said. “As has the rest of the ITS team.”

Yeung added that, since IT is such a small team, there’s been times when it becomes a requirement to spend time even outside of work to give their aid.

“Everybody has stepped up to contribute in any way possible — working extra long hours, doing work outside of their normal job functions,” Yeung said.

She acknowledged that even though some students may not feel this way with how things have been progressing so far, the team has been operating actively to alleviate this issue.

This problem not only affects students, but professors too. Associate Professor of Computer and Information Science Gregory Kapfhammer spoke about the inconvenience this has caused for his classes. Kapfhammer had published course materials and lesson plans to a globally available website he had built himself, ProactiveProgrammers.com.

“Each faculty member creates their own course platform, and it’s perfectly designed for source code and data,” Kapfhammer said.

Syllabi, learning objectives and even slides and projects were all publicly reachable to computer science students all across the world. However, these resources have not been accessible for those at Allegheny.

“We’re struggling with the viability of what was installed, and so we’re working to get new equipment to stabilize the network”

—KATRINA YEUNG
Chief Information Officer
Allegheny College

“The unfortunate irony is that when we don’t have a reliable network at Allegheny College, people outside of Allegheny are better able to access our course materials than the people at Allegheny,” Kapfhammer said.

It becomes difficult for professors who work primarily online and with online materials to continue teaching their classes, according to Kapfhammer. Because of the simplicity of completing work on a laptop, sharing source codes and data through websites like ProactiveProgrammers.com and GitHub.com, work for the Computer and Information Science department becomes a previously unrecognized issue.

“Frankly, it’s incredibly difficult for us to be able to teach any computer science mate-

rial to any computer science student at any level in our curriculum,” Kapfhammer said.

Although internet connection issues, the college has been working with students to ease any problems. Students can check out ethernet cables alongside adapters at IT or Pelleter Library. In the coming weeks, Starlink satellite dishes will be placed in the Henderson Campus Center and Brook’s Blue Lounge to provide additional network support.

As IT continues to work long hours to get the Wi-Fi back up and running, the team remains confident in their ability to get things back online.

“We will get there!” Yeung said.

Climate play series continues with more serious tone

By **KACEY LEWIS**
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The second showings of “All Good Things Must Begin”, directed by Communication, Media and Performance Department Chair Michael Mehler, showcased another eight different plays on Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m. and Sept. 30 at 2:30 p.m.

In contrast to last week’s chosen plays, this weekend went down a much more serious route by choosing plays more personal to people who have been directly affected by climate change. This selection of plays consisted of: “Wild Parsnips,” “Nachtflug,” “Hurricane,” “Cautionary Solarpunk Archeology,” “The Act About Tomorrow,” “Undertow,” “Kids for Saving Earth Club #121” and “The Polar Bears.”

Although this weekend’s cast was different, several people in this cast performed the previous weekend. Kaleialoha Froning, ’24, Grace Kegel, ’27, alex martin, ’24, Niyah Moore, ’26, Riley Pegher, ’26, and Ashley Swierczewski, ’27, were all a

part of this round of plays.

“I really liked watching the first year students flourish a little bit, like, just giving them a little bit of space to kind of just explore and play — or even not just first years but people who haven’t been on the Playshop stage,” said Mehler, when referring to this weekend’s cast.

The first play, “Wild Parsnips” by Tira Palmquist, started the performance off with addressing a very specific kind of person: The know-it-all “environmentalist” that claims to care about the environment, when in reality, knows very little about the planet. Performed by martin, the “environmentalist” attempts to stop a forager from digging up wild parsnips. Performed by Moore, the forager goes on to explain that she is picking an invasive species, and plans to eat it. Throughout the conversation, the “environmentalist” is convinced to try to eat the parsnip, as a “good place to begin” to make sure that public lands continue and thrive.

“Nachtflug” by Nathan Ellis showcases Pegher and Moore telling

the story of a sleeping person who is flying over the Indian Ocean. This unnamed character suddenly jolts awake, feeling a deep sense of dread. The pilot speaks into the voice warning system to alert the passengers that “something terrible has happened, something truly awful.” This story ends by stating that “it’s not time to wake up, yet.”

In “Hurricane” by Jaun C. Sanchez, Kegel plays a grade-school teacher who is contemplating how to address the recent hurricane to her students. When she arrives at the school, it is complete chaos, with news reporters and cameras everywhere. One student speaks about their missing brother, and every single student comes forward to hug and comfort them. Spectating this, the teacher begins to wonder: “When did we lose sense of community?”

“The girl who reenacted it portrayed her character beautifully and with such emotion, it was moving,” Swierczewski said. “When that play was performed, the entire audience sat completely still because it was al-

most as if they were too enthralled within the moving story to move.”

