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NATSUNO OTAHARA/THE CAMPUS

Teaching Assistant Jasmin Wagner paints the face of Noah Jang, '20, during the Carnival of the Cultures on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017. The event was hosted by students from the French, German and Spanish Houses as a celebration of three different cultural variations of Carnival.

Carnival of Cultures brings international cuisine and celebrations to Allegheny campus

Director of public safety researches security cameras

By ALEX WEIDENHOF
News Editor
weidenhofa@allegheny.edu

Director of Public Safety Ali Awadi has brought forth the possibility of installing security cameras to Allegheny Student Government's Student Life Committee, according to Sens. Alexia Porche, '19, and Mark MacStudy, '18.

Dean of Students Kimberly Ferguson said she asked Awadi to look into the logistics of installing cameras on campus.

"Right now, it's just knowing what's out there, knowing what we can afford and knowing if it is something that we can even put into place because of the wiring, technology, et cetera," Ferguson said. "So it's more of, 'How do we get this party started?'"

Ferguson said the idea of installing security cameras arose from faculty concerns over vandalism, particularly after the vandalism at the Steffee Hall of Life Sciences in December 2015.

Allegheny experienced 19 reported cases of vandalism in 2015, according to the 2016 Annual Security and Fire Report.

> "Right now, it's just knowing what's out there, knowing what we can afford and knowing if it is something that we can even put into place."
>
> Kimberly Ferguson
> *Dean of Students*

MacStudy said Awadi has brought the idea of installing security cameras in high-traffic areas, such as the campus center, to the Student Life

See **CAMERAS** | *page 3*

College works to address budgetary gap concerns

By CHRIS BRINDLE
Junior Editor
brindlec@allegheny.edu

Allegheny College's Finance and Facilities Committee has been assessing different steps to take that would alleviate a large budgetary gap created by the under-enrollment of the Classes of 2018 and 2019.

President James Mullen addressed the faculty during a faculty meeting on Sept. 29, 2016.

"As you know, the next two fiscal years [2017-18 and 2018-19] will be challenging as the two small classes continue to work their way through graduation," Mullen said.

One half of the college's revenue comes from net tuition, according to the FFC minutes from Nov. 30, 2016, so when the Classes of 2018 and 2019 were under-enrolled, it had notable budgetary consequences.

Luke McBride, '17, the Allegheny Student Government treasurer and a voting member of FFC, said the committee was assessing options to alleviate cost since there is about a 1.5 to 2 million dollar budget gap.

FFC consists of 15 members. This includes five members of faculty, four students who are appointed by Allegheny Student Government and other staff and administration, including Executive Vice President Eileen Petula and Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole.

"There were the classes which were smaller than anticipated and that caused the college to make some severe budget cuts last year," Petula said.

"It's kind of weird how the finance works because you have to work backwards in the year because you have to determine how many students are going to come in for the school year," McBride said.

In addition to the issues presented by the under-enrolled classes, according to Petula, the college is also losing a large number of its students to graduation.

"The Class of '17 — who are graduating this year — was one of our largest classes," Petula said.

The loss in revenue affected several areas of the college, according to Petula. She said the college was forced to make changes to health insurance, departments were forced to make cuts and administration, faculty and staff did not receive pay increases.

Linda Wetsell, chief financial officer and treasurer of the college, said there was approximately a 1.4 million dollar gap at the beginning of the budget process.

"We highlighted about a million dollars of budget levers we are vetting," Wetsell said. "With the budget gap, we have minimal salary increases proposed."

The FFC minutes from Nov. 9, 2016, show that a proposed 1 percent increase to salaries would cost an estimated $300,000 to the college, which is currently the proposed increase for the coming year.

Additionally, the 1 percent increase is also tentatively proposed for the following year, should all their estimations and assumptions hold true, according to Petula.

"As this process unfolds, it will remain our goal to provide stability for Allegheny's faculty and staff, so as to sustain the outstanding teaching and learning community we enjoy," said Mullen during his address to the faculty.

Mullen also acknowledged that some faculty may be worried.

"I am particularly sensitive to our tenure track faculty and the understandable anxiety that they have felt about the future," Mullen said.

Two of the budget decisions which have garnered substantial attention from students are proposals to charge those who take an overload of credits and charging a summer housing fee.

"Some possible revenue budget levers being considered are: implementing a course overload fee, increasing retention in freshman class by 1%, implementing a summer housing fee, and other revenue enhancements," the minutes from the Nov. 9, 2016, FFC meeting read.

In the FFC meeting of Nov. 9, 2016, there was discussion about the proposed fee.

"FFC discussed the pros and cons of each of the levers on the institution as a whole and the climate of the college. What impact would a course overload fee have on prospective student?" the minutes read.

McBride said there are not many possible budget levers that directly affect students available, aside from the proposed overload fee and summer housing fee.

"There is not much, and a lot of that stuff gets shot down pretty quickly," McBride said.

As of now, Petula said the proposed overload fee "was recommended not to move

See **BUDGET** | *page 2*



ALEÄA REYES/THE CAMPUS

Presidential candidates Mark Myers, '19, and Mark MacStudy, '19, met in the campus center lobby to debate the issues of their respective campaigns on Monday, Feb. 27, 2017.

ASG presidential candidates debate student concerns

By JOSEPH TINGLEY
News Editor
tingleyj@allegheny.edu

Allegheny Student Government presidential and vice presidential candidates debated student issues on Monday, Feb. 27, in the campus center lobby. Each ticket was given the opportunity to make an opening and closing statement, respond to questions from a moderator and questions from the audience.

The candidates for president are current ASG Director of Communications and Press Mark Myers, '19, along with his vice presidential nominee Rowan Castellanos, '19, and current ASG Sen. Mark MacStudy, '18, and his vice presidential nominee Matt Hartwell, '18, currently a co-director of student affairs.

In their opening statements, MacStudy and Hartwell emphasized the experiences they have had, outlining their accomplishments as members of ASG.

"This year, the Class of 2018 has done a really great job working together. We have secured a new printer … and we have also secured three new charging stations for mobile devices across campus," MacStudy said.

MacStudy said he decided to run for president because of the positive experiences he has had at Allegheny.

"Allegheny has given me a lot. … I feel now is the time for me in my life where I am in a position to help the community that has given me so much," MacStudy said.

Myers said he also brings experience to the table, both as a former senator and a current cabinet member. Castellanos said that while she has never been a member of ASG, she still has experience.

"I have had nine years of student government work before I came to Allegheny," Castellanos said. "So I am not new to student government work."

The first question posed to the candidates was what they believed to be an important issue or "hot topic" on campus.

Both tickets said they felt the issue of Title IX reform was important to address, and included it in their platforms.

MacStudy said he, along with other senators, sponsored ASG Resolution 10-01, which was passed by the senate on Feb. 21 and called for ASG to work with administrators to reform how the college handles investigations of sexual assaults on campus.

