

Allegheny welcomes new dean

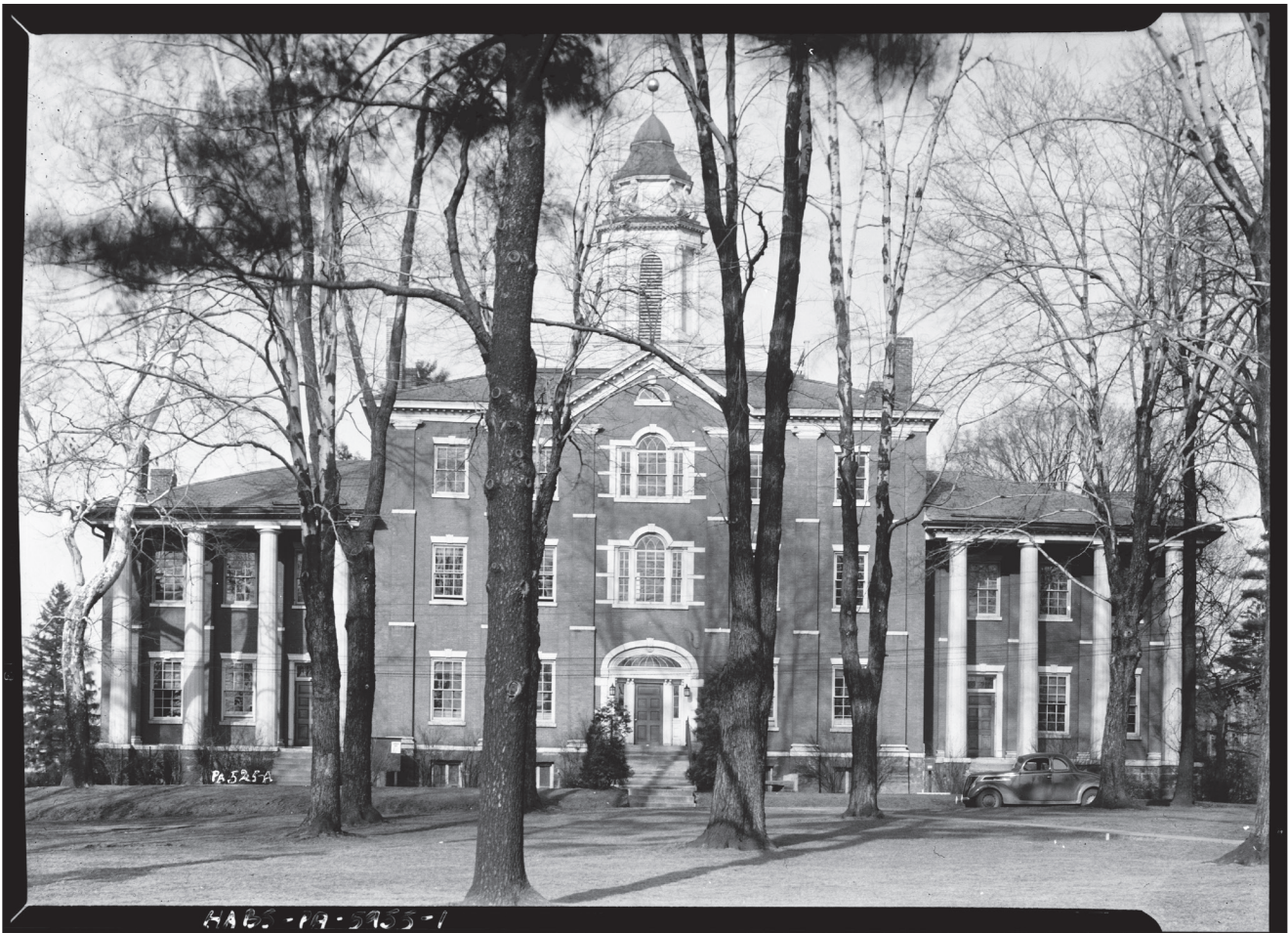
By LAUREN TRIMBER
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With the 2018-19 school year officially beginning, students are adjusting to changes implemented over the summer. One of the shifts in administration occurred when Interim Dean of Students Jacquie Kondrot retired, leaving the position open.

Title IX Coordinator Gillian Ford stepped into the role as interim dean on June 15, 2018 and finished on Aug. 23, 2018. Hired over the summer, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students April Thompson filled the vacant spot and is preparing to start her first year at Allegheny.

Ford initially worked at Allegheny as chief of staff in the Office of the President, where she conducted a search for a Title IX coordinator. Since she had a background working in victim services, she was offered the position temporarily, Ford said. The job ultimately became a full-time role, and she began working as Allegheny's Title IX coordinator in 2015, according to Ford. Similarly, Ford was offered the role of interim dean by Allegheny College Executive Vice President Eileen Petula in 2018.

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Contributed by the Library of Congress

This photograph, taken by William Bulger in 1937, shows Bentley Hall just a decade after its 1925 renovation.

Major Bentley renovations underway

By ALEX WEIDENHOF
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In its first major renovation in nearly a century, Bentley Hall, the original Allegheny College building, will be renovated to reinforce its structural integrity, restore much of its original exterior appearance and modernize the interior as much as possible.

Cliff Willis, director of major capi-

tal projects, said the design phase of the renovation will likely last through the spring of 2019, and the college hopes the building will be reoccupied in August 2020.

Unlike the most recent major renovation of Bentley in 1925, the building will be entirely empty, with all remaining employees moving from Bentley the week of Tuesday, Sept. 4, Willis said. The Registrar, Institutional Development and Title IX have already moved to Murray Hall.

“Bentley is going to be a blank canvas for us,” he said.

Structural improvements

Part of the renovation will focus specifically on infrastructure, as the college hopes Bentley, whose cornerstone was laid in 1820, lasts another two centuries.

“One of the things is to make sure of the integrity of the building,” Willis said. “That’s crucial.”

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Student pleads no contest

By ALEX WEIDENHOF
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A former Allegheny College student has pleaded no contest to charges related to an April on-campus sexual assault. He faces a maximum of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Moses Alcantara Garcia, 21, formerly of the Class of 2020, was arrested May 1 on charges he sexually assaulted a woman on Allegheny's campus. The victim told police of the assault, which occurred in her residence hall in the early morning of April 14, at the Meadville Medical Center April 26, the Meadville Tribune reported.

The criminal complaint, which was filed with the magisterial district court May 1, was written at the emergency department of the Meadville hospital.

When Garcia was arrested, he faced charges of rape by forcible compulsion, a first-degree felony; sexual assault, a second-degree felony; indecent assault by forcible compulsion, a first-degree misdemeanor; and indecent assault without consent, a second-degree misdemeanor.

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ASG starts year with introductory meeting, changes, preparation

By SARA HOLTHOUSE
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During an informal general assembly meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 29, Allegheny Student Government discussed changes to its communications, a potential change to first-year senate election dates and the organization's presence at the Involvement Fair.

As it was an informal meeting, ASG did not follow its traditional format or Robert's Rules of Order; instead, the meeting involved orientation of newer members and a reminder of new and old policies.

ASG's internal communications have changed, as the organization has moved to the messaging app Slack, which allows senators and cabinet to stay updated in real-time. The app also lets ASG break discussions into multiple topics, or channels, to keep the discussions uncluttered.

ASG President Camila Gomez, '19, said Slack offers benefits over other methods of communication.

“I think it's so much more effective than trying to figure out group chats and GroupMe, and whatever else,” said Gomez.

The meeting included a short tutorial for members on how to best use Slack to communicate with the rest of ASG.

In addition to the changes to the organization's internal communications, it seeks to improve its ability to send its message across the community.

During the meeting, senators were able to see a preview of ASG's new website, which is easier to navigate and features a cleaner layout.

“The homepage is just a lot cleaner,” said Class of 2021 President David Roach. “There aren't as many popup menus.”

The website also includes pages on the cabinet, senate and committees, and introductory pages for the general student body on what ASG does and how to start a new club.

Members suggested a site-map be added to the new website to make it easier to navigate.

The student government also discussed the possibility of changing the election date for first-year senators. Elections for first-year senators have traditionally been held mid-September, but the organization discussed moving the date earlier in the month.

Senator Ben Blackburn, '21, said he believes moving the date up would have little benefit to students.

“(If the date was made earlier,) that's not a lot of time to look at it, decide you're going to run, make your posters and then put them up,” he said. “And there's still two days of voting.”

Another possible election change would be to invite students to an ASG meeting so that they would have an idea of what being involved in student government entails. The body agreed that, if this were to occur, the dates of introductory meetings would be announced at the Thursday, Aug. 30, Involvement Fair.

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LINDSAY BAASE/THE CAMPUS

Volunteers helped first-year students move into Baldwin Hall on North Main Street Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018, as Welcome Weekend began.

