

C O M M U N I Q U É

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OPINION



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Election results spark strong emotions

Sarah Gallogly

News editor [@saraholivia310](#)

Former President Donald Trump was elected to be the 47th president of the United States, defeating Vice President Kamala Harris. Trump will be the second president to serve two non-consecutive terms and has dominated politics for much of the last decade.

The days after the election have brought to Chatham University's campus a range of emotions for students, faculty and staff.

"I think the energy was more positive on Election Day compared

SEE **ELECTION**, PAGE 2



Voters line up at James Laughlin Music Center on Election Day. Kyle Ferreira/Communicuq

CSG town hall takeaways

Sarah Naccarato and Bella White
Digital editor and editor-in-chief

Chatham Student Government held a town hall on Nov. 6, inviting students, faculty and staff to voice their concerns, compliments and questions to panelists, including University President Dr. Rhonda Phillips, Board of Trustees Chair Kent McElhattan, Falk School of Sustainability Dean Dr. Lou Leonard, Director of Academic Success Dr. Jeff Bukowski and Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost Dr. Lisa Lambert.

The *Communicuq* talked to students after the event to learn more about their perspectives on two major topics: the Board of Trustees and concern that athletics are being prioritized too much on campus

Here are some key takeaways from and questions raised during the event:

SEE **TOWNHALL**, PAGE 3

Basketball preview: Cougars make history ahead of season

Carson Gates

Editor-in-chief emeritus [@gatesy35](#)

The Chatham University women's basketball team made program history before its season even

tipped off.

D3Hoops.com released its women's basketball top 25 preseason poll, and for the first time, Chatham received votes. The Cougars scored 10 points in the poll, which

is selected by 25 coaches, sports information directors and media members from across the country. The Cougars are coming off a 2024 Presidents' Athletic Conference
SEE **BASKETBALL**, PAGE 5



Chatham students, faculty consider impacts of the election

ELECTION, FROM PAGE 1

to the days after. I had one teacher cancel class and said, ‘I’ll most likely be in my office with snacks, tea and conversation if you need anything or always reachable by email or text,’” said Lauren Bailey ‘26. “It will especially impact the minorities and women on the campus. I feel like it would just put them in a state of depression.”

Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman, associate professor of political science, expressed a similar concern for students who are members of marginalized communities.

“I think these results have the potential to impact college students in an abundance of ways, and a lot of those ways are dependent on their identities. There will no doubt be efforts to erode what civil rights protections have been put in place and the hateful rhetoric puts them in the crosshairs,” Sweet-Cushman said. “I really hope the Chatham community recognizes that it is on us to protect our trans friends and takes that responsibility very seriously.”

Some students still expressed feelings of hope and motivation following the election, despite initial waves of discouragement.

“It’s not the outcome that I wanted, or the one I thought we would see. ... The results of this election have motivated me to get more involved in campaigns, study harder

in my major, help people register to vote and continue to have constructive and respectful conversations with people who think differently than I do,” said Nathaniel Martinelli ‘27. “Having these conversations with each other is the only path to finding common ground.”

“I think this loss will have a long-lasting impact on Chatham’s community,” said Rachel Koshy ‘26. “I really hope that we, as students, continue to voice our opinions on matters we care about. Even though our leaders might not reflect or embody our beliefs, in many ways, this alone does not take away our agency individually as students.”

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Scan here to learn more about the impact of the election on the Chatham community.



Resources available for students

Chatham Counseling Center

- Appointment forms available on my.chatham.edu

Post Election Support Gathering at ODEI Lounge

- 1:30 to 4 p.m. Nov. 13 and Nov. 20; 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 15 and Nov. 22

Post Election Support Gathering at Eastside Counseling Center

2 to 4 p.m. Nov. 14 and Nov. 21

TalkCampus App

- 24/7 crisis support. Sign up for service using Chatham credentials

Graphic by Carson Gates

POLICE BLOTTER

Oct. 30 – An officer was dispatched to Haber Apartments for a damaged vehicle. The officer responded and placed a report on file.

