



THE CAMPUS
Zafirah Abdulrahoof, '19 competes in the National Small College Rugby Organization All-Star Tournament in 2018.

Remembering an alumni

All-star rugby athlete and award-winning alumni passes away

By BREE GRAY
News Editor
grayb@allegheny.edu

Zafirah Kaila Atinuke Abdulrahoof, '19, died on August 22, 2020, in Boston, Massachusetts.

According to Palos Verdes Peninsula News, a private funeral was held on Sept. 2 at Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. Her funeral was live-streamed in a private Facebook event for individuals who could not attend.

“Our beloved Zafirah recently passed on August 22, 2020,” wrote Mykaila Williams on Abdulrahoof’s GoFundMe page. “She was a wonderful daughter, sister, friend and teammate, who dedicated her life to always trying to be a better person than she was the day before.”

Williams was one of Abdulrahoof’s close friends and the organizer of her

funeral expenses fundraiser.

Abdulrahoof’s funeral services fundraiser exceeded its goal of \$35,000 with the support of over 500 community members. Individuals interested in offering support to the family can plant a tree in Abdulrahoof’s memory. Ten trees have been planted by the Arbor Day Foundation. According to Abdulrahoof’s family, the trees will be planted in Klamath National Forest in California to help mitigate the effects of deforestation.

“Always thinking of others, Zafirah had a huge heart with a lot of love to give,” wrote Abdulrahoof’s family in her obituary. “She loved nature ... She had dreams of traveling the world often, creating very little waste and living off of the land.”

To plant a tree in Abdulrahoof’s memory, one can donate \$2 to the Arbor Day Foundation.

Williams hosted a virtual Celebration of Life gathering for the campus community to pay their respects via Zoom on Saturday, Sept. 12, the day of Abdulrahoof’s 25th birthday.

“(Zafirah) was not really a celebratory person in terms of her birthday,” Williams said. “She was not always someone who wanted to celebrate, but we went back and forth about it because I always felt that it was important to celebrate people. That is something that I hope everyone takes away — celebrate people while they are here.”

Over 40 people attended the Zoom gathering to share their favorite memories of Abdulrahoof and grieve with one another.

Williams shared one of her favorite memories of Abdulrahoof at the celebration.

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Students express concern amidst COVID-19 spike

By BREE GRAY
News Editor
grayb@allegheny.edu

The college experienced an increase in positive COVID-19 cases on Sept. 5, with 18 new, active cases on campus. The number of active cases have since decreased to three cases. All of the students who actively have COVID-19 are in isolation, according to the college’s COVID-19 website.

“To be clear, in general we are doing amazingly well, and we have a very low infection rate (24 total positives out of 3,356),” wrote President Hilary Link and the Allegheny College Health Agency’s Gabrielle Morrow in an email to the campus community on Sept. 10.

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, ACHA acknowledged the spike in cases and offered an explanation for the increase in positive cases following the second round of COVID-19 testing.

“In our continuing efforts to keep you as informed as possible during these unprecedented times, we write with an update regarding the testing completed last week,” ACHA wrote. “We have now completed two rounds of testing the community for COVID-19. The first round identified seven positives; the second round, as we anticipated, identified 15 more. While the current number of 22 positives may seem high, contact tracing shows that this is a cluster situation and does not represent community spread.”

The students who tested positive or were exposed to individuals who tested positive were isolated and quarantined. According to the ACHA, in a precautionary measure, the agency also tested and quarantined students that they thought may have been in contact with these individuals.

“From a medical perspective, unless you are contacted by the Allegheny College Health Agency (ACHA), there is no reason for students, facul-

ty, or staff to believe they have been exposed in any meaningful way to the virus,” ACHA clarified. “We understand that this is an anxiety-provoking time, but we have top-level medical professionals and epidemiologists guiding our testing and contact tracing procedures, and we remain very confident in their abilities to do so effectively.”

The recent COVID-19 spike has left the student body and faculty uncertain about the remainder of the fall semester and their safety on campus.

“I do not think that there is a black or white answer related to safety,” said Professor of Global Health Studies and Biology Becky Dawson. “I think that (we) need to acknowledge that this is an infectious agent and even if (you) are doing everything right — (you) are wearing a mask, keeping distance and washing (your) hands as much as possible — (you) may still contract COVID-19.”

Dawson is an epidemiologist and she works with the Pennsylvania Department of State to create a viable public health infrastructure across all of Pennsylvania’s counties. She also works with Erie News Now to provide COVID-19 updates from a public health perspective.

The mitigation strategies put in place by the college will decrease disease spread but the residential aspect of the college will increase potential exposure, Dawson added. The number of positive cases appeared low for a college campus and she expected them to be higher than they were.

“(COVID-19) is a really infectious disease and just like other infectious diseases that are airborne ... even with the best strategies in place people are still going to get sick,” Dawson said. “There are things that (you) can do individually to keep (yourself) safe but there are other things that have to be done as a community type of activity.”

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Recreational activities to continue during fall semester

By BREE GRAY
News Editor
grayb@allegheny.edu

Athletics & Recreation plans to host physically-distanced events throughout the semester at the guidance of the Allegheny College Health Agency and the college.

“As of right now, (Athletics & Recreation) will not be doing any intramural or recreation events inside,” said Director of Recreation and Facilities Jared Luteran. “(We) have some indoor events planned for the second semester, but they are tentative.”

Events are scheduled to occur throughout this semester and will take place both on campus and around the surrounding Meadville area. There are

five main events scheduled for this semester, which include both virtual and in-person activities.

For students interested in participating in the Music Jam, Allegheny Recreations requests that students create a song and send it to them before Sept. 24. The students’ original songs will be featured on their Twitch account.

On Sept. 26, Athletics & Recreation is hosting a day trip to explore Woodcock Lake from 1-3 p.m. Students will be able to use the golf course, take a hike or swim in the lake during the trip. Transportation will be provided by the college at no charge to students, however, due to COVID-19 protocols the capacity will be limited to 50%.

In an email to the campus community from President Hilary Link on Sept.

10, the college announced an extension of the on-campus quarantine, which prevents travel off campus.

In an update from the ACHA, on Sept. 14, the extension to the campus quarantine has been lifted and students are allowed to travel off campus on Sept. 15. This event is tentatively scheduled to take place as long as the off campus travel remains unrestricted by the date scheduled.

The college is utilizing outdoor spaces on campus to host recreational activities such as glow-in-the-dark capture the flag scheduled for Oct. 4 and the kickball-spikeball event scheduled for Oct. 10. The campus-wide capture the flag game will occur in the evening from 7-9 p.m. Students interested in participating can meet the staff

at Brooks Circle that evening. Kickball and spikeball will occur in the field next to the David V. Wise Center from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and prepackaged snacks will be provided to participants.

For individuals interested in small group or individual activities, the college has placed volleyball nets at various outdoor locations around campus. There are nets outside of Murray Hall and in the field next to the Wise Center for students to stay active while socially distanced.

“(Playing volleyball) is a great way to get outside and work on individual skills,” Athletics & Recreation wrote on their Instagram account. “There will be two goals, but right now full pickup games are discouraged.”

Students are encouraged to utilize outdoor facilities in Meadville such as the local basketball court at the H. Paul Way Memorial Park. Students should abide by all college COVID-19 protocols while utilizing local amenities.

“There is also a basketball court next to the field at the H. Paul Way Memorial Park,” Athletics & Recreation wrote. “This is another great place for individual shooting.”

This provides students with an extra location to play basketball due to the capacity limitations for the blue courts this semester. According to the Wise Center Reopening plan, students interested in using the basketball courts in the Wise Center must play on an individual basis this semester.

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IN THIS WEEK’S CAMPUS



FRENCH CREEK CLEAN-UP
French Creek Valley Conservatory hosts its annual cleanup with a turnout of 500 volunteers.
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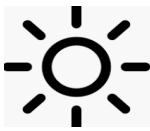
DESTIGMATIZING POLY-AMORY
Could polyamorous relationships mitigate the shortcomings of the nuclear family?

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ALLEGHENY’S E-SPORTS TEAM
When physical sports are limited, e-sports continues to thrive.

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FRIDAY



H: 60° L: 38°
Rain: 10%
Sunrise: 7:04 a.m.
Sunset: 7:24 p.m.

SATURDAY



H: 60° L: 39°
Rain: 10%
Sunrise: 7:05 a.m.
Sunset: 7:22 p.m.

SUNDAY



H: 62° L: 39°
Rain: 0%
Sunrise: 7:06 a.m.
Sunset: 7:20 p.m.

ALUMNI *from page 1*

She recalled a Halloween during high school, where the pair dressed up as M&M candies.

“(We) went to a predominantly white high school and as two brown girls, it was a huge deal trying to figure out what (we) were going to do for Halloween,” Williams said. “Deciding on (a costume) that showcased and put our skin color on as armor was such a big deal to us.”

Williams’ younger sister, Lo, who lived with Abdulrahoof for a significant amount of time recalled how Abdulrahoof touched her life.

“She was just a beautiful person — her spirit, her soul, everything,” Lo Williams said. “ I think about that every day and I will take that with me.”

F.C. Middleton’s soccer coach, Jean-Michel Maarek, shared his memories of Abdulrahoof both on and off the field. For a short period of time, they lived together while she was in the area.

“She was an incredible player first of all but she was incredibly modest,” Maarek said. “A lot of players come in like ‘I want to play forward’ and ‘I want to score’, but (Zafirah) was playing in the back and she was happy with (her position) — she was a phenomenal player. ... She was a person that I saw at different times and I really loved her.”

