

# C O M M U N I Q U É

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## NEWS



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## Construction on Chapel Hill

By Alice Crow

Chapel Hill is under construction as the Pittsburgh Water & Sewage Authority (PWSA) builds a dry stream bed to slow and soak up stormwater on campus.

The Woodland Road Stormwater Project's construction is currently

10% complete, according to the PWSA website. Chatham is hoping to finish the project by the end of November.

"That date is important because if we go past [November], then we can't put landscaping in, so we're really trying to get that done," said Walter Fowler, Chatham Univer-



Construction vehicles and equipment take up space on Chatham's campus on Sept. 16. Roads that access various dorm buildings have had to temporarily close. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit  
SEE **STORMWATER**, PAGE 2

## New athlete opportunities

By Haley Daugherty  
and Carson Gates

Student athletes at Chatham have been introduced to a new opportunity and advantage of playing a collegiate sport. All athletes are now eligible to make a profit using themselves as a brand.

On June 1, the National Collegiate Athletic Association announced that student athletes are now allowed to earn money off



SEE **NIL**, PAGE 5

## On the job at boutique Senseless

By Jake Lach

Cole Modell '23 is a studio arts major with an interest in fashion. Modell has worked for almost four years now at Senseless, a vintage clothing boutique with a knack for streetwear located about 10 minutes away from Chatham University's Shadyside campus.

"It's a pretty great environment,"



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## Stormwater prevention project full of delays, disrupts students

### STORMWATER, FROM PAGE 1

sity's senior vice president for finance and administration and a lead contact for the project. "Bob DuBray, our head of facilities, and I really try to keep the pressure."

Construction on the project began in late May, but initial plans began in 2017. PWSA and Chatham experienced hold-ups due to surrounding neighbors needing to sign-off on the project, followed by last summer's COVID-19 restrictions.

Other delays included product supply chain shortages and the discovery of unexpected underground conflicts caused by other pipes. Additionally, heavy rains have slowed progress.

Project contacts for PWSA, Elaine Hinrichs, education and outreach associate, and Ryan Quinn, the project manager, said things are moving toward the scheduled completion before this winter, with underground work expected to be complete by the end of October and all site work completed by December.

### Impact beyond campus

The project is funded through an approximately \$1 million grant from Allegheny County Sanitary Authority's (ALCOSAN) GROW grant program. Chatham is contributing an additional \$200,000 for landscaping and improvements to existing infrastructure on campus.

"The portion of the sewer system that ties in with this project area



Underground construction is underway as the project team digs out a significant portion of Chapel Hill on Sept. 16. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit



An illustration of what the Woodland Road Stormwater Project will look like when it's complete. Photo Credit: PWSA and Chatham University

also serves many other city neighborhoods, including Shadyside, East Liberty, Bloomfield, Garfield and Polish Hill," Hinrichs said.

Completion of the project will benefit stormwater runoff in the Chatham community and surrounding neighborhoods.

Rain water in Pittsburgh travels through the sewer system and flows into ALCOSAN, where it is treated with the city's wastewater.

If there is excess rain, ALCOSAN sends the excess water straight into the Ohio River. This results in diluted, untreated sewage flowing into the river.

Local rainfall patterns in Allegheny County have been more frequent and intense in recent years. The existing sewer system is not designed to manage the current levels of rainwater runoff, and properties in Shadyside have re-

ported frequent basement backups during intense storms.

Ultimately, the stormwater managed on campus will help to mitigate these issues.

### A plea for patience

However, construction has caused frequent road closures and inconveniences for students.

"The construction on Chapel Hill is just downright inconvenient. As someone who lives on campus, it disrupts me everyday," Emi Perdan '24 said.

Driveways to multiple dorm buildings, such as Rea House and Beatty House, have been closed to accommodate construction.

"I have been woken up very early in the morning to the sounds of loud banging, metal clanking and machinery whirring," Perdan continued.

Students can expect the construction to continue for the next couple months. In the meantime, Fowler asks that students please have patience.

Perdan admitted that "as much as the construction is inconvenient, the workers have been very polite in conversation."