Welcoming the class of 2022

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Allegheny College began the 2018-19 academic year with Welcome Weekend, which took place Saturday, Aug. 25, to Monday, Aug. 27. First-year

students moved in Saturday and participated in orientation activities as they began to get used to and learned to find their way around Allegheny.

Ian Binnington, registrar, associate dean of academics and associate professor of history, said this year's Welcome Weekend was different from past years.

“Instead of combining

move-in and orientation as we have been doing, we separated them and invited new first-year and transfer students and their parents and families to one of five Summer Orientation sessions held in June, July and August,” Binnington wrote in an email to The Campus. “With a few exceptions,

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IN THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS



FINDING HOME, COMING HOME
Allegheny students find pieces of home while traveling abroad.
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SHARK WEEK TALES CONTINUE
Professor Lisa Whitenack's Shark Week commentary to be featured on campus.
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FRIENDLY FACES, NEW POSITIONS
Gator graduates return to campus as members of Allegheny athletic staff.
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BENTLEY

from page 1



KELSEY EVANS/THE CAMPUS

Top: An unidentified worker cleans up debris after removing a partition wall from Bentley Hall on Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018.

Center: The “chalk room,” a former classroom in which students signed their name and class year from the 1960s to the college’s bicentennial, will likely be repurposed after renovations, said Cliff Willis, director of major capital projects. Parts of the chalkboard will likely be removed, framed and hung elsewhere in the building.

Above: An abandoned classroom on the third floor of Bentley Hall. Classes were taught in the building from its construction through the 1960s, when the college closed the third floor due to a lack of means of egress. A seminar room may be added to Bentley during renovations, reopening the building to classes after nearly 60 years.

In pursuit of that goal, Willis said, the college’s contractors will examine much of the building’s structure. Test pits will likely be dug near the building to inspect the foundation, much of the building’s brick will be repointed — a process in which the mortar is removed and replaced, and floor joists will be exposed.

The college also hopes to replace the slate roof, which has been on the building since 1914. Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Eileen Petula said a drone video shot in June by a subcontractor from the college’s contracted architectural firm, MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni, convinced her and Willis that the roof needs to be replaced.

Willis said the replacement roof will likely be slate again. Steve Utz, an internship coordinator and adjunct professor who has studied the history and architecture of Bentley Hall, said slate provides many advantages over other types of roofing. Individual slate tiles can be repaired or replaced, unlike asphalt shingles.

Contractors will also look at the load-bearing Doric columns and pilasters on the

south side of the building to determine which, if any, need to be repaired.

Modern and green

While a lot of the restoration will be structural in nature, Willis said there will also be a number of cosmetic and functional changes.

“We’re going to replace the infrastructure and completely renew it,” Willis said. “We want to make it a 21st-century building and one that’ll get us through the next century.”

As part of updating the 19th-century building to the 21st century, Willis said, the college is looking into geothermal heating and cooling, better Americans with Disabilities Act compliance — including elevator installation — and an increased number of restrooms.

The potential addition of geothermal climate control, Willis said, is part of a goal to make the building more sustainable. In addition to the possibility of geothermal heating and cooling, Allegheny hopes to add new roof insulation to reduce the need for climate control. New windows will likely contribute to energy efficiency as well.

Willis said the finished

project will not only be sustainable, but that the approach to construction will be as well. He said the college identified and worked with contractors with experience with sustainable construction. During the demolition process, for example, the college hopes to reuse or repurpose as many materials as possible, according to Willis.

Historic restoration

Allegheny President James Mullen said Bentley is an important building, not just to the history of Meadville but to the western Pennsylvania region as well.

“It reminds us that Timothy Alden and a group of people had the courage to establish a college in what was the frontier of America. ... I think that courage shows the best values of Pennsylvania and the best values of America,” he said. “There’s a responsibility to sustain it and prolong it for generations to come.”

In an attempt to retain the building’s historic value, the modern features will be augmented by features of Bentley’s original design.

There are no extant original Bentley Hall blueprints, Willis said. Utz, who has writ-

ten about and drawn details of the building for the National Park Service, said he has not seen any contemporary drawings or building plans.

That leaves renovation designers limited — but still powerful — data. Drawings and photographs, as well as manuscripts, can inform contractors of the building’s design and its changes from 1820 through 2018.

Willis said the building was not originally painted red, though Bentley saw its first coat of red paint prior to 1900. He said the original windows on the building were six frames over six frames, in contrast to the modern nine over nine design, though he does not know when that changed.

A 1937 photograph of the south of Bentley Hall, taken by William Bulger and available at the Library of Congress, shows most windows with a nine-over-nine design, though the south-facing windows on the third floor still had the six-over-six design.

One goal for the restoration project is to restore the six-over-six windows, Willis said, bringing in a fourth generation of windows.

Another possible change to the building’s façade is the removal of Bentley’s red paint. “Masonry needs to breathe,” Willis said.

Willis said the original façade of Bentley Hall can be likened to the current design of the Tippie Alumni Center. It is constructed of orange brick with a stone foundation.

Because the brick has been covered with red paint for over a century, contractors may encounter issues with removing the paint, Willis said. The paint cannot be sand-blasted off due to both the age and original sourcing of the brick; instead, if contractors remove the paint, they will have to do so chemically.

Willis said chemical paint removal poses another set of problems. Runoff is a concern — not only for environmental issues, but also because it poses a potential threat to the Sycamore Tree at the southwest corner of the building, which some believe was originally planted by Timothy Alden, Allegheny College’s first president.

The tree itself is also a concern during the renovation process. Allegheny has hired an arborist to ensure that the tree is kept safe. A number of techniques can be used to ensure the health of the tree prior to renovation, Willis said, but the possibility of harm required the retention of the arborist.

“We don’t want to damage our tree,” Petula said.

Interior design

The college will not return Bentley to its original usage, which housed classrooms, dormitories and a library, following renovation, but some changes will be found inside the nearly two century-old building.

Petula said there is a possibility of a class seminar room being re-added to the building, which would enhance both students’ experience and Bentley itself.

“I think that would be a wonderful way to have more life in the building,” she said.

In addition to the inclusion of a seminar room, several other major changes will likely come to the college’s oldest building.

The third floor, which has not been used since 1964 due to a lack of egress, may be used again, according to Willis, as there is a possibility the

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We want to make (Bentley) a 21st-century building and one that’ll get us through the next century.”

—CLIFF WILLIS
Director of Major Capital Projects,
Allegheny College

stairs that were originally on the east and west sides of the building will be reopened.

If the third floor is reopened, the “chalk room,” in which graduating students from the 1960s to the college’s bicentennial signed their names and class years, will be repurposed. In that case, Willis said, some portions of the chalkboard graduating students signed may be removed, framed and hung elsewhere in the building.

The bannister going up the center staircase will be raised — it is currently too short to meet building codes, according to Willis — but as the bannister itself is believed to be original, it will remain in the building if possible, Willis said.

Willis also said it may be possible to determine what the original colors of the walls were, and the interior paint may be changed to match.

On the third floor is an intricate crown moulding and ceiling rose, which are currently partially hidden by dropped ceilings. Neither Willis nor Petula said they knew of any other designs currently covered up, but Petula said it would not be a surprise.

“I think history has taught us that, during building renovations, we find a lot of things,” she said.

Utz said it would fit in with the building’s Federalist architectural style to have an ornate first floor. Federalist architecture, according to Utz, saw the ground floor as an area to make a first impression, as it was the most public area of the building.

Donor-funded

According to Petula, the Bentley renovation is 100 percent donor-funded. Half of the funds came from Patricia Bush Tippie, ’56, and Henry Tippie who, in fall 2017, made a \$7 million challenge pledge, meaning the college is responsible for matching the pledge dollar-for-dollar. Since then, the college has raised \$6.5 million, with fundraising continuing for the final \$500,000.

The Tippies, who have endowed to the college funds for, among numerous other projects, the Tippie Alumni Center, scholarship funds and a faculty chair, were drawn to the Bentley project by the building’s historic value, Mullen said. The renovation of Bentley is part of the college’s Combinations 2020 strategic plan.

“Their love for the campus is so deep,” Mullen said. “Because of their love for the history of this place, they said they wanted to make this happen.”

Mullen said the campaign to raise matching funds was not as heavily advertised as past fundraising campaigns.

“We’ve done it quietly because we wanted to make sure it was something we were able to do,” he said.

While the college must still raise \$500,000 to complete the matching pledge, Mullen said he has no worries for the campaign.

“Given the enthusiasm we’ve seen, I’m confident we’re going to be able to achieve that,” he said.

The donor-funded nature of this project differs from past Allegheny renovations. In 2016, the college renovated Carnegie Hall through a \$1.6 million Richard King Mellon Foundation grant and part of a \$2 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Allegheny will also not receive any bonds to help fund the Bentley reconstruction, according to Petula.