Abudlrahoof’s former F.C. Middleton’s soccer teammate and friend, Nicolle Chura, came

to pay her respects and share stories from their youth.

“(Zafirah) was so gentle and kind and I asked myself, ‘why do bad things happen to good people?’” Chura said. “She was selfless. It is nice to know that people come into the world, who want to change it and there are people that leave the world and (you) know that they have changed it.”

Abdurahoof graduated from Allegheny College with a bachelor’s degree in neuroscience in 2019.

“I connected with (Zafirah) in the first course that she took with me that had the rat lab,” said Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience Rodney Clark. “We connected on a deeper level when we both realized that we were from California; not only that, we also discovered that we both were from the (Los Angeles) area and Zafirah lives in the same neighborhood as my sister. ... I am going to miss her very badly.”

Clark was joined by Assistant Professor of Psychology Ryan Pickering, who also shared his favorite memory of Abdulrahoof at the Celebration of Life.

“(Zafirah) just showed up at the door (during social psychology) and the room only had 35 seats and I was like, ‘Zafirah, what are you doing? There was no room for you in the class,’” Pickering recalled. “She looked at me and said, ‘I am here, I am

here to take this class.’ So I said, ‘wait for a second, there may be a person who does not show up.’ ... There was a person that dropped and never showed up and she took (the student’s) seat and just was like, ‘this is where I was supposed to be.’ ... From the stories that I am hearing, (Zafirah) just was where she was supposed to be and she always knew where she was supposed to be and so that is where she was.”

While at the college, Abdulrahoof was a member of the Chi Sigma chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, a national co-ed service fraternity. Members complete community service hours in Crawford County and host philanthropy events throughout the academic year. Abdulrahoof was an advocate and member of the Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program and spent a lot of time volunteering with animals.

“Throughout her lifetime, Zafirah won awards for her community service, her scholarship, her athleticism and her innovation,” her family wrote in her obituary.

On April 21, 2017, Abdulrahoof received Allegheny College’s Innovation Award. According to the college, this award is presented to students who excel in innovative and creative leadership.

“The leadership in this room has made a significant impact on this campus, in the Mead-

ville community and beyond,” said former President James H. Mullen, Jr. during the event. “It is truly inspiring to hear about everything our students accomplish while balancing school, work and life.”

Abdulrahoof planned and implemented a Community Garden at the local Wesbury Retirement Community. She also pioneered the proposal for a community dog park in Meadville.

Abdulrahoof was an editor for the Overkill Literary Journal on campus and she also was an editor for the Allegheny Review, the National Undergraduate Literary Journal.

Abdulrahoof was a member of the Women’s Rugby Club during her time at the college.

“I played rugby with (Zafirah) during my freshman year,” Nicolle Long, ’22, said. “She was super sweet and hilarious. She was always super fun to be around and she always made our team laugh.”

Abdulrahoof competed at the National Small College Rugby Organization All-Star Women’s 7s Tournament, which brought seven all-star teams to Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. She was a member of the Allegheny Rugby Union all-star team, consisting of students from local universities.

“I honestly want to keep playing rugby for the rest of my life, I don’t plan on quitting,” Abdul-

rahoof said in an interview with the Campus in 2018. “It has, in a sense, saved my life, and also I’ve never connected so well with a group of girls before.”

Abdulrahoof went on to score the team’s only try for the second game of the tournament.

“(Zafirah) was a great rugby player,” Long added. “She was on our separate team dedicated to our best rugby players. She was just a great person to be around — a spark of joy.”

According to Long, the women’s rugby club plans to commemorate her passing with a memorial.

“As of right now, we are planning to host (the memorial),” Long said. “Because a lot of our rugby team, at least, those, who were close to her, have graduated and due to COVID-19, we will most likely (host the event) over Zoom.”

The plans are tentative due to the evolving situation with COVID-19 and the college’s restrictions about campus visitation this semester.

“Zafirah was intelligent, radiant and a goofball,” her family wrote. “She loved to play soccer, she was an amazing rugby player and she even threw shot-put. She was an amazing artist and an even more brilliant scientist. She loved to write, draw, play the ukulele, sing and create poetry but she also loved to research, code and do science experiments. Zafirah was multifacet-

ed, and she felt most at home with people within the LGBTQ+ community.”

Abdulrahoof was a member of the LGBTQ+ community and she helped many other people as they were coming out to feel accepted and loved, Williams added.

“I knew (Zafirah) a lot less than most,” Sarah Lamitie said. “I was invited over to dinner where Zafirah was living in Boston, maybe three or four times, so I do not know her very well. I have heard a lot of different facets of her, but the one that I am most familiar with was how soft-spoken, shy and kind of bashful she was. Nonetheless, she was a beautiful person and her accepting, warm and loving spirit came through from the moment I met her.”

After graduation, Abdulrahoof moved to Boston, Massachusetts, and was hired as a research assistant for Boston Children’s Hospital, according to Palos Verdes Peninsula News. Abdulrahoof also joined a rugby team while in Boston.

“Zafirah touched the lives of those around her with her wit, her laughter, her loyalty, her unconditional love & friendship and her will to keep living despite how difficult life could be,” Williams wrote. “Zafirah was a bright, funny, colorful spark in a gray world and will be deeply missed.”

SPIKE *from page 1*

Dawson recommends avoiding biting fingernails and touching the face, both of which are habits that may increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. In addition, frequently clean shared spaces, especially in the classroom, wear a mask and stay physically-distanced from others. She also recommends that students have honest conversations with people they are interested in spending time with and arrive at an understanding with one another about any decisions regarding safety. Also, Meadville residents, herself included, are impressed by the students, who appear to be taking the precautions very seriously, Dawson added.

“Limit (your) social circle so that (you) have the interactions and community that (you) need while also recognizing that this is not the year to be a social butterfly or have multiple groups, which is going to be very hard for first-year students,” Dawson said. “(We) all need to take the first-years under (our) wings.”

Many students have expressed concerns regarding recent noncompliance with the COVID-19 protocols.

“When (we) first got here, the 24th, (we) had quarantine in our rooms and (we) could not see anyone and finally when (we) could, I saw a lot of people without masks on, which was shocking,” Alex Martin, ’24, said. “I thought that (we) all would be more cautious about (COVID-19) than (we) were.”

Martin believes that the spike

may have been caused by the lack of students wearing masks, large group gatherings and parties, following the initial testing during move-in.

“I think that if there is another, bigger spike, the school will have to shut down and (students) will be sent home early and do all of (our) learning online,” Martin said. “Last year was hard for me in high school so I am sure that for college it will be even harder. I definitely do not want to go home.”

Going home early could potentially ruin an individual’s senior or even freshman experience, Martin added.

“For me, college is a big thing because where I am from, it is a completely different mindset,” Martin said. “I wanted to come to college to get out and explore life and explore myself. When I found out that we had a spike in COVID cases, I was like, ‘oh, well if this continues we are going to be sent home.’”

Martin’s sentiments were shared by Flannery Pillion-Gardner, ’21. She requested that students be more cautious and follow the rules so the college can finish this semester on campus.

“The more willing (you) are to comply with things that are going on now, the more of a college experience (you) are going to be able to have,” Pillion-Gardner said. “If (you) continue to have parties, if (you) continue to go off campus for unnecessary things and if (you) continue to hang out without a mask, (you)

are not going to have a college experience. Think about how it is for the seniors this year at the college, please, do not ruin it for (us).”

Seniors are using this semester to start their comprehensive senior projects required to graduate from the college.

“A lot of (the seniors) are comping and really need to be on campus,” Pillion-Gardner said. “Please, think outside of (yourself).”

According to the college, the spike in positive cases occurred in a connected group of students and the cause of the spike came from off-campus travel. Speculation about the origin of the spike emerged from the campus community regarding a student who allegedly attended a party at Slippery Rock University in violation of the campus quarantine and the Gator Pledge. This individual was reported to the administration; however, the college has neither confirmed nor denied the accusations.

“Given the clustering and ongoing reported violations of the Gator Pledge, effective immediately, we will no longer give warnings to those students who are found to have violated the pledge,” Link announced in the Sept. 10 email. “While the overwhelming majority of students are taking the health guidelines seriously, unfortunately, there are already a few students who have disrespected these guidelines and violated the Gator Pledge; they are being held accountable through the student

conduct process and being removed from campus.”

There will be exceptions and not every report will lead to action unless the offense is in violation of the Gator Pledge, Link clarified. Students who are found guilty of violating the Gator Pledge will be sent home and must remotely continue their courses.

“It is unfortunate that a handful of students have negatively impacted the experience for the majority of students who have adhered to the guidelines in the strictest possible way,” Link added. “We must reiterate that there can be no gatherings, no parties, no visitors to the residence halls from off-campus or other behaviors that put the health and safety of the community at risk.”

In addition to the new process for handling alleged Gator Pledge violations, the college has indefinitely extended on-campus quarantine.

“I think that (Link’s email) was an appropriate method to use but it puts students in a rough spot for people who only prepared for having resources until the 14th so things like going to Walmart and getting medicines have been put on hold,” Kendall Crum, ’23, said.

Crum also expressed concern regarding the impact that the extended quarantine will have on students’ mental state.

“(You) can not really see (your) friends as much as I would like to,” Crum said. “Emotionally, I think (the quarantine) has taken a toll on me as far as

loneliness because I am confined to my room unless I have in-person classes. I think that is the hardest part for me.”

Students interested in joining a student-run support group, Speak Your Truth, are invited to attend the first meeting on Monday, Sept. 21, from 12:45-1:30 p.m. on Murray Lawn.