"[The resolution] reaf-

See **DEBATE** | *page 2*

DEBATE

from page 1

firmed our stance on Title IX and let the student body know that sexual assault does not have a home on the Allegheny College campus," MacStudy said.

MacStudy said the resolution was a "good first step." He said he is currently working with other senators to secure a breakdown of the numbers of Title IX cases, so that it can be made available to students. This breakdown, MacStudy said, was previously provided in a report given to ASG by Director of Student Conduct and Development Joe Hall.

Hartwell said another important part of addressing Title IX issues on campus is training. He said they hope to find ways to incentivize students to go through bystander or other types of training programs.

"You do the training, you get a little prize — it's as simple as that," Hartwell said.

Myers and Castellanos said they have already begun to think about ways to implement change in terms of how the college handles Title IX. As part of their platform, Myers said they intend to create a Title IX Advisory Committee through ASG that would work with administrators to address such issues.

As a member of ASG's cabinet, Myers said he voiced his support for resolution 10-01 when it was brought to the floor.

"An amendment that I insisted we add [to the resolution] was the education of the student body of rape culture, which is one thing I feel we aren't doing enough to address," Myers said. "It is not the administration assaulting students. Unfortunately, it is students assaulting students."

Myers said he hopes to create the committee as a temporary ad hoc committee this semester and make it permanent sometime next year. He said he has already spoken with Title IX Coordinator Gilly Ford about the feasibility of such a committee.

If elected, Myers said he also hopes to improve how ASG functions. He said he feels the current ASG administration has not done all it can.

"I feel that for the last year ASG has been at a standstill," Myers said.

In addition to the issue of Title IX, MacStudy and Hartwell said they hope to improve handicap accessibility on campus.

As an ROTC cadet, Hartwell said he attends classes and training at Edinboro University, which he believes is far more handicap accessible. MacStudy said this is an important part of ensuring that Allegheny is a welcoming space to all students.

As a senator, MacStudy said he is already working to bring about greater handicap accessibility.

"I am currently working with current ASG President Tess Bracken, ['17], to bring about a converter to the stairs in Brooks Hall to make a cheap, efficient and quick way to make our eating centers more accessible to handicapped students," MacStudy said.

The converter, according to MacStudy, would be a type of temporary ramp that could be deployed when needed.

Myers said that in addition to Title IX, important issues on campus include fostering better communication between different groups on campus. He said it is important to ensure that every group on campus is heard.

"We believe there are a lot of students' voices who are not being heard," Myers said.

To accomplish this, Myers said he and Castellanos plan to implement two new cabinet positions on campus to represent Greek life and student athletes.

MacStudy and Hartwell said they have no plans to create new positions, given the difficulty ASG has in filling all of its current positions.

An audience member asked how each ticket thought they would handle criticism and backlash from students and administration.

Hartwell said his experience within the U.S. Army has given him the skills to effectively delegate responsibility and ensure that those beneath him take enough pride in their work that they will hold themselves accountable. He said it has also taught him to take criticism and responsibility for his own failings.

MacStudy agreed and said it is important to take criticism well and learn from it so that progress can be made.

"One thing I have learned from my years of playing football is you have to learn to take criticism in a positive way," MacStudy said. "There is no way you will be able to move forward and make progress if you take criticism negatively."

Castellanos said taking criticism is something that every leader must learn to accept, and that she and Myers knew when they decided to run they would be criticized.

"I think as a leader, you need to know that, that is ok," Castellanos said.

As a current member of ASG, Myers said he feels he has what it takes to accept criticism and use it to make changes for the better.

"I think that within ASG now as the communications director I am basically the face of any newsletter that goes out, any announcement that goes out, and Facebook livestream that goes out and for most of those I get some heat," Myers said. "I think being able to take that and improve upon it … proves that as a president I will be able to take criticism and do something positive with it."

Candidates were also asked how they would address diversity, both within their cabinets and on campus.

Castellanos said part of her family came to the U.S. from Mexico, and being from New Mexico, she grew up in a very diverse environment. She said this upbringing as given her an appreciation for how important diversity is.

"Coming [to Allegheny] was a culture shock because it was so less diverse," Castellanos said.

In their platform, Myers and Castellanos said they will work to represent underrepresented groups on campus and will encourage dialogues on issues of diversity and difference.

"I think it is important to bring those people who are marginalized on this campus to the table," Myers said.

As the only female candidate, Castellanos said she felt she could also offer a unique insight into the needs of women on campus.

MacStudy said he and Hartwell are both committed to having diversity on their cabinet and hearing the concerns of all students.

"It's not who we are, it's who we will put around us that will make us successful," MacStudy said.

Hartwell said that, through ROTC, he has had to collaborate with soldiers and cadets from Puerto Rico, Canada and Germany. He said in such situations it was important to gain an understanding of each individual's culture and how they dealt with problems. He said he would bring a similar approach to ASG.

"You cannot go into a new situation not having everyone's opinion heard," Hartwell said.

During closing statements, Hartwell and MacStudy said their strength as a ticket stemmed from their experience working with administrators and that they have the most experience of the two tickets.

"Matt and I have the experience of working with every administrator on campus, we have it with working with every student organization on campus," MacStudy said.

MacStudy said that if elected, he and Hartwell plan to augment and continue to cultivate those relationships.

Hartwell said while he has been careful to represent the interests of his constituents, even when his own opinion differed, he said he will speak out when it is called for. He said it is important to represent what is best for all parties.

"It's not them, it's not you, it is us. … If something is wrong, I make it known. I will extend a meeting more than it needs to go to get the answer solved, I am not afraid to do that and that is what is required," Hartwell said.

In his closing statement, Myers said he feels he can fill the position of president with experience from serving as both a senator and a current cabinet member if he were elected. He said the thing that sets his ticket apart is that he and Castellanos already have plans on how to implement their platform.

Castellanos pointed out in her closing statement that she would be at Allegheny for the entirety of her term, referencing rumors that Hartwell may be going abroad for the fall semester of the 2017-18 academic year.

Following the debate, Hartwell confirmed that he is currently considering studying abroad for a semester in Jordan and should have a decision from the U.S. Army if he can proceed by April.

MacStudy said he and Hartwell have already discussed how they would handle the situation.

"Cabinet would already be in place, so the chief of staff would simply move up," MacStudy said.

The campaign, according to MacStudy, already has two potential individuals in mind for who could fill the position of chief of staff if they were to move up to fill the position, or might simply fill the vice presidential spot. He declined to name the candidates but said they have been with the campaign since the beginning.

While many may choose to see Hartwell leaving as a negative thing, MacStudy said he chooses to see it as a positive.

"All that means is we have an elected student government official acting as a positive ambassador for our school," MacStudy said.

Polls for the primary opened on WebAdvisor on Thursday, March 2 and will close at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 3. Polls for the general election will open on Thursday, March 9 and close on Friday, March 10 at 4:30 p.m., in the event of a tie or if a write-in candidate receives enough votes. The full platforms for each ticket can be found on the ASG website.



