

# COMMUNIQUE

VOL. 77 ISSUE 3

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 2020



## Chatham Heads Indoors In November

News

Opinion

Sports

Lifestyle

Visuals

Forum

Sierra Sokol '23 (left) and Eliza Moore '23 (right) visit Emma Voelker '23 (center) in her room and share some stories on Nov. 20 before they must leave campus for the semester.

Credit: Lilly Kubit

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Chatham Community,

As COVID-19 cases rise dramatically in Allegheny County, Chatham students have left campus for Thanksgiving break and won't return until the spring semester. November seemed to pass quickly, and somewhat quietly, but I believe the content of this issue shows that the *Communique* staff was still dedicated to bringing you thoughtful and informative stories. For that, I am extremely grateful to them. And as the cold weather encouraged everyone to stay indoors, our readers remained genuinely curious about Chatham happenings. I wish to thank you for that as well.

Although some of the stories in this issue may paint a bleak picture, we wish for you to carry some hope with you into this holiday season. Perhaps you'll find solace in the stories about animal sanctuaries and passionate professors. The staff and I look forward to bringing you more stories in the new year, but until then, please enjoy the final issue of the paper for the fall 2020 semester and check out our continuing coverage online at [chathamcommunique.com](http://chathamcommunique.com).

Sincerely,  
Alice Crow  
Editor-in-Chief

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## CONTENTS

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### NEWS

**3 DEATH OF DUCK**  
Howard the duck has most likely been eaten by Chatham wildlife.

*By Haley McMonagle*

**4 ZOOM BURNOUT**  
Students and faculty struggle to adjust to Zoom classes this year.

*By Charlotte Larson*

**6 COVID HONOR CODE**  
Violations this semester are linked to COVID-19

*By Gena Carter*

### OPINION

**9 SURVIVOR'S PERSPECTIVE**  
A survivor of sexual assault weighs in on the changes to the Title IX policies.

*By Rylee Napolitan*

**11 ANTISEMITISM AT COLLEGE**  
Jewish Student Association president talks about the prevalence of antisemitism at college campuses.

*By Leah Berman Kress*

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### LIFESTYLE

**13 CHATHAM CHATS**  
Advice for the unmotivated and stressed-out student.

*By the Communique Staff*

**14 HOLOCAUST CENTER**  
Chatham's partnership with the center is strong during COVID-19.

*By Juliana Freeman*

### VISUALS

**15 BEFORE & AFTER COVID**  
A photo series shows the wildly different experiences that Chatham students are having this year, as compared to events on campus in previous years.

*By Lilly Kubit*

### FORUM

**16 DOODLEBUG**  
A comic series about the trials and tribulations of Doodlebug.

*By Alexis Taranto*

## Staff List

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Alice Crow

**Business manager**  
Rylee Napolitan

**Faculty advisor**  
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Juliana Freeman  
Jake Lach  
Charlotte Larson  
Haley McMonagle  
Jorie Meil  
JL Silverman  
Maggie Susa  
Ryan Thatcher

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Alexis Taranto

**Photographer**  
Lilly Kubit



## Chatham University mourns the death of Howard the duck

By Haley McMonagle

The Chatham pond is empty.

As winter approaches, the wild ducks have left for the warmth of the South as they always have. But a well-known Chatham University resident, who has stayed at the Shadyside campus pond year round, is gone from his home.

Howard, a domesticated duck who was left by his previous owners on the shore of Chatham's pond in spring 2018, and his duckling, Puddles, fell prey to Chatham wildlife.

The Monday before Chatham shutdown due to COVID-19, John Sylvester, a member of the grounds team, took his usual trip with the orange Kubota tractor to the Chatham pond to feed the ducks, as he did every weekday morning.

"I always found it to be relaxing to visit with them," he said.

He would routinely stay with them for half an hour, depending on how busy the day was, but something was off that day. Howard wasn't there to greet Sylvester.

"Sometimes they would hide, [but] once I would make enough noise with the Kubota, anytime I would show up, they would come running," Sylvester said.

Sylvester called Kristen



Howard the duck at the Chatham pond in 2019.

Photo Credit: Jade Marzolf.

Spirl, Chatham's grounds department manager, when he couldn't find Howard. Together, they searched for the duck.

Howard "was nowhere to be found," Sylvester said. "We kind of put two and two together. It was a sad day here at Chatham for us to be sure."

After only managing to find a few feathers, they believed that he must have become prey to a raccoon, opossum, fox or any of the other wildlife from campus. Two weeks later, Puddles went missing under the same circumstances.

While the University was shut down last spring due to COVID-19, Spirl learned of Howard's origins. Spirl told the *Communicate* in a past interview that she believed the duck was left by a fam-

ily who planned to eat him but then decided that they couldn't go through with it.

While tending to the wild ducks, Spirl met a Chatham student who told her a different story. Allegedly, this student was the roommate of the person who brought a duck to Chatham and kept him in Woodland Hall.