“Speak Your Truth offers a safe space for students to speak without having to be concerned about possible negative consequences,” wrote the support group coordinator Sarah Mayer, ’22, in an Instagram post. “It is a space to express, to be heard and to grow.”

All students are invited to join the support group, but must maintain confidentiality and a respectful environment, Mayer added.

“As a student, there are concerns and emotions that I am feeling about what is going on in our community right now so I started a very casual and informal community support group,” Mayer said. “We can be here for each other as students.”

In an update from the ACHA, on Sept. 14, the campus-wide quarantine has been lifted effective Sept. 15. Students are permitted to travel off campus, with the exception of restricted states, and they can resume off campus employment if this is their only source of income.

“(We) are happy to report that the campus quarantine process has been observed according to plans,” ACHA wrote. “The most recent test results have been bet-

ter than expected, and students have been great at abiding by the Gator Pledge and following face covering and distancing policies. While we have had students test positive, we have had an unprecedented collaboration between the (ACHA), College leadership, faculty, and students resulting in less than 1% of our student population with COVID-19 at any time. The current positivity rate is 0.1%.”

While campus-wide quarantine has been lifted, students must continue to obey the Gator Pledge and take safety precautions both on and off campus, ACHA clarified.

According to Nicolle Long, ’22, she is worried for her family’s safety, especially after the spike in positive cases, because she lives in Meadville and has high-risk, immediate family members.

“I believe that if you cannot follow the rules, you just need to go home and be remote,” Long added. “I understand that you want to hang out with your friends, but this is not the time. We are in a pandemic and there are people’s families who are at risk.”

Students have been wearing their masks and socially distancing themselves, but with the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases on campus, students need to remember that there are families who live in the surrounding areas and who are relying on the student body to be responsible, Long added.

Allegheny discusses compliance with health and safety guidelines

By **ALANA SABOL**
News Editor
sabola@allegheny.edu

After moving in at the end of August, the campus community has had to adjust to and follow the guidelines that were outlined in the college’s plan for reopening.

The move-in process this semester was unlike any other in the college’s history. Students were assigned move-in dates and times and were tested for COVID-19 upon arrival. Despite the new processes and concern for community and student safety, President Hilary Link explained that move-in was successful.

“Given that we, like every other institution of higher learning in the whole country, had never done this before, I actually think it went amazingly well,” Link said.

Member of Allegheny College Health Agency and Professor of Biology and Global Health Studies Becky Dawson recognized that the move-in process was difficult for families but regarded it as a necessity to keep the campus community safe before test results were returned.

“I think the move-in process was emotionally really hard by only letting one parent in and wristbanding people and really limiting time in our spaces,” Dawson said. “(However,) it was

so necessary. Personally, I would have been stricter.”

Students went through two rounds of testing, the second test being used to check for positive cases that had not been caught by the primary test. There were seven confirmed cases of COVID-19 after the first round of testing and there are currently 27 confirmed cases to date.

“I thought there would be more cases on campus,” Dawson said. “Why I thought there would be more cases on campus was just that the prevalence of this disease in college-aged students was high.”

Raymond Englert, ’22, praised Allegheny’s testing protocol in comparison to other col-

leges and universities who did not test their student body upon moving in.

“I’ve heard that just one round of testing for students costs an actual fortune, and they’re doing it twice to make sure everybody’s safe, which means that it’s a better investment for the school to make sure everybody is safe than to risk having to send people home,” Englert said.

Link attributed the college’s comprehensive plan and testing protocol to ACHA, access to medical experts and Allegheny’s size and secluded location. Being in a more isolated area gave the school an opportunity to receive “top-notch medical care,” Link said.

“We have seven experts listed on (the ACHA) website, but beyond that, I have alumni who are epidemiologists that I am talking to on the phone really frequently. I have medical experts who are alumni, who I speak to,” Link said. “I feel like I’m getting all the best advice and guidance.”

Despite the testing protocol, reducing the spread of the virus is reliant upon community participation and adherence to the Center for Disease Control guidelines, according to Link.

“The best things you can do is wear a mask, stay six feet apart, not do big gatherings, wash your hands and use common sense,” Link said. “We have a whole testing protocol that we’re going to

continue through the rest of the semester, but testing does not mitigate the spread of the virus.”

From a faculty perspective, Dawson said that she has observed students complying with the guidelines, but she does not know if the guidelines are followed on the weekends or inside residence halls.

“What I have seen (safety-wise) is really positive but I want to acknowledge that I don’t know what is happening when people go into Brooks or their apartments or even fraternity houses,” Dawson explained.

RECREATION

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Basketballs will not be provided to limit contact; therefore students are required to bring their own.

Given the recent spike in COVID-19 cases on campus, some students are concerned that community-wide events may create risk for potential exposure.

“I can see (recreation events) being a risk given the recent (COVID-19 spikes),” Andrew Briercheck, ’23, said. “I am not sure that (large events) are a good idea as much as I would like them to occur.”

According to Briercheck, he is maintaining physical distance with other community members and will avoid large group gatherings, such as these events.

“(Hosting large events) makes me more uncomfortable than people working off campus,” Noah Bebee, ’21, said. “With large groups, you do not know where all of those people have come from, but with individuals you are able to keep track of them.”

Bebec recommends that the college hosts smaller, club-centric events instead of large recreation events, which may increase the risk of exposure.

“Small events throughout the week even just setting up study groups would work,” Bebee added. “Creating different ways for students to connect without having to be in a big group.”

Other students, such as William Nese, ’23, believe that community-wide events may be safe if all COVID-19 protocols are followed during the event.

While Nese expressed concern regarding activities that require participants to share a ball such as the kickball tournament, he believes that the event will be safe with proper safety measures. He anticipates that the kickball tournament will be very popular among the student population and may participate in the event as well.

Anyone interested in participating in other outdoor activities has the opportunity to join the Outing Club. The club offers a wide array of recreational activities that allows students to explore the surrounding area.

“The Outing Club is committed to providing safe, educational and challenging adventures to all members of the Allegheny College community regardless of experience or skill level,” the club announced on the Athletic & Recreation website. “Through a core group of leaders, we are committed to sharing our en-

thusiasm and passion for the outdoors by teaching the skill required to safely and respectfully explore the delicate wonders of nature.”

Students are able to rent the organization’s equipment and gear free of charge to use for individual trips. Any requests to rent gear should be made to the Gear Manager 48 hours prior to the event, according to their website.

Over 500 volunteer for French Creek cleanup

By MAKAYLA ALICEA
News Editor
aliceam@allegheny.edu

Continuing a nearly three-decade tradition, the French Creek Valley Conservancy hosted the annual French Creek Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 13.

During a normal year, the Cleanup typically brings anywhere from 700 to 800 individuals and teams to participate on foot or by boat to pick up trash along 75 miles of the creek. But for this cleanup, things were a little different.

“With (COVID-19), we didn’t expect as many people to register that did,” said Brenda Costa, executive director of the French Creek Valley Conservancy.

According to Costa, in previous years, local public schools and Allegheny College groups added two to three hundred more participants, but with the college’s quarantine period, no students were permitted to attend the cleanup.

Bethany Ozorak, who works in the Civic Engagement Office of the Gateway, is the Davies & Fahrner assistant director of community based projects and is the coordinator for the college’s Service Saturday events.

Service Saturday typically takes place once per month during the academic year, and the projects for participants range from leaf raking to gardening to a wide range of other outdoor activities. After the students are done for the day, a picnic of gratitude is hosted by Civic Engagement.

According to Ozorak, the French Creek Cleanup was not an official part of Service Saturday, but because many student organizations like Students for Environmental Action or Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) participated yearly in the Cleanup, Civic Engagement partnered with those students to support their community service.

George Ackerman, ’21, serves as the newly titled external activism director for Students for Environmental Action, which, according to Ackerman, “is a club whose purpose is to give students the opportunity to take part in activities such as cleanups, protests, collaborative activities with like-minded organizations and other environmental activism opportunities.”

Ackerman recalls that the group has participated in the cleanup for as long as he has been at the college, with the students carpooling as an organized crew to the creek. He adds that, “first-year students like doing it as a way to get involved in the greater Meadville Community.”

This past Saturday, more than 500 volunteers registered to clean up French Creek.

Among the groups that participated was Seton Hill Elementary, the only K-12 in the city of Meadville to participate, and Edinboro University’s Students of Edinboro for Environmental Defense.

Similarly to last year’s cleanup, the volunteers trudged along French Creek picking up trash, some which were vying for a year of bragging rights with the Hellbender Trophy awarded to the corporate sponsored team who collected the most junk.

Wendy Kedzierski, project director of Creek Connections and board member of FCVC, reported that the final total of creek crud was almost 24,000 pounds nearly 12 tons — with the Meadville Medical Center team collecting the most trash, with just over 7,000 pounds.

This year however, in addition to picking up trash, volunteers could also sign up to help steward, or care for, the land by planting trees, cleaning up new property, clearing trails or staking signs.

“There’s just really not that much trash in French Creek anymore,” Kedzierski said, “but people still wanna help.”

When Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf ordered the shutdown of non-essential businesses in March, FCVC employees were working from home, and all immediate events were canceled, like the spring cleanup, which was co-organized by a group of students in an Environmental Justice course instructed by former Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Science & Sustainability Nicole Gross-Camp.

“It ended up being just the board and staff with trash bags,” Costa said of the spring cleanup.

Costa stated that since March, the Conservancy has been busier than usual with managing newly acquired land and putting stewardship initiatives at the forefront of their work.

“So, because we’ve cleaned up so much trash in French Creek, we can do other things,” Kedzierski added.

SEA is also looking for alternative ways to motivate students to get outside and pick up trash.