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH TINGLEY/THE CAMPUS

Rowan Castellanos, '19, and Mark Myers, '19, participate in the ASG presidential debate on Monday, Feb. 27, 2017. Myers currently serves as the director of communications and press.



Mark MacStudy, '18, speaks at the ASG presidential debate with his running mate Matt Hartwell, '18. MacStudy is a senator and Hartwell is a co-director of student affairs.

BUDGET

from page 1

forward."

"That was a lever we talked about, but it's not one we are going to pull this year; it needs further vetting," Wetsell said.

There have been adjustments made to the summer housing fee, however.

"Typically, free housing has been provided for approximately 200 students. One hundred of those students participate in faculty research efforts for approximately 10 weeks during the summer," read the FFC minutes from Feb. 8, 2017.

Summer undergraduate research programs have been a feature of Allegheny for many years. In his address, Mullen said summer research opportunities are an important part of Allegheny's reputation.

"Our success in advancing our reputation is evident in recognitions such as that we received last year from Council of Undergraduate Research as the nation's premier undergraduate research program," Mullen said.

In light of that, there was substantial discussion on how charging a fee for summer housing could potentially alter that reputation and perhaps even dissuade prospective students.

At the Nov. 30, 2016, FFC meeting, peer research was presented that compared the college's summer housing policy with other institutions.

"Peer research has shown that many campuses either do not provide summer housing to students or that students pay for summer housing. The typical fees for student summer housing range from $100-$150 per week," the minutes say.

In the past, Allegheny offered free housing to students staying on campus over the summer. Students simply had to pay the taxes on the living space, which amounted to approximately $13 a week, according to a memo provided by Petula.

This was done because of an IRS regulation, according to Petula.

"If you don't charge for housing, you have to tax the market value of it," Petula said.

At the Feb. 8, 2017, FFC meeting, a vote was taken on whether or not to begin charging $75 a week as a summer room fee.

"With the exception of one voting member voting 'no', the recommendation passed," the minutes read.

But the change in room fee was accompanied by other changes to the summer research program as well. Students were previously awarded a $3,000 dollar stipend for the 10 week summer program, according to Petula. This meant that each week they were given $300, but then had the tax withheld, meaning they earned approximately $287 per week.

For the upcoming summer, students are now going to be earning an hourly wage of $10 with a maximum of 35 hours a week, for 10 weeks. This means students will now be earning a maximum of $350 dollars a week, which, after the summer housing fee, would amount to $275 per week.

The net difference for the students will be a reduction of approximately $12 dollars per week.

In response to the decreased pay of students, other steps are being taken to relieve the cost of living on campus during the summer. For example, according to Petula, seven kitchens will be renovated over the next two summers in the dorms which usually house summer researchers.

"We are investing in the living spaces so that students on campus in the summer will have access to functional kitchens," Petula said.

Additionally, some summer positions for students that are grant-funded will be under threat once that funding runs out, but there are efforts being made to continue their existence.

"One of the initiatives we are working on right now is supporting all the summer employment jobs when the grant money goes away," Petula said.

> "We highlighted about a million dollars of budget levers we are vetting."
>
> Linda Wetsell
> *Chief Financial Officer*

In addition to only looking at closing the budget gap for this year, these steps are a part of a larger effort to be more efficient, according to Petula.

"In the long term, we have to look at what is sustainable," Petula said.

Moving forward, Petula said that assessing class size is imperative. Accordingly, the assumption moving forward is 550 incoming freshmen along with 20 transfer students per year in the future.

"In our multiple-year plan, we look to target class sizes and find accompanying budgets," Wetsell said.

Admissions are not only a financial concern, but interdepartmental.

"Each group has a different focus," Wetsell said.

Among these focuses are diversity initiatives, residential requirements, retention rates and typical trends in applications.

"Our goal is to have those [small] classes graduate and have strong classes behind them," Petula said.

In his faculty address in September, Mullen also spoke about future classes.

"The size of our future classes is another key strategic issue for us to address. The goals in doing so are clear — to maximize net tuition revenue per student, to control and eventually lower discount rate, to maintain a class profile that is both strong academically and diverse in its composition, to enroll students who will retain at the college," Mullen said.

One of Petula's main goals for the future is to improve the public's understanding of budgetary issues. She has proposed creating a budget class for community members, during which they can have an interactive education about the funding and budgets of the college.

"I think it would be really exciting. I've had the opportunity to do this at an institution where I previously worked, and it was very popular," Petula said.

FFC is still working to close the budget gap and has several options to do so. It is not yet balanced, but it is close, according to Wetsell.

Petula will present a tentative balanced budget, on April 6, 2017, in a closed meeting.

"If all the assumptions hold true, this May we may have a proposal for a balanced budget for the next two years," Petula said.

There are also tentative plans to present the proposed balanced budget to the wider college community on the following day, April 7.

ASG discusses implementation of Title IX advisory committee

By JOSEPH TINGLEY
News Editor
tingleyj@allegheny.edu

Allegheny Student Government conducted a five minute moderated discussion on the creation of a Title IX Advisory Committee at its meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 28. The creation of the committee is part of the presidential platform of Director of Communications and Press Mark Myers, '19, and his running mate Rowan Castellanos, '19.

Myers brought the creation of the committee to the general assembly but said he did not want to see it passed that day. He said he wanted to hear discussion.

Class of 2020 Vice President Jason Ferrante, who co-sponsored resolution 17-01, which reaffirmed ASG's commitment to work with administrators on Title IX, opened the discussion by coming out in support of the committee.

Ferrante said he felt it would be beneficial for ASG to bring members of different groups in to provide input on how the committee could best be implemented.

"I think it would be great to pull other groups in on this," Ferrante said.

In addition to seeking feedback from other student organizations, Ferrante said it would be wise to seek advice from Title IX Coordinator Gilly Ford, Director of Public Safety Ali Awadi and possibly legal counsel to address what the committee can legally do.

Sen. Amy Currul, '17, said she felt revisions should be made to more precisely explain what the committee's role is and what it will do to facilitate change on campus.

"It is kind of vague in terms of what [the committee] is supposed to do," Currul said.

Other members of ASG pointed out that the draft of the resolution did not address how many members the committee would have or how they would be chosen. Myers said he would keep this in mind as he made revisions, but said he hopes to draw committee members from a diverse group of students.

"I would like to bring as many people to the table as is appropriate," Myers said.

Sen. Alexander Reganata, '18, said he felt the committee would largely deal with issues various groups on campus already address.

"It seems to me this group would not serve a purpose on this campus that is not being met on campus already," Reganata said.

Myers said after speaking with Ford, they both feel the committee could add something to the campus community by facilitating collaboration between the various groups that work on Title IX issues. He said a similar committee has been implemented successfully at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

At the conclusion of the five minute discussion period, as promised, Myers did not seek a vote.

Bruce Harlan, executive director of Women's Services, was also in attendance and addressed ASG. Harlan spoke regarding Women's Services' partnership with Allegheny and the organization's approach to the bystander training it provides to students.