Oct. 31 – An officer was dispatched to the Terrace Parking Lot for an accident report. A vehicle bumped into another vehicle while backing up. A report was placed on file.

Nov. 1 – Officers towed an illegally parked vehicle from Hicks Estates.

Nov. 1 – An officer was dispatched to the Lindsay House for a damaged vehicle. The Officer placed a report on file.

Nov. 2 – Officers were dispatched to Woodland Hall to check the well-being of a student. Everything was OK.

Nov. 2 – An officer found a cell phone on the floor at Rea House. The phone was placed in lost and found.

Nov. 3 – Officers were dispatched to Rea Hall for an overflowing toilet. Facilities was notified.

Nov. 4 – Officers were dispatched to Dilworth Hall for the smell of marijuana. When officers arrived, there was a heavy smell of marijuana in the building. Officers checked the building but could not locate the source.

Other updates: Officers did three medical transports. Officers responded to two fire alarms.

Graphic by Emily Brooks



Town hall prompts questions about Board of Trustees, athletics

TOWNHALL, FROM PAGE 1

Q: Is the Board open to having a newsletter or more open channels of communication?

At town hall, Phillips provided general background on how the Board functions, stating that they meet three times per year: once in September or October, once in February and once in June. She discussed current channels of communication that the administration takes to communicate Board updates with students. Phillips said the administration strives to keep the Chatham community updated about the Board.

“We send a lot of emails, and then we've sent over like 90 emails since I've been here to the campus community,” she said. “Not everybody reads their emails, we know that for a fact. So we post things on the website, too. We also try to look for ways to inform our community, students, staff, faculty, alums and others.”

Some Chatham students expressed the frustration over a lack of transparency that led to this town hall question.

“It does seem that they're kind of this shadowy body that gets to decide a bunch of stuff regarding finances and administrative policy,” Rudy Bilger '28 said. “I think that there should be more of a connectivity between [the Board] and the student body, the faculty, the staff.”

Mary Stanton '27 shared similar

concerns on the shrouded nature of the Board.

“From my understanding, they've been making efforts to be more transparent than in the past. But for the most part, there really can't be transparency when nothing's on an even playing ground,” Stanton said.



The audience listens as CSG's Vice President of Communications Jada Jenkins '26 gives opening remarks. Ava Daugherty/Communique

Q: Why does it seem like sports have been prioritized over Chatham's women-centered history?

The town hall prompted comments and concerns that, as undergraduate admission rates have increased in recent years, some feel as though more emphasis has been placed on athletics than on preserving Chatham's commitment to its roots and the liberal arts.

“I'll stand toe-to-toe with anyone who thinks that we need to go back to a model where we don't have athletics,” Phillips said.

Phillips emphasized that the University strives to maintain a balance between sports and academics, as well as the progress that athletic programs have made and the corresponding benefits they have brought to the University.

“Ten years ago, or even eight years ago, we had 80 student ath-

to non-athlete students.

“When the liberal arts are starting to be neglected in a liberal arts institution, I think that you'd start to see a problem,” Bilger said.

Some Chatham student athletes hold different thoughts on the matter, viewing the athletic programs as beneficial to both students and Chatham's community.

Aurielle Brunner '25 plays for both women's soccer and the track and field team.

“The school is doing a good, good job at promoting women's sports, and us adding men's sports, too, is a good thing for campus and growing the campus community,” Brunner said.

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Interested in learning more about town hall? Scan here for more key takeaways.



letes,” Phillips said in response to the question. “Now we have over 22 teams, about 500 students, graduate and undergraduate, that come here to Chatham to play, and for academics. Those students tend to stay and graduate and retain very well here at Chatham. They are part of us. It is not us versus them. We are all Chatham, and we are all students and members of this community.”

Following the town hall, students voiced some uncertainties surrounding Chatham's commitment



Resilient women: a reflection on the 2024 election

Sydney Altfather

Guest contributor

During my four years at Chatham University, where I am pursuing a double major in communication and women & gender studies, I have learned that there will always be an ingrained gender bias in all aspects of government in a nation built by the Founding Fathers.