“We’re thinking of doing a cleanup on campus. We’re just looking to provide students for other opportunities, a real physical way to get outside and show you care about our environment,” Ackerman adds.

As of now, no student groups are allowed to organize service



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY WENDY KEDZIERSKI
Volunteers plant trees as part of the cleanup’s stewardship projects on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2020.

events off-campus. Nonetheless, Ozorak states that Civic Engagement is open to working with students to find ways to connect with the Meadville community virtually.

HEALTH

from page 2

Students overall have been following the guidelines and being safe, Englert said.

He attributed this to a strong campus community and the collective desire to stay on campus this semester.

“We want to make sure that we are all set, being smart, staying safe, wearing our mask, following rules so we could stay on campus and we can have as normal of a semester as possible,” Englert said. “A lot of people I think just have that common goal.”

Students have also been taking to social media to spread awareness about safety guidelines and advising others to follow the rules.

“I’ve seen (students promoting safe behavior) all over Instagram,” Englert said. “People are saying, ‘Wear your masks, I’m serious,’ or ‘If you’re seeing people (or having a party), I’m snitching.’”

One Instagram page, @alleghenymasks, is a profile that posts memes about wearing masks and shows Allegheny students who are wearing masks incorrectly, their faces blurred for anonymity.

“Holding people accountable is one of the biggest things because our generation, if anything, is (in agreement with) the mindset that change comes within us,” Englert said.

Notwithstanding the consensus that students are following the guidelines, there are many difficulties associated with going to college during a pandemic.

“We also have to keep in mind that part of the health and well-being of the campus community is also the mental health and wellbeing,” Link said. “This is isolating. It can feel really alienating and stressful and scary.”

Due to students possibly needing more support, Link revealed that the administration is working on making mental health services more available to students, whether they contracted the virus or they are experiencing other anxieties or stressors.

“We’re really trying to work with our Counseling and Personal Development Center to try to support students, whether those are students in quarantine, or students who are feeling ill or just students who are feeling (stressed),” Link said.

CORRECTIONS

In the article “Challenges of a Pandemic” in the Sept. 11, 2020 issue, director of International Education, Lucinda Morgan’s name was misspelled as Mordan.

CRIME BLOTTER

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

Spring 2017
Reported Sept. 14, 2020
Fondling
Baldwin Hall

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Advertising (412) 865-7758
Box 12, Allegheny College
520 North Main St. Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

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Salad Fingers: a masterpiece

By PEYTON BRITT
Opinion Editor
brittp@allegheny.edu

Having the attention span of a caffeinated squirrel, I seldom feel capable of sitting for the entirety of a feature-length film. Because of this, I used to internally sigh when I am asked what my favorite movie is. Inquiring further into the definition of “movie,” however, I have discovered that the word “movie” can, by definition, apply to any motion picture conveying a story. Now I can confidently answer the question — my favorite movie is “Salad Fingers,” and I will tell you exactly why.

First, however, I feel it necessary to provide a brief characterization of the masterpiece in question for those of you who are not familiar. This characterization takes us back to the summer of 2004, when British animator and content creator David Firth, unaware of the reaction that was to come, posted a two-minute YouTube video called “Salad Fingers.”

Through whatever algorithmic or social mechanism that determines what content on the internet will gain visibility, the video became enormously popular, to the extent that it became something of a miniature cultural phenomenon — largely because no one knew what in the world they were supposed to glean from the two-minute rollercoaster that is “Salad Fingers.”

The video featured the eponymous gangly, green-skinned, vaguely anthropomorphic figure with long, spindly fingers and a high, tremulous voice. The utter eccentricity of the video should be evident through this much information alone, but the discordant, eerie music that plays quietly in the background lends a distinctly ominous aura to one’s viewing experience.

Salad Fingers expresses sexual attraction to rusty objects, prompting him to embark on a mission to solicit the perfect rusty spoon from a neighbor who speaks only in screeches. Through these screeches, the neighbor is assumed to communicate his dearth of spoons, so Salad Fingers caresses his rusty kettle. Mr. Fingers moans in pleasure, and the video comes to an abrupt end.

Since the video’s release, many bewildered viewers have conjectured about what any of this means. A plethora of fan theories have been produced as people fumble to make sense of the cryptic chronicle of this green man. The public demanded to know about the piece’s origin — whoever created this video must have the answer to all the questions one has after viewing.

It was discovered that the man behind it all was David Firth, an artist who generally focuses on the unsettling, particularly through evocative uncertainty and uncanny distortions

of figures. Multiple media sources have since interviewed Firth to find the answer to the question we all had: what is the story behind “Salad Fingers?”

Firth’s answer is the crux of my fascination: there is no meaning. The video was created after a friend had joked that Firth had “salad fingers” when he played guitar because of the way he held the instrument. The details were utter nonsense that Firth cooked up with little thought or intentionality.

That a trivial inside joke between friends generated feelings of repulsion, fascination and raw mass bewilderment in all viewers is no small feat in itself; what I find so immensely compelling about the endeavor, however, is the fact that people so desperately wanted a concrete explanation of something for which there simply was none.

The absolute absurdity Firth contained within a mere two minutes is beyond impressive; in fact, I would argue that it is a testament to the importance of representations of the absurd in media. So much of the human experience pushes us to fixate on the search for meaning, both within a creative piece and in our lives in a broader sense. Although I do not think such inquiries into human existence are entirely fruitless, I feel that there is catharsis in the ability to witness absurdity and accept it as it is.

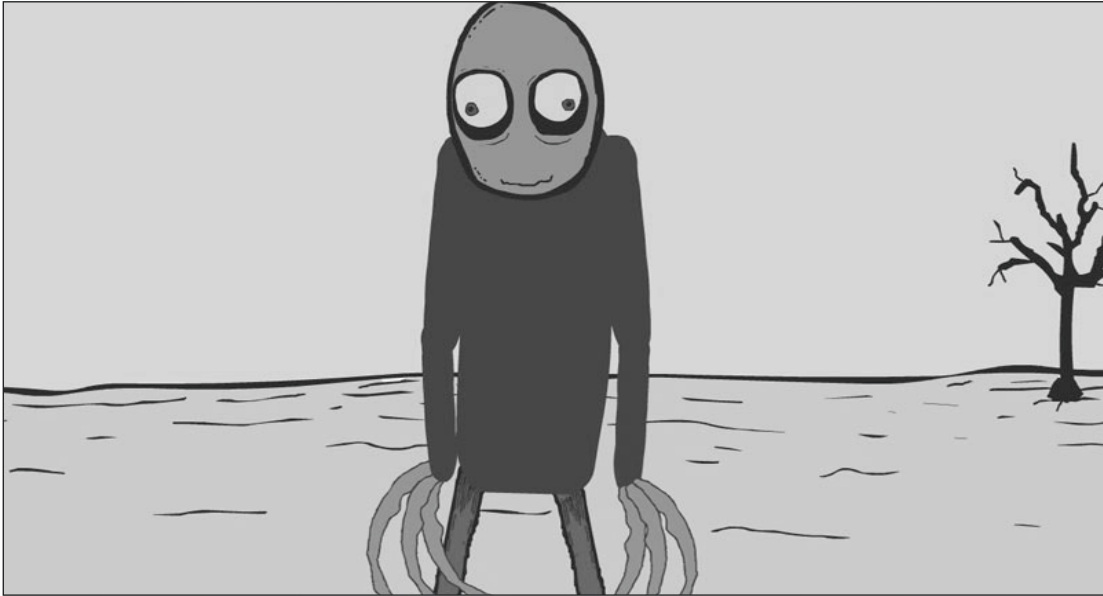


PHOTO COURTESY OF KNOWYOURMEME

Salad Fingers stands in the curiously barren landscape in which he lives.

The lack of meaning behind “Salad Fingers” inherently invalidates any single person’s interpretation of it, yet simultaneously affords total freedom in applying a subjective analysis. “Salad Fingers” serves as a sort of Rorschach test — the meaning you chose to project upon the nonsensical display acts as a mirror into your own psychological propensities and complexities.

Furthermore, absurdity in media demands that viewers temporarily suspend their disbelief in the irrationalities presented, inviting us into a constructed reality within which we may detach from the trivialities of daily existence and experience the freedom of a world without logic.

To complicate matters, Firth has since made “Salad Fingers” into a series. The most recent installment — “Glass Brother,” the eleventh episode — was released in 2019, over a decade after the original. Watching the most recent episode, even someone who knows nothing about animation can clearly see that Firth has improved his production skills enormously since the series’ conception.

Firth’s artistic growth deserves recognition for its own sake, but what I find most impressive is his ability to display this growth upon the foundation of some half-baked ridiculousness. The inherent meaninglessness of the original video seems like it would prevent any further development of the narrative, yet Firth has run with the concept (or lack thereof) and made it into 66 minutes of

captivating insanity.

One might argue that because Firth received so much unexpected attention from the first video, his continuation of the series can be accredited to his desire to prolong and capitalise on his 15 minutes of fame. To this, I offer no counterargument. Considering how difficult it is for artists to succeed in our capitalist society, it warms my heart to see artists take advantage of the fickle entropy of internet virality. I probably would have never heard of Firth had he not created Salad Fingers, but because of the frivolous act of posting a couple minutes of creepy malarkey, I now consider myself a huge fan.

My only grievance is that I have not been able to find an address to which I could send the love letters I have written for him.

WAP: a lyrical masterpiece of sexual innuendos and female empowerment

By BREE GRAY
News Editor
grayb@allegheny.edu

Name a more iconic and dynamic duo than Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion. They took the internet by storm with their overnight sensation, “WAP,” which was trending on Twitter, Instagram and even TikTok after its release in August. “WAP” not only exemplifies their musical talent, as it topped Billboard Hot 100 at No. 1 with record first-week streams, but it also highlights two women in the music industry empowering each other — a rarity in an industry that pins artists against one another for profit.

