

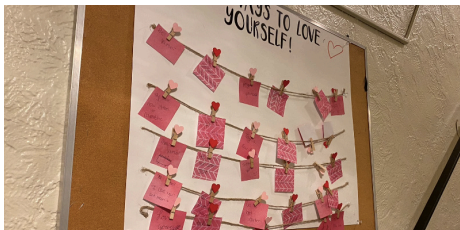
# COMMUNIQUE

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

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## NEWS



Residence Life looks for new RAs as many leave the position. **Page 3**

## Construction underway

By Michaela DeLauter

As the spring semester winds down, construction on campus begins to ramp up. Many students at Chatham University's Shadyside campus can view the beginning of construction, the biggest project focusing on Anderson Dining Hall.

Many of these projects, including the Anderson Dining Hall, were expected to be completed in summer 2020. However, due to **SEE PROJECTS, PAGE 2**



Construction begins in Anderson Dining Hall. Photo Credit: Carson Gates

## Spring Carnival Fun



President David Finegold and his dog Louis pose for a caricature at the Spring Carnival on April 2. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit

## Alexia Paige-Boyd throws far

By Haley Daugherty

Hammer, discus and shot put – oh my! These are just a few of the events that graduate student Alexia Paige-Boyd dominates as a member of Chatham's track and field team.

Paige-Boyd began her competitive field career in seventh grade. While playing basketball, soccer and a medley of other sports, she quickly discovered her love for throwing.

"I don't run. It's just not for me. ... At my very first track prac-

tice, the team was doing a running exercise, and one of the seniors walked up to me and said, 'The throwers are over there.' I walked to the pit and never looked back," Paige-Boyd said. "As a seventh-grader, I was picked to go to every meet, and I realized I loved doing it. ... It's become my whole life."

Paige-Boyd began her collegiate career as an undergraduate student at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio. She graduated with a degree **SEE THROW, PAGE 5**

## OPINION



Opinion editor Abbey Sullivan '22 gives final words of advice. **Page 4**

## Student leaders cope with burnout

By Jorie Meil

Chatham University has an extensive list of student-run organizations. Club executives dedicate lots of energy to planning events for their organizations and the Chatham community at large – but often not without forgoing personal and academic time.

Balancing course work, club obligations and mental health has proven to be a challenge for many student leaders, and the overwhelming combination of the three can lead to burnout.

As finals approach, many student leaders said they feel as if there is never enough time to get everything done. Finding time for self-care and relaxation often gets put on the backburner, too.

**SEE BURNOUT, PAGE 6**



## Campus construction set for completion by fall

PROJECTS, FROM PAGE 1

the COVID-19 pandemic and the supply-chain shortage, some projects were postponed until this year when Chatham University was able to ensure it had all the resources available to complete them.

A \$4.3 million budget is what is in store for the dining hall, with improvements being centered on the overall student experience.

Anderson “was clearly top of the priority list because it clicked off so many boxes. From efficiency to student service to recruiting, it really does a lot for us,” said Vice President of Finance and Administration Walter Fowler.

Some of the changes students will start to see in fall 2022 include a complete layout overhaul, food prep visibility and more seating for the Chatham community.

“We tried to do the things we heard students wanted done first,” Fowler said.

For those on campus during the summer months, the University will utilize the white tent located outside the Mellon Board Room. This tent will be air-conditioned, with portable bathrooms located nearby. For any reason the Anderson Dining Hall project is delayed, the use of the white tent will continue until construction is finished.

“Everything needs to be completed by the time students get back,” said Director of Facilities Management and Public Safety Robert DuBray.

The project is slated to be wrapped up by the first week in August. To give the construction timeline some breathing room, work has already begun at the dining hall. Large partition walls have been placed on one section of the room. These walls are covered in large pictures of future plans that are part of Chatham’s 10-year plan.

The Shadyside campus will have more changes than just the dining hall renovations by the time students return in August.

“There’s probably 60-plus projects that we are going to start here both big and small. It takes a lot of coordination, a lot of effort,” Dubray said. “We will be tearing out kitchens, we will be tearing off roofs, we will be removing windows. These are all things we can’t do when people occupy the building.”

The residence halls will see most of these improvements, along with the addition of new washing machines and dryers.

Classrooms also will be getting an upgrade. There will be a new classroom in Braun Hall, as well as updated desks and furniture in room C134 of Coolidge Hall.