> "Everyone has a role to play in bringing down sexual violence."
>
> Bruce Harlan
> *Executive Director of Women's Services*

Harlan said the model the organization uses in its educational materials and programs is called "bring in the bystander." He said this model teaches students to be proactive bystanders and to intervene instead of just telling them not to perpetrate sexual assaults or to protect themselves.

"Everyone has a role to play in bringing down sexual violence," Harlan said.

Despite recent "bad press," according to Harlan, he feels Allegheny is committed to and is currently working to bring down incidents of sexual violence.

"I just want you to know … that Allegheny College feels very strongly about this issue and [is] trying to bring the level of violence down," Harlan said.

Harlan said he wants ASG to understand that the college administration is ready and willing to work with them.

President Tess Bracken, '17, used her report to clarify information regarding summer housing for students doing faculty-student research on campus. Bracken said a post on the Class of 2019 Facebook page prompted her to verify what changes have been made.

After speaking with Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole, Bracken said she has learned the summer housing fee has increased from approximately $14 a week to $75 a week according to an email from Cole.

In the email, Cole also said that in the past, students received a weekly stipend of $300 a week for summer research from which the taxes on the living space were subtracted, leaving them with approximately $286 a week.

Beginning in summer 2017, he said students will now be paid an hourly wage of $10 an hour with a cap of 35 hours a week, meaning a maximum weekly income of $350 from which the housing fee will be deducted. This will leave the student with a maximum income of $275 a week. Cole said the change is to comply with the Affordable Care Act.

Cole said the college is currently working to find ways to make life on campus over the summer more comfortable for students. He said the college is exploring transportation options for students to have more access to grocery stores in Meadville and fully-functioning kitchens.

Director of Finance Luke McBride, '18, also received approval from the senate to spend up to $1,000 to host a philanthropic event in collaboration with the Beta Chi chapter of Theta Chi.

The event, according to McBride, would help to raise funds for the United Service Organizations, which works to help military veterans and their families. He said the hope is to bring comedian Evan Wecksell to campus to perform at the event.

McBride said ASG would be providing the majority of the funds, since they are a larger organization with more funding.

CAMERAS *from page 1*

Committee, and Porche said Awadi also was interested in installing cameras in parking lots around campus.

"We were talking about call boxes and ways to make the campus safer, and he was saying that security cameras make the campus safer," Porche said.

Both MacStudy and Porche said the committee told Awadi students have not been receptive to the idea of security cameras on campus in the past. MacStudy said despite this information, Awadi was "adamant" about installing cameras.

Ferguson said Awadi is researching the possibility of installing cameras so the college can "start a conversation" based on the information. MacStudy said ASG would need to approve of any proposal regarding security cameras.

"Before anything is pushed forward, ASG also has to have their input on it, and there's a whole process that has to be taken place before he can take any unilateral steps," MacStudy said.

Porche said student government would seek student input on the matter in a forum or an event sponsored by ASG.

"I imagine that would be an event, probably put on in the campus center lobby by ASG, and we would send out MyAllegheny [postings]," Porche said.

ASG's Student Life Committee has not heard an official proposal regarding security cameras on campus.

CORRECTION

In the Feb. 24, 2017, issue of The Campus, Allegheny Student Government Director of Communications and Press Mark Myers, '19, was incorrectly identified as a member of the Class of 2020.

The Campus is printed every Friday during the academic year, except during breaks and exam periods.

Advertising: (814) 332-5386
Box 12, Allegheny College
520 N. Main St., Meadville, PA 16335

THE CAMPUS
WWW.ALLEGHENYCAMPUS.COM

ANGELA MAURONI Editor-in-Chief
EYLIE BUEHLER Editor-in-Chief
editor@alleghenycampus.com

JOSEPH TINGLEY News Editor
ALEX WEIDENHOF News Editor
CHRIS BRINDLE Junior News Editor
news@alleghenycampus.com

MEAGHAN WILBY Features Editor
MARLEY PARISH Features Editor
features@alleghenycampus.com

ALEX HOLMES Sports Editor
sports@alleghenycampus.com

SYDNEY FERNANDEZ Science/International Editor
MAUREEN HOSSLER Science/International Editor
science@alleghenycampus.com

SHEA BEAUMONT Opinion Editor
opinion@alleghenycampus.com

BRITTANY ADAMS Videographer and Photo Editor
YUTONG WANG Photo Editor
JEVON COOPER Junior Photo Editor
ALEÄA REYES Junior Photo Editor
NATSUNO OTAHARA Junior Photo Editor
photo@alleghenycampus.com

CASSIE BACHIK Copy Editor
editor@alleghenycampus.com

SHU YI TANG Web Manager
JONATHAN GOODMAN Web Manager
web@alleghenycampus.com

KELLIE LINDSTROM Business Manager
business@alleghenycampus.com

FELICIA MARANO Distribution Manager
editor@alleghenycampus.com

MICHAEL CROWLEY Interim Faculty Adviser
adviser@alleghenycampus.com

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CRIME BLOTTER

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

Feb. 20, 2017
382 East College St.
Criminal Mischief.

Feb. 23, 2017
388 East College St.
Suspicious Person.

Feb. 23, 2017
Loomis Street
Suspicious Person.

Feb. 25, 2017
McKinley's Food Court
Drug Possession.

Feb. 25, 2017
Brooks Walk
Underage Consumption.

Racism is not a Southern stereotype — it is American

By ALEX WEIDENHOF
News Editor
weidenhofa@allegheny.edu

Yale University's renaming of Calhoun College — a residential college named after John C. Calhoun — in honor of Grace Murray Hopper, an African-American woman who played an integral part in developing the first programming languages, is a welcome change and one of the first meaningful accomplishments in the move to avoid monuments to white supremacy.

While we should take every opportunity possible to avoid memorializing those whose political legacy is no more than white supremacy, focusing solely on these people ignores the bigger picture. For over 200 years, slavery — the largest and most obscene demonstration of white supremacy in the United States — was a national institution, perpetuated not only by those who enslaved human beings but an institution supported by nearly everybody in the country.

The first permanent English-speaking settlers in the U.S. arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. Only 12 years later, in 1619, the first African slaves were forcibly brought to the Jamestown Colony. While the country's reliance on slavery was not fully felt until Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin in 1793, slavery increasingly became a unique marker of American identity and an integral part of the nation's economy far before that.

Perhaps the most profound impact slavery had prior to the invention of the cotton gin was in the drafting and ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Historians now agree that the Constitution was a document that protected and promoted slavery — a far cry from a founding principle of our nation enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal."

First, the new Constitution apportioned the number of each state's representatives in the House of Representatives by counting the whole number of free citizens, excluding Native Americans, and adding three-fifths of the number of "all other persons" — that is, slaves. This gave a tremendous amount of congressional power to states that relied on slavery for economic prosperity.

A second way the Constitution protected slavery was its explicit ban on ending the Atlantic Slave Trade until 1808 — over 20 years after the drafting of the Constitution. While the trade was almost immediately banned when it became possible, it is clear how much of an influence slavery had on the drafting of the governing document the U.S. still uses today.

