

# COMMUNIQUÉ

VOL. 77 ISSUE 2

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER 2020

## Chatham Stays Masked In October

News

Opinion

Sports

Lifestyle

Visuals

Forum

President Finegold stops to talk to Guillermo Van Wyke '22 and Vinicius Muniz '22 while walking the new family dog, Louis, on Oct. 7.

Credit: Lilly Kubit



# EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Chatham Community,

Another month and another issue of the Communiqué. The past couple weeks have shown students that the minute they feel as if they understand the new normal, altered guidelines or a high number of positive cases of COVID-19 will catch them off guard, but some things never seem to change about Chatham. Student activism is still an integral part of the student experience. As stories in this issue will show, students are deeply involved in seeking justice and fighting for what they believe in.

Another unwavering feature of Chatham is the excellent staff of the Communiqué. I can't speak about the great work in this issue, without speaking about the people who make it possible. The staff's drive and passion to produce high quality student journalism is truly inspiring. I want to thank each and every one of them for their continued dedication. I also want to thank the readers of the Communiqué: It is for you that we write these stories, so thank you. We hope you enjoy Volume 77, Issue 2.

Sincerely,  
Alice Crow  
Editor-in-Chief

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## COVID-19 TESTING

Students can expect privacy and speed from Chatham's protocol

By JL Silverman

A familiar white tent is set up on the small sidewalk area just outside of Woodland Hall. Underneath the tent is a white folding table and a sign-in sheet filling up with signatures. A masked nurse in light green scrubs wields the nasal swab of a student sitting in a chair. The swab is handed through a window at the completion of the procedure, and the student leaves to make way for the next person.

This is a snapshot of what getting a COVID-19 test at Chatham University's Shadyside campus looks like. Earlier this semester, the University rolled out a plan for random-sample testing for various groups on campus.

As of Oct. 16, 761 students have received antigen tests on campus, with 41

positive results. Nineteen of these positive cases were commuter students, and 22 of them were students who live on campus. No Chatham employees have tested positive to date.

Because of the recent spike in positive cases, the University announced in an email Oct. 16 that it would shift to a virtual delivery format beginning that evening through Oct. 25.

The test Chatham students receive is an antigen test. A mucus sample is taken to detect proteins on the surface of the virus. The rapid test results can be received in about 15 minutes. The RT-PCR molecular test detects for pieces of the virus itself by looking for its genetic material.

Annette Muller, the Health Services practitioner and one of the lead swabbers, said that a new test for Chatham students is in



The white tent where tests are administered is near Woodland Hall and next to Health Services. Credit: Alice Crow

process.

"It is a little more sensitive," Muller said, "even though the antigen test currently in use has a 97/98% sensitivity rate and positive tests are pretty accurate."

Muller heads the five-person team that makes this all work. Three team members who take turns doing the actual swabbing are students.

"They sought out doing this," Muller said. "They are outstanding workers. Patient, knowledgeable and compassionate."

Muller said that students who show up to be tested may be feeling sick or scared or questioning what to do. Again and again, her team strives to calm the nerves of fearful arrivals.

I wasn't a randomly selected student for testing, but instead I self-scheduled my appointment by phone. Questions were asked of me before my appointment

time was assigned: Was I in close contact? Was I symptomatic? What were my symptoms?

The sign-up process is simple, with information accessible on Chatham's website or by calling 412-365-1714. Appointments must be made in advance.

A student was being tested as I signed in and filled out a small information sheet. Clean pens were on the left, used pens on the right. A man came out of the Health Services office door to assure my place in line.

It was a cool morning, but I didn't have to wait long. The nurse invited me over to the chair and explained the procedure.

I would be having a mid-nasal swab, she said as she held up what looked like a Q-tip. She would insert the swab halfway up my nose and hold it there for 15 seconds. ▶

*"They are outstanding workers. Patient, knowledgeable and compassionate."*

*-- Annette Muller  
Health Service Practitioner*

“You may sneeze or your eyes might tear up,” she said, which explained the nearby box of tissues.

Prepared to sneeze, I tilted back my head. The first 15-second swab test went quickly. The nurse swabbed the second nostril, then handed my sample in a plastic bag through the window above my head, and I was on my way.

What happens behind the window? The test swabber hands the tubed and bagged sample to the test runner, who immediately starts processing it. Saline is administered to a white disc in the bottom of the tube.

That tube is swirled as the saline breaks down the disc below the mucus sample. After sitting for one minute, a pipette is used to extract the liquid. The liquid goes into a hole in a cartridge, which sits on top of a test strip. Once the cartridge is put into the testing machine, a plus or minus is detected in 11 seconds.

If a test comes up positive, the contact tracking team jumps into action. The test-positive person is notified, and instructions are given to isolate or self-quarantine. A contact list is gathered in order to identify those who were in

close proximity. Phone calls are made to set up testing for them, if needed.

Speed and protecting the sample are key. The window was put in place to streamline the process of passing off the sample from the swabber to the test runner. Everyone is masked, gloved and shielded, further protecting the sample as well as each other.

Students are normally asked to wait nearby for the test result. The day of my test, I was asked to wait in my car. It was an unusually busy morning, I was informed, and it was easier to maintain physical distanc-

ing if those who had been tested returned to dorms or cars. (It also was a warmer place to wait on a fall day.)

Twenty minutes later, I received my phone call. Negative. In my experience, the whole process was handled with efficiency, compassion and privacy.

Muller welcomes student input to make modifications for a better experience. The University tracks its testing on an online dashboard that’s updated each Tuesday and Thursday.

## Chatham’s Residence Life adjusts to COVID-19 with new policies

By Jake Lach

Chatham University’s campus life has drastically changed this year due to COVID-19 and new policies implemented by Residence Life because of the pandemic. Students, faculty and staff have had to overcome many challenges in an attempt to have a safe and successful school year.

One of the changes made by Residence Life was the number of students allowed to live on campus for the 2020-21 academic year. Chatham had 564 students living on its campuses in early September. Around that time last year, that number was 766.