The next play, “Cautionary Solarpunk Archeology” by Vinicus Jato-bá, consisted of three parts: “The Act About Yesterday,” “The Act About Now” and “The Act About Tomorrow.” The lines of this excerpt jump quickly between actors, portraying a sense of panic amongst the characters. The first part discusses the past of pollution and the first class’s attempts to move to Mars. The next section speaks of the present moment of panic in response to the climate crisis, including the repetition that “no one will mourn your bones”. Lastly, the play concludes with a kid describing what it was like to see a real bee and taste its honey, which has become nearly impossible in this future reality.

“Undertow” by Keith Barker starts off with two siblings, played by Pegher and Swierczewski, who are standing outside after an argument. They continue to bicker about who is in the right in how they help stop climate change. They finally decide to come to the conclusion that dealing

with the climate crisis is not black and white, and that there are many ways to help stop hurting the planet.

Next, “Kids for Saving Earth Club #121” by Gab Reisman involves martin, Swierczewski and Moore playing the same character throughout different periods of her life. Throughout the woman’s lifetime, she shows the dark reality of the declining planet. Despite this, the character realizes that “all I can do is go day by day.”

Similarly to last weekend’s program, this showing of plays also ended with humor. In “The Polar Bears” by Nicolas Billon, two polar bears, played by Kegel and Froning, are seen trying to come up with a solution for their food shortage. These polar bears speak directly to the audience multiple times, with jokes directed specifically towards Allegheny students. As the last play concludes, the two bears decide to start small by writing letters addressing the issue.

Paulson to race in Ironman World Championship Oct. 14

By **PAIGE KAGENI**
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Associate Professor of Psychology Lauren Paulson will be competing in the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawai’i, on Oct. 14. Being her 10th Ironman in total, Paulson will be heading to Hawai’i to embark on “a 2.4 mile open water swim in Kailua-Kona Bay, a 112 mile bike ride across the Hawaiian lava desert and finally a marathon (26.2 miles) run along the coast of the Big Island,” Paulson said.

This is nothing new for Paulson, as she has been competing in extreme sports challenges since she was eight, when she swam competitively.

Pualson then took a break to begin running and returned to masters swimming in college. Since then, she’s done sprinting combined with multiple half Ironmans.

As for this year’s Ironman Championship, Paulson could not be more excited.

“This race has always been a long-term aspiration and on my life-time bucket list,” Paulson said. “Needless to say, when I grabbed a slot this year, I was over the moon. This is a once in a lifetime experience that I am so very excited to have the opportunity to be a part of this iconic race.”

In preparation for the race, Paulson follows a strict regimen in the months before the race to make sure she’s in the best shape both physically and

mentally. Paulson’s training usually includes three weeks straight of running, biking and swimming with one week of rest.

“My longest ride for this race has been 7 hours and longest run has been 20 miles,” Paulson said. “Longest swim was 6,000 yards. I usually train early in the morning before work. I do my long sessions on the weekends.”

For this race, Paulson took an unconventional route to get ready for the hot weather in Hawai’i. Riding through heat hotter than West Pennsylvania will be quite the task, so Paulson employed the usage of hot tubs and saunas to acclimate to Hawai’i temperatures.

“I have had to jump into a very hot tub, 104 degrees or in a sauna directly after a workout, for 20 minutes without drinking any water,” Paulson said. “It might sound lovely, but it is pretty brutal and uncomfortable.”

When discussing the physical strain events such as the Ironman take on her body, Paulson expressed the impor-

ance of managing her time with a healthy work-life balance.

“I would say one of the biggest challenges preparing for the race is time. I was just talking to my internship students about work-life balance, and I try to practice what I preach. Admittedly, work-life balance is a challenge and an area that I continue to work on,” Paulson said.

With the Ironman World Championship in particular, running, biking and swimming in the Hawaiian heat is a difficult challenge. For Paulson, this challenge includes mental strain.

“One of the biggest challenges during the race is managing the dark times,” Paulson said. “They always come in a daylong race. It’s best to have a plan when they come and roll with it. This is something that I keep getting better and better at each race. I often break the race into manageable steps — It’s not good to say, ‘Ok I have 111 more miles on the bike,’ so I will break it into manageable chunks such as ‘Let’s get to the next aid sta-

tion.’ I also have mantras that I repeat to myself.”

For support, Paulson relies on her husband.

“He is my biggest cheerleader and supporter,” Paulson said. “These past two weeks have been really intense with work and training and he has picked up taking care of almost all household responsibilities and just generally encouraging me. Then at the race, it is a long day and he is so amazingly supportive.”

For those interested in participating in an Ironman Triathlon themselves, Paulson stresses the need to never give up training.