Finally, the Constitution included a very specific provision denying the ability of enslaved persons to escape captivity by fleeing to another state, instead compelling states to capture and return any fugitive slaves.

While some states tried to prevent the influence of slavery from creeping through its border by passing personal liberty laws, which allowed its citizens to ignore the Constitution's fugitive slave clause, or even to outright banning slavery itself, nearly all parts of the U.S. were actively benefitting from slavery prior to the end of the Civil War.

Even in a very minor sense, Americans who wore cotton were, with few exceptions, benefitting from the slaves who worked the cotton fields in the South; Americans who used tobacco benefitted from that cash crop's use of slavery; those who ate rice did so despite it being cultivated by slaves in the harshest of conditions.

Following the cotton trade north, shows a picture of Northern complicity in the slave trade. By 1860, cotton accounted for 60 percent of the United States' exports. Northern development was dependent on the use of slavery, particularly due to the triangular trade.

Northern ports were used extensively in the Atlantic slave trade, often transporting rum to Africa and bringing slaves back to the Americas. Rhode Island was responsible for two-thirds of the United States' participation in the slave trade, and the Times of London called New York City "the greatest slave trading market in the world" in 1860, on the eve of the Civil War.

When the 11 Confederate states seceded from the U.S. between 1861 and 1865, it was not because they wanted the U.S. to return to a policy of supporting slavery. Instead, the Confederates understood slavery as a wholly American institution, benefitting nearly all Americans, and grew tired of Americans attacking the region for being home to a system that was implicitly supported by all Americans.

The Confederates did not view themselves as a nation entirely separate from the U.S., however. The new belligerent nation co-opted the U.S. Constitution, adding few more protections for slavery. Their first battle flag — the "Stars and Bars" — looked so much like the American flag that, as James C. Cobb points out, that it was banned from battlefields.

In fact, as Ian Binnington posits, the use of the name "America" in the Confederate States of America demonstrates how the Confederacy was not un-American.

Of course, we should be grateful that the Confederacy lost, that slavery was abolished and that Jim Crow, the systemic racial segregation and violence that replaced the institution of slavery, is no longer with us. But to argue that slavery was an institution that only benefitted the South, or that only those who owned other human beings were complicit in its perpetuation is just another way Americans paint the South as an "other," a region that embraces what is un-American. It is not un-American.

John C. Calhoun's political legacy is not just tarnished by his racial views. His entire political legacy is based on his racial views. The former vice president painted slavery as a "positive good" and argued that only white people had the capacity to think and act. His beliefs were even extreme during his lifetime, let alone compared to modern knowledge, morals and beliefs.

Clearly, this is a legacy we should not honor.

Yet, in the recent crusade to strip slave owners from being named on colleges, buildings and monuments, it seems that Americans have forgotten — perhaps intentionally — that slavery was a national crime. It was perpetuated by Southerners, Northerners and those who lived in the West alike.

Rather than blaming the South — the region Americans cast as un-American, backwards and the embodiment of everything the U.S. is not — we should understand that slavery, segregation and racism were not and are not regional problems. They were and are crimes committed by the nation as a whole.

THE SIMPLE THINGS



Comic by Jonathon Yee

Controversy surrounds annual Academy Awards

Oscars has year of firsts for diversity, blunders and bad ratings

By SHEA BEAUMONT
Opinion Editor
beaumonts@allegheny.edu

Much of Hollywood was in disbelief during the announcing of the top Academy Award on Sunday, Feb. 26 when chaos engulfed the stage as millions of viewers witnessed a nominee get mistakenly awarded with the final Oscar.

Not only was there controversy that clouded the grand finale, but there was also some discussion of the race of nominees overshadowing their personal achievment.

As the 89th Oscars were about to wrap up, Faye Dunaway named "La La Land" as the winner of this year's best picture before being corrected minutes later while the cast of "La La Land" was on stage. With the Oscar award in hand, "La La Land" producer Jordan Horowitz announced that the actual winner of best picture was "Moonlight."

This major mix up was the first ever seen at the Academy Awards as an envelope with the previous award for best actress, which was Emma Stone for "La La Land," was given to Warren Beatty to give to Dunaway in order to present the award and announce the winner.

Price Waterhouse Coopers, the accounting firm that tallies Oscar votes, took full responsibility and issued an apology, according to The Guardian.

"We sincerely apologize to 'Moonlight,' 'La La La Land,' Warren Beatty, Faye Dunaway, and the Oscar viewers for the error that was made during the award announcement for best picture," said PWC. "The presenters had mistakenly been given the wrong category envelope and when discovered, was immediately corrected. We are currently investigating how this could have happened, and deeply regret that this occurred."

In an backstage interview after the controversy unfolded and eventually calmed down, "Moonlight's" director Barry Jenkins said the error had left him speechless.

"I'd never seen that happen before. It made a special feeling more special but not in a way I expected," said Jenkins, according to The Guardian. "The last 20 minutes of my life have been insane … beyond life changing. Things just happen. The folks from La La Land were so gracious. I can't imagine being in their position."

Despite "La La Land's" shocking outcome in the best picture category, they were still able to go home winners of six Oscars, including best director for Damien Chazelle, who became the youngest individual to ever receive the award.

We also saw the Academy Awards take a step in the right direction this year with a more diverse range of nominees. Mahershala Ali, became the first Muslim actor to win an Academy Award for best supporting actor for his role in "Moonlight." Viola Davis picked up her first ever Oscar for best supporting actress for her role in "Fences."

Although this year's Oscars saw a major increase in diversity surrounding the nominees and award winners after the #OscarsSoWhite controversy the last two years, one Hollywood filmmaker said that this push for black nominees actually hurts black nominations, according to The Blaze.

"It's a real shame," said Cyrus Nowrasteh in an interview with Mediaite Columnist John Ziegler. "Because you say to yourself, 'Is Viola Davis going to win tonight because of her performance or is she going to win tonight because a bunch of people got upset last year?'"

I could not agree more. The #OscarsSoWhite controversy has completely overshadowed every other aspect of the Academy Awards. Do not get me wrong, I am all in favor of the #OscarsSoWhite movement, but there comes a point in time when so much drama takes the viewers' minds away from the entertainment aspect of the show and puts an emphasis on the controversies that surround it. Only 32.9 million viewers tuned in to watch the Oscars, which was the smallest audience since 2008 when just 31.76 million viewers were watching, according to CBS.

Ziegler was not too keen on the strong push for more diversity in the Oscar nominees either, as the conversation began to anger him.

"It pisses me off that people — for their own liberal agenda — make this an issue and they destroy the accomplishment for the foreseeable future," said Ziegler. "Because now you are forced to wonder, 'Ok. Was Denzel really that good? Or was it just because they needed a black guy that people knew to nominate to make sure the controversy from last year was extinguished.'"