Some students relax in one of Fickes Hall’s common areas. Credit: Lilly Kubit

“A pandemic was completely new,” said Shawn McQuillan, the director of Residence Life. “We started this work when

the virus broke out. ... We consulted with the Centers for Disease Control, their guidelines, as well as the Pennsylvania Health De-

partment.”

Guidelines for those students who did choose to live on campus this fall remain fluid as COVID-19’s threat ebbs and flows.

At the beginning of the semester, rules for students living in on-campus housing were defined on the Chatham website. A special addendum for Terms & Conditions of Residency also was created for the 2020-21 year. It expressly acknowledges COVID-19 and requires students to comply with new policies.

Normally, first- and second-year students are required to live on campus, with few exceptions, but this requirement was ►

lifted to help de-densify the dorms. Residence Life also set restrictions on occupancy in lounge or community spaces and prohibited all guests in dorms, unless they were also residents of the same building.

Residence Life is striving to take student feedback into consideration as it responds to the pandemic. The department is “being agile ... because there’s something that’s going to come up that you didn’t think about,” McQuillan said.

halted when Chatham elevated its operational alert level from “raised” to “high.” This shift means students are prohibited from visiting other students in their dorms and must limit outside activities to only essential needs, such as picking up meals, visiting the grocery store or pharmacy, receiving medical attention or going for a walk, through Oct. 25.

Students have had some difficulty adjusting to the rules and regulations set in place due to the pandemic.

*“COVID doesn’t mean there isn’t community.”*

*- Shawn McQuillan*

*Director of Residence Life*

One instance of recent changes can be seen in Chatham’s Residential Guest policy.

“A large number of residents who completed the guest survey wanted the guest policy to be revised to allow residents from other buildings to visit them,” McQuillan said.

In October, the Residential Guest policy was revisited, allowing on-campus residents to be guests in residential buildings other than their own. Commuters and off-campus guests are still not allowed to enter the residence halls or apartments.

On Oct. 16, that change to the guest policy was

“It’s a lot to get used to,” said Liam Sombar ‘23, who also lived on campus last year. There is “a dynamic of living alone ... as well as not being able to have outside guests. ... It has definitely been a different experience.”

He is optimistic, though, about the effectiveness of these new guidelines.

“I think Chatham, more so than a lot of other universities, has good policies and the students are trying very hard to keep the school open,” he added.

Despite the changes, Residence Life is still trying to create an enjoyable on-campus living experience. There are many activ-

ities on campus and other ways for students to safely get involved with college life and to create memories.

“COVID doesn’t mean there isn’t community,” McQuillan said.

Residence halls will close after Thanksgiving break, when classes will convert to

a completely online format. No students will be able to enter the buildings unless they request and are given approval by the Office of Residence Life.

For the updated rule list, visit the COVID-19 Policies and Standards page on [my.chatham](http://my.chatham).

## University survey highlights challenges of adapting to college life during COVID-19

By Jorie Meil

The transition to college for first-year students is a difficult and exciting time. This year, the added challenge of a global pandemic has changed the way this transition looks.

First-year students are working to navigate classes, residence life, form-

ing relationships, getting involved on campus and managing their workloads, all while trying to stay healthy and slow the spread of COVID-19.

A survey emailed Sept. 23 polled the student body regarding Chatham’s response to the pandemic and student life this semester. The survey asked students ▶



Masked first-year students hang out during their first weeks of school at Chatham University. Credit: Jorie Meil

to rate each topic on a scale out of 5.0 (with 5.0 being that the respondent strongly agrees with the statement and 1.0 being strongly disagrees).

“I like that we can take surveys and they take our input and consider it. We have a say in how we want to progress,” Emi Perdan ‘24 said.

The survey polled both first-year and upperclass students, but a breakdown of the results isolates the answers of the first-year class. In total, 179 first-year students responded to the survey. Results will be used to show how they feel about this semester.

One of the major challenges of this semester is online classes. Most classes are being administered on Zoom with students participating from their dorm rooms or homes.

“Doing classes in an isolated place is tricky,” Abby Fowler ‘24 said. Students don’t have the same opportunities that they would in a normal semester to form bonds with professors and classmates that are academically beneficial.

The survey addressed this topic with the statement: “I am comfortable in my learning environments (classroom, virtual, online).” The mean response was a 3.87 out of 5.0.

The statement “I currently have the resources I need

to complete my courses” had a 4.02 mean response.

Getting involved on campus is also a challenge for first-year students. With limited in-person meetings and events, students are struggling to find ways to participate in student organizations and events.

“Getting involved has been the most challenging. It’s kind of like a scavenger hunt,” Fowler said. “You get all the information at once, which is useful, but it is hard to organize what you want to do.”

The survey statement “I am finding ways to engage socially at Chatham

given the parameters of COVID-19” had a mean response of 3.65 out of 5.0.

First-year students worried that they wouldn’t be able to make meaningful friendships and socialize in a safe and socially distanced way. Perdan said, “It’s hard to form physical connection outside of social media. I am less likely to walk up to a group of people and ask to be friends, it’s weird. You can’t really [safely] socialize and eat at Café Rachel, for example.”

Even with all of the challenges presented by the pandemic, many first-year students are having

successful transitions and doing their best in the given circumstances to have an enjoyable time at Chatham.

“It’s been pretty smooth, smoother than I was expecting,” Fowler said about her transition to Chatham.

Students who would like assistance in their transition can contact the counseling center or their success coaches.

## POLICE BLOTTER

- Oct. 1** – The smell of marijuana was detected at 8:10 p.m. in Chatham Apartments Tower A. A small bag of marijuana was found.
- Oct. 8** - A mental health call was made at the Health Center.
- Oct. 9** – A student reported to police that they fell at Eden Hall campus, causing minor injuries.
- Oct. 11** – A sexual assault was reported to police at the Rea House.
- Oct. 13** – Marijuana odor was reported at Dilworth Hall. Nothing was found.
- Oct. 13** – A woman walking her dog through campus fell, causing minor injuries.
- Oct. 19** – A student at the Howe-Childs Gatehouse passed out and fell, causing minor injuries.

