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NEWS



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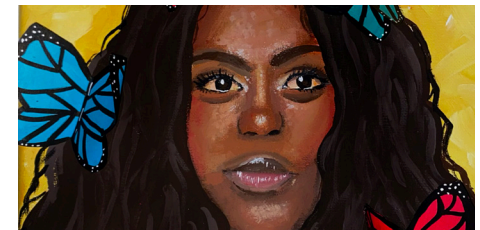
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Study abroad still possible despite COVID-19

By Alyssa Bruce

Studying abroad is something many students plan in advance and eagerly anticipate. For students completing a global certificate at Chatham University, it is even required.

However, traveling during a pandemic has been met with difficulty.

The Office of International Affairs wants to ensure that students who wish to study abroad are safely able to do so.

"Changing conditions, includ-



Students have the option to travel abroad this summer for field experiences, all led by faculty.

ing changes to the USDOS [U.S. Department of State] and CDC levels, have resulted in uncertainty surrounding international travel. Another challenge has been the delay in processing times for passport

SEE **ABROAD**, PAGE 2

Shadyside composting project halted

By Riley Hurst Brubaker

As Anderson Dining Hall continues its return to pre-COVID practices, Shadyside's composting program is halted due to supply

chain issues, and some students are unhappy with the lack of communication about it.

Sustainability is one of the many

SEE **COMPOSTING**, PAGE 3

Senior Spotlight: Tahbaz leads on and off the field

By Carson Gates

Ryan Tahbaz '22 is Chatham University's men's soccer team's all-time leading scorer, holding the records for most goals and assists.

Tahbaz is more than just an athlete, though.

Off the field, Tahbaz is the executive president of Chatham Student Government. The Cougars' captain looks to continue his success during his senior season.

Tahbaz began playing soccer at age 2 while kicking the ball around with his family. The Los Angeles native has always had soccer in his life, culminating in his commitment to attend Chatham.

"It was a shot in the dark," Tahbaz said. He knew nothing about the campus, he recalled, but once he made it here, he knew it was the right fit for him.



Ryan Tahbaz '22 plays on the Chatham University men's soccer team. Photo Credit: Chatham Athletics

Tahbaz has been on Chatham's team since its inception in 2019.

"It's been a journey," Tahbaz said.

This season has been the best one statistically for the Cougars. Having a winning record in the Presidents Athletic Conference (PAC), Tahbaz and his team look

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Studying abroad still possible, but trips remain conditional

ABROAD, FROM PAGE 1

applications and renewals,” said Karin Chipman, the University’s study abroad coordinator.

This does not mean that students have to wait for trips to be approved to apply to programs.

“One change has been that Chatham has begun to conditionally approve students’ applications in the event that a location does not meet Chatham’s approval criteria,” Chipman explained.

Currently, students can only travel to areas that have a U.S. Department of State travel advisory level of one or two. All trips are conditional and dependent on whether or not the country of interest meets Chatham’s safety requirements.

“Students who are conditionally approved to travel will only be fully approved and allowed to participate in study abroad if their location meets the approval policy no later than 60 days before the program start date,” Chipman said.

This summer, the office is advertising three summer field experiences. These trips are led by faculty and last about two weeks. These trips will tentatively take place in Costa Rica, Greece and Taiwan.

Students who apply for the field experiences will submit a \$500 deposit in January. They will also sign a participation agreement that acknowledges the risk of lost fees.

“In the event that a program is cancelled after students have deposited, while Chatham would

make every effort to refund any fees, there are hard costs to programs that may not be recoverable such as airfare and hotel deposits,” Chipman said.

Additionally, students can use their \$1,200 study abroad voucher toward virtual credit-bearing international opportunities, including courses and internships.

First-year students also can enroll in a gap year program, which will allow them to spend a semester abroad while earning college credits.

“There are hard costs to programs that may not be recoverable...”

- Karin Chipman, study abroad coordinator

Like all traveling during the COVID-19 pandemic, the field experiences are conditionally approved, and they will only run if health safety requirements are met at the time of the trips.

Chipman advises students pursuing in-person study abroad this year to be sure to read refund and cancellation policies.

For information regarding study abroad programs this year, students should reach out to the Office of International Affairs (located on the lower level of Falk Hall), and follow its Instagram account at @Chatham_oia.