Students will also see work resume with the Chapel Hill storm-water project toward the end of April. The long-awaited end will include the road and sidewalk being repaved in broken areas, and shrubbery added to the landscape. This unfinished construction halted this winter the student tradition of



A rendering shows how the University intends to renovate Anderson Dining Hall. Photo Credit: Chatham University

sledding down Chapel Hill.

“That project should be done completely and look beautiful by mid May,” Fowler said.

Finally, the parking lot will be getting a makeover with fresh pavement and concrete pads being added.

All of the construction should not alter the day-to-day lives of students remaining on the Shadyside campus. Most of the residence halls that will be updated will not have students living in them.

“We have a very short window of opportunity to get these things done,” Dubray said.

The ongoing supply chain issue is still affecting some of these current project plans.

“These are challenging times,” Dubray said. However, his focus is still on the betterment of the Chatham community.

“It’s always rewarding to see a project completed and to see the students using it.”

## POLICE BLOTTER

*All information is provided by Chatham University’s Public Safety*

**12:10 p.m. March 25** – Officers received a call for a fire alarm at the Eastside campus. Officers, along with the City of Pittsburgh Fire Department, responded and it was found to be false.

**1:50 p.m. March 26** – Chatham security, along with Munhall Police, removed a person refusing to pay to get into Westfield.

**2 p.m. March 30** – Officers received a call at the Eastside campus for a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by City of Pittsburgh medics.

**2:30 – 3:15 p.m. March 31** – Officers received two fire alarm calls at Buhl Hall. The City of Pittsburgh Fire Department, along with Chatham police, responded both times and found that both were false alarms.

**10:40 a.m. April 1** – Officers responded to the Eastside campus for a minor traffic accident. Upon arrival, officers took a report and no one was injured.

**3:10 p.m. April 4** – Officers responded to the Eastside campus for a sick student. The student was transported to the hospital by City of Pittsburgh medics.

**9:29 a.m. April 5** – Officers took a report for a Chatham shuttle that was involved in a minor traffic accident off campus, and no one was injured.

## RA application deadline approaches; students share their experiences

By Abigail Hakas

Chatham University has started the process of hiring Resident Assistants (RAs) for the 2022-23 academic year.

The Office of Residence Life is seeking five more RAs, and the deadline to apply is April 22.

Students who've worked in this role said they've had their share of ups and downs.

Hayden Acker '24, an RA for Tower A in the Chatham Apartments, is leaving the position due to roommate requirements. He said the social environment is one of the benefits of the position.

"Helping people out, meeting new people, helping my residents out, it makes me talk to people that I wouldn't normally talk to and I enjoy that," Acker said.

Kayla Taylor '22, an RA for Fickes Hall who is in her last semester at Chatham, echoed that sentiment.

"It's really amazing to meet new people and build those close relationships. RAs have the most insight into what really happens on campus with students," she said.

RAs are provided with free housing and a textbook scholarship that increases the longer the RAs stay in the position.

According to the 2022-23 New RA Applicant Resource Guide on the Chatham website, RAs are required to limit additional employment to no more than 10 hours, on or off campus.

"It's like the best job you can get

on campus in terms of compensation," Acker said.

Taylor, however, argued that at times the pay didn't seem like it was enough.

"I think RAs are grossly undercompensated," she said. "Last year was the first year where I felt like 'OK, this isn't terrible.' We had free meal plans as well as free housing."

Associate Director of Residence Life Angela Delfine-Mechler noted that this was specific to the fall 2021 semester and will not continue.

"The meal plan was included as compensation due to the additional responsibilities and stressors of the pandemic," she said. "Right now, we are not able to offer that to our students."

Chatham RAs are expected to be on call once a week from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., as well as for one weekend a month – although these hours depend on staffing size, Delfine-Mechler said. Additionally, they must keep an on-call log that summarizes every night spent on-call.

RAs do administrative work and

attend staff meetings with their supervisor, the graduate residence director. They're also responsible for designing monthly decorative bulletin boards, which Taylor said is a frustrating job.

"We also have to make bulletin boards, and it's exhausting and tedious, and honestly the students tear them down," Taylor said, "but

some students really appreciate them and laugh at the jokes and memes you put up."

To prepare for the responsibilities of the job, incoming RAs are required to complete two training sessions and a variety of online training modules prior to the start of

their work.