## GUEST VOICES

*In this installment of Guest Voices, members of Chatham Student Power, Chatham's Young Republican Club and the Chatham University Democrats weigh in on our current political climate.*

## The Democratic Socialist Perspective

By Zoe Levine and Morgan Williams of Chatham Student Power

The most encompassing and effective means to create the social and political change that will benefit the most people in the United States is through socialism — not through solely two — party politics.

We identify as socialists, more specifically democratic socialists. It's deemed a dirty word — socialism — with a connotation that alludes to dystopian regimes, or contrarily, utopian futures disregarded as fairy tales. However, in reality, socialism is far less sinister and complex than we are made to believe.

Simply put, democratic socialism is the belief that both the economy and society should be run democratically to meet public needs and not to make profits for a few. That definition comes directly from Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). Capitalism in the United States has inflamed and maintained social problems including,



but not limited to, racism, sexism and xenophobia.

Within the last few decades, it's grown alarmingly clear that this unchecked capitalism has created a new and dire problem that will only exacerbate other social problems: the climate crisis. Also from DSA, "Democratic socialists do not want to create an all-powerful government bureaucracy. But we do not want big corporate bureaucracies to control our society either. Rather, we believe that social and economic decisions should be made by those whom they most affect."

Bernie Sanders, the first big name during our lifetimes who proudly claimed support for democratic socialism, put it like this: "... we should not be providing welfare for corporations, huge tax breaks for the very rich or trade policies which boost corporate profits as workers lose their jobs. It [democratic socialism] means that we create a

government that works for all of us, not just powerful special interests."

Socialism is not the antithesis of democracy, but rather the best of both worlds. This is already seen in the United States where several social programs already exist, such as the USPS, social security, libraries and even the military. These programs are funded by taxes and benefit the American people.

Socialism and socialist policy work successfully in multiple countries around the world (look at the Nordic states, Vietnam, and even Canada). These countries reportedly have higher happiness indexes among their populations than the U.S., have dealt very well with the COVID-19 pandemic and offer free and accessible health care. In a country as "great" as the United States of America, it is appalling that we do not offer the programs and benefits that other nations have been thriving under for decades.

We both have different lived experiences that brought us to this political belief system.

**Zoe Levine**

Since I am Jewish and

grew up Jewish, my identity was molded by an understanding of how we are all part of a community and need to look after one another. Having seen firsthand the benefits of labor unions and organizing from my father only solidified to me the importance of caring for one another and helping those who are different from us. America is so individualistic and maintaining the status quo only helps those in power. By implementing socialist policies, we help those most vulnerable in this system to get the same opportunities as those who hold more privilege. What is stopping you from caring about others? Is it that you are worried about losing the power you do hold?

**Morgan Williams**

I've been involved in various modes of activism since I was a young teenager. My first taste of organizing was surrounding reproductive justice for organizations like Planned Parenthood. I canvassed for Sanders in the 2016 election, years before I was even eligible to vote because his campaign was the first that had ever seemed genuine to me. It ►

was during this time that I gained an incredible respect for the power of mobilizing individuals at the grassroots level. I called myself a liberal for many years before growing increasingly frustrated with the Democratic establishment. As I grew older, met more organizers and saw the same walls being hit over and over again for different causes, I realized that true change must occur on a foundational level. We can keep doing our best to reform issues within our current political system, but those issues will be recycled and reproduced until we grasp at the roots.

### Final thoughts

It's important to say that socialists often still want democracy. Some of our values align with the current American Democratic party. But we see Democrats who are unwilling to go further Left; they often fail to support popular ideas that most Americans do

support (such as the Green New Deal and Medicare For All). We believe there needs to be a large change to our current political system in order to break the pattern that American politics has fallen into.

Overall, socialists believe that putting profit before people, which occurs in both the Democratic and Republican parties, will not further our society in a healthy and beneficial way.

In an interview in 1997, activist, philosopher, author and academic Angela Davis said "I think the importance of doing activist work is precisely because it allows you to give back and to consider yourself not as a single individual who may have achieved whatever but to be a part of an ongoing historical movement." To us, this accurately describes our motivations in Chatham Student Power, as well as our politics beyond.

Socialism is important now more than ever be-

cause we don't have time for the snail's race that Republicans and Democrats play. Our planet is dying, racial injustice is increasingly prevalent as capitalism and state violence work hand and hand

and working-class people in this country are suffering to make ends meet every day as billionaires like Amazon's owner Jeff Bezos profit \$71 billion (and counting) during a pandemic.

## About the writers



**Zoe Levine** (Zoe.levine@chatham.edu) is a senior at Chatham University double majoring in history and political science, with a double minor of French and theater. She's also working on receiving the international studies certificate with a European concentration. She is co-president of Chatham Student Power, as well as artistic director for Chatham Drama Club. This semester, Zoe is also participating in Repair the World's Serve the Moment Pittsburgh Corps, where she focuses on tackling social justice issues in the City of Pittsburgh.



**Morgan "Moe" Williams** (Morgan.williams@chatham.edu) is a junior at Chatham University double majoring in creative writing and women's and gender studies. She is also pursuing an international certificate with a European concentration. Moe is the other co-president for Chatham Student Power and the social media coordinator for Creative Writing Club.

## The Republican Perspective

By Jack Schmiedlin of the Young Republicans Club



In the fall of my eighth-grade year, in the great state of Indiana, my history class took a political ideology test that surveyed our respective values and beliefs. It was designed to suggest

with which party we would align the most. Much to my parents' surprise, I came home and announced to them: "I am a Republican."

My dad at the time was

Libertarian, my mother a conservative and their surprise came from the fact that we never discussed politics in our house. Six years later, I remain a more informed Republican.