If you really think about it, it makes sense. Nominating someone only because they are black, gay or Latino takes away from the hard work that is truly put in by the actor, actress or director to be nominated. They are no longer winning because they are great entertainers but because of the color of their skin, which is completely wrong. Nominees should be selected based on their performance in their respective films. We need to move past the inadvertent racism we see in award shows, especially in the Oscars.

Although this issue can be supported by both sides, I still feel that this year's Oscars took a major step in the right direction. I believe that the winners truly deserved the awards they received, despite the controversy surrounding the event.

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YUTONG WANG/THE CAMPUS

Samantha Richardson, '20, and Mary Lyon, '17, perform in "Luna Gale" at their dress rehersal on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017. The Allegheny College Playshop Theatre presented "Luna Gale" from Thursday, Feb. 23 through Sunday, Feb. 26 in the Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre in the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts.

Playshop Theatre's performance of 'Luna Gale' captures complexities of social issues in 21st century America

By CAIT KEARNEY
Contributing Writer
kearneyc@allegheny.edu

The Allegheny College Playshop Theatre performed "Luna Gale," written by Rebecca Gilman, from Feb. 23 to Feb. 26 in the Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre at the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts. Mark Cosdon, assistant professor of communication arts, directed the play.

"It had been some years since I worked on a play that was a social realism," Cosdon said. "[Luna Gale] wasn't theatrical, it wasn't a musical, it wasn't a farce, it wasn't a comedy but rather was a play that even though was set in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, I think felt very familiar. I think it felt like it could be anywhere in the United States."

The performance begins when Caroline, an overworked but caring social worker, assumes the case of two teenaged meth addicts, Karlie and Peter, who are fighting over custody of their baby, Luna Gale, with Karlie's extremely religious mother, Cindy.

While mediating the fight between the two parties, Caroline butts heads with a co-worker, wrestles with the demons of her past and exposes Karlie's deepest secret — that her stepfather raped her when she was 15. In the end, many of the characters are still stuck in the same difficult positions with which they started.

"What I was hoping an audience would respond to and take away from the performance was the work of social workers and the many gifts that they bring to the work they're asked to execute and carry out every day," Cosdon said. "I think in a lot of ways social workers today operate as angels of sorts, that they often times are underrecognized and underappreciated for the work that they do."

The play also portrayed themes such as addiction, emotional abuse, religion and sexual assault. A note warned viewers of the controversial and sensitive themes of the play in the "Luna Gale" program and the play's online advertisement.

> There was one day where I was trying to memorize it off-book, and I just started crying while doing it.
>
> Simon Brown
> *Class of 2019*

The actors and actresses were exposed to the play's emotional content daily since the beginning of December.

Alyssa Johnson, '20, said her religious views aligned closely with those of her character Cindy.

"I went through a period of time where all of Cindy's views are being attacked in the show and I kind of felt like I was being attacked," Johnson said.

Johnson said the experience emotionally exhausted her and was the greatest obstacle she faced during the making of the show.

Simon Brown, '19, who played the character of Peter, had to deliver a monologue about Cindy's husband raping Karlie, who was played by Ada Zech, '19.

"There was one day where I was trying to memorize it off-book and I just started crying while doing it," Brown said.

The cast of "Luna Gale" had only seven members. The week before opening night, the cast and crew spent three to nine hours rehearsing each day.

"It was really interesting to see how each individual actor was able to grow over the course of the rehearsal process," Brown said.

The play drew in more than 500 spectators over the course of four performances.

One of those spectators, Janabeth Dellamedaglia, '20, said the play was engaging throughout.

"The play was intense. I was on the edge of my seat the entire time and just wanted to know what was happening next," Dellamedaglia said.

Audience member Brennen French, '17, said if he could only use one word to describe the play it would be real.

"One of the biggest issues in the show was even though there are systems in place to help people, the systems don't always work, and they don't always catch everyone," French said. "This raises the idea if we're going to have these systems, we really need to be putting the money and the time into them so that they can be working at the capacity they can be."

Cosdon said he is not sure if there is a significance behind the name "Luna Gale," but that the audience members are welcome to analyze it for themselves. He said he had a number of reasons for choosing "Luna Gale" to produce, one being that he admired Rebecca Gilman's work.

"It was a work I wanted to direct largely because of its focus upon Caroline and the significant difficulties she confronts as she tries to act in what is the best interest of the child," Cosdon said. "I was also very moved by the idea of a social worker whom the overwhelming majority face tremendous burnout, immense workload issues and caseload issues."

Cosdon said he was drawn to Gilman's use of characters who seem to be all too human and her portrayal of a societal issue that is not easily resolved.

Caroline, played by Mary Lyons, '17, displays human characteristics. They are demonstrated when she has a bias toward Cindy because Cindy's passivity is analogous to her own mother's. However, the crux of Caroline's character is her positive attributes, according to Cosdon.

"Caroline gave her life over to service," Cosdon said. "What could be a greater gift than that of service to one's fellow humans?"

First-year class comes together for Mardi Gras formal

By KELSEY EVANS
Contributing Writer
evansk@allegheny.edu

The Allegheny Student Government Class of 2020 senators held the annual First-Year Formal at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25 in Schultz Banquet Hall. The event was Mardi Gras themed and between 75 and 100 students attended.

Popular music filled the room throughout the night, balloons bounced and popped across the floor and all of the pizza was gone within the first 30 minutes of the formal. The night was considered a success by many of the first-year senators.

"I am very happy with the turnout," Class of 2020 President Hamza Masaeed said. "More people than we expected showed up."

Class of 2020 Vice President Jason Ferrante said the event's Facebook event had less than 100 people RSVP but around that number arrived in the first five minutes.

"We were all really surprised by the big turnout, especially with the snow," Ferrante said. "I believe it speaks volumes about how involved the Class of 2020 is."

> We wanted to bring the entire first-year class together so that they would be able to know each other a little better but also enjoy themselves.
>
> Jason Ferrante
> *Class of 2019*

By 9 p.m., many of the first-years — wearing their Mardi Gras beads — had made their way to the dance floor as songs like the "Cha-Cha Slide" and "Cupid Shuffle" played over the speakers.

"I really loved the decorations, like the necklaces and streamers," Cayton Hornberger, '20, said. "Dressing up was nice too since I don't get to do that too often."

While the 2020 senators have hosted and participated in other events this year, such as a collaborative event with the ASG Class of 2018 Senators on study day and the Meadville Halloween Parade, the First-Year Formal was the biggest event for the 2020 class.

"We wanted to bring the entire first-year class together so that they would be able to know each other a little better but also enjoy themselves," Ferrante said.

The event also provided an occasion for the first-years to dust off their formal attire, which Class of 2020 Sen. Gabriel McIntire said many students bring to college but never get a chance to wear.

The biggest challenge for the Class of 2020 senators was planning, which began when they returned from winter break. Last year's formal was winter themed, according to Sen. Elyse Cinquino. The senators this year contemplated a Valentine's Day theme but ultimately decided on Mardi Gras.

"It was a team effort for sure," Ferrante said. "We each had individual roles that we identified that we would be good at, and we focused on that."