Visit our website for more news

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Scan the QR code to visit the Communiqué website.



Take a listen

The Communiqué is publishing podcast episodes! “The Communiqué Dart” will focus on diving deeper into the important stories at Chatham. Follow our social media for more information.

Story tips?

The Communiqué is always looking for story ideas! The staff is also invested in answering questions from the Chatham community.

*Send your story tips and questions to
Communiqué@chatham.edu
or
Alice.crow@chatham.edu*



Supply chain issues cause challenges for campus composting

COMPOSTING, FROM PAGE 1

things that Chatham University is known for at the national level. However, the pandemic has impacted the way in which Chatham and Parkhurst Dining Services keep dining on campus environmentally friendly.

“With the pandemic, there have been serious supply chain issues for all kinds of products,” said Mary Whitney, Chatham’s head of sustainability. “Those problems are ongoing and [compostable] product availability changes quickly and unpredictably.”

Items such as the Greenware compostable bags, plates and cups are especially difficult to get at the quantities and prices needed for Parkhurst Dining Services, according to Whitney.

Parkhurst General Manager Courtney Blood said that Anderson Dining Hall is continuing to collect compostable food and other items pre-consumer but has not started post-consumer composting. Non-compostable items in the dining room and the supply chain issues make post-consumer composting challenging.

Many students feel that, despite the shortages, Parkhurst could be doing more to encourage sustainability in the dining halls, and that it should communicate with students about any changes.

“The clear cups that you get from Café Rachel, they used to be compostable, but now they’re No.

1 recycling so we can’t compost them,” Searrah Bierker ‘24 said. As an eco-representative for the sustainability department, she works to educate and engage students in sustainability on campus.

“I understand that it may be because of supply,” said Kalea Gregoris ‘24. “But if you’re going to change things like that, I think something needs to be put out because it’s heavily advertised, when you come to campus, that everything is compostable.”

Non-compostable materials such as plastics and metals are considered contaminants by waste processing plants. These materials cause otherwise compostable waste to be sent to the landfill.

“I think the best thing we can do right now is train students to look at the bottom of the cup. If it’s a No. 7 and says ‘certified compostable’ then it can be composted. If it’s No. 1 plastic, it should be recycled,” explained Goldie Seddon ‘21, another eco-representative.

Seddon said that a plan is in place to train students on what can or cannot be composted or recycled to reduce the chances of contaminating compostable waste with the non-compostable products.

Seddon is hopeful that once that occurs, Parkhurst will bring back the compost bins that were previously in Anderson Dining Hall.



Trash bins in Anderson Dining Hall with black bags indicate that post-consumer food waste is not being composted. Photo Credit: Riley Hurst Brubaker

POLICE BLOTTER

All information is provided by Chatham University’s Public Safety

2:40 a.m. Oct. 5 - Officers were dispatched to Fickes Hall to check the well-being of a student. The police found the student to be OK.

1:49 p.m. Oct. 8 - Officers responded to a crash involving a Chatham University shuttle on the East Side. No one was injured.

11:26 a.m. Oct. 9 - A person was injured in a bike crash on Woodland Road. Officers called the city medics, and the man was transferred to the hospital.

2:15 p.m. Oct. 12 - Officers took a report for a damaged vehicle in the Upper Terrace parking lot.

3:15 p.m. Oct. 12 - Officers took a report for a damaged vehicle in the Art and Design Center parking lot.

3 p.m. Oct. 13 - Officers received information of a traffic crash on the Eastside campus. The crash occurred on Oct. 12, and officers took a report.

OPINION

GUEST VOICES

Chatham Green Team's vice president discusses composting, other sustainability issues

By Shannon Long

Chatham University prioritizing sustainable practices was one of the main reasons I chose to come here to continue my education. As an environmental science major, I found it important to find a school with values that aligned with my own. Of course, schools are never as perfect as they try to appear to recruit new students, but I do believe that Chatham tries to be as sustainable as possible.

Unfortunately, many sustainability-focused initiatives have come to a halt because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although conditions on campus have been better due to our high vaccination rate, Chatham is unwilling to start some sustainable practices due to health concerns.