“This will not be debt-funded,” she said.

Experienced firms

Willis said he has spent over a decade vetting architectural, engineering and construction firms for the Bentley renovation, well before he knew it would be happening or his role in it.

When they knew they would be involved with the renovation, he and Petula were quickly able to narrow the shortlist for an architectural firm to four candidates. While in Pittsburgh, they invited these four firms to 30-minute meetings.

“It got us a chance to get a first impression, see ... the enthusiasm level and initial thoughts,” Petula said.

Willis said he looked for three qualities in the firms and the “absence of any one of them was a dealbreaker.” The firms had to be professional and competent, had to pay extra attention to staying within budget and had to listen.

After inviting the four firms to campus, the college decided on MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni.

Petula said the college followed a similar process for their other contractors. The college decided on Barton Associates for an engineering contractor and the Massaro Corporation as the construction contractor. All three firms are based out of Pittsburgh, another important factor for Willis.

A third century

Petula said the college has experienced best results from renovations when the contractors worked together from the start, and Allegheny has ensured this will happen with the Bentley restoration.

“We’re not designing the building and then going off and finding a construction firm,” she said. “We’ve chosen a process that is highly collaborative, where everyone’s involved from the very beginning.”

Those involved with the project are optimistic about its future successes.

“I’m confident we have a really strong team,” Petula said. “It’s proving to be exactly what we had hoped: a collaborative process.”

And for all involved, working on the college’s oldest and most famous building has been a long-term goal.

“We are in the right place at the right time,” Willis said.

Mullen said that, while he will not be president of the college when the renovations finish, he is honored to have played a role in the project.

“I’ll walk out in a week and shut the lights out, and the next time this place is open, it’ll be an incredible building,” he said. “I look forward to visiting it.”

The Campus coverage of the 1925 Bentley renovations

By ALEX WEIDENHOF
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The last major renovation of Bentley Hall, in 1925, was covered at the time by The Campus. While details are scarce, it provides an interesting perspective on the building’s condition at the time.

The two renovations — this year’s and the one nearly a century ago — share many similarities. For example, ensuring the mortar would last another 100 years was a priority, as was modernizing the building. At that time, modernization meant electric lights and indoor plumbing, not geothermal climate control and adding elevators.

A preview article, printed on the front page of the Tuesday, Sept. 23, 1924, Campus, noted that the renovations would add “usefulness and beauty” to “old Bentley.”

“Bentley Hall, the center of Allegheny tradition, is undergoing a course of renovation that will make it, on completion, one of the most up-to-date, yet unique, buildings in the state,” the story, which has no byline, reads. “When finished, it will be a true Colonial type of edifice in every respect, and it will go a long way toward the further beautification of our campus.”

According to the article, the tiled first floor was a part of the renovation, and the green Vermont slate roof was as well. Windows with “smaller panes of glass” were added — perhaps the 1925 renovation was when the windows changed from six over six panes to nine over nine.

Yet, as extensive as these renovations were, construction itself lasted less than one

year and the building’s occupants remained.

“Persons using the building will encounter slight inconveniences from time to time during the reconstruction,” the 1924 article reads, “but with proper consideration and cooperation no great difficulty will be experienced.”

The renovations finished in April 1925, according to an April 22, 1925, Campus article, titled “Bentley made attractive.”

“Returning alumni at Commencement time will be surprised and impressed with the improvements which have been made in Bentley Hall during the year,” the article, also unsigned, reads.

In addition to the renovations outlined in the 1924 article, the 1925 article notes several additional improvements: interior woodwork was finished in walnut and white, while exterior woodwork was painted white; windows received new blinds; electric light was provided to all rooms and interior walls were painted cream. Halls and staircases were covered with linoleum, and indoor bathrooms were installed.

The renovations involved external improvements as well, The Campus reported. A wider set of stairs was added to the south side of the building, as was a new sidewalk made of broken flagstone set in concrete, and brick walls were repointed.

“Many other improvements of like nature are planned, and the work will probably continue nearly until the end of the term,” the article reads in part. “It is hoped, however, to have everything completed in time for Commencement.”

PLEA from page 1



Courtesy of Crawford County Correctional Facility
Moses Alcantara Garcia, 21, pleaded no contest to charges related to an on-campus sexual assault in April.

Garcia pleaded no contest to the charge of indecent assault by forcible compulsion. As part of the plea, the other three charges were dismissed.

A no contest plea means the defendant does not admit guilt, but accepts the state has enough evidence to convict.

Per Pennsylvania law, it can only be accepted with the judge’s consent, unlike a guilty plea.

Allegheny notified students of Garcia’s arrest in the evening of May 1, sending an email saying “a student” was “arrested, arraigned and is being held on charges of sexual assault.” It did not give Garcia’s name, the victim’s name or any further details.

The Campus does not publish the names of victims of sexual assault.

Meadville Police detective Justin Bailey, the arresting officer, testified at Garcia’s May 14 preliminary hearing in front of Magisterial District Judge Samuel Pendolino. Bailey testified that Garcia began to kiss the victim, with her repeatedly telling him no, before forcing the victim on her back and assaulting her, the Tribune reported.

The Tribune also reported Garcia texted the victim after the incident, stating “there are no such words to describe what I did” and “I can’t live with the guilt.”

Garcia, who has been incarcerated in the Crawford County Correctional Facility since his arrest with a \$40,000 bail, will be sentenced the morning of Sept. 5.

MOVE-IN from page 1



LINDSAY BAASE/THE CAMPUS

Megan Hazlett, ’19, and other student volunteers moved in early to help first-year students acclimate to campus at the beginning of Welcome Weekend, Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018. Welcome Weekend did not include orientation in 2018, for the first year.

all of the 500 new first-year and transfer students attended an orientation session. ... We also hope that Summer Orientation made registration for first semester courses less confusing, as well as making move-in a smoother experience.”

The Summer Orientation Core Team is made up of staff from the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center, the Dean of Students Office, Office of Residence Life, the Learning Commons, College Relations and the Department of Athletics and Recreation.

A major focus of Welcome Weekend is the annual Matriculation Ceremony, which officially welcomes the incoming class to campus. Allegheny Student Government President Camila Gomez, ’19, President James Mullen and Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Life April Thompson came together to join in welcoming the class of 2022.

Gomez began with words of encouragement, telling new students to “try something new, fall down, stand back up, challenge your beliefs and please go to class.”

Mullen described feeling a close, almost familial bond between himself and the Allegheny community.

“You’re not only joining the Allegheny family, but mine as well,” Mullen said. Mullen then encouraged students to meet different people as “that is the core of what college is all about.”

Thompson discussed what she felt was a hopeful air around the beginning of the semester and asked the incoming class to try new things and said “I’m very excited for

all the work ahead of us.”

In addition to the Academic Convocation and Matriculation Ceremony, Welcome Weekend also included various religious gatherings in Ford Memorial Chapel along with assemblies, information sessions and a tour of Meadville. Many of these sessions involved faculty and staff volunteers, but there were also many student volunteers who moved in a few days early to help the first-year students adjust to campus.

ASG from page 1

The body also discussed the Involvement Fair in greater detail, talking about their representation during the meeting.

ASG representation at the fair gives students a chance to see that “being a part of ASG lets students meet a lot of people with very different interests and backgrounds, so they can feel more engaged and hopefully find a passion for student government,” Gomez said.

Gomez also discussed the possibility of a physical sign-up sheet for the ASG newsletter at the involvement fair. The newsletter is sent out biweekly, and is currently opt-in via the organization’s website.

The meeting also included a brief discussion on Robert’s Rules of Order. Robert’s Rules are the main method of parliamentary procedure used in diverse organizations, as well as the procedure for ASG assembly meetings.

“Basically it’s just a way to make sure the meeting stays organized and people aren’t speaking over each other,” Gomez said.

Although this informal meeting did not use Robert’s

Rules, Gomez said future general assembly meetings would be governed by those rules, and would be structured by an agenda.



The homepage is just a lot cleaner. There aren’t as many popup menus.”

—DAVID ROACH
Director of Press & Communications,
Allegheny Student Government

Attorney General Monnessha Jayabalan, ’19, invited members of ASG to ask her questions about the organization’s parliamentary procedure.

“I was going to make a slideshow on Robert’s Rules, ... but if you guys have any questions you can email me,” she said.