RAs are also required to take IND245: Fostering Inclusive Communities in Residential Settings in their first fall semester as an RA. The course teaches students the skills to develop a positive community in their residence halls and is included in the student's tuition, according to Delfine-Mechler.

Acker said he felt the training was inadequate.

"You feel like they hire you

and kind of just put you off to the side," Acker said. "I think I had one training day. I luckily haven't had to deal with anything, but if I do have to deal with anything, I usually have to call someone because I don't know what to do because they didn't invest a lot of time into me."

Taylor said she felt some of the limitations she experienced were due to the pandemic and the need to train over Zoom.

"The trainings that were really beneficial to me were not Zoom-oriented," she said.

Delfine-Mechler said that some RAs have left their positions prior to graduation.

"I will say some of our students have made the decision not to continue as RAs," Delfine-Mechler said. "If a student needs to step away from a student leadership position or wants to live off campus and have that experience, they need to do what is best for themselves."

For those considering applying to be an RA, Taylor said "there are so many new faces in Residence Life, and people are so open to change and creating a better Residence Life community, which I think means it's the perfect time to make the system better. It's a prime opportunity to impact the campus and shape it the way you want."

For those interested in becoming an RA, applications can be found on Chatham's website. Contact [reslife@chatham.edu](mailto:reslife@chatham.edu) with any questions.

We're Still Hiring!

Become a  
2022-  
2023  
Resident  
Assistant

Help our team to GROW! Apply Today!

The Office of Residence Life is still taking applications for 2022-2023 Resident Assistants on a rolling basis. Consider applying today using the QR Code Below!

Questions? Email Angela Delfine-Mechler, Associate Director of Residence Life, at [a.delfinemechler@chatham.edu](mailto:a.delfinemechler@chatham.edu)

## *A roadmap for Chatham University students*

By Abbey Sullivan

After my first-year orientation, I began my time at Chatham University on a Monday at 9 a.m. in Falk Room 218. I decided to pay as close attention as possible to every detail of that day with the hopes of remembering the start of college when it came time for the end. Now that I'm about to clear that last hurdle, I'm grateful for my foresight: that first day was sweaty, stressful and fun.

There are probably a million-and-a-half-ways to "do college right," some of which I tried on for size. Others I neglected. But I'm a firm believer in Chatham's uniqueness and feel that there are certain ins and outs necessary for an incoming student to keep in mind.

### **Grow into it**

A recommendation I heard parroted by high school guidance counselors and distant relatives alike was that college would be all about adjustment, and they were all correct. College was the first time

*"I needed to grow into it, but it was nowhere near an overnight process."*

I'd lived on my own, been given free reign over my laundry schedule and had to navigate academia as something of an adult.

I needed to grow into it, but it

was nowhere near an overnight process. To grow accustomed to Chatham is to meet peers wonderfully unlike yourself, to navigate

*"...there is always energy to be sought on campus even on its most desolate weekends."*

the two congested queues in Anderson Dining Hall, to raise your hand during your first political science course while feeling totally out of your element, to finally figure out where Rea Coffeehouse is and to understand that your voice is your greatest asset.

There is a culture about Chatham bureaucracy often (and rightly) criticized by students – painting them as unresponsive, distant and reactive – that demands to be fixed by the students themselves. Find your group, your work and your voice – Chatham Student Power, the Communiqué, Chatham Green Team and countless others are designed for just that. They would all love to have you, and my time with my student organization of choice was one of my most formative choices during these four years.

### **Solve the stagnancy**

Part and parcel with finding your voice at Chatham comes your responsibility to fix one of its most endemic problems: a bored campus. With an innumerable amount of student groups doing an innu-

merable number of things, there is always energy to be sought on campus even on its most desolate weekends. But we as students cultivated an environment where those events are scarcely populated and, at their worst, lonesome.

I'm guilty of perpetuating our bored-campus syndrome, and I wrestle with my regret all the time. I can never recommend enough getting engaged at any level, whether that be attending Chatham Activities Board events, joining a student organization or hosting movie nights with extended friends from class – not just your narrow friend group.

### **Find you and yours**

The scale of Chatham has both enamored and irritated me. But with the guidance of my adviser and some beloved faculty members, I made the most of my schooling and gained incredible mentors along the way.