This 2020 election is arguably one of the most critical elections in the history of the United States. President Donald Trump's

style and manner can be abrasive. I have come to realize, however, that I am not necessarily voting for the personality of a man, although I do submit that President Trump's somewhat irritating idiosyncrasies are perhaps exactly what this country needs. Rather, in this election — an election that could



jeopardize the state of our inalienable rights — I am voting for a party, the Republican party.

As human beings, we all have inalienable human rights — rights un-retractable by virtue of being human. The rights most notable are “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” It is the job of the government to protect those rights preserved by each of the documents drafted by our Founding Fathers: The Declaration of Independence, our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Within each of these arguably sacred documents are enumerated the pursuits, freedoms and rights that Americans hold dear. Freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom from censorship, as well as the right to bear arms, are the most prominent in today’s combative political climate.

An article by Michael Warsaw, publisher of the National Catholic Register, shows just how divided we are as a country. In his article, “Voting for a Vision, not a Person,” Warsaw states that the American people have a choice “between two completely different views of America. That difference is philosophical, not simply personal.”

He goes on to say, “One campaign has built itself on

the notion that America is a great country, with much to offer. It embraces a vision that sees religious practice and belief in God as central to the country’s private and public life. In this understanding of America, faith is not something to be defended against with a ‘wall of separation’ designed to keep Christians out.

Instead, faith — and Christianity itself — are seen as critical to the flourishing of our country in a perspective shared by many of our Founding Fathers. This was the understanding of men like Samuel Adams, James Madison, Patrick Henry and George Washington.”

In stark contrast, Warsaw explains that against these Christian-based beliefs is the counterculture of progressivism espoused by college students, academia, liberal media outlets and, more visibly, by radical groups that have resorted to strident protesting and even rioting to broadcast their messages. These messages declare that America should be shamed for various acts in its history — acts that these progressives believe are the true basis of the foundation of America — then as well as today.

Warsaw elaborates that these progressives are pushing for a seemingly overhauling of American thought — that we, as

Americans, have much to atone for and little of which to be proud. If one is to believe these progressives then, apparently, our traditions that have made us the envy of the entire world should now be viewed as some form of discrimination.

Most every traditional belief upon which our great country was founded is under attack from the Left, including:

1) The right to life. Progressives just do not celebrate it; they export it to the world.

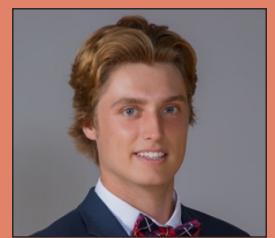
2) Contraception. Progressives believe it to be a fundamental right, and if someone’s religious freedom is in direct confrontation with that, progressives only deflect the problem.

Warsaw references a recent EWTN documentary, which pointed out that “... where governments tried to kill God, they have often turned next to killing people.” If one was to review the darkest periods of man, they would inarguably be struck by how true this conclusion is: an absence of God or any semblance of a religious citizenry has been exemplified by man’s inhumanity to man. Just look at any civil war or multinational armed conflict; God was erased or otherwise ignored during our Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict,

Vietnam, etc.

Today, our most important election cycle will determine the future of our country. While these words seem to be broadcast every four years in this country, in 2020 they come with an especially stern weight and warning: the America of 1776, 1865, 1945, 1968 and now 2020 will forever be erased if the party that embraces a faithless agenda assumes power. The candidates of the Left, the beloved of the progressives, will wash away the “sins” of our Forefathers: our freedom of religion, our freedom of speech and freedom from censorship, as well as our right to bear arms.

## About the writer



**Jack Schmiedlin** (Jack.schmiedlin@chatham.edu) is a sophomore at Chatham University who plans to major in MIS (management information systems) and psychology. He’s the president of the Young Republicans Club for the 2020-21 school year.

## The Democratic Perspective

By Carolyn Cullen of the Chatham Democrats

As COVID-19 has continued to ravage our nation, it has shown how unstable our economy and nation were and still are.

One of the main causes of such instability comes from intense wealth disparity, with the top 1% owning more wealth than the bottom 99%. As such, we believe it is imperative to increase taxes on the wealthy, as well as address any loopholes the wealthy may be exploiting to receive tax exemptions. It is through these actions that the United States will be able to begin to stabilize what is soon to be a failing economy.

This wealth gap is not necessarily a new phenomenon. In fact, the cause of such a gap comes from the Reagan administration in the 1980s. During his presidency, Ronald Reagan gave two different tax cuts for the rich, which lowered their top marginal income tax rates. The tax rate cuts coincided with wage stagnation. The wage stagnation had begun in 1970, when the real wages of workers (or wages adjusted for inflation) discontinued to rise with national production. Through this coincidence, there was a rise in the share of income



going to the 1% and not throughout all workers. As the years have passed, not enough has been done to address the damage these tax cuts and wage stagnation have done, leaving the wealth disparity to be a lingering problem.

In Peter Temin's book "The Vanishing Middle Class: Prejudice and Power in a Dual Economy," he addresses how what he calls the "capitalists" of the FTE sector (finances, technology and electronics) prefer to keep wages of workers low as it provides "abundant cheap labor for their businesses." Additionally, he examines how the disruption of wage distribution between workers is a prevalent cause for the weakening of the middle class. While this doesn't immediately connect to taxation of the wealthy, the burden of taxes falls predominately to the middle class when the wealthy receive tax cuts.

However, the middle class is weakening and decreasing in size – meaning it can no longer handle this burden. By removing the burden from the middle class and back to the wealthy, this will help address the problem of the

vanishing middle class.

Coming from a middle-class family, I have seen firsthand how being middle class isn't as stable as before. We are one disaster, one major cost, one job loss away from falling to lower-class or even below the poverty line. Additionally, the country's social services are inadequate when it comes to providing for everyone who needs them. A way to fix this is to strengthen the classes so they don't need to rely so much on social services, as well as an increase of funding to those social services. Both of these options could be addressed in some aspect by increasing taxation of the wealthy.