As the public relations chair, Cinquino said that her role was to get the word out about the formal.

"I posted on the Facebook 2020 page, sent out a reminder on the Remind101 texting service, tabled and helped make the poster," Cinquino said.

The week of the event, community advisers in first-year dorms also sent out emails to help spread the word about the formal.

"We talked with a lot of students to get their input of what they would like to see too," Masaeed said. "It was a lot of collaborating to make sure everyone would be happy."

Other members of ASG assisted the Class of 2020 with the event as well.

"We relied a lot on outside help and support to get this event going. Several senators from other classes came to help and made sure everything went smoothly," Ferrante said. "Without everyone's help, I don't think this event would have been possible."

The senators did run into some problems, including struggling to find a DJ and borrowing a speaker from residence life at the last minute.

"We had to make compromises because of time constraints and our budget," Cinquino said. "There are a lot of growing pains in ASG. While most of us were in student government in high school, it is very different, and we can do so much more here."

Despite these problems, the 2020 senators considered the night a success.

"I'm really excited that the formal went well," Cinquino said. "We planned this for our class and everyone seemed to have a really good time."

Gender and sexuality alliance holds conversation on drag

By KELSEY EVANS
Contributing Wrtier
evansk@allegheny.edu

Allegheny College's Gender and Sexuality Alliance hosted a talk in Grounds for Change on Tuesday, Feb. 28. The discussion focused on drag and how it can perpetuate transmisogyny, discrimination against transwomen and how drag can be used to reclaim femininity.

"We really wanted to open up a space for people to talk about drag and the transmisogyny that it can perpetuate," GSA President Noah Thompson, '19, said.

The GSA board, members of the club and others from the Allegheny community sat in a tight circle discussing their varying points of view about drag and the messages it can send to people outside the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning community.

"I was happy with the turnout," GSA Treasurer Jonathan Davidson, '19, said. "There were even some people that I haven't seen before at the talk. It's always refreshing to see new faces."

GSA was inspired to host the event after they sent out a poll that gauged people's thoughts on having a drag show during a prospective students' weekend.

"One of the responses [from the poll] was concerned about the transmisogyny that surrounds drag, so we wanted to have an open discussion about it for everyone," Thompson said.

GSA's goal for this discussion was to educate people about drag and how it can perpetuate transmisogyny, but also how to do drag in a tasteful way that is not disrespectful to transwomen.

"Part of the reason transmisogyny is a problem in drag is because of the media," Thompson said. "They tend to only show drag as entertainment and not actual transwomen, which makes the public unable to differentiate the two."

GSA Major Events Coordinator Luka Crozier, '19, said that drag was not always this way.

"Drag in a historic context is very different from what is shown on 'Ru Paul's Drag Race' today," Crozier said.

When discussing the possibility of hosting a drag show on Allegheny's campus, GSA board members wanted to be sure that it would be respectful and not transmisogynistic in any way.

"It would be counterproductive to hold an event that alienated the very culture it sought to help," Davidson said.

GSA would use impartial judges to eliminate participants who may threaten to disrespect the event, according to Thompson.

GSA plans to portray drag as a form of art or entertainment, not a joke.

"We should consider whether having a drag show would have the intended effect and perhaps explore other potential activities to build and foster a LGBTQ+ inclusive community," Davidson said.

Thompson said that transmisogyny is not limited to the drag world.

"There is a lot of transphobia going around with the new [Trump] administration," Thompson said. "It's also a good talk to have since we are considering having a drag show. I'm hoping it will show people not to be disrespectful towards drag."



PHOTOS BY ELLIS GIACOMELLI

Students pose for a selfie with photo booth props at the Association for the Advancement of Black Culture's annual Ebony Ball on Friday, Feb. 24, 2017, in the Tillotson Room in the Patricia Bush Tippie Alumni Center.

EBONY BALL CELEBRATES BEAUTY

By ELLIS GIACOMELLI • Contributing Writer • giacomellie@allegheny.edu

The Association for the Advancement of Black Culture hosted the annual Ebony Ball on Friday, Feb. 24 in the Tippie Alumni Center as part of Black History Month.

"It's a tradition we do every year. It's always on the map," said Black History Month Chair Cristin Archer, '19.

The Ebony Ball has been hosted by ABC since the early years of the club's foundations in the 1980s according to Archer.

"Ebony Ball is about this idea of celebrating beauty," Archer said. "So there's this idea of issues of black males going after white women, and issues of black females being seen as less attractive, so it just goes to this idea of celebrating black excellence and black unity, black beauty."

The Tillotson Room of the Tippie Alumni Center was adorned with black and gold balloons and streamers and featured a polaroid photo booth with paper cutout props. The ball was catered by Grace Asian Restaurant

The 2017 theme for the Ebony Ball was the Harlem Renaissance, which worked alongside the 2017 theme for ABC's Black History Month, "Don't Call it a Comeback."

ABC President Yemi Olaiya, '17, said rediscovering black identity and black history in recent years has become a trend.

"But we [ABC] think that black identity has always been around. It's not something that's new, it's not a trend, it's not going away," Olaiya said. "So we were thinking of celebrating it in a way where it's always been and thinking of what that means to us, both as a club and a community."

Archer highlighted the significance of that endurance of black identity with respect to the Harlem Renaissance — the 1920s' and 1930s' social and cultural movement of black achievement and recognition.

"We're kind of going back to a time when music, jazz music, was more associated with black people, and all these things were associated with black people before white people took them over. So it's that idea and the idea of 'Don't Call it a Comeback,'" Archer said. "It's not like we're reclaiming these things. These things were always associated with us — we started them."

The Harlem Renaissance theme was selected as a reflection of historical as well as current events, according to Olaiya.

"Everyone can throw out ideas, and it's pretty much what we all just pick up on. That was the one that I threw out and we kind of just ran with it. It was more so because of what's going on currently in our community and the country in general, so it was just the vibe we were going with," Olaiya said.

The Ebony Ball fell at the end of Black History Month, honoring ABC's other February events in celebratory fashion.

"It's [Black History Month] going out with a bang, and Ebony Ball is just a great way to come together and enjoy each other's company," Andre Bryan, '18, said.

Students celebrated black beauty by taking photos with friends and waiting in anticipation for their polaroids to develop.

"We're celebrating who we are. We're accepting who we are," Archer said.

The evening also provided a greater sense of community for students of color, particularly black students, according to Archer.

"I'm excited in the way that everytime I go to an event like this, it brings me closer to people. I meet more black people. So it strengthens the community, and it strengthens my support that I have on campus and their support that they have on campus," Archer said.

As senior members of ABC graduate, Olaiya said that the sense of community and the more than 30-year tradition of the Ebony Ball will continue as underclassmen cycle up into leadership positions.

"Allegheny is small. I think it's important that we teach each other as much as we can since nobody is here forever," Olaiya said. "Things obviously don't have to be done the same way ... because you can celebrate Black History Month and black excellence no matter where you are."