According to Billboard, “WAP” marked Cardi B’s fourth hit song on the Billboard Hot 100 and Megan Thee Stallion’s second. From the song’s release date on August 7 to August 13, the song was streamed over 90 million times in the United

States alone. This was the first song to ever amass such large streaming in the first week of its release, Billboard announced. “WAP” has remained in the No. 1 spot for over three weeks.

Lyrics ranging from implicit references to sex to stating illicit sexual desires, “WAP” is a lyrical masterpiece that is borderline pornographic. Bars about “bottom feeders,” “king cobras” and “big Mack trucks” are among a few of the most remarkable sexual innuendos in the song — all of which describe preferences and activities for under the covers. At one point, Cardi B explicitly states that she wants someone to “touch the little dangly dang” that swings in the back of her throat — her uvula, of course. Always clever with her lyrics, Cardi B uses phrases, such as “macaroni in a pot,” a sound that we all can relate with, to describe the sound of female genitalia. If sexual innuendos were not enough, the repetition

of what “WAP” stands for can be heard throughout the entire three minutes and eight seconds of the song.

While the lyrics are accompanied by basic beats, the real artistry is displayed by the women themselves through their wit, creativity and the imagery that saturates both the lyrics and the music video. Everything that Hugh Hefner wanted to accomplish with Playboy in his lifetime, Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion trumped in less than four minutes.

The video featured a mansion full of rooms with different themes of pleasure and even had cameos from several other female artists, including Normani, Rosalia, Mulatto, Sukihana and Rubi Rose — a noteworthy display of female empowerment. “WAP” is a testament that women in the music industry are not in endless cycles of drama and is a beautiful display of independent Black women dominating

the industry in unity, which is far from the typical narrative portrayed by the media.

“WAP” challenged the status quo for female artists, regarding the lyrics and even the sex-positive video that expressed and displayed women’s sexuality and libido. Dressed in erotic clothing, these women radiated confidence, sensuality and independence, which appear to be central themes in the video.

Naturally, “WAP,” despite being extremely popular upon release, had its fair share of critics.

The most notable criticism came from the decision to use beauty mogul Kylie Jenner in a silent cameo, which left fans confused and speechless. The ‘Rise and Shine’ Instagram influencer really missed the mark with this guest appearance. As she strutted down the hall of the mansion and the beat dropped, fans, myself included, were left anticipating her debut into the music industry; however, we

were left with the clicks of her heels as she opened a door and never appeared in the video again — seemingly preoccupied with the contents of the mysterious room.

Fans were enraged as the Kardashian-Jenner clan profits off of Black culture and suggested that another Black, female artist or activist should have replaced Jenner in the video. Jenner reposted a tweet that detailed potential reasoning behind her guest appearance stating that people would question why she was in the video and subsequently watch the video to find out. Cardi B was quick to defend her selection of Jenner in a tweet that has since been deleted.

Another critique that many had about the hit song was the abundance of sexual imagery. In an industry dominated by men, women who openly display their sexuality unaccompanied by a man are often subjected to criticism. While countless men

have dedicated entire songs to sexual experiences or had bars far more explicit than those seen in “WAP,” Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion received an overwhelming amount of criticism over claims that the song was too vulgar and crude. Interestingly enough, more people appeared to be outraged by women exploring their own sexuality and expressing their own desires than by any song produced by a male artist covering the same topic: women as sexual beings.

The double standard in the music industry regarding the depiction of women is appalling and even if I found “WAP” to be too explicit, which I did not, I would still support the collaboration simply over the fact that they are capitalizing on their sexuality unapologetically, which is exactly what many male artists do, and they are empowering other women in the process. Personally, I enjoyed the song — handcuffs, leashes and all.

The case for destigmatizing polyamory

By PEYTON BRITT
Opinion Editor
brittp@allegheny.edu

The standard picture of the American nuclear family comes with predetermined roles for each of its members: a male father serves as the breadwinner and head of the family, a female mother tends to the homestead and produces offspring and the children obey the rules of the household that their parents set until they grow up, find their own monogamous, heterosexual marriages and pop out babies, completing the cycle.

It hardly needs to be said that this “standard” does not represent a huge number of modern American families. Because the nuclear family is inextricably linked to patriarchy and heteronormativity, it follows that non-heterosexual relationships do not fit into the mold. The same could be said for families in which a woman is the primary source of income, single-parent families, families that include unmarried parents and about a million other common deviations from the classic depiction of what family looks like.

As social norms change, representations of families in the media have diversified along certain axes. The television show “Modern Family,” for example, depicts the story of a white gay couple who adopts an Asian child. Although I do not mean to undermine the importance of representations of queer parents, adopted children, mixed-race families and so on, these depictions still conform to a particular parameter which begs inquiry: monogamy.

In her book “What Love Is: And What It Could Be,” philosopher Carrie Jenkins notes that changes in society occur against a foundation of the pre-existing conventions. She considers monogamy a principal characteristic of romantic love’s social role, that role being to curtail love between grown adults and force it into the mold of the stable nuclear family.

Jenkins is spot on in this right — monogamy remains a static means of controlling society by providing limits to what love is, despite the vaguely steady increase in acceptance for nontraditional relationships. In terms

of media depictions, there is certainly less stigma around love between two men, for example, as compared to love between a woman and two boyfriends. I do not mean to imply that polyamorous relationships are “more” oppressed than LGBTQ+ couples, as oppression is neither quantifiable nor finite. Also, these two identities are not mutually exclusive. Rather, I mean to reassert Jenkins’ point that as society has adopted a more inclusive attitude towards same-sex couples, that very inclusion has depended upon the exclusion of polyamorous love.

Thus it has been established that the conventional social conception of love has historically been limited to only two people, which directly contributes to the dominance of the nuclear family in American society. Facing this conclusion, we must ask ourselves a number of questions: does the stigma of polyamory actually harm society? What would we have to gain from a society in which polyamorous relationships are accepted and considered equally as valid as monogamous relationships?

Are polyamorous relationships something we should even accept, or is there a reason for the stigma?

To answer the first question, I believe that the stigma surrounding polyamory absolutely harms society. To me, there is a simple logic to the concept that polyamorous relationships involve loving more than one person, and loving more people is good; therefore polyamory is, at least conceptually, good. Moreover, monogamy has historically been used as a vehicle of patriarchal oppression, especially through the financial dependence of classic “housewives” on their husbands. In addition, women who are sexually active with more than one partner — regardless of if they are in relationships or not — are disproportionately subjected to slut-shaming, whereas men are praised for the same exact expressions of sexuality.

Regarding whether or not polyamorous relationships are something that we should accept in our society, I direct your attention to what we’ve got to gain from destigmatizing polyamorous relationships: most con-

cisely, freedom. I argue merely that polyamory can provide an alternative to monogamy, not a replacement. I certainly do not think society would benefit from adopting a standard of Bacchanalian romantic and sexual anarchism; structure yields order, and this much I must concede to monogamists. Still, there is no singular blueprint of love that will apply to everyone, and that should not necessarily entail that love is not for everyone.

Envisioning radical alterations of the foundations of our world is not easy, but in order to bring to fruition a society that has learned from its failures and progressed as a result, we must conceive of futures beyond the scope of the institutions and structures with which we are most familiar. The possibilities are always endless.

I imagine a society in which children whose two parents are fighting can go stay the night with a third parent until the home environment is peaceful again. I imagine women in abusive relationships finding solace, and eventually escape, with the support and assurance of their other

husbands. I imagine teenagers with qualms about their rapidly developing identities having more than two parental figures whom they can consult and with whom they can relate. I imagine a man leaving for his third shift job as a partner returns from first shift, both equally comforted to know that their wife will not be alone in the burden of childcare. I see no issue with broadening what constitutes as a family in order to strengthen a sense of community.

I also imagine that traditionally monogamous, heterosexual relationships will continue to create nuclear family units, a possibility by which I am unbothered. The society for which I yearn is simply one in which love is unfettered by the strains of convention, and people give and receive affection in whatever multifarious fashions they desire. Until some supreme being tells humanity precisely what love looks like in the metaphysical ether, I believe this greater fabric of human connection that underpins tangible relationships should be unbounded in its manifestations.

Comedy Column

By KALEEL VAN VOORHEES
Editorial Cartoonist
vanvoorheesk@allegheny.edu

A by-product of the COVID-19 pandemic, the national coin shortage has local businesses strapped for cash. A combination of closed doors, slowed mint production and lack of cash flow all around, stores are unable to cash out from banks to fulfill transactions with customers. Guess this is just another statement from the universe that from these last two quarters, America is indeed out of (common) cents.

In California, a family dentist practice provides animal therapy to support its patients — specifically a 13-year-old toothless chihuahua named Kismet. Word on the street has it that patients were walking out with some brand new canine teeth ;)

In an effort to meet its 2024 deadline, NASA has pledged to pay private companies between \$15,000-\$25,000 for digging and collecting moon rocks. The move towards creating a ‘lunar marketplace’ and extracting resources from outside the planet will historically mark the first

transaction to take place off the Earth. So — Class of 2020 and 2021, now’s your chance to snatch a job that is literally “out of this world” and become the rock-star you’ve always dreamed of!!!