On Election Day, voters cast ballots for the candidates they believe can best lead our nation. However, the Electoral College is what truly determines the president, as voters technically vote for a slate of electors pledged to those candidates. Every vote matters — for someone else to speak on your behalf.

In the late hours of Election Day and into the early hours of the next day, United States citizens, including Chatham students, learned that former President Donald Trump was the first to earn 270 electoral votes, securing the presidency in the 2024 presidential race.

Waking up the day after Election Day, many at Chatham were mourning. Some students were crying and skipping classes, grieving the loss of a future they had hoped for — a future represented by the woman they had voted for: Vice President Kamala Harris.

As the president of the Chatham Feminist Coalition (CFC) and the vice president of Chatham University's Zeta Zeta chapter of Triota — the National Women's & Gender Studies Honor Society — my per-

spective on the election is not one of sadness and grief but of pride in what Harris was able to achieve in such a short time.

Despite the challenges, she campaigned vigorously while fulfilling her duties as vice president, making history as the second woman to be a major party candidate in the presidential race. Her journey has forged a leadership path in politics for women, especially women of color, inspiring others to pursue their political aspirations.

I am optimistic. It is not always easy, but Harris's story is a testament to the power of perseverance and resilience. Harris launched her 2024 presidential campaign after President Joe Biden withdrew and endorsed her, giving her just 107 days to campaign — the shortest in history. She serves as a role model for women, showing that even in defeat, you can pave the way for the woman who will one day be Madam President.

The media coverage will still be prejudiced by addressing female candidates by their first names, while male candidates are referred to by their last names. This can be observed in the comparisons between former first lady Hillary Clinton and Trump (Hillary v. Trump) during the 2016 presidential election and between Harris and Trump (Kamala v. Trump) in the current political landscape.

I am not claiming that the U.S. presidential election shows gender bias due to either candidate's

actions. I'm not an expert in campaign strategies or voter behavior. Nonetheless, cultural norms in politics often suggest that men are more suited for leadership roles, associating them with traits such as ambition, risk-taking and war negotiations.



Andy Mack '28 with a drawing of Vice President Kamala Harris at the Chatham Feminist Coalition's coloring night, where students shared their feelings on gender equality and politics.

For a woman candidate, there is a fear of backlash for being called ambitious because it turns into the idea that a woman seeking the highest office in the country is greedy and vindictive.

For instance, in Clinton's 2016 presidential election, she faced criticism that often revolved around her ambition and assertiveness. Pundits and other politicians at times twisted her desire for the

presidency into something negative. How is that different from the 45 men who have served in the 46 presidencies in the United States since 1789?

Furthermore, the lack of historical women leaders may reinforce doubts for the average voter about women's leadership capacity.

The outcome of a presidential election in which a woman with substantial governmental experience within all three branches of government lost to a man who was found guilty of 34 counts of falsifying business records in the first degree and had no prior government experience before entering the 2016 presidential race can have significant implications for gender equality and perceptions of women's leadership in the United States.

All anyone can do is trust the foundation that the Founding Fathers have set for all of us, no matter how we interpret our democracy. We must hold hope for our democracy.

Not all Republicans align with Trump, nor do all Democrats align with Biden-Harris. We must be courteous and optimistic for one another because everyone around us upholds our nation. Take a look at the people on your left and to your right. Talk to each other, and let's build a community rooted in understanding and, if it is not too much, respect.

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Women's basketball aims to repeat its 2024 championship season



Graduate student Ashlie Loudon drives to the basket. Photo Credit: Chatham Athletics

BASKETBALL, FROM PAGE 1

Championship, and the group is excited to be receiving acknowledgment at a national level.

Graduate student Ashlie Loudon led the team in scoring during her first two seasons at Chatham and believes in her team to build off its NCAA tournament appearance.

"I think bringing this many people back is a really important thing," she said. "We know how to compete. We know how to play in the PAC Championship. We know how to compete in the NCAA. So I think we're in a really good place as far as competing and when PAC play comes around."