General assembly meetings are held Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in Henderson Campus Center room 301/302. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Crime Blotter

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

**Aug. 25, 2018
Ravine-Narvik Hall
Drug possession.**

THE CAMPUS

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Photo contributed by flickr.com

Non-franchise films need to be supported

By JEN RODRIGUEZ
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For the past decade, superhero movies have dominated domestic and international box offices. From Iron Man to Batman, Marvel and DC have churned out one superhero movie after another, and have created a black hole in the movie industry. Independent films, or non-franchise films, have become nonexistent and rarely generate enough revenue to receive positive box office ratings. Movies like “The Iron Giant” and “The Shawshank Redemption” are two non-franchise movies which tanked at the box office, but had received positive reviews and acclaim.

The 10 highest grossing non-franchise movies are listed on IMDb.com, with nine of them animated or live-action Disney movies. “Titanic” is the exception. Most of the Disney movies are within the same universe, especially the Disney Princesses, so those movies should not be on this list. If we consider all of the Marvel movies as part of a franchise, it would make sense to say that the Disney movies are also part of a franchise.

In this example, it is specifically the Disney Princesses franchise, seeing as how Disney owns multiple film franchises. The animated and the few live action movies also included easter eggs of other princesses or Disney movies, solidifying these movies into one massive brand. It does not seem fair to put animated Disney movies on the non-franchise lists, nor compare them to independent films.

Disney also owns a majority of the film franchises, for example, the Marvel movies, “Indiana Jones,” “Star Wars” and “Pirates of the Caribbean.” Even the horror genre has franchise movies, with the Friday the 13th movies, “Halloween,” The Conjuring franchise, “Scream,” “Insidious” and others. There are the rare non-franchise horror movies though, like “Hereditary” or “The Quiet Place.”

And a majority of these films, especially with big corporations and owners, comes with a lot of advertising. One of the main reasons independent films do not make enough in the box office is because they are not given the same amount of advertising popular or franchise films receive.

Any superhero movie is given massive amounts of advertising: posters, commercials, multiple trailers and teasers, media coverage, toys and games. You will see the movie everywhere for months before it comes to theaters. You can

see the trailers so much it can get annoying.

But with independent films you may see the movie trailer once or twice and never see it again until it drops in theaters. I mainly find out about independent films through trailers on YouTube, which is kind of sad.

I can understand these types of films probably do not have the budget larger brands have, but some of the producer’s money should be put toward advertising. A lot of people will skip ads on Youtube without even bothering to watch the ad, especially if the first three to five seconds is not eye-catching. I have skipped a lot of trailers on YouTube for these exact reasons.

While YouTube is where trailers are mainly uploaded, it is not the only platform to share trailers or advertise a film. Yet, YouTube is the only place you actively see advertising for films. While cable TV is an option, it has been on the decline, especially with the competition of Netflix and Hulu. If you follow specific people or places, such as movie theaters or the movie production company, then you may see more advertising. However, only movie critics or huge movie fans and goers follow these types of pages.

I think it is important to look into upcoming independent movies and make efforts to see them, especially if you find them interesting. Independent films have significant themes and life lessons buried in them, and have important characterizations and representation in them. Often, franchise movies lack the time to highlight important themes or explore characters which non-franchise films may fit into the plot. “Justice League” is a great example of a good plot but an absence of character exploration.

“BlackKkKlansman,” “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before” and “Proud Mary,” are great films with good racial representation and plotlines, and yet I had barely seen any advertising for them. Advertising is lacking for “Alpha,” “Kin” and “Widows,” which are some upcoming non-franchise films. These films, in my opinion are set to be great films. “Alpha” already has an 83 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes. “Alpha” was released on Aug. 17, “Kin” releases on Aug. 31, and “Widows” hits theaters on Nov. 16.

So please, in-between all the superhero movies and franchise films, help these films out by going to see them. Even if you are not 100 percent sure about the films, it cannot hurt to go and help make a dent at the box office.

The education system needs an upgrade, starting with increasing teachers’ salary

By JEN RODRIGUEZ
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Recently, I have read a story about a North Carolina middle school teacher being fired for reasons involving personal choices and activities, such as having a second job. The termination was determined by the school board and counties that found the teacher’s activities inappropriate or against their district’s code of conduct.

I can understand why some school boards would fire teachers if their second job was directly breaking the code of conduct. But if codes of conduct are not being broken, I feel frustrated and angry for those being dismissed.

What teachers do in their personal lives should not be grounds for dismissal, but what truly frustrates me was the fact that this teacher was fired because her second job was not appropriate as teachers should be “role models who are responsible for their public conduct even when they are not performing their job duties,” according to the school officials. This teacher had to get a second job, and once it was leaked to the school board, was fired. This whole issue comes down to the fact that we do not pay our teachers enough money. The fact that many of them must go out and get a second job tells us that we and the system have failed.

Teachers are a significant component in the education system. These are the people educating the next generations. They are the ones teaching life lessons, giving advice and providing support and guidance during tough times, the college admissions process, or anytime a student needs help. If we do not pay teachers enough, they cannot fully invest themselves in teaching and supporting students. And when they cannot do that, we get kids and students who lack the right education and support to either pass their classes and exams,

find their career path or continue their education. These kids will most likely fail state tests and admissions processes because they are not receiving the help they deserve from underpaid teachers.

It is a continuous cycle of failure. Failure to pay our teachers something good enough, the failure to be able to teach and support the students and the failure of the system to do anything about this cycle. If we continue to do nothing about the multitude of issues surrounding the education system, we will doom future generations and their education.

I am not the only one who believes that teachers should be paid more. The PDK Poll of the Public’s Attitudes Toward the Public Schools in 2018 found that two-thirds of Americans said that teachers were underpaid. The poll also found that many parents did not want their kids to become teachers because they were not paid a decent salary. If we are not paying teachers enough, we may end up with a shortage of teachers because of this lack of salary and job security.

Unfortunately, we already have a shortage of teachers in public schools. For the 2017 to 2018 years, Arizona, Colorado, Kentucky, West Virginia and Virginia were states that had a lack of various types of teachers and administrative positions, according to the Teacher Shortage Areas Nationwide Listing from the Department of Education. Consequently, these states are also the ones who have seen teacher strikes over the past year for better public school funding and teachers’ salary. But they should not be the only states striking over lack of teachers and funding. There were multiple other states, both northern and southern, who lacked teachers in all areas, presumably because of this funding issue.

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—JEN RODRIGUEZ
Senior opinion editor

ey into our schools and the teachers. Nowadays, teachers are scrounging for money to supply their classrooms with the necessities. And yet, Betsy DeVos thinks that we can supply classrooms with guns. Yes, let us put our money towards guns but not new textbooks, writing utensils and notebooks for classrooms. The issues surrounding guns and schools is massive, but the mere idea that people are okay with spending money on guns but not school supplies and teachers pay is ridiculous.

Despite this major issue, gun laws and gun protection is not part of the educational system, nor should it ever have to be. We cannot ignore this specific issue, but when we focus on schools, it cannot be the only thing we attempt to fix. There are many holes within the education system which need to be addressed and fixed, but I believe that fixing the wages of teachers and funding their classrooms is one of the first steps to stopping this cycle of failure which we are sustaining.



Charles Edward Miller/via commons.wikimedia.org
Milwaukee public school teachers, parents, students and supporters staged a large picket line outside MPS administration building on Vliet Street on Milwaukee’s west side.

Administrative actions with little communication, drives Allegheny into a new age of precariousness

By SHANE OSTROM
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As we are all aware, Allegheny has been undergoing major changes. Buildings are being restored, offices are moving, retirement incentives are driving away tenured professors, President James Mullen is retiring after this academic year—and the list goes on—leading Allegheny into a state of uncertainty.

Over the summer, students conducting research, working as tour guides or training to be resident advisors on Allegheny’s campus were all moved into Walker Hall. Due to some extenuating circumstances, I had missed room draw during the semester prior, and I had not received my fall housing assignment days before we were supposed to move out of Walker. This naturally had financial implications, as I did not know how much my housing would end up being or even if I would be eligible for the mini meal plan as I had budgeted for.

I finally received my room assignment following four emails I sent over two months

that were unanswered and more than one brief meeting that ended with “try emailing Residence Life.”

A friend of mine who took a leave of absence for mental health reasons last semester was similarly informed that he, a rising senior, would be assigned a standard double in Walker with a second-semester student he had never met.

Housing assignments are much tighter than they were in recent years on account of slowly ridding the possibilities of off-campus housing, and this year, shutting down the entire Crawford Hall. Little information has been released as to why, but every returning student that has been in Crawford knows that it is older, smellier and dingier than the other housing options, so perhaps a renovation is in order.

After all, the college also spent the summer renovating the Post Office and beginning to move offices out of Reis Hall and Bentley Hall. I have noticed a general dissonance between students and administration has loomed overhead, though just recently, a formal announcement as to

where offices have moved to was sent to students’ emails.

While administration settles into new locations, several buildings undergo complete renovations, some funded by donors. Over the summer, mini fridges and microwaves have been installed in every standard dorm room as well, raising questions about the financial health of the school.