"She told me that she came home ... and opened up her shared bathroom with her roommate and, lo and behold, there was a duck in there," Spirl said.

The duck was allegedly left by the student at the pond with the other birds there, but this duck didn't resemble his wild counterparts.

"One of my team members of the grounds department took a picture and was like, 'This is not what

normal ducks look like,'" Spirl said. "So, we googled it and found out that he was a domestic duck and found out that he was a male"

They affectionately named him Howard, after the duck in the 1986 movie "Howard the Duck."

Howard was a Khaki Campbell duck that because of his heavier frame could not fly, like other domesticated ducks. When winter came, Howard stayed at Chatham while the other wild mallard ducks left.

In summer 2019, Howard fathered 19 eggs with Roberta, a Chocolate Indian Runner, who Spirl affectionately calls Robbi. Roberta was named after Chatham's AVP of Facilities, Robert DuBray. Roberta was allegedly left by a family as a pet because they had no idea how to care for her. Only one of Howard and Roberta's eggs survived, a duckling named Puddles.

A heated-floating duck house was added to the pond where the eggs were laid, and the ducks enjoyed sleeping.

After both Howard and Puddles were gone, the last domesticated duck at Chatham was Roberta. One of the professors at Chatham University had contact with Hope Haven animal farm, a nonprofit farm sanctuary ►

and animal rescue in Sewickley.

The student gardeners, the grounds team and two electricians worked together to catch Roberta to take her to her new home. “It was crazy,” Sylvester said about trying to corner Roberta. “She was pretty fast. ... It was funny after, but it was a tough job.”

Roberta now lives at the Hope Haven with many other ducks. Karen Phillips, Hope Haven’s founder, reports that Roberta is doing great and seems to have adjusted well to her new home. She now has a beautiful dark plumage after molting for the fall.

She made friends with Puff, a female white-crested duck. Both Roberta and Puff were moved to a separate coop for the cold weather months at Phillips’ house but will return to the pond at the animal sanctuary with the warmer spring weather.

Spiral believes there’s a lesson to be learned from this situation. She loved the ducks and gave them the best care she could. However, she insists that people should not get a pet without knowing the care it entails. She asks that ducks not be left at Chatham because there are wild ducks that visit. If a pet cannot be giv-

en its proper care, it should go to a place that can take care of it, like a sanctuary.

Although it may look like

a duck and quack like a duck, that doesn’t mean it’s a duck that should be left in the wild.



Roberta the duck has a new dark plumage at the Hope Haven animal farm. Photo Credit: Karen Phillips.

## Students, faculty experience Zoom burnout



By Charlotte Larson

For better or worse, Zoom is the new lecture hall.

It has exploded in popularity since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The online video confer-

ence platform and other similar programs have been used to deliver courses virtually at major universities across the world.

How are Chatham stu-

dents and faculty adapting? In what ways has the dramatic increase in screen time affected the health and wellbeing of both groups?

“There’s a reason why you don’t look in the mirror for eight hours a day,” said Ava Roberts ‘22 about Zoom instruction.

Roberts has experienced “Zoom burnout” in more ways than one. She understands the magnitude of current affairs and does not believe that in-person instruction is safe at the moment, but that being said, she finds it hard to focus in classes conducted virtually.

“When everyone of your classmates is on your screen, plus whatever is

happening in their backgrounds, plus your own image is staring back at you, it can take an enormous amount of energy to not get distracted,” Roberts said.

Olivia Zelinsky ‘24 feels set back in her engagement in class. She’s not alone in admitting to having fallen asleep while in Zoom calls before.

For her, Zoom makes it hard to participate in class.

“I want to show my professors that I’m interested and that I’m prepared, but it’s hard to do that over Zoom,” she said. It’s difficult to find an opportunity to chime in and create group discussions like those that would otherwise arise naturally during in-person ▶



class settings, she added.

The overwhelming feeling among students is that Zoom acts as a divide between themselves, their peers and their professors. Both Roberts and Zelinsky said their grades have not been impacted, but their levels of engagement and feeling connected to the Chatham community this year have been.

The obstacles created by online instruction are something professors must deal with, too. Adjunct professor Deborah Hosking misses the free hours of her day spent talking to her students, the maintenance staff and fellow faculty members on a more personal level.

“We have such a good group in the [Art & Design Center],” Hosking said. Keeping in contact with her coworkers and with students through email correspondence has taken significant energy — far more than popping into offices or classrooms.

Hosking estimates an average of 40 hours per week is spent in front of her computer. That time consists of troubleshooting organizational issues in Brightspace (Chatham’s new learning management system), preparing lesson demonstrations, staying on top of Adobe updates, giving instruction over Zoom and her other responsibilities.

“Zoom is most definitely not a place for spontaneity,” Hosking said when reflecting on how much work goes into keeping a virtual class moving. At the end of the day, she, like many others these days, feels like she’s left with her head and eyes swirling.