As best as you can, take the gen-ed courses on the chin and keep your eyes open. Find where your areas of interest connect and pursue those trails, until you've got your feet in as many doors as possible. Being pulled into different departments changed my time as a student and my plans for the future.

Yet my friends taught me the most, and they never came from where I expected. The best spaces at Chatham have required me to investigate my worldview and to see beyond myself. Take the time

to cultivate your circles, as they'll be your support, your laughs, your tears and your breakthroughs every step of the way.

### **Grow out of it**

As the opinion editor, I've spent a lot of time writing pieces about what frustrated me at Chatham. Nevertheless, I still struggle with how to leave Chatham in my rearview mirror while also keeping the memories close at heart. The balance has already been hard; even with the stress and burnout of my last semester, I still feel sick with nostalgia when I leave certain classes, spend time at certain spots on campus (an empty Eddy The-

*"At its best, Chatham can be familiar and freeing..."*

ater is a great one) or run into an old friend from class, all of which happens all the time at Chatham.

I did so much growing at Chatham because I think it is the perfect place to do just that. At its best, Chatham can be familiar and freeing, and I hope all students can have an experience like my own. Even when the Wi-Fi goes out, when Café Rachel runs out of sandwiches, when Netflix filming crews overflow campus parking and our entire community is split apart during a pandemic, our school is worth caring about. The Chatham we create as students is a place I never want to leave.



## Grad student sets new records

**THROW, FROM PAGE 1**

in environmental science and sustainability and began looking for a graduate school to attend.

“During my senior year, I was casually looking for grad schools that offered studies for sustainability and aquaculture, and then the world shut down,” Paige-Boyd said. “I realized that I was losing my senior season and that Chatham was offering me an opportunity to continue what I loved while the other universities that I was considering weren’t.”

Competing on Chatham’s track and field team has given Paige-Boyd the unique experience of watching a smaller program grow. During her first year on the team, there were only three throwers in the program. That number has doubled in a year and continues to

increase with incoming recruits.

“During my first year here, there weren’t many of us and we were seen as the team that couldn’t do much at meets. Now we have more throwers and jumpers for field events, and we walk into competitions with a presence,” Paige-Boyd said. “We have the mentality of ‘we don’t have to be here, we get to be here.’”

Paige-Boyd has a special relationship with each event that she participates in. She currently holds the school record for weight and discus and is ranked second in the President’s Athletic Conference for discus.

Throwing “weight is a love-hate relationship. I hate it because it’s heavy, but I love it because I’m decent at it and it’s rewarding. Hammer, I love throwing ham-



Alexia Paige-Boyd throws a hammer. Photo Credit: Chatham Athletics

mer,” Paige-Boyd said. “You feel like an ancient warrior getting to throw this metal ball on a chain as far as you can, and field is the only place that you’re able to do that. I’ve always loved discus. It’s been my top event since junior high.”

Paige-Boyd has set her sights on some impressive goals for her final season. She hopes to break 40 meters in both discus and hammer. Her personal records are already measured centimeters above 39 meters, and she can see success in her future. Not only does Paige-Boyd love her events, but she has also expressed her love for the team and culture that she has been a part of at Chatham.

“This is a lot more accepting of a community than where I have thrown before. There’s no divide between event groups and everyone gets along really well,” Paige-Boyd said. “Our coaches work so hard to help us get better.”

After graduating this spring with

a master’s degree in sustainability with a concentration in ecology, Paige-Boyd hopes to work in urban farming, a program dedicated to providing fresh, healthy and accessible food for city residents. She has the dream of being able to work closely with animals in a zoo or an aquarium. She intends to continue training and competing after she graduates, with the hope of one day reaching the Olympics. Athletes such as Michelle Carter and Gwendolyn Berry serve as personal inspirations to Paige-Boyd.

“I have found someone to train with after Chatham. It doesn’t hurt to keep training or stay in shape,” Paige-Boyd said. “Seeing women of color being so dominating as athletes and activists is what keeps me going. It means so much seeing women that look like me accomplishing so many things. I want to be able to inspire people like they do.”



Alexia Paige-Boyd throws a discus. Photo Credit: Chatham Athletics



## ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

### *How do Chatham student leaders cope with burnout?*

**BURNOUT, FROM PAGE 1**

According to Ryan Tahbaz '22, executive president of Chatham Student Government (CSG) and member of Chatham Activities Board (CAB), it is important to set boundaries and stay organized.