However, this hasn't been the case. In fact, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2017 gave further tax cuts to the wealthy. This has resulted in our tax code no longer following the principle of the ability to pay – or the thought that a person's taxes are based on their capacity to pay taxes. Instead, the wealthy are able to accrue high amounts of wealth while having to pay few taxes on the wealth. The 1% are then able to use their wealth to pay for lobbying on more tax cuts – especially for them.

Overall, we of the Chatham Democrats are in favor of increasing taxation on the wealthy. The amount

they pay in taxes currently is not only no longer following the principle of ability to pay, but it has caused our economy and country to become highly unstable. If we want to fix the instability, the tax system should be rewritten so the wealthy are taxed in accordance to their wealth and they aren't using loopholes to avoid paying taxes. Increasing taxes on the wealthy will open gateways to addressing other problems within the country. This will hopefully help to stabilize the turbulence we as a nation are facing.

*Sources: "Capital in the Twenty-First Century" by Thomas Piketty and Arthur Goldhammer and "The Vanishing Middle Class: Prejudice and Power in a Dual Economy" by Peter Temin.*

### About the writer



**Carolyn Cullen** (Carolyn.cullen@chatham.edu) is the current president of the Chatham University College Democrats and Western VP of the Pennsylvania College Democrats. She is also a senior political science major double minoring in history and economics.

## Questions raised about athletic department culture after director's past controversial comment resurfaces

By Alice Crow  
Contributor Michaela  
DeLauter



A racially insensitive comment made by Chatham University Athletic Director Leonard Trevino in 1996 recently resurfaced on social media, sparking questions and concerns from Chatham Student Power (CSP) and Chatham Student Government (CSG).

CSP posted a screenshot on Oct. 4 to its Instagram account (@chathamcsp) of an article from The Baltimore Sun titled "Goucher coach apologizes for remark Head of basketball team had referred to players as 'my plantation,'" which was written in 1997. CSP tagged Chatham University (@chathamcu) and the athletic department's (@chathamcougar) official Instagram accounts in the post.

Trevino was a basketball coach at Goucher College in Maryland in 1996. During a team practice in December of that year,

Trevino referred to his team of predominantly Black student athletes as "my plantation." The comment was not widely known by the rest of the college until the following semester, after team members were overheard joking about it. This led to a student forum on racism and protest at the college.

Trevino soon after apologized to his team at Goucher and acknowledged the harm of racist statements.

The Baltimore Sun article came to the attention of CSP, an organization that focuses on uniting students around social justice issues, after it was sent to a CSP officer, Taylor Pelow '22, by a random Chatham student, believing it was relevant to the organization.

CSP's Oct. 4 post commented on the athletic department's recent Instagram activity, calling its support for the Black Lives Matter movement "performative." CSP also expressed concern via social media that Trevino's comment had never been addressed while he was at Chatham and it was "suspicious," given the University's dedication to inclusion and diversity.

Chatham's official Instagram account responded to the post, commenting that it would pass along this infor-

mation to Chatham leadership and follow up with more information when it became available.

When CSP did not hear back from Chatham within a week, it shared an official statement with the Communiqué and posted about the matter on the organization's Instagram account once again.

CSP wrote in its statement, "On behalf of the Executive Board of Chatham Student Power, we are concerned that Athletic Department Head, Leonard Trevino's, previous racially insensitive comments and Chatham University's silence on further reparations for them are illustrative of larger underlying issues within our Athletic Department as well as our university administration."

Although the executive board acknowledged that Trevino's comment was made more than 20 years ago, it demanded that Chatham "denounce these behaviors that are characteristic of racism" and for Trevino to "take action to ensure members of the Chatham community understand he regrets his harmful statements and that he will do more to be the anti-racist ally we all must be today."

Both CSP and CSG

requested Trevino make a written statement available to the Chatham community, attend the Oct. 15 CSG meeting to answer questions from Chatham community members and document his efforts to make the athletic department "more racially inclusive and comfortable place for students of color."

CSG's additional demands included that Trevino attend an online public forum to address any other questions from the Chatham community and for Chatham administration to issue a "formal statement on why decisive action has not been taken in this circumstance thus far, what it can do to make sure new hires are thoroughly vetted for racist behavior, and how it can learn from this controversy in the future."

Dr. David Finegold, President of Chatham University, attempted to address some of CSP's concerns in an interview with the Communiqué on Oct 15.

On the point of Chatham's silence, Dr. Finegold said CSP made the Instagram post during the week of Chatham's homecoming, which is one of the busiest of the year for administrators. President Finegold hoped the CSG meeting with Trevino, and their ▶

interviews with the student newspaper, would help express the University's position. He noted, "Our goal is to be transparent and share that with CSG and with everybody."

Trevino attended the CSG meeting and had a personal interview with the Communiqué on Oct. 15 to explain and apologize for his comment.

As Trevino explained, he intended the comment as a joke at the time in response to a player who implied that he was treating the team like slaves for making them run laps, even though they were winning games during that season.

"We were just running laps to stay in shape. ... One of the guys was goofing around ... and he said, 'You're such a slave driver.' He wasn't attacking me, just playing around, and that's when I made the comment," Trevino said.

Trevino, being Hispanic, went on to explain that both he and the team members were people of color at Goucher College, which was not particularly diverse at the time. He felt that it was a safe environment for him and his team to interact.

When asked to explain the context of his comment, Trevino was initially hesitant, worried that it may hurt students' feelings. He clarified, "I'm not giving

the circumstances to absolve myself. I don't mean to do that. I'm giving the circumstances, but I know it was wrong. ... I don't want to make excuses."

At the CSG meeting, Trevino formally apologized, saying "I am so sorry. I am a supporter of the Black community. It was 23 years ago. I am a different person now." He also shared an

*"I'm sorry that it happened. And I'm sorry if anyone was hurt. And I'm sorry that it hurt anyone to this day."*

*-- Leonard Trevino*

*Chatham Athletic Director*

official statement, as was requested.