Despite the literal and figurative headaches she encounters, Hosking has found inventive ways of making the most of online instruction. In her media literacy course, students were prompted to create “Zoom sets” in order to get them thinking about framing themselves during video lectures. Here, Hosking asked her students to consider the falsifying nature of film sets and social media.

Scott Kalafatis, Ph.D, an assistant professor of sustainability, has experienced similar challenges with Zoom. He reports spending about 10 hours a day on the computer, and 10 to 15 hours a week on Zoom.

Kalafatis has used this as an opportunity to explore the possibilities of virtual instruction. He has found it helpful to allow students to guide some of the components of his classes by observing where they seem most interested.

He said that one of the most pleasantly surprising things to come out of online learning is the discussions

that take place in the Zoom chat during his sustainability and society course. He loves seeing students engage with the course material by talking to each other in a mature and constructive way, he said.

Kalafatis knows that the social aspects of college are largely absent this year, and he hopes that giving students space to interact in classes will make up for a small part of this loss.

On a more personal note, Kalafatis also uses Zoom to acclimate to his teaching position and further develop his skills as an instructor. Zoom has helped him with his anxiety around public speaking, he said, by serving as the facade that he might otherwise put up himself. He aims to be the kind of professor that leaves students with a memorable impression — preferably an endearingly awkward one, he admitted.

As someone with an interest in social science, Kalafatis finds the traditional academic setting funny and in many ways, seeks to break it down. During this time, he has enjoyed seeing pets or other household members walking around in the background of students’ videos — an occurrence subversive to the “professionalism” often promoted by academics.

“I am amused by humaneness,” Kalafatis said. He

hopes that as we cope with online learning, we can all be human with one another.

The meaningful efforts of professors like Kalafatis have not gone unnoticed by students.

“Scott is the definition of the type of professor that makes you feel like a human being,” Roberts said. “He makes us feel welcome and comfortable, and he makes his content digestible for students.”

Students and faculty alike experience the burn-out in this age of online learning. Both groups long for friends, for blue light detoxes, for houses with outdoor spaces, for art, for coming together in groups.

Many days the feeling of “what can’t be,” as Roberts puts it, takes over. But when exhaustion hits hard, we must remember each other.

Zelinsky and Roberts are both impressed by the adaptability and creativity of their professors.

“Keep going. We know it’s hard. We admire you,” Roberts said. Both students also offered moving words of support and encouragement to their classmates.

“To my fellow instructors, I miss you. To my students, I look forward to more time spent in person,” Hosking said.

“I just hope SUS102 can be fun again,” Kalafatis said with a laugh.

# Majority of Honor Code complaints during fall 2020 semester related to COVID-19

By Gena Carter

Chatham made changes this summer to the University Honor Code to better communicate to students expectations surrounding health and safety protocols for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

There has been some concern on campus that Chatham students are attending parties, particularly on the heels of the University experiencing a temporary uptick in cases in October. However, official data from the University does not reflect that.

As of Oct. 30, Dean of Students Heather Black has processed 21 complaints involving the Honor Code, and Residence Life has issued 26 guest policy reminders. All but two of these instances are related to COVID-19 policies.

Of all the processed cases, seven pertained to gatherings, two pertained to the guest policy and 12 were mask violations. As of Oct. 7, the University has not investigated any large gatherings (defined as 25 or more people indoors) involving Chatham students.

Guest policy reminders from Residence Life attempt to warn students about a potential Honor

Code violation before it is formally reported to Dean Black. One of the cases Dean Black processed had previously received a guest policy reminder.

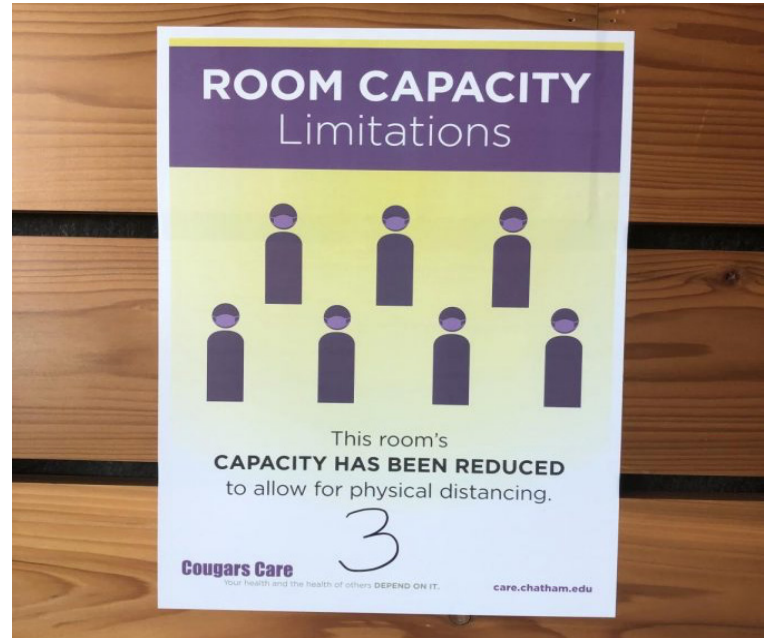
It's important that Chatham students remain up-to-date on guest policy and room occupancy limits to avoid these reminders and potential Honor Code consequences.