Allegheny has offered incentives for tenured professors to retire early, possibly to fill their roles with less experienced professors that would not have the same benefits as their tenured predecessors.

Running a college is a balancing act, and is much more complicated than administration gets credit for, but removing some of the greatest professors Allegheny has ever seen for the sake of restoring buildings and cutting corners is questionable at best.

In the same year that these incentives were being offered, several prominent administrators made a six-digit salary. In Mullen’s case, he made 435,598 dollars in 2017, according to tax documents, which is equivalent to ap-

proximately seven professors with an average paygrade. Mullen is retiring after the 2018-19 academic year, and the Presidential Search Committee has not yet made candidates public.

All these changes and mysteries have been frustrating, especially to first-year students who might not be informed about the pseudo-political decisions administration has made.

It is helpful to keep in mind, however, that everyone is just as confused as you, including several professors I have spoke to that are still here at Allegheny whom know little more than the students in regards to administrative changes. One of the best things I have done with my time here is befriend my professors, who have been immensely supportive through the good times and bad, providing support and open doors, and in a few cases, even led to a few odd jobs here and there.

Keep your allies close, know who they are, and take comfort in the company you share through these precarious times at Allegheny.

Allegheny student finds a piece of home while in Moldova

By **ROBBIE PHILLIPS**
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Comrat, a city in the remote region of Gagauzia, Moldova, is home to 20,000 people. The small city is known for its wine production and for being the capital of the Gagauz region.

Visiting the city was a culture shock for an American who had never been to Eastern Europe. Street signs and buildings were labeled in Russian, a holdover from the region’s time as a part of the Soviet Union.

The two hour bus ride my group took to visit the city showed us the Moldovan countryside — dotted with rural farm homes and the occasional Soviet-era monument. On the bus ride, I contemplated the experience of visiting such a remote part of the world. Through Allegheny College’s Experiential Learning Program, this experience taught me both academically and personally.

On our trip to Comrat, we visited Comrat State University in Gagauzia. The small university of 500 students highlighted the stark differences between the higher education systems in Moldova and the United States. The people we met from the university took great pride in the work it did to build a higher education system from scratch, following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

While at the university, we met with a group of American studies students. The leader of the group, RayShawn Gilgore, greeted me like an old friend when I entered the classroom. Gilgore, a Peace Corps volunteer from Louisville, Kentucky, recognized an emblem on my shirt. As fate would have it, Gilgore was a mem-

“His warm, friendly confidence made him the kind of person who could fit in anywhere. He jokingly referred to himself as the ‘Mayor of Comrat.’ The title suited him well.”

—ROBBIE PHILLIPS
Class of 2019

ber of my fraternity while he attended Western Kentucky University. Immediately, we found common ground and began sharing how we ended up in Comrat.

Following graduation, Gilgore joined the Peace Corps, and has been in Comrat for nearly two years. Gilgore studied French at Western Kentucky and hoped to be sent to the French speaking Ivory Coast, in western Africa to teach English, but ended up in Comrat.

Gilgore, however, remained committed to the values of the Peace Corps to promote world peace and friendship around the world. He accepted a position in Moldova despite having no knowledge of Russian or Romanian, the two languages of the country. Peace Corps volunteers are all courageous to volunteer themselves into an immersive cultural experience, but Gilgore’s story was exceptional.

After only three weeks of “basic training,” including brief introductions to the language and Gagauz culture, he was sent to his host family in a rural farmhouse. He told me the first couple weeks were rough, but he soon found his



Photo contributed by Robbie Phillips
Jon Bumanis, ’21, Robbie Phillips, ’19, RayShawn Kilgore, Phi Delta Theta Eta chapter member, Sam Zucker, ’19, in Gagauz Yeri, Moldova on an Allegheny Experiential Learning trip over the 2018 summer.

niche in the foreign environment.

After our meeting with the American studies group, Gilgore joined our group for lunch at a local restaurant. Once we left the university building, it became clear to me he was somewhat of a local celebrity.

People on the street would greet Gilgore with a wave, high five or even a hug. Moldova is a country which has very few people of color, and for many people in Comrat,

Gilgore, an African-American, was the first person of color they had ever met. But it was not Gilgore’s race that made him popular.

His warm, friendly confidence made him the kind of person who could fit in anywhere. He jokingly referred to himself as the “Mayor of Comrat.” The title suited him well.

At the restaurant, he ordered his meal in Russian while the rest of our group struggled to communicate

with the waiter and pointed frantically at the menus. Gilgore had assimilated flawlessly into Moldovan culture. He had made friends, established the American studies group at the university and raved about the opportunities the Peace Corps offered.

The college graduate whose plan was to travel to Africa, ended up in the most remote region of a tiny Eastern European country. His story is a lesson to all students who fear the unknown of post-grad

Making memories of a lifetime on experiential learning trip in Italy

By **KATIE FINNERAN**
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It was around this time last year that my parents began nagging me to get information about the Italy Experiential Learning Seminar. At that point, they were more interested in me getting to experience Italy than I was. My maternal grandfather, or nonno, was initially from Italy, so I was not completely clueless about Italian culture. That being said, I did not know much. Eventually, I attended an information session about the EL. As soon as I left the room, I called my parents to tell them how interested I was.

Eight months later, I was on my way to Italy, and I could hardly contain my excitement. I had never been to Europe. I was slightly nervous about being in a non-English speaking country, but I was ready to experience the trip of a lifetime with a great group of Allegheny students. During this EL, we traveled around Southern Italy, beginning in Rome.

I will never forget the first night I explored Rome. My friend and I wandered around the city after dinner. After walking around for an hour or two, we decided to head back to the hotel and call it a night. We typed our hotel into Google maps in order to find our way back. After walking for about 30 minutes we saw a structure in the distance that looked oddly similar to the Colosseum.

Neither of us had seen the

Colosseum before so we both looked at each other and said, “Hmm, that looks a lot like the Colosseum, doesn’t it?” An Italian man walked past us and laughed, so we convinced ourselves that he was laughing because the ruins were not in fact the Colosseum. Turns out our initial speculations were correct. It was the Colosseum, and we were nowhere near our hotel. It was one of my most hilarious memories of the trip, but in that moment, stumbling across the Colosseum at midnight was not funny at all.

After Rome, we traveled to smaller towns I had never heard of before, and these places ended up being some of my favorites. One of them was an Agriturismo, or farm/hotel bed-and-breakfast combination, in a rural town called Paestum. Not only was the Agriturismo in Paestum visually appealing with a beautiful pool area, a view of the mountains, and vibrant flower gardens, but this Agriturismo had the kindest employees and some of the most delicious food I have tasted in my entire life.

Every night we sat at a class at a long table and were served four-course meals that used only fresh, local ingredients from the family’s farm. Homemade buffalo mozzarella and wine, pasta, you name it, they made it themselves with their own fresh ingredients. I consumed some of the most flavorful meals I have ever had before. I still think about the artichoke risotto I had at the Agriturismo.



Photos contributed by Katie Finneran
Above: Students on the 2018 Italy Experiential Learning trip were able to explore the Amalfi Coast while traveling. Below: Katie Finneran, ’20, stands in front of the city of Matera on the EL trip this past summer.

One evening after our four-course dinner, I went on a walk with a group of friends, and as we were walking down the road, we saw a shooting star. None of us could believe it. It looked unreal, and it was difficult to believe it was natural. I had never seen a shooting star in my life, and on a perfect evening in Paestum, I saw a beautiful, mesmerizing shooting star. It was a great end to a truly memorable day.

No matter what town we visited in Italy, there were always ruins. Right down the street from the Agriturismo in Paestum, there were beautiful ruins. Going to Italy and seeing ruins that are still standing thousands of years after they were built, really put into perspective that America is a very young country.

In the United States, something seems old if it is from

100 years ago, when in reality, that is not really old at all. Besides getting to travel around beautiful towns, eat wonderful food, taste flavorful Italian wines and gain a new perspective on “old” architecture around me at home, I also made several new friends.

After being back on campus for a couple of days, I have seen almost everyone from the Italy EL. I made lifelong friendships with other students who took part in the EL. After spending three weeks together traveling internationally and experiencing so many new things, it is difficult not to become friends.

I cannot recommend participating in an EL enough. It was a truly great experience, and I am eternally grateful to my parents for persuading me into attending the information session a year ago.



DULL AND FACELESS: ‘Slender Man’ falls short

By **ELLIS GIACOMELLI**
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With open arms, the faceless figure kneels to greet you. Then, you enter a new world — a world you have never seen, a world you wish to never see again and a world that took 91 minutes of your time.

The summer thriller “Slender Man,” directed by Sylvain White and based on Eric Knudsen’s 2009 Slender Man photo creation, falls short in nearly every way, with an unpolished and predictable story, lazy horror elements and dull action sequences.