Even though construction will limit parking on the hill, Fowler said the new drainage system will not interrupt the tradition of sledding on Chapel Hill. The Chatham community should be able to sled this winter since construction will not interfere with the steepest part of the hill.

## Largest First-Year Class

*New programs, test-optional standards contribute to uptick in students*

By Taylor Broz

The fall 2021 semester has brought with it a Chatham University milestone: the attendance of the largest first-year class to date.

According to Interim Dean of Students Chris Purcell, the class of 2025 has 442 students. The Chatham website reports that approximately 2,200 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled in total.

Campus is now bustling with more people than ever, thanks to new fields of study and a more accessible application process.

Admissions counselor Cassidy Atteberry-Leahy said it appears that “more students are interested in small liberal art schools.”

This could be a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with some students wanting to attend a smaller campus to reduce the risk of infection. The uptick in enrollment could also be linked to the more personalized, tailored education that smaller schools, like Chatham, tend to offer.

Atteberry-Leahy said that new academic programs, including neuroscience, music technology, music business and immersive media, have helped to expand prospective students’ interest in Chatham.

These new programs were a main push for Dahlia Saenz ‘25, a music technology student, to attend Chatham -- in combination with small class sizes and campus-wide activities.

Saenz said continuing school during the pandemic gave her some sense of normalcy and “skipping out on school would’ve made matters worse.”

She added that Admissions created a welcoming environment with an in-person tour and a Zoom session with her academic advisor. “I like that they tried their best to make it a good experience while still having to adhere to COVID protocols,” Saenz said.

The admissions process has also broken barriers to become more accessible for prospective students. Standardized testing has become less of a requirement in the collegiate world, especially after the pandemic.

“The world has gone test optional. Our application process is more holistic than ever,” Atteberry-Leahy said. “We want to help students have better access to higher education, and this is just one way of doing it.”



A dessert reception at President Dr. David Finegold’s house. First-year students and others gathered to mingle in late August.

Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit



President Dr. David Finegold talks to first-year students at a dessert reception in late August. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit

## Why is Chatham's Period Poverty Project halted?

By Abbey Sullivan

According to “Good Morning America” reporter Katie Kindelan, one in 10 American college students experience period poverty, which is defined as inadequate access to menstrual products and/or educational services. Furthermore, students with poor access to menstrual products are more likely to report symptoms of moderate to severe depression than their unaffected peers.

Period poverty is a mode of inequality that comes with many layers; issues of hygiene depreciate mental and emotional health, which in turn affect academic performance, forming a damaging cycle. Additionally, these resources are still taxed in 35 states. Funds from the Women, Infants and Children Program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program can't be used to purchase menstrual products, thus isolating those in need of assistance even more.

Many colleges are working toward a solution in response to these harsh economic conditions. Schools such as the University of California-Davis and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee have begun to use student union resources and grant funds to provide free menstrual products across their campuses. While it remains unfortunate that much of the responsibility falls solely on student initiative across the country, the efforts are often met with success.

So why hasn't Chatham University implemented its own period poverty project?

Molly Yowler '24 (CSG class president) and Emi Perdan '24 (CSG class treasurer) founded their Chatham Student Government class project around the goal of solving period poverty on campus. The effort began in fall 2020 after a student poll indicated that menstrual assistance was needed and would be appreciated on campus. The project received the support of several other Chatham student organizations, including the Green Team, Chatham Student Power, the Sexual Respect Committee and the Chatham Feminist Coalition.

A plan was set in motion; the products would be placed first in gender-neutral bathrooms, both as a means of privacy and to guarantee a slow and manageable start. However, when Perdan and Yowler directed their efforts toward Health Services for help and feedback, they said they were met with an underwhelming response that consisted of more questions than avenues for improvement or achievement.

Such a response from Chatham is not abnormal, especially regarding student activism on a larger scale. A notable example is the decision on room C134, formerly known as Sanger Hall. Years went by, full of protest and work from organizations like the Black Student Union, before any serious dialogue about the name's offensive connotations

and history took place. Additionally, the outrage following Sen. Kim Ward's (Pennsylvania Republican majority leader) invitation to a spring 2021 Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics panel was addressed only after the fact.