Of the 21 cases Dean Black processed, 16 of them have been reported by Residence Life. Residence Life has also investigated four instances of marijuana odor and two instances related to alcohol as of Oct. 21.

There have been no incidences of campus police investigating prohibited gatherings from Sept. 3 to Oct. 19, according to Chief Valerie Townsend. However, campus police did investigate a suspected odor of marijuana in the Chatham Apartments on Oct. 1 and another marijuana odor report in Dilworth Hall on Oct. 13.

These statistics from the University suggest that no large gatherings have been completely processed or investigated by Chatham University at the time of interviews for this story.

**Student-athletes and**



An example of a room occupancy limit that has been set by Residence Life at Orchard Hall.

## COVID-19 policies

Student-athletes must uphold the same Honor Code guidelines as the rest of the student body. Dean Black oversees their sanctions, too. However, she also refers them to coaches or Athletic Director Leonard Trevino, who decide whether or not the students' actions warrant any additional consequences.

Consequences specific to student-athletes can be issued on top of those issued by Student Affairs. These would involve prohibiting participation in athletic practices, games or other activities.

The length of time that an athlete would be punished would depend on the

severity of the event and if the student takes accountability for it, according to Trevino. It is possible that entire teams could be reprimanded if they all broke the guidelines.

Earlier this semester, the Communicate received reports from students about a party allegedly involving the baseball team. Those reports were not able to be confirmed.

"I haven't seen any proof about the baseball team," Trevino said on Oct. 7. "We work closely with Student Affairs. When we do hear rumors, we try to get ahead of it."

The athletic department has had some instances of student-athletes not ►

following Chatham's COVID-19 guidelines. Trevino stressed that the school is trying not to use the word "party" to denote any gathering prohibited by COVID-19 policies. If students are not following school safety protocol for occupancy limits and masking, there is still an issue regardless if alcohol is involved or not, he said.

At the time of the interview, Trevino stated that these instances had largely been due to forgetfulness. This was before news broke Oct. 15 regarding Chatham's COVID-19 case count spiking to 18 new positive cases in a two-day period. All but one of these cases came from testing the men's ice hockey team, according to an email sent out by the University.

### Taking action

If students believe someone has violated University Health and Safety protocols, they can fill out this form on MyChatham, email [honorcode@chatham.edu](mailto:honorcode@chatham.edu) or email Dean Black directly at [hblack@chatham.edu](mailto:hblack@chatham.edu).

The form allows students to submit information anonymously.

"My caution with anonymous forms is keep in mind that I might not have all the information I need to necessarily move forward," Dean Black said.

There have been eight COVID-19 policy remind-

ers issued by the Honor Code. These policy reminders are a result of Dean Black not having enough information from anonymous reports to pursue a full case. Students should include as much context about the situation as possible and the name of the student suspected of violating the Honor Code when submitting information anonymously.

If students provide their name, they will receive a notification that their report has been received. Dean Black and her designee, someone that Dean Black has appointed to oversee

comfortable.

Processed complaints, if found to warrant sanctions by the University, can be solved with informal or formal resolutions. Off-campus and on-campus Honor Code complaints are processed the same way.

### Informal resolutions

Informal resolutions are typically reserved for minor or first-time offenses, such as forgetting to wear a mask or properly distancing. They result in a judicial meeting with Dean Black to talk about the case and for the students to present their side.

Multiple violations are

These changes included adding language within the Honor Code to reference student responsibilities during pandemic scenarios. Students are expected to adhere to health and safety protocols outlined by the University such as:

- ▶ Adhering to room occupancy limits for dorms, apartments and common areas.
- ▶ Following guest policy and only allowing students within your own apartment/dorm visit your room.
- ▶ Wearing a mask and maintaining 6 ft from others.
- ▶ Completing a daily health screening.
- ▶ Staying home if students experience any symptoms of COVID-19, among other measures.

an Honor Code case, work with students in cases to the extent that the student is

still treated as a first-time offense if Dean Black does not have the chance to meet

with a student. However, the amount of reports and severity of them influences the sanction. For example, if a student fails to wear a mask to class and is reported by a professor, and then, later that day, fails to wear a mask to Anderson Dining Hall, these multiple violations are still treated as a first time offense so long as Dean Black has not yet met with the student.

### Formal resolutions

Formal resolutions are generally received for repeat or severe offenses. Reports are processed over an Administrative Hearing or through the Judicial Board. The method that is chosen depends on the case.