Top: Francisco Guzman, '19, Karol Vargas, '19, George Opara, '19, and Chase Lintner, '19, pose with props at the photo booth during the Harlem Renaissance-themed Ebony Ball on Friday, Feb. 24, 2017.

Bottom: Asia Robinson, '19, enters the Tillotson Room in the Tippie Alumni Center at the Ebony Ball on Friday, Feb. 24, 2017.

Left: Baneen Al-Akashi, '19, Emily Evans, '19, and Adrean Velez, '20, pose with photo booth props at the Ebony Ball.

Baseball team focuses on short-term goals for 2017 season

Gators close opening weekend 2–1 against John Carroll University



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH TINGLEY/THE CAMPUS

Left: Captain Jacob Shick, '17, and infielder/catcher Vinny Carone, '19, work on fielding drills during practice in the David V. Wise Center on Thursday, March 2, 2017.
Below: Clay Coon, '18, pitches to his teammates during practice on Thursday, March 2, 2017.



By ALEX HOLMES
Sports Editor
holmesa2@allegheny.edu

The Allegheny baseball team opened its 2017 season with a weekend tournament against John Carroll University, ending the weekend 2–1.

"We scored 30 runs over three games. Anytime you average 10 runs a game, you're going to win a lot, so I thought we did a great job with offense. Overall, our defense was pretty good as well. Certainly being on the turf helps a bit," said infielder and captain Jacob Shick, '17. "For being so early in the season, having our offense explode the way it did and the defense stand behind our pitching was really good."

Head Coach Kelly Swiney said the team did a good job setting up their success in each game and getting big innings with multiple runs.

"In at least two of the games we scored with two outs, and that's a big thing in baseball; if you can get those runs with two outs, you kind of demoralize the other team and pump your team up," Swiney said. "From a pitching standpoint, we did a really good job with our starters. It's early in the season, so we have them on a pitch limit because we don't want to hurt anybody's arm this early in the year, so all three of our starters were quality starts in my mind."

Swiney said seeing the team succeed without Robert DiMaggio, '17, one of the top two hitters for the team, was exciting.

"We saw some guys really step up," Swiney said. "Chase Davis ['18]was a guy I thought really stepped up to start and he ended up getting six hits and being Gator Athlete of the Week, so it was neat to see different guys step up when they got their opportunity."

Shick and DiMaggio said that finishing out games strong was an area they see as needing improvement this season.

"Towards the end of each game, the one thing that really struggled for us is that we aren't really a second half team as of right now, and that showed this weekend," DiMaggio said. "We'll get up on our teams a lot and then they'll chip away, and we can't seem to finish out games that well."

The weather and being back outside also posed challenges to the team, according to Swiney.

"Those first games out there, you're dealing with wind and conditions and cold, outfielders are getting fly balls, the elements make it tough that first weekend," Swiney said. "I thought we were pretty battle tested, and I think that's really going to bode well going forward. It's good to get tested like that mentally and physically early in the season."

Swiney said that overcoming the challenges of the weekend and winning should give the team confidence going forward.

"We felt bad about losing game three. We were up 10–4 with three innings to go. But at the same time, they should feel like a confident bunch," Swiney said.

As the team looks forward to their next games and preparing for the rest of the season, they have set short-term goals that they hope will help them achieve their long-term goal of winning the conference championship, according to Swiney.

"One thing that Coach has harped on, as well as ourselves, is that we don't want to have goals based on numbers. This year, our goals are really team-oriented and daily-oriented. So it's little simple things, like doing everything I can do today to get better right now or win every pitch, because once you do all the small goals, then everything else will take care of itself," DiMaggio said.

Swiney said this season he is looking forward to the time at practices and games with the team and watching them get better as they compete.

"Our guys like to compete so they look forward to every game and playing each opponent. It's a really experienced group — mostly upperclassmen. We have a great senior class and experienced junior group, so I look forward to working with a good group of guys that really want to achieve," Swiney said.

The team has nine seniors this year, four of which have been chosen as captains for the team.

"You get sort of pensive about the last season and reflect upon how you've done the past few years and what you really want to get out of the experience. Just being able to play baseball in college and being able to play with your teammates is such a blessing," Shick said. "But really just enjoying the experience and appreciating it to its fullest is what I'm really looking forward to."

DiMaggio said he is looking forward to leaving everything out on the field during his senior season and being able to play games again when his injury heals.

"Even missing these three games was hard for me, so having no regrets and not take advantage of it now that I've had that feeling of missing a few games. I'm hoping to be back in the next few weeks, and I'll be thankful for being out there and around the team," DiMaggio said.

The Gators will play Case Western Reserve University in Washington, Pennsylvania on March 4 at 3 p.m.

Men's and women's tennis teams prepare for spring season openers

By ALEX HOLMES
Sports Editor
holmesa2@allegheny.edu

The men's and women's tennis teams will begin spring season competition on Saturday, March 4, but they have been preparing for the season since Jan. 24.

"Our spring season is a lot longer, and we also don't play any conference matches in the fall. We have intense head-to-head matches that are pretty fun, and we do quite a bit more traveling and we end with our conference championship in late April," said Michaela Thompson, '17.

Thompson said the team has been working with [Director of Peak Performance and Fitness] Lindsey Craft to do team and individual workouts alongside pool workouts and getting as much on-court practice time as they can in preparation for the season ahead.

Head Coach Jared Luteran said there is more emphasis on the longer spring season because of the number of conference games and the length of the season. The teams will play most NCAC schools, but will not travel to Wabash College or DePauw University due to distance.

"We have a lot of new players, so getting valuable on-court experience and match experience is a big goal and trying to do our best with every match and take what we can," Thompson said.

Luteran said that for the new players on the team, the fall season was about getting comfortable with collegiate matches, and in the spring season, they will be working on getting more victories and being confident in their playing.

"We want to see both teams peaking at the right times so when we get to the end of the year I want the players to feel like they have improved significantly since the fall," Luteran said. "Obviously there's certain goals as far as matches we want to win, but in the end it's about your overall improvement, and if you're getting better every day and feel like you are playing to the best of your ability, then that's what it is all about."

In order to reach those goals and prepare as best they can, the teams have been working together to design practices that will benefit them most in competitions.

"Pre-season practices are much more specific, and we'll focus on working on different things as a team. In season, we'll direct our own practices sometimes, and everyone has their own things they need to work on, so it's more focused on the individual," said Colton Johnson Taylor, '19.

As the season progresses, Thompson said that as the only senior on the team, she is looking to build up the team's strength in preparation for the coming years.

"I'm really looking forward to feeling comfortable leaving knowing that the program has a lot of new talent and knowing that I did everything I could to get the freshmen to the point where they will be a really strong team in a couple years," Thompson said.

The women will play Case Western Reserve University on March 4 at 3:30 p.m. in Erie. The men will also open their spring competition on March 4, facing Case Western Reserve University at 9 a.m. followed by Earlham College at 12 p.m. in Mayfield Village, Ohio.

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