While returning several key players from last year's championship team is important for the Cougars, the addition of 14 graduate transfers will give the team a new look both on and off the court.

"I think the difference there is a maturity level," head coach David Saur said. "I think a chip on their shoulder in a sense of urgency to be successful and win because they kind of have a year left, two years left to play. A lot of them came here for the opportunity to play for a winning program."

With only a single first-year student on the roster, the team's older players aim to use their experience to foster a cohesive team culture.

The younger players "still keep the same maturity that a lot of us have, especially with us having one [first-year student], and she does a great job with still having that veteran mentality," graduate student Kendall Haymore said. "It's great because we all come from such different programs and such different cultures that the fact that we could all get together and build the team chemistry and add

on to Chatham's culture and make it better is a really big deal. And I think we're doing a very good job with that."

Since there are only five spots available on the court at a time, Saur is hoping the influx of talented players will push everyone to be at their best.

"The old-school motivator is always playing time," he said. "That creates that culture of competition. I think that keeps everybody hungry and ready to compete."

The Cougars began their season by splitting a pair of games during

the Cougar Tip-Off Classic.

The team will be back on its home court at 6 p.m. Nov. 20 against Saint Vincent University. Before tip-off, the Cougars will hold a ring ceremony for their 2024 PAC Championship victory.

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Upcoming Home Games

Women's volleyball

Games played at the Athletic and Fitness Center
7 p.m. Nov. 12 vs. Thiel
PAC Quarter Finals

Men's hockey

Games played at the Hunt Armory
3 p.m. Nov. 30 vs. Trine

Women's hockey

Games played at the Hunt Armory
7 p.m. Nov. 22 vs. Manhattanville
3 p.m. Nov. 23 vs. Manhattanville

Women's basketball

Games played at the Athletic and Fitness Center
6 p.m. Nov. 20 vs. Saint Vincent
Ring Ceremony

Men's basketball

Games played at the Athletic and Fitness Center
7 p.m. Nov. 13 vs. Carnegie Mellon
8 p.m. Nov. 20 vs. Saint Vincent

Women's volleyball playoff schedule

PAC Quarter Finals

7 p.m. Nov. 12 vs. Thiel
Athletic and Fitness Center

PAC Semi Finals

TBD Nov. 14

PAC Finals

TBD Nov. 16

Scan the QR code below for our women's volleyball playoff preview



FLURRIES OF FESTIVE FUN

Chatham University traditions to look forward to this winter

Leyna Laurent and Maura Laird
Lifestyle editor and social media team

Chatham University students have made it past midterms and are now entering the final stretch of the semester. For many, this time brings an increasing sense of stress as countless important deadlines loom on the horizon. While these pressures are undeniably real, it's worth taking a moment to reflect on the traditions that are such a big part of our Chatham experience — customs that have been passed down through the years by past and present Cougars (and Seals).

Here are a few of Chatham's cherished winter Shadyside campus traditions to look forward to as we move toward the latter half of this semester.

Harvest Dinner

Harvest Dinner is the annual Thanksgiving-inspired celebration where the entire campus community can come together and celebrate over a meal. Last year's assortment of food included choices such as corn, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, apple cider and, of course, turkey. This year's Harvest Dinner will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, in Anderson Dining Hall. The meal is free to students. Registration can be done through the Happenings page on my.chatham.edu.

Candlelight

Candlelight is one of Chatham's



Students make decorations for the 1955 Holiday Ball. Photo credit: Chatham University Archives/ Historic Pittsburgh

most festive nights of the year, where the Chatham Choir presents a service consisting of a blend of seasonal and traditional songs. As the performance progresses, the lighting of several candles creates a warm and glowing atmosphere that adds to the magic of the evening. A pre-Candlelight reception will commence Friday, Dec. 6, in the Mellon Center Lobby from 6 to 8 p.m., followed by the performance in the Campbell Memorial Chapel at 8 p.m. The Holiday Ball is a long-standing tradition at Chatham, held after the Candlelight service. This year, it will take place from 9 to 11 p.m. in the Mellon Board Room.