Former Theranos CEO and Stanford dropout Elizabeth Holmes is prepping for her October court date by seeking out expert evidence “relating to a mental disease or defect or any other condition of the defendant bearing on ... the issue of guilt”. Holmes and her former COO have been charged with wire fraud back in 2018, committing a multi-million dollar scheme defrauding doctors, patients and investors. Maybe someone should tell her: experiencing guilt for scheming thousands of people out of their life savings isn’t a mental disease — it’s karma.

Last Saturday, Oxford University resumed trials of its COVID-19 vaccine. It is currently in phase three testing, and may potentially be the first to hit the market. That’s it. That’s all I wanted to share. No punchline. Just get me oUT OF HERE PLEASE SOMEONE

Parkhurst employees answer dining questions

Zoom meeting held to discuss student concerns

By CHRIS WAKIM

Features Editor
wakimc@allegheny.edu

On Tuesday, Sept. 8, Allegheny’s Dining Services hosted a Zoom meeting to discuss the current state of Allegheny College dining services. During this meeting, students were welcome to attend and ask various questions. Stephanie Lang, general manager of Parkhurst, Sarah Foxell who manages Brooks, and Mary Tridel who manages McKinleys ran the meeting, along with Jason Snavley - Retail Chef de Cuisine.

Question #1: Will the all you can eat buffet style of Brooks ever return?

Brooks is trying to adapt a more “retail feel.” This also helps with the no touch protocol to protect the student body. But this new system is likely here to stay, but things are most likely going to change overtime to accommodate the students wants & needs.

Question #2: Will McKinleys ever start offering breakfast again?

Unfortunately, not the old-fashioned way. There are breakfast options available at the smoothie bar, but they have decided to shift away from breakfast — at least for the time being.

There will also be snacks available at the West Alcove of Shultz Hall in the morning hours.

Question #3: How allergy-safe is the new McKinleys?

The new McKinley’s options are nut free and they practice extensive precautions to prevent cross contamination. The only place that serves any kinds of nuts is the salad bar, offering almonds as an option. The staff uses a special scooper to distribute this option to prevent cross contamination so this should be as safe as reasonably possible if you have a nut allergy. Brooks is not completely peanut and tree nut free, but detailed ingredient lists are available upon request.

Question #4: What about late-night McKinleys?

McKinleys offers pizza and other deals until midnight on

weekends in Smoothie Street.

This is an extension of the quick packaged snacks and other provisions usually available there.

There is also a plan to open the West Alcove for food both late at night and early in the morning.

Question #5: What happened to the reusable green boxes?

Due to health concerns, these containers are no longer available for the time being. General Manager Stephanie Lang made the comment: “We cannot take any risk to expose our staff or the student body to the virus, but we are certainly sad to see them go.”

Students adapt to new on campus COVID environment

By KYLE CHANDLER

Contributing Writer
chandlerk@allegheny.edu

With COVID-19 having a crucial impact on students returning to school, students have been affected differently by the new health and safety regulations.



COVID-19 has increased my stress level as an athlete due to the amount of uncertainty about what the future holds.”

For many students, the transition from high school to college can be stressful in itself. Whether students have a hard time adjusting to their new environment or not, adding a debilitating pandemic can raise tensions within the young minds of the world’s future leaders.

According to collegefactual.com, 503 out of 1771 Allegheny

students participate in sports. Student athletes make up a large portion of the student body. The COVID-19 pandemic is leaving a lot of sports competitions cancelled and athletes frustrated.

“COVID-19 has increased my stress level as an athlete due to the amount of uncertainty about what the future holds,” cross country runner Anjelina Hyycko, ’24, said.

Although the pandemic added a social barrier across the globe, Allegheny has managed to bring students back to campus in effort to continue a semblance of normalcy.

“I do like being on campus, even though it’s limited,” Erin O’Neill, ’24, said. “It’s nice to not be at home anymore and to be independent.”

Football player Wolfgang Shultz, ’24, shares the same mindset in regards to being on campus. For many, meeting new people in a safe manner has been a big part of students’ experiences.

“I enjoy being on campus and meeting new friends,” Shultz said.

For athletes, some teams have incorporated a pod system into their schedule. This provides a safe way for students to practice their designated activities in

small groups at a time.

The baseball team has used this system over the past few weeks, going to the field and getting their work in while wearing masks and physically distancing.

For both athletes and non-athletes, the college has provided other involvement groups that allow students to participate in social life. During the first week of the first-year students being on campus, some of the resident advisors provided outdoor activities so students could interact and become more comfortable with their new home and community.

Students have demonstrated other ways to stay busy through

these uncertain times. While athletic activity is a viable option to occupy some, cooking is another way to give students something to do.

“I have been experimenting with making and eating new foods,” Hyycko said.

Though students are finding ways to entertain themselves on-campus, the Allegheny College Health Agency extended the quarantine date indefinitely on Sept. 10, after a cluster of positive cases were presented.

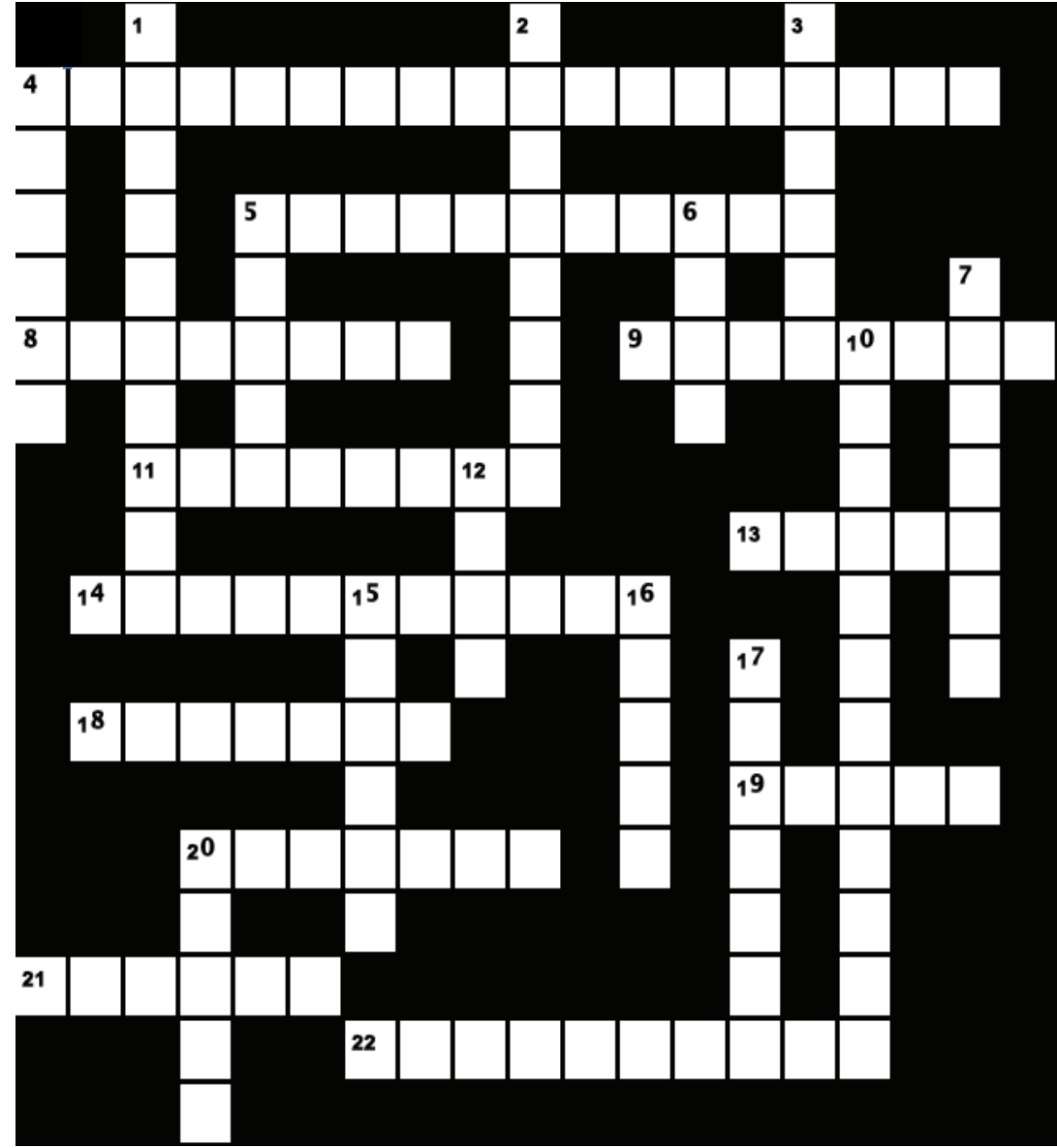
“I wish we were able to leave campus and not be on extended quarantine,” Hyycko said.

The on campus quarantine was lifted on Sept. 15.

Campus Crossword

By KALEIGH WHITE
Features Editor
whitek@allegheny.edu

For those who did not get the chance to pick up last week’s issue, here is a second chance at the music themed crossword from last week’s issue.