When asked about how he had grown and changed since then, Trevino responded, "I know it was wrong, I know it caused pain. Words have an impact. I didn't know that in 1997." It was clarified at the meeting that since that comment was made in the '90s there has not been a similar incident involving Trevino.

"Trevino has done an outstanding job as our athletic director over his six years at Chatham. ... It's important to keep in mind that he worked [at Goucher College] for another 17 years after that one remark, and so I think we should judge someone based on

who they are as a person and their whole career, not a single remark that was made," Dr. Finegold told the Communiqué. The Goucher administration "worked with him for many years and endorsed him not just as a good athletic director but as someone who was very supportive of diversity, equity and inclusion, and so we take that

very seriously."

"I'm sorry that it happened. And I'm sorry if anyone was hurt. And I'm sorry that it hurts anyone to this day," Trevino added.

Members of the CSP Executive Board agreed that Trevino "sounded very genuine" with his apology and they appreciated what he did to answer their questions at the Oct. 15 CSG meeting.

"He reflected on it as if he felt bad, as if he considers himself someone who is an advocate for racial equality and justice," said Ava Roberts '22, a member of both CSG and CSP. "However, my questions specifically for him were, 'I like hearing all of these things. I appreciate that the head of

the athletic department is declaring himself an anti-racist in a public meeting, but what does that really mean in the context of action? What are you going to do to bring this anti-racist idea to your student athletes, to your department, to your coaches?"

While some questions at the CSG meeting focused on Trevino's past comment, more CSP and CSG members appeared to be concerned about the culture of the athletic department as a whole.

"The cultural issues among student athletes are bigger than Mr. Trevino's statement and the current COVID-19 outbreak," said Leah Whitacre '23, a CSP member who attended the meeting.

Roberts added, "I feel like the basis of our statement was such that we were trying to illustrate that we're concerned that there are deeper cultural trends and norms based on racism, sexism, xenophobia that are present in our University's administration that we are not addressing."

Trevino reported that he was aware of three racial-bias incidents within the department in the last five years. Zoe Levine '21, co-president of CSP, said she found that number to be surprising because she felt like she had heard about more problems during her ▶

years at Chatham. She indicated that this might be a communication problem between students and administration.

Morgan (Moe) Williams '22, the other co-president of CSP, spoke about her personal experience with some Chatham student athletes. During an intro to women and gender studies class, and the Title IX presentation at her first-year orientation, she said she repeatedly saw male athletes inappropriately laughing. Although this was a couple years ago, she said that she thinks there is still a problem on campus.

Roberts believes that Chatham missed a fundamental step when the University rebranded to a co-ed and D3 sports institution. Instead of initially instilling Chatham values, now the University is “playing catchup.”

“People who have grown up in sports culture, specifically men who have grown up in sports culture their whole lives, a lot of that socialization in and of itself is not really something that is cohesive with Chatham’s anti-racist, anti-sexist and pro-women culture. I feel like our University missed an opportunity in this transition, between these two very different types of colleges, to teach new students how to be culturally competent,” Roberts said.

While Dr. Finegold said, “I’m not aware of any expression of concern about racism within the athletic department,” Trevino acknowledged that he has heard some rumors about the teams and hoped that those who knew more would report it to the department.

“If that is happening, it is unacceptable, and it deserves immediate attention,” Trevino said at the CSG meeting. “We want to have an inclusive, non-racist environment. Are we a finished product? No, but I think we are close. I think the BLM movement has raised questions about ‘Are we doing things right? Can we do a lot more? What is performative and what isn’t?’ And I think we have a long way to go with that.”

Questions about athletic culture turned to questions about the high number of positive COVID-19 tests in the student athlete population. A student in attendance at the meeting brought up the seriousness of the situation, saying that it was no longer a matter of “boys will be boys,” but rather, “boys will be bio-weapons.”

“We don’t want to be upset or sanction people for getting COVID. This is a disease. This is a medical problem. Where the problem comes in is if people are blatantly breaking

COVID rules,” Trevino said.

### Proposed solutions

Members of CSP and CSG suggested ways to promote anti-racism and work against bigotry in the athletic department. There was a general consensus that education was the key component in creating change.

Williams believes online sensitivity training won’t cut it and instead suggested intergroup dialogues.

Other CSP members supported this idea.

“I think the next steps are having intergroup dialogues that are mandatory for athletes to participate in that deal with topics such as racism, sexism, homophobia,” Levine said.

When asked what he plans to do next, Trevino said he wasn’t exactly sure. He hoped to return to CSG during the spring 2021 semester, either in January or February, and provide

*“...the next steps are having intergroup dialogues...”*

*- Zoe Levine '21*

a report on his current and future approach. Members of these Chatham organizations said they plan to hold him to that promise.

Both Dr. Finegold and Trevino encouraged stu-

dents to report any misconduct.

“I think, to my mind, everybody at the University is trying to push toward similar objectives, and so where people have ideas or concerns, simply write me a letter or send me an email. I think I’m pretty accessible to everybody and just say what it is and let’s set up a meeting to talk about it. I don’t generally believe that the best way to make progress and solve things is through dueling posts on social media,” Dr. Finegold said.

While CSP members acknowledged that students should be more aware about anonymously reporting misconduct by filling out Honor Code Violation forms, several students said they believe the responsibility first lies with the University’s administration to approach students.

“[Trevino] was really vocal in the meeting about ‘any student can come to me if you had issues’ but I think it needs to be him who goes to students and has these discussions, as well as talking to coaches and saying there needs to be a more direct line of communication,” Levine said.

To bridge these gaps, Roberts said it “comes down to empathy, caring about other people as people.”

## Things to do: Observing the nation in An-My Lê's 'On Contested Terrain'



An-My Lê's photographic collections, currently located in the Heinz Galleries, take on global and national affairs in a refreshing light. Credit: Charlotte Larson

By Charlottes Larson

An-My Lê's "On Contested Terrain" is a comprehensive exhibition currently showing at the Carnegie Museum of Art. Across her work, the Vietnamese-born photographer investigates her interest in conflict, human relationships and history.