Administrative Hearings involve Dean Black or an experienced designee from Student Affairs hearing the case.

The Judicial Board consists of a student, faculty member, and administrator. A pool of student Judicial Board members are chosen by Dean Black each year. The students that hear these cases are chosen to reflect the Respondent's graduate or undergraduate status. Actions that may result in suspension or other serious consequences are generally handled with the Judicial Board.

Both of these methods function similarly to how a standard court hearing would proceed, with both ▶

parties potentially presenting evidence, witnesses, and testifying.

As of Oct. 7, none of the cases that have been processed by Dean Black have resulted in formal resolutions. The informal resolutions have been educational warnings the majority of the time.

Educational warnings result in the student taking accountability for their actions. It may involve steps such as composing a reflection on the incident or

doing community service.

Educational warnings are not present on a student's conduct file, so they are not on the record for other universities or potential employers to access. Other statuses of disciplinary warnings, suspension and probation do go on a student's conduct file.

A student may bring forth evidence for the judicial hearing process, but Dean Black does not share the identity of the student who reported the incident to the

student being investigated. However, the student still may be subject to the process of elimination.

Trevino hopes students, particularly student-athletes, remain vigilant when following safety measures.

"Student-athletes, they obviously want to participate in their sport. But, having a couple students not do what we ask ... puts the whole team in jeopardy," Trevino said. "We need to think about the community around us.

"We are trying to ... make it as educational as possible without it being punitive," he continued. "I know it's difficult for students. ... We all understand that, but we are trying to make it as livable as possible while keeping the community safe."

For more details about the University's policies involving COVID-19 and new additions to the Honor Code, students can visit the University's website.

## POLICE BLOTTER

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

**Oct. 26** – Officers responded to the Chatham Apartments Tower D because someone threw an egg at a window. No damage was reported.

**Oct. 30** – There was a report of two intoxicated students on Woodland Road. The students were transported to the Hospital for their safety.

**Oct. 30** – There was a report of property damage near the Athletic & Fitness Center. A truck struck a light pole.

**Nov. 2** – Officers responded to a Fire Alarm at the Chatham Apartments. The alarm was false and was set off by someone working in Tower B.

**Nov. 6** – Officers were dispatched to the Mellon Center for a student who passed out. The student was stable and refused medical treatment.

**Nov. 7** – Officers found two people on Chapel Hill intoxicated. One was a student who was assisted back to Woodland Hall without further incident. The other was not a student and was escorted off campus without incident.

**Nov. 12** – The Emergency Call Box went off at the Linzer Apartments. Officers responded but no one was in the area.



*In this installment, students share their perspective on reporting sexual assault and antisemitism on college campuses.*

### A survivor's perspective on changes to Title IX policies

By Rylee Napolitan



*Trigger Warning: Sexual Assault*

I was 15 the first time I was sexually assaulted. It happened again when I was 18, just three weeks before I was supposed to start my first year at Chatham University. Both times, I knew my abusers; one of them was one of my best friends. Both times, I was under the influence. Both times, I didn't report.

What happened to me was awful, and I wouldn't wish it on anybody. Unfortunately, it happens more than we'd like to think.

We never want to imagine something so terrible happening to the people we care about, or even worse, to ourselves.

Before it happened, I swore up and down that it would never happen to me, that I would never let it happen. And after it happened the first time, I swore it would never happen again — but it did.

The thing is, most of the women in my life have a story like mine, and sadly, most of their stories end in

a similar way: unreported.

According to statistics from RAINN, "One out of every six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime."

Women who are college students between the ages of 18 and 24 are three times more likely than women in general to experience sexual violence; women who are in the same age bracket but not enrolled in college are four times more likely. Only 20% of female student victims report to law enforcement, and only 4% feel comfortable enough to report at all.

Chatham has given me the space, over the last year, to find a supportive community of people. I am grateful to have come here and met some of the incredible students and faculty within our community because they gave me support and validation in a time when I needed it the most.

But for Chatham and other universities to expect that victims will come forward in light of the updated Title IX laws is asking too much.

The new regulations, known as the "Final Rule," offer procedural changes and increased protections

of all parties involved in sexual harassment investigations. Chatham began operating under these new policies Aug. 14, as required by the Department of Education. The regulations change the definition of the umbrella term "sexual harassment" used in the Title IX policies. Sexual harassment is described in three ways by the Final Rule:

"Quid Pro Quo" — An employee of a school conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit or service of the school on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the school's education program or activity; or Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence or Stalking (as defined in the Policy).

This definition of sexual harassment is narrower than what was used by Chatham and many other schools prior to the Final Rule. Under former Title IX policies, acts of sexual misconduct were referred to as "prohib-

National Sexual Assault Hotline:  
1-800-656-4673

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape  
(PAAR): 1-866-363-7273

ited acts.”