Menstrual product assistance is another issue where the student body needs the cooperation of the University to make plans a reality -- and another instance of the University's often endemic disinterest. Period poverty is a tangible issue plaguing our own small school. This initiative goes beyond many of the de facto confines that seem to be imposed onto class projects, which normally consist of campus art pieces/monuments. This project requires long-term upkeep and dedication, so Health Service's appearance of disinterest in engagement shows the limits of Chatham's willingness to help.

A period assistance program would also help further the student body's efforts toward inclusivity. The project's ultimate goal is to supply menstrual products in all bathrooms across campus -- male, female and gender-neutral ones. Both Yowler and Perdan stress the need for inclusivity, not just in their own planning processes within CSG, but within the Chatham community as a whole when discussing menstruation and its socioeconomic hardships.

Perdan and Yowler are still dedicated to ending period poverty on Chatham's campus. Currently,



Menstrual products in Falk Hall women's bathroom. Photo Credit: Abbey Sullivan

the initiative is at a stand-still until Chatham Student Government's routine meetings are underway again. Both aim to re-engage with Health Services and other concerned parties at that time.

“A common recurring frustration is that Chatham does not put their money where their mouth is,” Yowler said about her experience trying to earn Chatham's assistance.

“I think the main thing Chatham could do is open the communication between students, faculty and administration to get the conversation started about the project. Just getting the word out there to open a dialogue will help,” Perdan added.

Students interested in the fight to end period poverty, both here and across the country, should keep their ears open for the resurgence of this sophomore class project. And no students should be afraid of starting their own program aimed at promoting inclusivity and mutual aid within the Chatham community. No matter the school's level of interest, Chatham students have upheld a culture bent on intersectionality and kindness for all individuals.

## NIL rule change helps Chatham Cougars make some cash

NIL, FROM PAGE 1

their names, image and likeness. This means that the next time you watch a televised sports match, you may see a student athlete trying to sell you some cool new cereal or a really neat phone plan with unlimited talk and text during a commercial break.

While you may not see a fellow Cougar on a Cheerios commercial any time soon, this rule is still a game changer for collegiate players. The new policy allows for athletes at every division to take advantage of possible sponsorships.

“The athletic department fully supports student-athletes receiving compensation for their use of their name, image or likeness. The restrictions that are in place were established by the state of PA,” Chatham’s Director of Athletics Leonard Trevino said.

According to Pennsylvania law, college athletes are not allowed to use copyrighted material while using their NIL. This means that Chatham athletes can’t have any University logos, as well as any logos of their conference or the NCAA, in their endorsements.

The University, as well as its coaches, are not allowed to help students make sponsorship connections. Also, athletes can’t profit off their NIL through partnerships with businesses such as adult entertainment products and services, alcohol, casinos, gambling (which



Photo Credit: Barstoolsports.com

includes sports betting, the lottery, betting in connection with video games or online games), tobacco, electronic smoking products, prescription pharmaceuticals and controlled substances.

The same day that NCAA announced the NIL rule change, Dave Portnoy, also known as El Presidente of the digital media company Barstool Sports, took to Twitter to announce the company’s new program called Barstool Athletes.

In the posted video, El Presidente is “super stoked” to offer the new perks to college athletes, he said. Being a Barstool Athlete gives students access to exclusive Barstool Athletes merch (including a sweatshirt, T-shirt and sweatpants), free pizza, 20% discount at the Barstool store and free access to Barstool

parties. All they have to do is apply. If accepted, athletes must add “Barstool Athlete” to their bios on all of their social media platforms, and Barstool will own the rights to their name, image and likeness.

Barstool has disclosed it’s not sure what to do with the rights to more than 7,000 athlete names that it’s accepted thus far. It’s now listed as one of the largest collegiate athletic rep organizations in the country, with an average of 100 names added per day.

Since the NIL rule change, there has been a surge in many organizations that meet the needs of athletes looking for sponsorship collaborations. Influencer sites such as Sponsoo and Shake (both of which were previously dedicated to media influencer exposure)

have added application options for student and club athletes. Athletes of every division are welcome to create an account in order to reach out for possible endorsement opportunities.