Moonlight Breakfast

Moonlight Breakfast provides

students the opportunity to decompress before winter break. The event offers a free late-night breakfast served by faculty and staff. It's a chance for students to enjoy a relaxing, communal meal as they recharge for the final days of classes and exams. The meal is free for students. The Moonlight Breakfast will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, in Anderson Dining Hall.

Sledding

Although not an official Chatham event, students have made it their own, carrying out this beloved tradition year after year. Before it was banned in recent years due to safety, sledding on Chapel Hill reigned as the top spot on the Shadyside campus. Alumni Sydney

Places to SLED

Mellon Park

0.6 miles
from campus

Amphitheater Hill

(on campus)

Flagstaff Hill

1.9 miles
from campus

Graphic by Emily Brooks

Wilson '24 looks back at this with fond memories.

"[My favorite winter tradition was] probably sledding down the hills and making snow angels at night, watching the stars. They are just really fun memories between me and my friends, and enjoying Chatham's campus in the snow is so pretty," Wilson said.

Despite Chapel Hill no longer being an option, there are plenty of other spots around campus and in the broader Pittsburgh area that suffice. Popular sledding locations in Pittsburgh include Flagstaff Hill and Mellon Park.

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Fall foliage brings color to the Shadyside campus



Red maple leaves surround Falk Hall. Kyle Ferreira/Communique



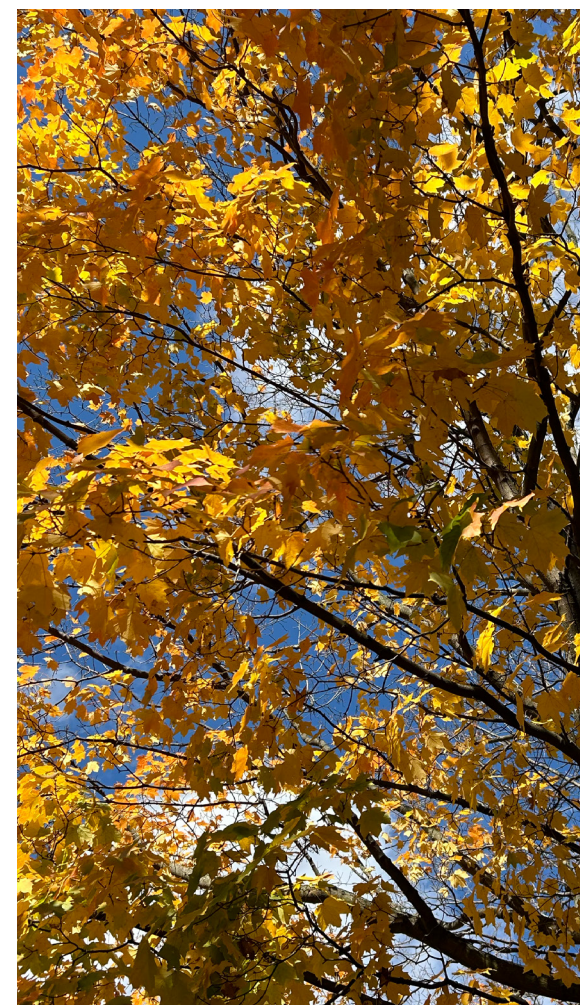
Leaves blanket the ground near the spirit rock. Kyle Ferreira/Communique



Leaves change on Chapel Hill. Sarah Naccarato/Communique



The Cougar statue stands out against a backdrop of yellow leaves. Kyle Ferreira/Communique