To the film’s credit, some performances were interesting, including those by lead actresses Joey King and Julia Goldani Telles, and its titular character was represented well — he was a man, and he was slender.

But the story failed to develop fully, which prevented the film’s potential from being realized.

“Slender Man” follows four high school friends after they watch a video about conjuring Slender Man, who supposedly promises a better world to those who follow him.

The characters quickly brushed off the video’s flashing images, but a few weeks later, it becomes clear that one of the teens, Katie, has grown distraught. Another, Chloe, admits she vomited twice one morning after they watched the video, and the others begin to wake up from frequent nightmares.

The group continues to ignore their reactions until Katie disappears during a school field trip to a local historic cemetery. Missing person flyers are posted in and around Katie’s high school and town, and when authorities exhaust possible leads, the three remaining friends become investigators.

They determine Slender Man has taken Katie, and they attempt to bring her home by sacrificing something they each love. Their beloved trinkets are dropped at the base of a tree

near the cemetery as three bells toll.

Bell one, eyes closed. Bell two, listen for his voice. Bell three, open and see him.

The three friends wait near their sacrifices and blindfold themselves because they fear Slender Man would capture them if they look into his face. Two of the three remaining friends keep their eyes hidden beneath their blindfolds, but the third does not and becomes zombie-like, all lucidity draining from her in the days after her encounter.

Two friends remain, but soon, they too fall into Slender Man’s deceptive ownership when they see his face directly and relinquish their minds to him.

Basically, children vanish in a town’s darkest places — the cemetery, the forest and unlit streets in the middle of the night — some driven to madness and some to death. Nothing new for horror and thriller fans. In fact, Slender Man is reminiscent of “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang’s” Child Catcher, who entices children with candy to kidnap them.

I expect to be scared when watching a horror movie, and Slender Man is creepy, but he is no Child Catcher from my youth. I was especially disappointed with the quality of the story and the special effects applied to the Slender Man character. Knudsen’s original Slender Man images are quite sinister, but the film’s portrayal is almost comical.

Knudsen’s Slender Man was launched in 2009 as a Photoshop contest entry on the Something Awful online forum. Knudsen accompanied his images with captions, and the entry quickly spiralled internet users into a frenzy. Adaptations have since evolved, expanded and been related to traditional folklore.

Knudsen’s Slender Man concept is interesting but has become dangerous. And unfortunately, the most disturbing thing about the Slender Man phenomenon is not the major motion picture or any internet adaptation.



Contributed by DasterCreations

The 2014 violence in Wisconsin — in the name of Slender Man — left 12-year-old Payton Leutner in serious condition after two other 12-year-olds stabbed her 19 times. Not knowing much about Slender Man, I remember hearing about the incident and thinking it unbelievable that 12-year-olds could and would stab someone, let alone stab a friend to appease an internet character. Their violence seems isolated but makes the Slender Man creation, and others like it, extremely troubling. Hopefully the incident will remain isolated and 2016’s “Beware the Slenderman” will be the only documentary obliged to cover such disturbed young perpetrators.

White’s “Slender Man” makes no obvious mention of Slender Man-inspired violence but instead attempts to create conventional images of ominous shadows, captured children, foggy cemeteries and a floating slender figure.

If filmmakers intended to ignore the significant and sensitive context surrounding Slender Man, they could have at least created something entertaining. If you were excited for “Slender Man,” you will be disappointed. If you saw this coming, congratulations.

DEAN *from page 1*

Petula said her decision to hire Ford as interim dean came from her background, both with the college and in her career with women’s services. At Allegheny, Ford reports directly to Petula, which made her an appealing candidate for interim dean, according to Petula.

“(Ford) has a really great background,” Petula said. “She cares deeply about students. She has a lot of personality traits that I thought would be really good for that interim role. She can keep the ship steady.”

As Interim Dean, Ford oversaw the entire division, including all of the main components of student life at Allegheny.

“The dean really oversees that entire umbrella,” Ford said. “I was responsible ultimately for working with those directors of those divisions directly ... Essentially, anything that impacts student’s health, well-being and student life on campus.”

While she worked as interim dean, Ford kept her role as Title IX Coordinator, though her job was not as busy during the summer since there were fewer students on campus, according to Ford.

“I had more flexibility time-wise to help spend more time in the Dean of Students Office to help with the transition,” Ford said.

Despite the flexibility Ford had with time, the amount of work she had to do still presented a challenge during the summer. The office staff work well together, which allowed Ford to learn as much as she could as quickly as possible, Ford said.

“There’s a learning curve,” Ford said. “I think you go into something thinking things happen a certain way, and you realize you were wrong. My tendency is taking things on. I want to be involved. I wanted to understand it. The biggest challenge was having enough hours to do what I wanted to do to feel I did a good job.”

One of Ford’s greatest strengths in the position was her personality, which included her ability to listen and her organization, according to Petula.

“Her greatest strength was



FORD

her personality in terms of her ability to listen to staff,” Petula said. “She’s very calm and organized. The way she approached the interim role was very healthy. She knew it was for a very small period of time, so she didn’t come in and try to make any big changes. She was really listening to the staff ... and she tried to see things from different eyes. She provided some really good perspective.”

Rachel Leech, ’21, worked for Ford and residence life over the summer. Leech’s job with Ford included answer her phone and giving her messages, Leech said.

“She took on the role very well, I thought,” Leech said. “Just taking everything that was thrown at her. She was very fun.”

Although Ford’s role as interim dean has ended, she plans to work with Thompson to help with a few tasks she began during the summer, including coordinating a search for a new director for the Office of Public Safety.

Thompson said she and Ford have been communicating throughout the summer, discussing the position so Thompson could prepare for her new role. The best piece of advice Ford gave Thompson was to rely on the team in the dean’s office, since the people are “fantastic” and the colleagues care deeply about their work, according to Thompson.

During Allegheny’s search process, Thompson was contacted by a colleague who works at Swarthmore College, near Philadelphia. She expressed interest in the position and was invited to campus to meet with students on the search committee.

“I was very excited to meet the students,” Thompson said.



THOMPSON

“I got invited for a second interview, and at my lunch with students, I just absolutely fell in love with the whole place. The students are so energized to be here. People seem to love Allegheny. Who wouldn’t want to come here? Once you see the campus and once you come here, there’s something about it. It’s special.”

Petula, who chaired the search committee for a new dean of students, said Thompson stood out as a top choice amongst the final candidates.

“All the finalists were highly qualified, wonderful people who could do the job,” Petula said. “I think the search firm and the search committee brought really good candidates. But (Thompson) stood out, she was the top choice. There was a spark with (Thompson) that we felt ... she was a perfect fit for Allegheny. The word transformational was used in terms of what she could add to enrich the student experience.”

Thompson’s career in student affairs began when she was a resident assistant at the University of Arkansas, where she graduated as a first-generation college student. Since graduating, Thompson has worked as the associate vice president and dean of students at Binghamton University and as the associate dean of the College for Campus Life at Dartmouth College.

Since arriving at Allegheny, Thompson has focused on learning everything about the college and her position.

“I have to learn everything from scratch,” Thompson said. “I have been at a very large state school system. I have to start from square one and relearn everything, which is why I’m going through orientation with students. I need to learn from students

and from faculty, so that’s my first, biggest challenge. It’s a huge learning curve with the students ... We’re all going to go through growing pains together.”

Thompson said she plans to place heavy emphasis on mindfulness and wellness. After speaking with Allegheny counselor Charity Patterson, Thompson realized the importance of practicing mindfulness in daily life.

“It’s part of who we are,” Thompson said. “I’m most excited to get students engaged in the concept.”

Petula said she believes Thompson will be a good addition to the school in the midst of all the changes occurring on campus.

“(Thompson) sees how processes could be different,” Petula said. “(Thompson) cares deeply not only for the students, but for her staff, so she’s looking at ways she can better utilize hours for her staff here, so they’re the most impactful they can be.”

Both Ford and Thompson spoke highly of their colleagues, and Thompson said she received a warm welcome when she arrived. Ford said her favorite part of the interim position was working with the staff and getting to know the students who were on campus during the summer.

“Students bring a completely different energy to everything, and I got to know students on a personal basis,” Ford said. “I think it gave me a chance to enhance my ability to understand students in the Title IX realm. It’s all about people and their experiences. I love that, just getting to see students from that perspective. That was definitely the highlight of my summer, being with people and students (and) getting to know them.”

With Thompson stepping into her new role, Ford looked back on her own experience.

“It was truly my pleasure,” Ford said. “I loved every minute of it. I really did. I got a lot out of that experience. I really believe it will have an impact on how I interact moving forward on campus and with colleagues and students ... It will help me grow moving forward.”