We live in a society where our legal system often allows for the perpetrators of these crimes to walk away with a slap on the wrist, regardless of how much evidence remains. If we’ve learned anything from the Brock Turner case back in 2016, which involved a Stanford University student receiving a light sentence for rape, it’s that the legal system’s handling of rape and sexual assault seems like it’s not designed with victims in mind. The same could be said for the updated Title IX laws.

It’s both foolish and disrespectful to believe that the changes made to Title IX laws have been enacted to aid victims when they are not mindful of the safety of students. Instead, it seems like these laws are more so focused on the safety of university reputations: Why would parents knowingly send their children to schools with high instances of sexual assault,

harassment and stalking? It could be argued that in this case universities have more to gain from our silence than they do from keeping us safe.

It is terrifying, shameful and traumatic to face your abuser again in any context, let alone in a setting that will determine whether or not you are believed by those in power charged with delivering justice.

We have built a society wherein criticism of how women express themselves runs rampant, and we have normalized pushing the blame onto the woman while excusing the actions of her abuser by saying things like, “Boys will be boys.” We have built a society where women are ostracized for coming forward and asked questions like “How much were you drinking?” and “What were you wearing?” and “Did you say ‘no’?” instead of being met with support.

Regardless of these societal norms and how

the system may evolve for better or for worse in the future, I think it’s important to conclude with this: whether or not you report is your choice, and your choice alone.

I have spent the last three years feeling immense guilt and shame for something that was never my fault to begin with, and a lot of that also stems from not speaking out and not reporting. And to anyone who might be struggling with a similar situation right now, I want to remind you that it’s OK and that your feelings are valid.

It has taken me years to finally feel comfortable speaking about and addressing this. To do so in such a public manner like this is something I never

would’ve imagined myself doing. But I have decided for me that, while I feel that to go through the process of reporting would do more harm than good, I still have the power of my voice. And I’ve decided that after three and a half years, I’m finally ready to speak my truth.

It’s your story and your voice. You did not have control over what happened to you, but how you use your voice is completely in your control, and no one else gets to make that decision for you. In this case, you are the only person who knows what is best for you. Whichever you choose — to report or not to report — please just remember that you are not alone.

## About the writer



**Rylee Napolitan** is a member of Chatham University Class of ‘23, where she is an English and public relations double major with a minor in pre-law. Napolitan is the business manager for the *Communiqué* and the publicity editor for Chatham’s literary magazine, *The Minor Bird*.

## JSA president reflects on antisemitism on college campuses

By Leah Berman-Kress of the Chatham Jewish Student Association

It's no secret that antisemitism is at an all-time high both globally and nationally. It is an especially prevalent issue on college campuses.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance developed a working definition for antisemitism: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

On Aug. 25, the Chabad Center at the University of Delaware was set on fire. This arsonist intentionally destroyed a safe space for Jewish students.

More recently, students called out antisemitism at the University of Connecticut. "The Third Reich" was written on a student's door in one of the residence halls, according to the University of Connecticut Hillel's Instagram account.

Many Jewish college students are bombarded with antisemitic comments and actions on a daily basis. It is disheartening and exhausting to endure.



Antisemitism is such a widespread issue that an Instagram account, @jewishoncampus, was created to highlight and condemn these acts across American universities. Since the account began this July, there are already more than 200 posts.

As college students, we are still figuring out who we are. According to The Anti-Defamation League, "some [students] are especially vulnerable to hate-mongers who either stir their developing political passions or couch bigotry in academic terms designed to appeal to their intellectual curiosity."

As a campus community, we cannot stand by and let this happen. Chatham University's Jewish community

needs active allies to stand with us and fight antisemitism.

The attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue building, in which members of three congregations were killed, on Oct. 27, 2018 robbed Jewish students of our sense of safety. Eleven members of the Pittsburgh Jewish community were killed, and Chatham's Jewish students were left shaken. After this attack, it is more important than ever that Jewish allies are actively and fiercely supportive.

Chatham held a service and vigil following the attack, and at least 100 people were in attendance. However, the recent second commemoration of the attack was not afforded that

same level of support.

Jewish students still struggle with this terrible act, and our feelings are just as raw as they were in 2018. We still need support, even years later. While we are still grieving, we wonder: Has the rest of the Chatham community moved on?

I received dozens of sympathetic text messages and saw countless social media posts supporting the Jewish community in 2018. However, this year, I only saw a handful of both. Understandably, we were not able to gather as a community this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but this doesn't mean there aren't other ways to be an ally.

Antisemitism is an issue that Chatham needs to face head-on. Just because there aren't overtly antisemitic acts on Chatham's campus does not mean that antisemitism does not exist in our community.

Microaggressions are the main way that antisemitism is presented at Chatham. Other minority groups have also discussed the frequency of microaggressions on campus. For example, making a joke about Jews being cheap or greedy is antisemitic. Similarly, minimizing the impact of the Holocaust is extremely



harmful. It is important that allies speak up when they hear microaggressions on campus. If these issues aren't addressed, then they will never be resolved.