“Even if you don’t feel like it, put one foot in front of the other,” Paulson said. “As I say to my senior comp students, We will climb this mountain one step at a time. Another saying I use and is on my comp syllabus is, ‘just keep swimming...’”

During the offseason, Paulson makes sure to utilize self-care to keep herself in shape.

“I love yoga, but I just don’t normally have time to do it



PAULSON

during the season,” she said. “It’s not really taking some time off, but I also do some strength training, just working on areas that are weaker for me. I do a lot of self-care during the season, as well. I do lots of stretching and I get a massage when I can.”

With the date of the championship coming closer, Paulson is excited for her newest challenge.

“There are so many lessons that I’ve learned in my training process that can be applied to other domains in my life,” Paulson said. “Finally, as far as having doubts, allow yourself to be surprised.”

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A5 celebrates Mid-Autumn Festival with mooncakes, crafts

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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The Henderson Campus Center became a place of celebration and togetherness as students gathered to celebrate and learn about the Mid-Autumn Festival.

On Friday, Sept. 29 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., the Association for Asian and Asian American Awareness celebrated the festival by providing students with mooncakes, refreshments and crafts activities. While students engaged in the activities, a video about the significance of the festival played in the background.

A5 President Aria Zong, '25, said the festival originates from the legend of the Chinese Moon Goddess Chang'e, whose husband saved the Earth from having ten suns in the sky and was rewarded with an elixir of immortality. In order to keep the elixir safe from thieves, Chang'e drank the elixir, causing her to float to the moon as a goddess. Her husband honored the moon

goddess on Earth by leaving out fruit and mooncakes. "You typically go home to see your family and your close friends to gaze at the moon while enjoying fruits and mooncakes," Zong said. "Different regions have their ways of making mooncakes and also their particular fillings and it's always interesting to try different types of mooncakes."

Zong said that, typically, her family does not celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival beyond eating mooncakes and being together.

"Usually we put on the event at Allegheny for education," Zong said. "We want people to enjoy the festival and also learn about it, be appreciative and aware that such a culture exists and that it is important."

At the event, A5 served a lemon tea drink for students to wash down different kinds of mooncakes. The filling of the mooncakes ranged from sweet to salty to give more flavor variety. For students wanting a modern flavor,

matcha mooncakes were offered.

Kaiyla Jones, '27, shared her experience with trying new food from an unfamiliar culture. The festival at the college was the first time she participated in the celebration, according to Jones.

"It was really cool to try a food from a new culture and everyone here has been really sweet," Jones said. "I loved the red bean mooncakes and this tea is very delicious."

The activities offered at the festival were writing blessings on rabbit-shaped paper to paste on a poster and sculpting rabbits. The significance behind the rabbit points to the legend of the Jade Rabbit, who inhabits the moon as a reward for offering himself as food when he could not provide food to the Jade Emperor, who had disguised himself as an old beggar, according to Zong.

"I am not particularly sure if writing goodwill messages is something we do for the Mid-Autumn festival specifically but I know it is extremely



EVELYN ZAVALA/THE CAMPUS

This banner features blessings written on rabbit-shaped papers, as a reference to the legend of the Jade Rabbit.

common among Asian holidays," Zong said. "The significance of the activity was more for entertainment for participants who are interested in making such a craft but it also points to the fact that there is not just one moon god."

Typically, the Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated in China and other countries such as Japan around mid-September by playing with lanterns, family gath-

erings, eating mooncakes, moon gazing and eating a post-feast dessert called tong yuen according to an article on YP, a unit of South China Morning Post. Additionally, many of the traditions have evolved over time according to people's tastes, but some have been kept the same.

Zong said the event was a success as A5 got a lot of feedback from alumni and students who were enjoying the

activities offered.

"The event was supposed to be two hours and we started running out of mooncakes around the hour and 15 mark which I feel is feedback in its own form," Zong said. "There were students, alumni and faculty members who all said they very much enjoyed the mooncakes, which is great and exactly what we were looking for."

Charting an academic course with the NaviGators

Meet Professor Brian Harward

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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From his office on the ground floor of Quigley Hall, Professor and Robert G. Seddig Chair in Political Science Brian Harward teaches, advises and does some studying of his own. A scholar of American politics, Harward's coursework focuses on the study of the nation's legal and court systems. His classes range from constitutional perspectives on rights and governmental powers to the philosophy of law, bureaucratic politics and broad introductions to the study of American democracy.

"Most of the students I have I will see in the Intro to American Government or Judicial Process or (Constitutional) Law classes," Harward said. "They're the most frequently offered."

Beyond the classroom, Harward mentors students in a variety of capacities. As chair of the political science department, Harward advises all students minoring in the field. He also advises pre-law and pre-policy students who are majoring in political science.