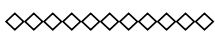


Across

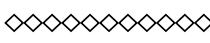
4. Wife of famous trumpet player Louis Armstrong; composed the jazz hit “Struttin’ with Some Barbecue”
5. A double-reed woodwind instrument in the oboe family, but about 1.5 times larger than an oboe
8. Another word for saying your music taste is “wide-ranged”
9. Notes of a chord played in succession, either ascending or descending; in Disney’s The Aristocats, the kittens say that you must practice your scales and these
11. A musical note that is part of the harmonic series above the fundamental note, and can be heard if those singing/playing are perfectly in tune
13. A style of jazz that is purely singing
14. Gregorian chant is one of the earliest known forms of music; it consists of melodic chants and
18. A particular style of rock music that is deemed unconventional in comparison to standard rock music
19. Violin rosin is made from heating fresh ____, a sticky, natural substance not unlike tree sap
20. A form of music originating from southern rural areas of the United States
21. Call-and-response songs are used in this popular southern style of dance, in which calls such as “allemande” are given to groups of dancers respond by doing that dance move
22. A genre of rock music characterized by the use of sounds such as distorted electric guitar and synthesizers

Down

1. A valved, brass musical instrument similar to a trumpet or cornet but more mellow in tone; popular in certain genres of jazz music
2. A primarily obsolete object that held recorded music; predated the CD
3. A genre of rock music characterized by very loud guitars and lazy-sounding vocals; popular in the late 80s/early 90s
4. A line added for notes outside of the range above or below the staff; ____ line
5. Traditionally called the Master of Ceremonies; the word was abbreviated and, over time, became mashed into this word
6. A country music concert held weekly in Nashville, Tennessee, since 1925; the Grand Ole ____
7. Composer of The Four Seasons concertos
10. An instrument similar to the xylophone, but with metal plates and tubes, and usually slightly smaller and higher in pitch; the word has German etymology
12. A symbol that denotes a musical sound; a music ____
15. A style of electronic dance music; usually fast and has little to no vocals
16. Title of a popular Mozart piece that most anyone on earth would recognize without necessarily knowing the name; “Eine Kleine __musik”
17. A corresponding pair of notes 7 semitones apart create an interval known as a ____ fifth
20. One of the earliest known forms of music; Gregorian ____



Bentley Hall’s renovation nears completion



By **SAMI MIRZA**
Photographer/Videographer
mirzas@allegheny.edu

After almost two years of work and delays caused by the current COVID-19 pandemic, the renovation of Bentley Hall is almost complete. In addition to improving the appearance of the structure, the project is also designed to modernize the building’s infrastructure and bring it in line with Allegheny College’s sustainability goals.

“This isn’t just a face-lift. This is a full-body-lift,” said Cliff Willis, director of major capital projects of Allegheny College.

Originally built in 1820, Bentley is one of two buildings on campus listed on the National Register of Historic Places; the other being Ruter Hall. Until Ruter’s construction in 1853, Bentley was Allegheny’s only building. The structure’s age — more than two centuries — was one of the major reasons why the project was undertaken in the first place.

“Bentley had a last major renovation in 1924-1925, and since then there have been some minor renovations that have taken place, but over time, systems get tired and worn-out,” said Willis, who is overseeing the project. “The building, being 200 years old now, has endured the Meadville winters for 200 years,

which really taxes the structure.”

The workers first removed the interior structure, gutting the building. They then reinforced the base by injecting grout — a mixture of cement, sand and water — into gaps between the foundation stone and adding steel supports to the interior of the building. Bentley’s two-century-old slate roof and all eight of its chimneys were replaced. A white pine on Bentley’s grounds, killed by a lightning strike, was used to re-roof the west wing of the building

“Primary structural work is done,” said Willis. “Now we’re doing finishes.”

The interior walls, wallboards and ceilings still need to be put in. Locations for new outlets and data ports must be found, part of the facility’s new infrastructure. The electrical system, previously routed through Brooks Hall, now runs through an independent transformer on Bentley’s grounds. The plumbing, mechanical and sprinkler systems have also been replaced. 12 new geothermal wells, dug along the north side of the building, will add cooling to Bentley for the first time in the structure’s history.

“The earth’s temperature stays pretty constant and so in warmer weather, cooling fluid goes down into the wells and releases the heat (and) transfers the heat into the surrounding earth,” Willis said. “In the wintertime ... you get

a transfer of warmth from the ground into the liquid system. That’s supported by mechanical equipment in the attics of each wing of Bentley,”

The addition of geothermal energy to Bentley represents another goal of the project: renovating the structure to match Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design specifications.

“We really are interested in taking the very historic, and in many cases, beautiful footprint that we have and renovating those spaces not just to be up to full standards but also to reflect the sustainability that we care so much about,” President Hilary Link said.

Renovation for LEED certification, while indicative of environmentally-minded design, comes at a higher price than standard remodeling. According to HPAC Engineering, building to LEED standards can increase building costs by 10 to 30%. None of this, however, came from Allegheny’s budget.

“When the current strategic plan was developed, the renovation of Bentley was included in that strategic plan,” Willis said. “However, it was designated a ‘donor-only project,’ so no college money was to be used for the renovation.”

In mid-March, pursuant to Governor Tom Wolf’s stay-at-home order, work was halted on Bentley. Work re-

sumed in early May, a little less than two months later, with daily temperature checks, symptom checks and a revised shift system that limited worker contact. The pandemic has undoubtedly slowed the project down: Bentley’s completion, once slated for last month, is still uncertain.

“We have a rough idea, and not to avoid the question, but one of the other impacts we’re finding from the pandemic is a slowdown in the supply chain, and also a lack of availability of certain things ... so, once Massaro (the construction company) came back to work, we sat down and I required them to give me a new schedule for completion,” Willis said. “That new schedule showed the 30th of October as the completion date. What we’re finding out now is that we think we’ll have most of the work done by the 30th of October, but there are a couple activities that will extend into November and possibly a little later than that.”

Even if construction is completed by the end of this semester, President Link said the move-in process would commence once students have left campus.

“The move will happen some time in, we hope, December, so that when we re-open in 2021 everyone is settled,” Link said.

By December, Bentley will have been out-of-use for just over 27 months —

two and a quarter years. Although out of commission for five semesters, the building is still important to students.

“I know many students, when they got de-comped, even when it was under construction, they took their pictures outside of it, just to affirm that they were done,” Jasmine Ramirez, ’21, said.

Bentley is typically home to much of the administrative staff at Allegheny, including the Office of the President and Human Resources. When renovation began, those administrative offices moved to other facilities like the Tippie Alumni Center, Murray Hall and the Henderson Campus Center, pushing out some student groups in the process.

“When Bentley started to get remodeled, they moved (the offices of the multicultural organizations) to Brooks in a little, really small room,” said Ramirez, a member of Union Latinx and President of Latinas on the Rise. “I’m going to be honest, I’ve never been there ... And a lot of students did complain just because they put (most of the cultural) organizations in one small room, so that was really inconvenient. “

Still, Ramirez is optimistic for the project’s completion. Given the current pandemic, she did not expect to see the completed renovations before she graduates next spring.

“I feel like once that building’s done, it’s going to be a relief and we’re going to have more space as well, especially now that we’re doing all these classes in open spaces,” Ramirez said.

The class of 2020 is expected to revive the tradition of walking through Bentley before graduation when they hold their commencement in late November, according to Link. The last class to walk through Bentley was the class of 2018, who graduated before construction began.

“We are doing our best to create an opportunity for them to have that moment, which, interestingly, they actually would never have had if COVID hadn’t happened,” Link said.

Overall, Link considers the project a success. Although delayed because of the current pandemic, it has stayed within the planned budget and has hit all the goals related to sustainability.

“The fact that we have successfully been able to retrofit Bentley to be LEED certified, and to have the geothermal heating, it is no small feat in a 200-year-old building,” Link said. “Given that we’ve managed to do that within budget, managed to actually pull that off logistically and structurally, I think it gives us a really good sense of how we would do this for other buildings in the future.”

One building Link immediately identified for renovation was Reis Hall, which sits across the Brooks Walk from Bentley Hall. Reis, now only partially used, was the college’s library from its completion in 1902 until the construction of the Pelletier facility in 1976.

More visible indicators of progress include the replacement of windows with custom-fitted panes in the 6x6 format that was originally installed on the building. Between Oct. 5 and 23, community members can also expect to see the erection of the stairs leading up to the main entrances on the north and south sides of the building.



Top Left: Notice outside Bentley Hall advertising its closure due to renovations. Construction work outside of historic Bentley Hall as it nears its completed renovation date.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Top Right: Construction work outside of historic Bentley Hall as it nears its completed renovation date.

Bottom Left: Bentley Hall as seen through the fence surrounding it, keeping students out of the construction site surrounding it.

Bottom Right: A sign hangs on the fence surrounding Bentley Hall, labeling the area as a construction zone and saying that proper safety equipment must be worn to enter construction area.

To see a video of Bentley’s progress, check out The Campus OutLoud on Instagram or YouTube!



Physical distancing pool noodles provided to students

Pool noodle fights break out across campus over weekend

By **TAYLOR HAYES**
Features Editor
hayest@allegheny.edu

Before the weekend of September 11-13, Residence Life placed boxes filled with blue and green pool noodles on the first floor of residence halls. These were cut to a length that could ensure people were walking around at the correct social distancing space. However, students reacted badly to the cost of the noodles and did not use them for their intended purpose.

“I think it was a waste of money,” Bobby McMaster, ’22 said.

Many students on campus brought this issue up when asked. Students were angry that tuition was not lowered and some money went into the pool noodles that could have otherwise been saved for something else later on, or taken off of the price of tuition.

“It would’ve been different if they

had asked students what they thought first as it is their tuition,” Gabby Culotta, ’22, said.

Another student couldn’t understand why (the pool noodles) were purchased at all.

“They’re just stupid,” AJ Yarbrough, ’22, said.

Some students didn’t think the noodles were needed in the first place, and it didn’t help that the noodles were not six feet long. The use of them hasn’t been enforced. Students wish they found something more helpful to enforce social distancing if they really needed to.

Students’ actions with the pool noodles were posted to a TikTok page anonymously. With over a million views, a video that clearly states the college and what the pool noodles were for was posted, along with a scene of a battle in front of Walker Hall. Students with blue noodles attacked students with the green ones and the blue team won.