New sponsorship sites have the same concept as recruitment sites such as NCSA or Hudl. Athletes put their names and what they have to offer on their accounts and interested sponsors contact them with endorsement options. Companies have also expressed interest in athletes emailing them directly in order to discuss possible sponsorships.

Chatham women’s hockey coach Mike O’Grady is excited about these opportunities.

“I do think Division III athletes can do this,” O’Grady said. “It’s all about branding” and athletes are “building a company.” Student athletes can now create their own businesses centered around themselves, he noted.

According to Opendorse -- a conduit between athletes and companies that helps the former maximize opportunities -- in the first month of the NIL change, the average Division III athlete made about \$47. Half of that cash came from social media promotions.

While Chatham athletes may not be making profits at the same caliber as Division I athletes, they now can make some extra money off social media posts or appearances in commercials.

## Studio arts major sharpens style sense with job at vintage streetwear store

VINTAGE, FROM PAGE 1

Modell said. “I mean, I’m surrounded by clothes.”

Modell isn’t exaggerating, either, as Senseless is packed full of clothing items, including rare and distinct pieces from Polo, Nike, Supreme, Bape and much more.

“It was a very small shop above a dentist’s office when I first started shopping here,” Modell said. “But it’s always been the same store.”

Since the boutique opened in 2016, the customer base has grown substantially. Encouraged by this early success, the store moved in 2017 to 5124 Penn Ave., where it is currently located. If you are unable to visit the boutique, owners Javed Watson (Instagram @javedsenseless) and Rome Watson (Instagram @beyond\_rome) also list many items online at senselesspg.com.

“I think since [Senseless] started, the whole community of selling vintage in Pittsburgh has gotten a lot larger,” Modell said.

The boutique’s online presence has helped to create a wider market and stronger community for fashion in Pittsburgh. Amassing more than 14,000 followers on its Instagram account @SenselessPGH, Senseless has used the platform to attract even more customers.

Customers stop by daily to buy the limited-edition and unique clothes the store offers.

“All of the OG Jordan’s [sneakers] are probably my favorite,” Modell said. “And all of our Polo is pretty sweet.”

The boutique also has a large selection of Black History apparel.

“People look past it because it’s kind of expensive,” Modell said.

The exclusivity of some items may result in a higher price tag, but that shouldn’t discourage anyone’s interest in visiting the boutique -- even if it’s just to browse.

“We have stuff that’s like \$1,000,” Modell said, “but then we have stuff for \$30 or \$40. ... There are definitely price points for everyone in the store, whether it’s hats, shirts or shoes.”

*Jake Lach writes about style and fashion for the Communiqué. If you know about Chatham students who work in fashion or design their own lines, please share details by emailing [communique@chatham.edu](mailto:communique@chatham.edu) or via direct message @Communique\_CU on Instagram.*



Cole Modell, left, stands outside Senseless with owners Javed Watson, middle, and Rome Watson, right. Photo Credit: Jake Lach



Merchandise from “The Mask” is for sale at Senseless. Photo Credit: Cole Modell



A pair of Jordan 6 washed denim sneakers at Senseless. Photo Credit: Cole Modell



A vintage Pokemon t-shirt available at Senseless. Photo Credit: Cole Modell

# The Radar

*A series featuring Chatham artists*

By Lilly Kubit



Natalie Calahan '23 is studying for a double major in arts management and international studies at Chatham University. She is a representational artist and her main medium is graphite portraiture, but she also explores the use of watercolor, pen and ink. Her work focuses on romanticizing everyday life. "I think that there are a lot of incredible moments that go unnoticed because of how relatively mundane they are, so I like to take a minute to stop and appreciate these moments through my art," Calahan said in an interview. Her other hobbies include sewing and cooking. For more art from Calahan, follow her on Instagram @natalie.calahan.



"Grandma's Kitchen" (pen) is a piece in a sketchbook strictly for pen drawings.