One student, who wishes to remain anonymous, expressed their experiences with antisemitism at Chatham, especially following the attack at the Tree of Life Synagogue building:

"Often, I have had to repeat my stance on Israel or explain a basic principle of Judaism in exchange for someone telling me something about my own identity. The worst antisemitic experience for me on campus was after the attack at the Tree of Life building.

"First, Chatham did not provide adequate support for Jewish students in that time on campus, and we were basically forced to proceed as normal. Multiple professors were upset at either myself or my peers for being visibly upset in class the time following the attack. It wasn't until we asked for listening spaces that Chatham gave us a place to share our feelings about how isolated we felt on campus.

"However at a CSG meeting that was specifically planned to talk about the attack, I was constantly spoken over and the meeting ended up being dominated by non-Jewish students who only cared

about how the false-alert text had affected them. The worst for me is that multiple people who had been micro-aggressively rude to me before Tree of Life (acting weird about Jewish customs, acting like I was rich because I was Jewish, etc.) immediately tokenized me following it, showing how I was their one Jewish 'friend' and crying to me about how sorry they were that it had happened without actually providing the support I needed.

"The sad thing is that I have countless other stories, some more graphic than these that have happened to me during my time at Chatham. I hope the school will someday learn from the months following that day, but I still have yet to see it."

One hurtful way in which antisemitism is displayed on campus is through anti-Zionism. Anti-Zionism is defined by the Anti-Defamation League as "a prejudice against the Jewish movement for self-determination and the right of the Jewish people to a homeland in the State of Israel." Many students don't understand the point at which anti-Israel rhetoric becomes antisemitic.

It is OK to criticize Israel's actions or policies, but it becomes antisemitic when Israel's existence is questioned. It is inappro-

Resources regarding antisemitism across universities in the United States can be found at [adl.org/campus-anti-semitism-and-hate](https://adl.org/campus-anti-semitism-and-hate)

More information on Chatham's Jewish Student Association can be found on Instagram [@jsa.chathamu](https://www.instagram.com/jsa.chathamu).

appropriate to say that the Jewish people don't have a place to belong and feel safe. We can critique any government without being against the nation itself. If grievances with Israel are motivated by prejudices against the Jewish people, the arguments are inherently antisemitic. Further, holding Jewish people accountable for the actions and policies of the Israeli government is antisemitic, as well.

However, we don't only

need allies in times of tragedy and during the fight against antisemitism. We also want to celebrate holidays with you and share our culture.

Chatham's Jewish community takes pride in our identity. We need help from our allies to fight against antisemitism so that we can continue to freely express our culture and beliefs without fear.

## About the writer



**Leah Berman-Kress** is a junior at Chatham University majoring in human communication and marketing. She is also the founder and current president of the Jewish Students' Association, which aims to enhance Jewish life on Chatham's campus.

## Chatham Chats: Dos and don'ts for navigating registration and staying motivated

*Chatham Chats is the new advice column by the Communiqué staff. This series is a safe space for students to ask questions regarding any problems they may be facing.*



**How do I navigate registering for classes for next semester? I'm not sure how to best organize this process. What should I avoid, and what should I make sure to do?**

**- Stressed-Out Student**

Dear Stressed-Out Student,

Registration is always a stressful time for everyone involved. With the current state of the school, it is valid that you are feeling more pressure than usual.

Make sure to stay in contact with your academic adviser. They are there to answer your questions and give you advice on the best way so you can graduate.

You can find your advisor on My.Chatham.com under "Services and Departments." Then, select "Advising Checklists." This will

help you keep track of your classes, when you've completed them, what grades you received and how those credits fall into your degree requirements. It helps to keep your own checklist for your major, as well.

Make sure that you are aware of what day and time you are supposed to register. If you don't get into a class you want, don't be afraid to email the professor and ask if they can fit you in or let you know if a spot becomes available.

You can also check out the course catalog for the upcoming semester at My.Chatham.com and look at the "Course Schedule" listed under "Tools." Good luck with your registration!

Sincerely,  
A Helping Hand

**How can I stay motivated when all my classes are online and there's nothing to look forward to during the weekends? Online classes combined with endless stay-at-home Saturdays are hard, even though I know our health is the biggest priority right now.**

**- Mentally Unmotivated**

Dear Mentally Unmotivated,

You are not alone in your lack of motivation. The monotony of being inside and constantly sitting in front of a screen is bound to take a toll on everyone's mind.

I would recommend doing activities that are CDC approved. A few ideas include taking walks outside or going out and taking pictures with friends. Sometimes it helps to just take a breather and listen to new music or a podcast to give your mind a well-earned break. The restrictions may not be as fun as normal, but making small plans will help break up your routine and give you something to look forward to.