"On Contested Terrain" is showing in Oakland until Jan. 18, 2021. Chatham University students can see this exhibit for free with their student ID.

To Lê, the most powerful aspect of photography is the access it gives her to explore other communities, other worlds and other stories she finds fascinating. "Vietnam," "Small Wars," "29 Palms," "Events Ashore" and "Silent General" are just a few of the artist's collections present-

ed in the show.

The first area of the exhibition showcases Lê's "Vietnam" series. The photos were taken in a four-year span, beginning in 1994 with Lê's first trip back to her birthplace. The monochromatic landscapes are captivating, full of quintessential aspects of life across Vietnam. They depict how the nation was starting to be shaped by Western influence.

The photos in this early collection demonstrate Lê's unique capacity to capture a moment in time that would seem chaotic outside of her camera. Her studies on conflict are, as noted in the gallery description, not like those of most other photo-journalists. Lê seems more interested in the people behind the fighting and the

many stories a landscape holds.

Moving into the main gallery space, the viewer is introduced to Lê's current project. "Silent General" is an ongoing exploration that began in 2015 with Lê's documentation of Confederate soldier statues being taken down across the United States. In this collection, she investigates how conflict — particularly political conflict in this case — is reflected in a landscape.

From Mexico to Louisiana and New York, Lê is curious about the extent to which ideological conflict marks physical spaces. While the photos in the collection are meant to document moments in recent history, Lê also uses them to comment on what it felt like — and what it still feels like — to live in America during an obvious evolution.

Gray smoke blocks out a blue sky as a field burns in the midday sun in "Fragment I: Sugar Cane Field, November 5, Houma, Louisiana," taken in 2016. Here, Lê draws a parallel between the destruction of the burning field and the turmoil the nation faced that year.

In many ways, the piece is unsettling. The smoke reduces the sun to a faint orb, and the field has been made barren. Although the fire might have been set intentionally, it is now running its own course — much like U.S. and international politics the past four years. We the viewers are left thinking about the ways in which natural systems are reflective of our constructed societies and what we are collectively going through.

Additionally, a part of the "Silent General" series, "Fragment IV: Family under the Presidio-Ojinaga" ▶



"Fragment IV: Family under the Presidio-Ojinaga International Bridge, Rio Grande, Texas-Mexico Border."

Credit: Charlotte Larson

International Bridge, Rio Grande, Texas-Mexico Border,” shows a family sitting together in the Rio Grande underneath a highway overpass. The state of immigration, particularly across the Texas-Mexico border, was a huge source of debate during the 2016 presidential election. Since then, the southern border has been the site of great stress, namely the horrific ICE detention centers.

As in much of her work, Lê does not comment directly on this source of contention but instead offers a picture of serenity against the contextual backdrop of strife. We wonder if the family in the photo is thinking about its position in the world: caught between two lands and two nations that are not much different, yet

trapped in political issues.

Lê consistently leaves us thinking about the intrapersonal conflict going on inside individuals she photographs, as well as the external conflicts they’re unwillingly a part of. Her expertise in technical composition and her grasp on subject matter give birth to work that’s mesmerizing aesthetically and conceptually.

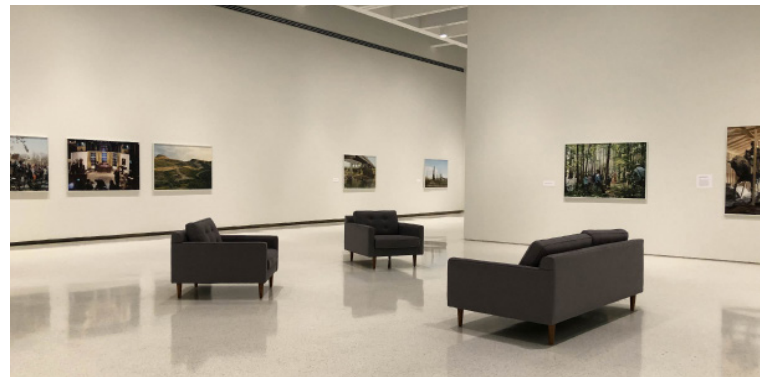
I feel I am not alone in saying that there have been countless times these past four years where I wished to step back, to zoom out and see the world as an outsider. Lê’s photographs allow us to do this. Stepping into the spacious, quiet gallery space felt surprisingly reflective of Lê’s approach to her craft — that is, becoming an observer of

life.

A gray sofa and two matching armchairs stand in the middle of the largest area surrounded by Lê’s color photographs. I imagined this setup welcoming visitors to sit down and become a part of the work. We are asked how it feels to live in the world that Lê is photographing — a world of serious, consuming con-

flict but also of gorgeous, moving human stories and souls.

For those looking to reflect on current life in America and elsewhere, “On Contested Terrain” is a must-see. For more information, or to tour the gallery virtually, visit <https://cmoa.org/exhibition/an-my-le/>.



“On Contested Terrain” is on display at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Oakland. Credit: Charlotte Larson

## Steel Currents: Same brings something new to Pittsburgh’s music scene

By Wyatt Cory

Getting to know the Pittsburgh music scene is unlike anywhere else. With rich history and big names to come out of Pittsburgh, you would imagine that it would be similar to other cities such as Philadelphia, Chicago or Los Angeles. In reality, Pittsburgh has developed a diverse talented group of musicians that often gets caught under the radar.

“If you don’t live here



*Steel Currents is an occasional series in which lifestyle editor Wyatt Cory spotlights Pittsburgh-based bands and musicians that Chatham University students should keep on their radar.*

it’s hard to know what it’s like,” says Tom Higgins, the lead guitarist of Pittsburgh-based band Same.