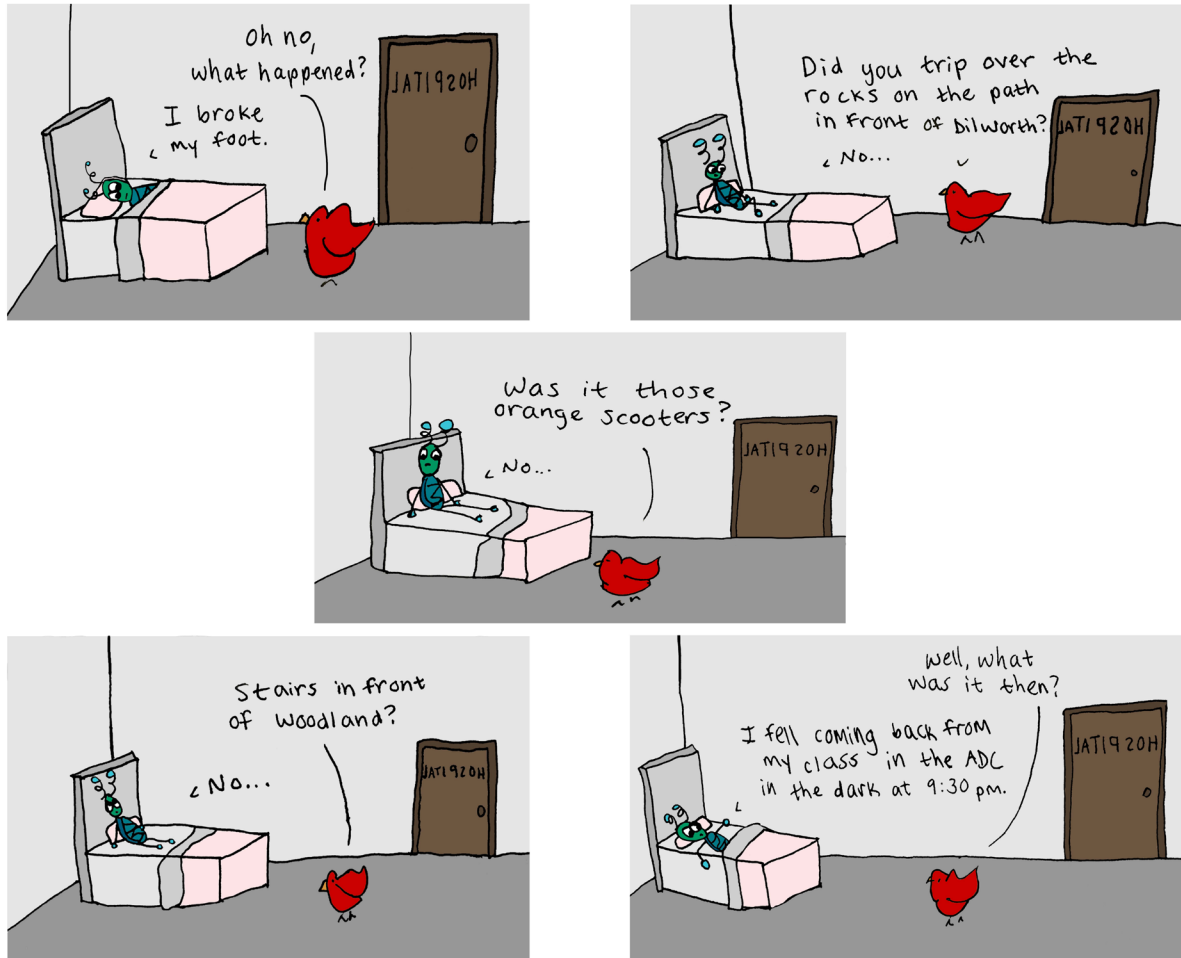


"Lydia" (graphite drawing) is a portrait of Calahan's roommate Lydia sleeping. It took about 15 hours to complete.



"Mixed Media Sketches I, II, & III" (watercolor, marker, Sharpie) is a casual piece Calahan made in one of the six notebooks she works in.

## Out of Left Field: Doodlebug Hospitalized



*Out of Left Field — that's how Doodlebug has been feeling lately. Everything seems like it's happening so fast! New experiences, new locations and new ideas! Stay tuned to see how Doodlebug continues his journey through Pittsburgh's and the world's current events.*

*Alexis Taranto '24*

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