BACK-TO-SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT

Compiled by
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The summer sun sets as students around the world prepare for another semester, another year and another list of assignments. Before you start to pull your hair out, take a breath and consider reading and watching these back-to-school entertainment selections.

‘The Happiness Advantage: How a Positive Brain Fuels Success in Work and Life’

Shawn Achor, author of “The Happiness Advantage,” is an American “happiness researcher” — who knew of such a profession? In his 2010 book, “The Happiness Advantage,” Achor argues that happiness comes before success, not the other, and traditionally thought, way around. Being genuinely happy increases our motivation, creativity and productivity, therefore leading to a more successful life. Years of psychological and neuroscientific research shows that we can change the way we think about happiness and positivity, according to Achor.

‘Stress-Proof: The Scientific Solution to Protect Your Brain and Body — and Be More Resilient Every Day’

A Cambridge University graduate, Storoni has poured extensive research into finding an organic way to relieve stress. She was shocked to find the physical effects stress had on the body, Storoni said. She compiled hundreds of scientific papers she read on stress for her book, which explores ways to reduce stress in day-to-day life, including finding a good time to exercise and the best way to use motivation.

‘Kindergarten Cop’

While searching for a drug kingpin’s ex-wife, who has hidden her identity with a false name, Detective John Kimble (Arnold Schwarzenegger) plans to send his partner to the criminal’s son’s school to pose as a substitute teacher. After his partner contracts the stomach flu, Kimble must take her place, adjusting to the new role as teacher while avoiding the school’s unconvinced principal. Gradually coming to accept and even enjoy his role, Kimble must balance his fake job with his real career as he continues looking for the kingpin’s ex-wife.

‘22 Jump Street’

In the sequel to the popular action-comedy “21 Jump Street,” police partners Schmidt (Jonah Hill) and Jenko (Channing Tatum) are sent on their next undercover mission: college. With the order to find the supplier of the drug “WHY-PHY,” Schmidt and Jenko disguise themselves as college students and move into their dormitory. While searching for the drug supplier, both Schmidt and Jenko must balance the various pitfalls of college, including the different groups of people they are drawn toward. With both their friendship and the jobs at stake, Schmidt and Jenko once again must learn to work together to find the drug supplier.

Allegheny’s Whitenack featured on 2018 Shark Week

College to host previously aired ‘Megalodon: Fact vs. Fiction’

By **MATTHEW STEINBERG**
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Throughout the 20th century, sharks have been a “cultural phenomenon” in the United States, according to an Aug. 11, 2014, ABC News article. A widespread panic swept the country after four New Jerseyans lost their lives during an attack in 1916, and ever since sharks have induced fear in the American public.

Television audiences have recently fixated on the “prehistoric monster” known as Megalodon. At 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 3, in the Tippie Alumni Center, students are invited to a screening of “Megalodon: Fact vs. Fiction,” which aired July 27 during Discovery Channel’s annual Shark Week.

Matthew Ferrence, chair of the Allegheny College English Department and organizer of the screening, said it is important to highlight the work of scholars who continue to bring scientific programming to mainstream audiences.

Ferrence chose to share “Megalodon: Fact vs. Fiction” with Allegheny students for another reason — the program featured Lisa Whitenack, professor of biology, as one of six expert commentators.

The documentary reviewed the 2013 Shark Week program “Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives,” which sought to prove the survival of a 60-foot ocean predator generally thought to be long extinct. The 2013 program, hosted by marine

biologist Collin Drake, generated millions of viewers and left the public asking, could Megalodons still be living among us?

“Ever since that documentary aired, I’ve been getting the question ... Is Megalodon still alive?” Whitenack said. “I went to my son’s preschool to talk about sharks, and one of the kids asked me if Megalodon was still alive. It’s ridiculous.”

Whitenack, along with her co-commentators on “Megalodon: Fact vs. Fiction,” said no. Throughout the documentary, the cast analyzed clips from “Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives” and explained why each piece of evidence lacks factual credibility.

This summer marked the 30th anniversary of Shark Week, the longest running cable television programming event in history, according to a July 22 article. Like millions of people worldwide who are fascinated by this ocean-predator, Whitenack said she always loved to learn about sharks.

Growing up north of Chicago, Whitenack spent much of her leisure time outdoors.

“My grandmother had a house on a lake,” Whitenack said. “I spent a lot of time fishing with my dad, wandering around the woods and looking at (my grandmother’s) North American wildlife book from Readers Digest.”

But biology classes did not interest her in high school, so Whitenack completed her undergraduate degree in geology. As she veered away from

biology in her early adulthood, she maintained a strong interest in sharks, a creature prominently displayed in the wildlife book owned by her grandmother.

“I’ve always loved sharks just as much as I’ve loved dinosaurs,” Whitenack said. “I started working on fossil sharks for my senior thesis as an undergrad at the University of Illinois, and when it came time to do my Ph.D., I decided to switch to a biology program to learn more about the animal (other) than rocks.”

“

Ever since that documentary aired, I’ve been getting the question ... Is Megalodon still alive? I went to my son’s preschool to talk about sharks, and one of the kids asked me if Megalodon was still alive. It’s ridiculous.

—LISA WHITENACK
Associate professor of biology

While her senior thesis focused on shark fossils, Whitenack began working with living sharks and shark teeth at the University of South Florida during her doctorate program. Her current research focuses on functional morphology.

“The idea is organisms are shaped

certain ways,” Whitenack said. “You can make some basic predictions about how organisms work from a mechanical standpoint based on their shape. ... With sharks, about 95 percent of their fossil record is just teeth, so we make all these assumptions about their evolution and how they lived their lives based on their shape.”

Whitenack has studied sharks throughout their 400-million-year history. She said Megalodon draws a great deal of attention and fascination from the public, mainly because of its size compared to other prehistoric and present-day sharks.

“Megalodon kind of comes into my life a little bit just because I study teeth and how they work,” Whitenack said. “and that’s really (all) we have from Megalodon — teeth and a couple of vertebrae.”

Whitenack said she was chosen as a commentator on “Megalodon: Fact vs. Fiction” because of her expertise with shark teeth. Some pieces of evidence the cast examined were related to bite marks on whales captured by eyewitnesses.

For example, off the coast of Hawaii, a father and son said they discovered and filmed a whale carcass on the beach that “appeared to be bitten in half,” according to Drake. Because of the bite radius on the film and another picture allegedly taken by amateur photographers, it was portrayed as a possible Megalodon attack.

When Whitenack and her co-commentators took a closer look at the photograph, they noticed a



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number of inconsistencies, including bite marks that did not appear “ragged” enough to come from a Megalodon.

In the 2018 documentary, the cast members analyze more alleged bite marks, shipwrecks and other pieces of evidence from “Megalodon: The Monster Shark Lives” that created widespread speculation about the prehistoric creature.

“I was really pleased with how the entire experience went, especially after I saw the final product,” Whitenack said. “I got to sit there with my kids and some friends from the college and watch how it all turned out the night it aired.”

Ferrence suggested the college host a screening of “Megalodon: Fact vs. Fiction” to honor Whitenack’s work. He said Whitenack is an example of a reputable scientific scholar who is also an excellent communicator, which shows in the documentary.



Another season comes and goes at Crawford County Fair



Photos by KELSEY EVANS/THE CAMPUS

Top left: The Ferris wheel waits for new passengers at the Crawford County Fair on Aug. 24, 2018.

Bottom left: Fair attendees view their programs at the auction site at the Crawford County Fair.

Above: Horses stand in their stalls with ribbons and awards decorating the walls at the Crawford County Fair.

Below: Bright, colorful banners advertise the fair’s various food and game options at the Crawford County Fair.



Zavolta joins tradition of alumni turned coaches

By OLIVIA BLAKESLEE
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New Assistant Women’s Softball Coach Jessica Zavolta, ’18, will become part of a group of Allegheny athletes who have returned to their alma mater to coach the sport they played as undergraduate students.

Zavolta’s hiring was announced in July of this year by Head Coach Beth Curtiss, whose previous assistant coach was also an Allegheny softball graduate.

“It’s really special to have players that want to come back and coach,” Curtiss said. “It’s one of the most rewarding parts about my time in the last six years here.”

Curtiss said Zavolta’s particular expertise in catching and pitching made her a natural choice for the position.

“We did a search for the position, and I called a few of the candidates, and Jess was by far the most qualified for the position,” Curtiss said. “Not many had a lot of experience — the particular experience I was looking for.”

Zavolta was a first team all-NCAC pick in her senior season as part of the 2017-18 Gator team that reached the NCAC Championship Tournament. A team captain for three of four years at Allegheny, Curtiss said Zavolta’s leadership was a valuable part of the team’s success and will help to ease the transition from teammate to coach.

Zavolta said she anticipates a smooth transitio.