Higgins, along with Jesse Caggiano (bass, vocals), Jamie Gruzinski (drums) and Jake Stern (guitar, vocals) started Same in 2015 after Higgins and Caggiano left another Pittsburgh band, Naked Spirit. Through chance and their knowledge of Pittsburgh’s independent music scene, Same was formed and ready to try something new with its ►

music.

Same is releasing new music this month, with a chance to catch it perform outdoors Oct. 17.

The band members wanted to explore something beyond their traditional alternative rock pasts.

“Jesse and I wanted to try some more experimental stuff. ... We were getting into bands like Joan Of Arc and Sonic Youth,” Higgins recalls. “We wanted to make it in the same vein as our old band, but with the freedom to try some weird stuff.”

The ‘90s alternative rock influence is unmissable when you listen to Same’s discography. The group often sounds like Pavement 2.0, but with each release being something a little different from the last.

To keep the band moving in new directions, each member listened to different genres on their own to get ideas for other influences to incorporate.

“If we are all listening to the same thing, we are just going to write music that sounds exactly the same without even knowing it,” Higgins says.

This devotion to being different makes Same stand out, compared to other bands like it. There’s a mentality that’s shared between the band members that anything can happen if they keep their options

open. By doing this, Same has added a new member, Brady Lanzendorfer (keys). His addition has allowed the group to continue to explore new sounds and genres.

“The goal for the band was to not have any restrictions on ourselves,” Higgins explains

Same released its debut album “Plastic Western” in May. Each song pulls from the band’s past to put its own spin on something new. The album’s ability to blend genres and influences and keep listeners coming back displays how talented and exciting Same is.

Luckily for fans, there is new music in the works.

Same released on Oct. 13 a new single, “Gum Stand.” This was the only song written for “Plastic Western” that was yet to be released. It’s hoping to record a new album this fall, which will be recorded and produced by the band. Although the band members have little experience with production, they hope this challenge will allow them to experiment with fresh genres and become a more well-rounded group.

The public can catch Same playing a set on Saturday, Oct. 17, outside Mr. Smalls in Millvale as part of its “Street Series.” To mark its first live show since the release of “Plastic Western,” Same plans

to play the whole album straight through.

The “Street Series” showcase that day is from 1 to 9 p.m. and will feature a sampling of Pittsburgh’s bands in a safe, outdoor setting.

This is a free event with a food or beverage purchase.

You can find Same on most music streaming services and on Instagram @sameband.



From left, Jake Stern, Jesse Caggiano, Tom Higgins and Jamie Cruzinski. Credit: Eric Stevens

## Story tips?

- ▶ If you have a story tip, please let us know!
- ▶ Email the Communiqué ([communique@chatham.edu](mailto:communique@chatham.edu)) or the Editor-in-Chief ([alice.crow@chatham.edu](mailto:alice.crow@chatham.edu))





*Photographer Lilly Kubit shares a glimpse of how life has changed at Chatham University because of COVID-19. Despite the pandemic, students are still finding ways to make memories and continue traditions on campus.*

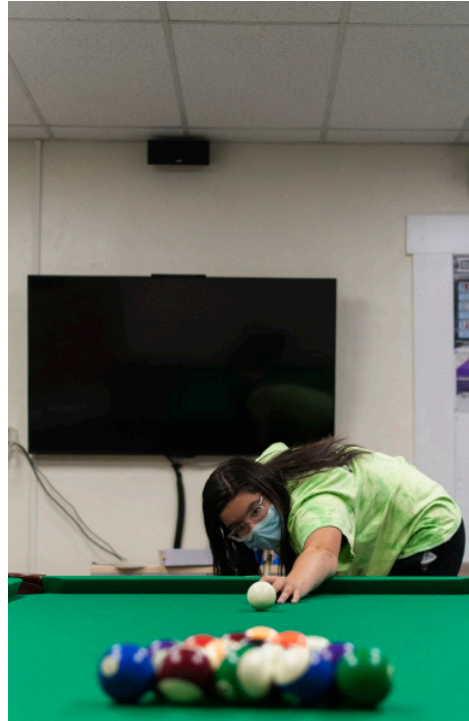
## BEFORE

A student plays pool in the Carriage House game room on Feb. 12, 2020, about a month before Chatham announced shutting down in-person classes due to COVID-19. Credit: Emelia Zandier



## AFTER

Students can still play pool and other games in the Carriage House this academic year, just like this student on Sept. 4, 2020. But safety measures have been put in place, including a face mask requirement, games need to be quarantined for 24 hours after use and occupancy limits. Only four people are permitted to be in the game room at a time to allow for physical distancing. Credit: Lilly Kubit



The quad is a hub for many outdoor events on campus, like the Student Engagement Fair on Sept. 4, 2019. Even when there aren't events, though, students can regularly be seen studying in the adirondack chairs spread across the lawn. Credit: Phil Pavely



After a spike of COVID-19 cases on campus during a one-week timeframe in October, Chatham University raised the campus operational alert level to "high," meaning all classes were moved to a virtual format, limited activity protocols in the residential areas and all events being cancelled from Oct. 16 to 25. On Oct. 18, the quad, like many areas on campus, was empty. Credit: Lilly Kubit



# *The Adventures of Doodlebug*

*Doodlebug understands the dangers of COVID-19. Do you?*



*Alexis Taranto '24.*

## *Keep in touch*

### **Letters to the editor**

The *Communique* welcomes readers to submit letters to be considered for publication in print and/or online. 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 *Communique* 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)).

### **Advertising**

Contact business manager Rylee Napolitan ([rylee.napolitan@chatham.edu](mailto:rylee.napolitan@chatham.edu)) to learn more about digital advertising opportunities.

### **Join the staff**

The *Communique* welcomes writers, photographers, videographers, graphic designers, website and social media editors, artists, and students with interest in marketing and advertising. Email Editor-in-Chief Alice Crow ([alice.crow@chatham.edu](mailto:alice.crow@chatham.edu)) to access the Zoom link for staff meetings.

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