If you're lacking academic motivation, change up where you take your class-

es or do your homework. Instead of staying in your room, work at the kitchen table, on your porch or leave the house altogether and try going somewhere like a park. Any change of scenery will help switch things up and make work more interesting.

You could also try setting personal goals for yourself in order to accomplish different tasks. Small rewards like a piece of candy after completing an assignment are little ways to drive yourself to do work.

These are tough times and you are definitely not alone with these struggles. Any small change can help things seem a little bit better.

Sincerely,  
A Helping Hand

*Questions for the Chatham Chats series can be submitted through email (Communiqué@chatham.edu) or to our social media accounts (@Communiqué\_CU). For more information on submission guidelines, please visit chathamcommuniqué.com*

## Even during COVID-19, Chatham's partnership with the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh is still going strong

By Juliana Freeman

Chatham University has a long history of partnering with organizations in Pittsburgh to build relationships and give students opportunities for internships. One of its latest partnerships is with the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

The Holocaust Center is a nonprofit organization with the mission of educating students and others about the Holocaust, as well as other populations across the world that have been marginalized or experienced genocide.

Before COVID-19, the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh had many in-person events, gave tours to students, had Holocaust survivors speak to groups of people and showcased new exhibits. Now, it offers a full schedule of online events that can be attended via Zoom or through virtual tours of new and upcoming exhibits.

The nonprofit has noticed a significant increase in viewers from all over the world with these online events. The Yom Hashoah event, for example, went from having 400 to 500 people in person to more than 800 real-time viewers online. In total, there have

been more than 30,000 views since March.

The partnership between the Holocaust Center and Chatham started about five years ago and has remained eminent to the Chatham community. Administrative and Volunteer Coordinator "Christina Sahovey played an important role in bringing the Holocaust Center to Chatham. As an involved and loyal alum, she saw the potential for us in working together," said Lauren Bairnsfather, the current director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

Several Chatham students have had the opportunity to intern with the center as part of this partnership.

Sophomore Julia Gaetano is a current intern and spoke highly about her internship experience. It has been her "favorite experience of going to Chatham so far. I love the people I work with and I've met so many incredible people through this internship. All the projects we do are making a difference. No matter how small, I love being a part of that," Gaetano said.

For now, internships are fully online with Zoom calls occurring a few times a week. While interning for the center, students learn how a nonprofit organiza-

tion works. They perform archival research, help create online exhibits, prepare events and assist with marketing. They also collect data from universities that have worked with other Holocaust centers, and analyze Holocaust programs universities have created.

"It has been super beneficial working with the center, and I have learned a lot about how nonprofits function," Gaetano said. One of the projects she had the opportunity to work on was the "The Lest We Forget" photo exhibit that showcased portraits of Holocaust survivors on the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University campuses. One was also located outside Chatham's Jennie King Mellon Library.

For those who would

like to get involved, former intern and Chatham senior Zoe Levine encourages students to keep an open mind.

"They may ask you to do tasks that may not seem relevant, but everything you do is important and will lead to something that has a positive outcome," Levine said. "Even data collection is crucial for the organization. Having background knowledge with the Holocaust and genocide is important, even if you don't do tasks related to that."

The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh is currently not offering new internships. Internships will continue online until COVID-19 restrictions relax and it's safe to gather in person again. Learn more about the center at [hcofpgh.org](http://hcofpgh.org).

**HOLOCAUST  
CENTER OF  
PITTSBURGH**



*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



Chatham employees enjoy breakfast in Anderson Dining Hall during the Employee Recognition Breakfast on Dec. 18, 2019. Because of the 25 person occupancy limit for indoor events, events like the Employee Recognition Breakfast will likely look wildly different this year. Credit: Phil Pavely.

## AFTER



Due to the pandemic, Anderson Dining Hall made many changes to all elements of its dining experience. Social distancing efforts are in place in the dining area and the serving area, and there are no self-serve stations – only prepackaged or fresh hand-served food. To-go boxes are encouraged to reduce the amount of people in the dining area. Credit: Lilly Kubit.



A group of people gather in the Mellon Board Room for an event called Ready to Run on Jan. 25, 2020. Prior to the pandemic, the Mellon Board Room was a common area for medium-sized events. Credit: Phil Pavely.



Due to limitations on crowd sizes, gathering spaces across campus remain mostly empty. Some classes or small events are held in this room, but many were moved outside or to an online format this semester. Credit: Lilly Kubit.

## *The Adventures of Doodlebug*

*Doodlebug's not scared to ask some awkward political questions at Thanksgiving this year.*



### Letters to the editor

The Communiqué 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).

### Keep in touch

#### Corrections

The Communiqué 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) or (communique@chatham.edu).

#### Advertising

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

### Join the staff

The Communiqué 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) for access to the zoom link.

### Story tips?

Send story tips to [Communique@chatham.edu](mailto:Communique@chatham.edu)



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