“With being a captain for the past three years, I’ve been seen as a leader to most of these girls, if not all of them already, so just kind of taking my leadership to that next role,” Zavolta said. “There obviously will be that kind of fine line now, but I think that they’re all respectful enough to not cross that because they know me as a person, and I also know them as a person.”

Softball Team Captain Samantha Valera, ’20, is eagerly anticipating working with her former teammate.

“We were really excited to hear that (Zavolta) was coming back because we all freaked out at the end of last year that she was leaving us because she’s been such a big rock for the team,” Valera said. “She has this very calming presence, so it’s good to have her back on the coaching staff because I think that’s going to really translate and help the new girls and kind of keep us going on the hot streak that we’ve had for the past year and a half I would say now.”

Curtiss said Zavolta will have an advantage in the recruiting process because she will be able to provide in-depth information on Allegheny and share her experiences with potential prospective student-athletes.

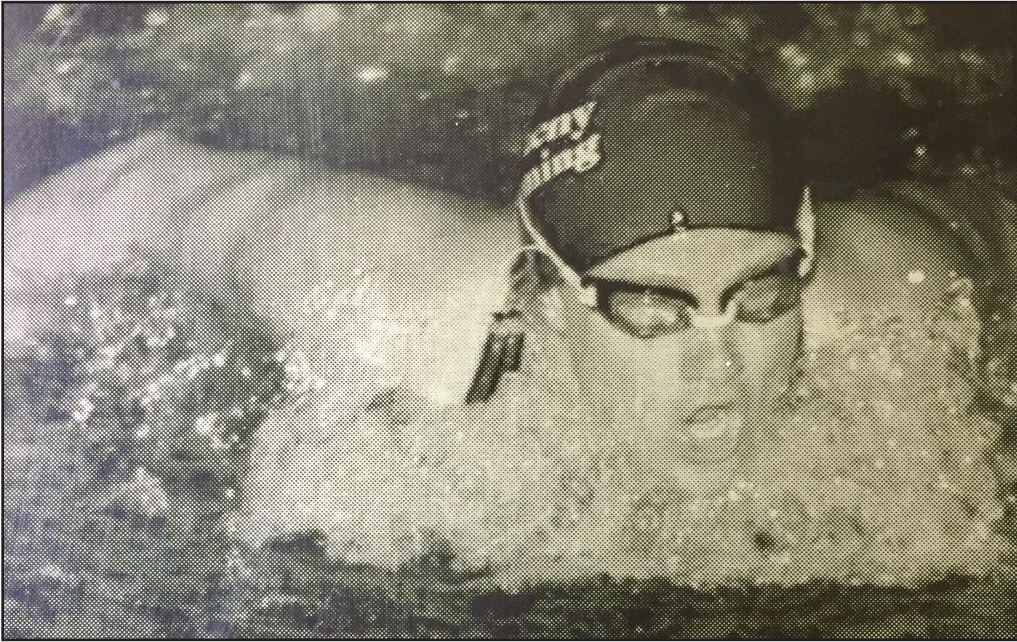
Zavolta is the fifth member of the current Allegheny athletics coaching staff to return to work at their alma mater. Head Cross Country and Track Coach Ben Mourer, ’07, Assistant Golf Coach Abby Sorensen, ’12, Head Women’s Lacrosse Coach Ashley Hughes, ’08, and Volunteer Assistant Swimming Coach Rebecca Dawson, ’00, are also graduates of the programs for which they now coach.

Mourer, whose wife is also an Allegheny alum, said his personal experience with Allegheny made him eager to join the staff.

“We both pretty much just said ‘Yes, if this is a possibility, we want to come back to



Contributed by Jessica Zavolta
Then-athlete Jessica Zavolta, ’18, embraces teammates after a home game against Ohio Wesleyan University on April 22, 2018.



Contributed by Rebecca Dawson
Rebecca Dawson, ’00, competes for the Allegheny swim team. Dawson was an Allegheny swimmer from 1996 to 2000.



Contributed by Ben Mourer
Now-coach Ben Mourer, ’07, and former teammate Ryan Place walk through the finish chute after placing 1st and 2nd at the 2005 Allegheny XC Classic.

Allegheny’ because we both loved it here. We both loved our experience,” Mourer said. “We loved the town of Meadville.”

Sorensen said her own personal experience made the transition into a coaching position as smooth as the experience Zavolta anticipates.

“I’ll tell you I thought coming back as a coach would be super easy, and honestly, it was,” Sorensen said. “I got to skip a huge learning curve in that I didn’t have to learn my way around campus or figure out the different faculty and staff members and departments. I didn’t have to learn different talking points for recruits.”

Sorensen was part of three rosters that qualified for the NCAA Division III National Championship in her time at Allegheny. She said she was eager to accept a position working under Head Coach Jeff Groff.

“I knew him so well, obviously, having been my coach,

and obviously respected what he had done with his program and his style, and I was just really, really happy to be able to recruit at a school that I believed in,” Sorensen said.

Curtiss said Zavolta’s experience working with her as an athlete will translate well to working with her as an assistant coach.

“She knows me really well, and I think that she can help some of the new players transition in and give them a little bit of guidance that will be helpful because I think that she knows how the program works,” Curtiss said.

Hughes said her particular experience with year-round training as an Allegheny athlete helped her to prepare to ease the transition of her players.

“I played soccer and lacrosse here as an undergrad, so I was always very busy and always had the opportunity to pretty much be training 24/7,” Hughes said. “So having that

mindset for me of being that dual sport athlete who was always in season of some capacity really helped me mentally be prepared for that and hopefully help to get our student athletes into that same focus.”

Hughes was named to two Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches’ Association All-Region teams as a Gator and is currently third on the all-time career goal list and points list and is second in assists. Despite her successful career, Hughes said she is even more motivated as part of Allegheny lacrosse in her current position.

“I think that having the Allegheny pride helps me stay motivated as a coach in terms of recruiting,” Hughes said. “There’s always frustrating moments with coaching, but I ultimately know that I have a lot of motivation to get our first-ever championship here, conference championship here.”

Hughes, who recently finished her fifth season coaching at Allegheny, said she left Allegheny with hopes to return as a coach. While her return came sooner than anticipated, Hughes is also enjoying being part of the changing landscape of Allegheny College and Allegheny athletics.

Mourer said one of the things he enjoyed most about returning as a coach was seeing the way the best parts of the cross country and track team culture had remained a part of the Allegheny experience.

“There were still some of the old stories, still some of the traditions that were the same, which was neat to hear,” Mourer said. “I try to distance myself from them as the coach, not being a part of the team that way anymore. But it was really cool to know that the culture is still keeping a lot of the things alive.”

Mourer was part of four conference championship-winning cross country teams as an Allegheny athlete. He was also part of four indoor and outdoor track conference champion teams, totalling 12 conference title-holding teams in all. He considers his time at Allegheny to be an advantage as a coach.

“I can relate to not only the experience all my athletes have as student athletes, but definitely I can relate to it because it’s the exact same school, taking the exact same classes, running the same roads on runs,” Mourer said. “It’s definitely been useful.”

Dawson said she has seen positive change in both Allegheny and in her sport between her time as an athlete and her time as a coach. Dawson earned 15 All-American titles as an Allegheny swimmer and was inducted into the Allegheny College Athletic Hall of Fame in October 2016. Dawson said Division III swimming has become much faster and much more competitive.

Dawson has seen the broader athletic experience change in her time at Allegheny as well.

“It’s gotten bigger and more visible,” Dawson said. “I feel like the coaches are known on campus and the athletes are known for excellence in the classroom and in their sport.”

Reflecting on her positive experience drives her to be a positive part of student athletes’ time at Allegheny, according to Dawson.

“I look back at being able to swim here, compete at such a high level and get the education that I did, and it’s an experience I wish everyone could have,” Dawson said.

Sorensen expressed a similar hope for her own athletes and prospective student-athletes.

“I was just really happy to get the opportunity to recruit golfers who could hopefully have the same or better experience than I did at Allegheny,” Sorensen said.

Dawson said the opportunity to become a Gator again is a unique and special experience.

“It’s super cool to walk down through the offices here and see that there are so many alums that come back,” Dawson said. “You know and you understand and you relate, but you also have the experience of being outside of Allegheny and kind of bridging those two worlds. It’s just lovely.”

GATOR UPDATER

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31

Women’s Golf at Spring Arbor University

Men’s Golf at Olivet College

Women’s Volleyball at Waynesburgh University 2:30 p.m.

Women’s Soccer at Nazareth College 3 p.m.

Women’s Volleyball at Pitt-Greensburg 6:30 p.m.

Men’s Soccer at Juniata College 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Football vs. Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute 1 p.m.

Women’s Cross Country at Chatham University

Men’s Cross Country at Chatham University

Women’s Golf at Olivet College