"Every day, I have a point where I'm like, at this hour, I'm done. I'm not touching my laptop. I'm not doing anything that's to do with school or work or anything like that. So, I always reserve some time every day for me to relax, de-stress and take my mind off everything. Additionally, something I've started doing is scheduling in on my calendar fun activities for me to do," Tahbaz said.

Shadyside campus has notoriously low student engagement and attendance at events and club meetings, which was only intensified by the pandemic.

"On the student engagement side of things, I would say that, it felt especially hopeless, like over the past year or so because of COVID," said Morgan "Moe" Williams '22, co-president of Chatham Student Power and assistant coordinator of student engagement.

"It's very difficult to get people to go to things and care about things," said Leo Liotta '23, executive vice president of student government, artistic director of the

drama club and president of the feminist coalition.

Without ample participation from the student body, many student leaders feel defeated.

"That's one of the things that is very tiring. With student government, our numbers are at capacity. We always need more people in student government. We quite literally are never full, which makes it difficult a lot of the time to like do the work that we're trying to do," Liotta said.

Even after the return to in-person campus life and events, there is a lack of diversity in those attending.

"I think throughout my years here, I've noticed really low student engagement in a lot of activities," Tahbaz said. "But now that like I've been working on CAB, this year I have paid more attention, and I tend to see the same people showing up to events."

Regardless of the challenges, student leaders love what they do and continue because they have a passion, so much so that they sometimes feel as if there was more they could be doing.

"Honestly, as much work as it is and as exhausting as it often gets, I do really love the work that I do for all of the student organizations that I'm involved in," Liotta said.

So what is the solution to burnout? Student leaders said that more



Ryan Tahbaz '22 works at the rollerskating event held by CAB earlier this academic year. Photo Credit: Michaela DeLauter

students getting involved with Chatham organizations and events would help spread out the work.

"It's fun and a great way to make friends. Plus, if you become involved with clubs, in terms of membership and helping with events, it is a really good thing to put on a resume," Liotta said. "The people running the clubs are good people to meet and good people to know. I have so much love for all

of our student leaders, and a lot of them are very passionate and are great advocates."

To find out more about events and organizations on campus, check out the "Happenings" page on My.Chatham, the student organization page on [chathamstudent-government.com](http://chathamstudent-government.com), the Screaming Squirrel newsletter and the student engagement Instagram page [@chathamstudentengagement](https://www.instagram.com/chathamstudentengagement).



## End-of-Semester Events

*As the semester comes to a close, students attend popular events on campus.*



*Students wait in line for coffee during Marvelous Monday on March 28. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit*



*Students hunt for pieces of clothing at the Sustainable Fashion Fair on March 25. Photo Credit: Akira Ormes-Strong*



*Dean of Students Chris Purcell and Amanda Oaks serve Moonlight Breakfast to students on April 5. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit*



*Students dance at the Spring Formal held at Eden Hall on April 8. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit*



## Communi-commencement



*Opinion Editor Abbey Sullivan*

Joining the *Communi-qué* in 2018, Abbey Sullivan '22 brought her knowledge of creative writing, history and political science to the staff.

Frequently writing about social justice issues on campus, Sullivan wanted students' voices to be heard and created the Guest Voices series. The staff will miss Sullivan's wise insights and kindness.



*Sports Editor Haley Daugherty*

With her humor and people-skills, Haley Daugherty '22 joined the *Communi-qué* in 2019. Daugherty wrote many important news stories as an early staff member but was known most for her fun and witty coverage of sports at Chatham. She helped to revive the sports section and make it what it is today. The staff will miss Daugherty's honesty and ability to make us all laugh.

## Staff List

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### Letters to the editor

The *Communi-qué* welcomes readers to submit letters to be considered for publication. Send your reactions to stories, thoughts on Chatham University and whatever else is on your mind to opinion editor Abbey Sullivan ([abbey.sullivan@chatham.edu](mailto:abbey.sullivan@chatham.edu)).

### Corrections

The *Communi-qué* strives to report the news accurately and fairly. If we've made a mistake, please let us know so we can correct it and learn from it. Email ([alice.crow@chatham.edu](mailto:alice.crow@chatham.edu)) or ([communique@chatham.edu](mailto:communique@chatham.edu)).