This video started getting thousands of views within the hour it was posted and comments came rushing in.

“What did they expect when they gave college students noodles???” one comment said.

Battles rampaged through the campus as people put the noodles to their own use. Comments on the post ranged from people praising the funny moment to students disappointed in the decision to purchase the noodles. Overall, the comments were humorous, laughing at the scene of college students hitting each other with pool noodles, revisiting their childhood.

Some students think the administration had a good idea at how to enforce distance, but students do not think they thought it through fully.

“I do appreciate that they’re making an effort to (enforce social distancing) in a way that seems fun, but I feel like there are other places that the money

could be going,” Culotta said.

“It was a neat idea, but the college overestimated it’s students’ level of maturity, especially when they’re in quarantine,” Abby Fields, ’23 said.

Comments on the post from students from other colleges laughed at the idea of their school giving them pool noodles, wishing they could experience the same thing.

“I have not seen anyone using them since Friday,” Culotta said.

After Friday afternoon, the pool noodles have been nowhere to be found. Students are now begging for other things on campus to be addressed that are more important in their eyes than pool noodles for social distancing.

“By looking at all the Instagram comments, people have been saying there are obviously things that need to be addressed or fixed,” Culotta said.

Comments on the post reflected this feeling.

“The faculty said no to the \$25,000 weather vane on top of Bentley,” one student commented.

“There is still a surplus of noodles that aren’t claimed which means that there’s money just sitting in boxes,” Culotta said.

The noodles were gone very quickly from places like Brooks Hall and the Henderson Campus Center, but other spots on campus went untouched.

Students have received no communication from the faculty and staff on the situation. Students have not been approached or questioned about where their noodles are and if they are using them. There was no communication when they were set out and none after the battles.

“We just want to know what is going on,” Fields said.

Allegheny’s esports team provides virtual competition

By ADAM COHEN
Sports Editor
cohen@allegheny.edu

Participation in physical sports is limited right now, but the virtual world of esports — online gaming competitions — remains open for all users to play. Colleges across the United States are beginning to put together esports teams and clubs. Allegheny’s esports club is now in its fourth year.

Despite being a relatively new team, Allegheny established themselves as a premier esports team. Over the summer, the Allegheny’s esports team competed in the Tespa 2020 Overwatch tournament. The tournament consisted of over 500 colleges

competing against one another; Allegheny reached the round of 64.

Allegheny’s esports team expressed they surpassed even their own expectations in the tournament. Tito Mazzucchi, ’22, a member of Allegheny’s esports team, commented on the success of his team last summer, especially since they completed their registration five days before the deadline.

“(Reaching round 64) was a big accomplishment for not having any coaching or outside help besides the student-run team,” Mazzucchi said. “People were new to the game and still learned really quickly so that we could do our best and represent

Allegheny.”

Esports is quickly growing worldwide. According to the Tespa website, over 40,000 students have competed in their tournaments, and they have awarded over \$3.3 million in scholarships. Because of the skillset and training required to compete in these tournaments, Mazzucchi is hoping that esports could one day be considered a varsity sport.

“We really want to put in varsity-like effort and push ourselves to the best of our abilities,” Mazzucchi said. “The ultimate goal would be incorporating esports into the Allegheny community as more than just a club, but a serious varsity commitment.”

Mazzucchi used to play varsity soccer back in high school. Not only does he consider esports to be a “varsity commitment,” but also acknowledges that while esports and physical sports are different, they have a similar kind of atmosphere.

“Although I love soccer as a sport, the best thing that I got out of playing four years (in high school) was growth as an individual,” Mazzuchchi said. “Same thing (with esports). I have seen that (esports) can help people grow a lot.”

The size of the club has grown larger each year, and more equipment will be added for the esports team. The club continues to grow because of Provost Ron Cole and Jared Luteran, director of recreations and facilities, who have helped founder Jacob Walters, ’21, to expand and improve the team. The administration wanted an esports team even before they were created. Walters mentioned that even before he started the esports team, Allegheny was waiting for a student to lead the club.

“I emailed (Provost) Ron Cole and he answered back and said that they were waiting for effort from the students to show some interest,” Walters said. “From that point on, we have a room now, we have equipment and we are going through (Allegheny Student Government

to become a club sports team.”

Currently, the esports team plays “Overwatch” as a group. “Overwatch” has led to serious professional competitions across the country. Cities such as New York, Washington D.C. and Los Angeles all have “Overwatch” teams. Walters was inspired by the professional presence of “Overwatch” in the United States to create a team at Allegheny. He also enjoys multiple aspects of “Overwatch” as well.

“I like “Overwatch” in particular because the whole point of it is each character comes from a completely different background from another one,” Walters said. “It is so interesting to learn about.”

“Overwatch” is the only sport game that Allegheny plays as of now. However, the team hopes to add more games in the near future. Although each Allegheny esports team player enjoys “Overwatch,” many of them play other esports games as well. Gabe Schwartz, ’23, recommended other esports games, especially for people who have never played esports before.

“It depends on what you like,” Schwartz said. “ ‘Call of Duty’ is an easy game to get into, but hard to master. ‘Overwatch’ is one (of the games) that is casual at first, but can be taken seriously. If you are into card games try ‘Heartstone’ and ‘Magic of the

Gathering.’ There is always ‘(Super) Smash (Bros),’ too.”

Schwartz has had a positive experience both during and outside of team competitions. One of the many reasons why Schwartz appreciates the team is because of the relationships he has formed.

“I hadn’t known many people on the team. I’m now really good friends with all of them. It’s really fun. We’re like a big family.”

—GABE SCHWARTZ
Class of 2023



Photo contributed by tespa.org

Weekend dodgeball tournament postponed until further notice

By SARA HOLTHOUSE
Editor-in-Chief
holthouses@allegheny.edu

During a pandemic, everything changes on a daily basis —including Allegheny events.

The dodgeball tournament originally scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12, was postponed after President Hilary Link sent a campus-wide email on Thursday, Sept. 10, announcing that the on-campus quarantine has been extended until further notice.

Program Coordinator for the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center Mikka Hunt described the event as helping students begin the new academic year.

“This event is a part of the robust campus programming to kick off the start of the academic year,” Hunt said in an email to The Campus. “As of right now, there aren’t many teams signed up, but there has been high participation in all of the other outdoor active events so we are very excited to see the turn out. The winning team will receive a gift certificate to the campus bookstore.”

Hunt added that the event was originally not advertised for an audience, due to only being able to have 50 people gathered safely outside.

After the quarantine extension, Hunt said that the event will be rescheduled to continue to keep everyone on campus as safe as possible.

“We are invested in keeping the campus community safe and look forward to seeing everyone have fun and show off some dodgeball skills at the make-up date,” Hunt said.

Austin Reardon, ’23, Joseph Friedman, ’23, and Daniel Logue, ’23, were all originally going to play in the game last weekend, and they expressed disappointment after the cancellation of the tournament.

“I mean, yeah, it’s a fun game,” Reardon said. “I got asked and I thought it would be fun, and I mean I had nothing at four on Saturday, because who has things at four on Saturday? I played it in PE a lot so I thought it would be fun.”

According to Logue, dodgeball brings back childhood memories, and it is something pure that college kids would have been able to do on the weekend.

“Dodgeball is a fun game,” Logue said. “It gets people outside in the fresh air, and it gives us something pure and fun to do on the weekend, when we could just be out drinking.”

Friedman explained that, while he felt it was important for health reasons for everyone to do what they can to keep the campus safe, he was also disappointed in the lack of campus community he was feeling this year.

“I came back to campus because I wanted to be back in the small campus community,” Friedman said. “But when things like the dodgeball tournament are being cancelled — events that were able to be socially distant and safe — it takes away from that campus community.”

Reardon expressed his anger at the event being cancelled, saying that the event was already going to happen last weekend before the original end of quarantine date.

“I think it’s a little hypocritical for the administration to be able to go out and live their lives, when we can’t even play a game where we would just be throwing balls and would’ve been able to be socially distant and safe while doing it,” Reardon said.

Along similar lines, Friedman expressed confusion on the same matter.

“I just think it’s weird that the administration is allowed to go to things like games when we can’t even go to Walmart,” Friedman said.

Logue agreed with these statements, saying that he thought President Hilary Link was doing a good job, and that it was important for people to remain healthy. Logue also expressed that he wished the administration would be cognizant of how they appear to the students by not always following the Gator Pledge themselves. Additionally, Logue said he misses the intimate campus community and wants to be able to have that again.

“This is a small, intimate campus,” Logue said. “I’m a little bit sad that I can’t meet some of the freshmen class like I used to be able to do. Being a part of the swim team, I have met some of the men on the team, but not many of the women. I know it’s important for people’s health, but I also think we need to send out the rule breakers, and those who violate the Gator Pledge.”

The myAllegheny post announcing the dodgeball tournament being postponed encouraged those interested to be on the lookout for the new date.



Photo contributed by netclipart.com

COVID-19 INFORMATION

HEALTH & SAFETY REMINDERS

✓

PROPERLY WEAR A FACE COVERING

✓

KEEP SIX FEET FROM OTHERS

✓

STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK

✓

DO YOUR DAILY HEALTH CHECK

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE COVID-19 DATA

3 ACTIVE POSITIVE CASES

27 TOTAL POSITIVE CASES

0 PENDING RESULTS

3426 COMPLETED TESTS

3362 NEGATIVE TESTS

Editor’s Note: The weekly COVID-19 data is compiled using the COVID-19 Case Dashboard available on sites.allegheny.edu/covid19. Case counts listed above are collected the Thursday before publication.