"Typically the students who I see as major advisees are students interested in going to law school or interested in policy," Harward said. "So whether it's a Masters of Public Administration or Masters of Public Policy, I can help advise them for pre-policy interests as well as their pre-law interests."

Harward's own work focuses on the relationships between the three branches of the United States federal government. He has published four books on the American presidency and an encyclopedia on political parties and interest groups. Harward's work also includes eight scholarly publications and dozens of conference papers and presentations.

As a student, Harward learned that showing up to class and engaging with the material were some of the best ways to be successful.

"One of the things that I discovered far too late in my college career was that I needed to not just highlight, but to actually take down notes as I was reading," Harward said. "Then letting the class discussion — or lecture or the projects that we're doing in class — also be op-



HARWARD

portunities to connect with the readings that we've been doing."

For the not-yet-declared Gator, Harward said he recommends thinking beyond Quigley Hall if political science is not quite someone's speed.

"A student who's in my Intro to American Government, but finds it's not really their bag, I send them to philosophy, send them to history, send them to chemistry — anywhere to just explore what might be more of interest to them," Harward said. "Their first few semesters ought to be a time of exploration, ought to be a time of experimentation, trying out different disciplines, different professors within those disciplines, different subfields in those disciplines."

Beyond the classroom, Harward said students new to the college should think about co-curricular activities as ways to develop and deepen their academic careers.

"Start thinking about using summers wisely, and that means spending some time over at Career Education thinking through internship opportunities, identifying professors with whom you might want to do research," Harward said. "It's never too early to develop those kinds of relationships with those offices."

Harward also encouraged students not just to engage in the college experience, but to think about when to take a break and relax.

"(Be) mindful not to overextend yourself in those areas either," Harward said. "Finding that balance is something that will be unique to each person, but it's part of being in college."

By **KENDALL COX**
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What is one piece of advice you'd give to those who wish to take a communication and media class at Allegheny?

Studying media and communication gives us a framework for understanding the world in which we live. We live in a media-saturated world. We're always looking at screens — you're probably reading this on a screen. Media and communication studies gives us a framework to critically examine the images, information and stories that constantly come at us in the media, whether in the form of news, entertainment, or social media posts. They shape how we see things. If you're curious about this — about the ways media influence us — take a media studies class.

Personally, I'm interested in media because I'm interested in social and political questions. That's why I teach media studies. Because our ability to understand politics, culture, and society depends on studying media. At this point, you can't separate them. Some people study media because they're interested in particular media forms, like film or TV or Instagram. But I'm less interested in specific media than the bigger questions about politics, power and society. I'm interested in — and teach about — the structures that determine our world and our lived experience.

What made you fall in love with communications and media studies?

I like the fact that we ask "big questions" in communication and media studies. One of the things I always stress in teaching is that the world we live in is a constructed world; it's been created by hu-

man beings. There is no "natural" way the world should be. There is only the way it's been constructed. So the questions we should ask are: constructed by who? To what end? In whose interest?

When you're talking about communication, you're ultimately talking about power, because communication is always about representing the world, and we're always representing the world in a particular way. Sometimes these representations take on the power of normality; they're made to seem "natural."

But communication and media studies gives us tools to de-naturalize what we take for granted as normal and natural — whether it's stories about identities, politics, economics, the environment, etc. For instance, education is usually represented in terms of training people for jobs. But that's a very limiting representation, and it serves particular interests. To me, the point of education is more profound; it's about providing people with the conceptual tools they need to see the world in different ways, so that we're able to act and change the world, to envision alternatives.

What has your career journey looked like? What is one piece of advice you'd give to your past self?

Something I tell every advisee is don't worry about the job. Don't structure your time at Allegheny according to the job market, or what you think will get you a job after graduation. I know students are pressured by parents and even college staff to think this way. But ultimately, what matters when it comes to the job is not the major or specific courses; it's the degree. So spend your time at Allegheny finding out what you're interested in intellectually. Experiment! Take courses you might not otherwise. You've got four years to



TOMPKINS

experiment with ideas before you're going to be thrust into the job market. Take advantage of it. Spend your time pursuing your own intellectual interests. The job will come. I never planned on this job when I was an undergraduate. I didn't have a career plan. None of my friends did. And we turned out fine. The sky didn't fall. You shouldn't approach your time at Allegheny in terms of CV-building; you should approach it in terms of broadening your perspective and learning new ideas about what's possible.

Anything you want students at Allegheny to know about you, your department, or anything else?

We're a big department. We also house Theatre, Dance and Movement Studies, and Filmmaking — areas that equip students with resources to express themselves artistically and politically. But overall, I'd say we're probably the only department that spends the bulk of our time analyzing the ways media and culture tell us we're supposed to think — what we call ideology. If you're interested in studying ideology, or if you suspect something is wrong with the world and want to develop a critical vocabulary for understanding why, check us out.

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