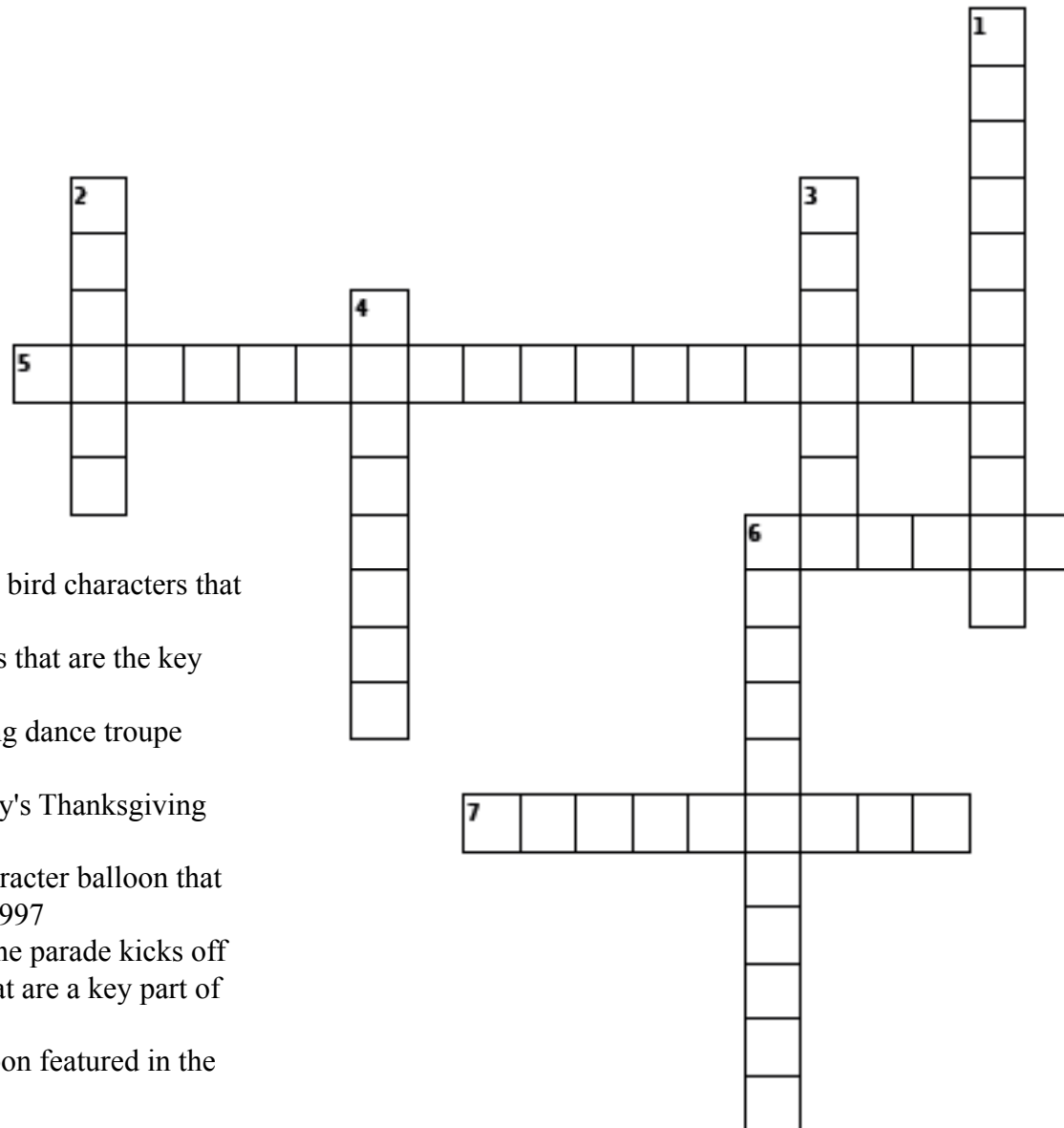
A tree on the quad turns yellow this autumn. Sarah Naccarato/Communique



Fall foliage lines Woodland Road. Sarah Naccarato/Communique



Macy's Thanksgiving Parade Crossword

**Across**

5. Cartoon Beagle and bird characters that are staple balloons
6. Decorated platforms that are the key part of parades
7. Famous high-kicking dance troupe

Down

1. City where the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade occurs
2. Purple dinosaur character balloon that famously deflated in 1997
3. Iconic park where the parade kicks off
4. Large inflatables that are a key part of the parade
6. First character balloon featured in the parade

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