One example is Green Team's initiative to introduce compost bins in dorm buildings. Since most takeout containers are compostable, it makes sense that those who reside in dorms would need places to compost. Now, more than ever, many students are opting for takeout dining options instead of eating in Anderson Dining Hall. It is unrealistic to expect students to bring their empty containers back to Anderson for compost once they are done eating, but, unfortunately, it appears that Chatham disagrees.

Composting has been an issue on campus from the start of the pan-

demic. At the height of COVID-19, school composting essentially came to a halt. Now, almost two years later, there are still problems.

Many have noticed composting in Anderson going in black trash bags or, even more alarming, being taken to the dumpster instead of the compost bin behind the building. Facilities states this is because of shortages on compostable bags, but Chatham's Eden Hall campus doesn't seem to have these issues.

Since our movement to add compost bins to dorms and apartment buildings got shut down, we have started a personal compost bin loan program. For those interested, we provide a small compost bin and bags that students can have for the school year. We only ask for a \$5 deposit, which you will get back when the bin is returned.

This program has been highly successful since its creation. Due to

high demand, we are currently out of compost bins but have ordered more that should be here soon.

Additionally, we have partnered with Chatham organizations on the Period Poverty Project, an effort focused on reducing menstrual product needs on campus. Various sizes of menstrual cups will soon be distributed across gender-neutral bathrooms on campus. The reusability of menstrual cups makes them both environmentally friendly and further reduces the cost for users, since they can last years with proper care.

Chatham University's Green Team was created to further campus sustainability and push for change.

Our constitution states: "The purpose of the organization shall be to teach the students of Chatham University sustainable practices and to propose environmentally friendly

options campus wide."

To further this agenda, we have recently become an affiliate of 350 Pittsburgh, an organization focused on reducing carbon emissions below the 350 parts-per-million level.

As a part of this partnership, we have begun conversations with those at Chatham about further divesting from fossil fuels.

350 Pittsburgh has also helped us begin a Student Climate Action Network that gathers neighboring universities' environmental groups together. So far, we have been able to have productive conversations with Carnegie Mellon's Sustainable Earth, Fossil Free Pitt, Community College of Allegheny County and Carlow University at our Student Climate Summit last spring. We are especially excited about this group and hope that it will cause real change throughout Pittsburgh schools and the city.

Green Team serves as a great way for students to get involved in the sustainability efforts happening on campus.

If you are interested in our projects, check out our Instagram (@greenteam_chatham) to find out when they become available.

For anyone interested in joining Green Team, it is never too late. We welcome you to join us for our Tuesday night meetings at 6 p.m. or to reach out to our officers.



Students from Chatham's Green Team executive board before a Student Climate Network meeting on Sept. 25. From left, Rachel Lloyd, Goldie Seddon, Ave Roberts, MacKenzie MacFarland and Shannon Long.

Soccer team's Tahbaz motivated to improve campus

SPOTLIGHT, FROM PAGE 1

to continue that success into the playoffs. Tahbaz's overall goal for the program this year is to make the finals, then to win the championship.

"I want a ring," Tahbaz said.

A personal goal for Tahbaz is to make the first-team for the PAC. Last year, he was an honorable mention selection. Tahbaz did not celebrate this. Instead, he said he used it as motivation for this year.

This season, the United Soccer Coaches awarded Tahbaz the College Player of the Week award for being the top Division 3 player for the week of Oct. 4. Tahbaz also has earned the PAC Player of the Week award, as well as the PAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month award for September.

Tahbaz said he did not want to celebrate these achievements because there is more he still wants to accomplish.

More than just teammates

"Family" is the word Tahbaz uses to describe Chatham's men's soccer team. That family aspect gives the team a close-knit bond, he said. He described his teammates as his "brothers," and he would do anything for them.

Tahbaz praised the work of head coach Keith Danley. He's managed to keep the core group together since the first season, all while adding talent with each year that passes. Tahbaz credited his coach

and the other players for the team's newfound success.

While not wanting to look too far ahead, Tahbaz wants to continue to play the sport he loves after he graduates. Tahbaz is excited for the chance to attend graduate school next fall. With two years of eligibility left, Tahbaz is striving to play for however long his body lets him, he said.

Tahbaz also is going to attempt to get into coaching. Tahbaz said he

"I put myself in roles to make an impact on this campus."
- Ryan Tahbaz

would love to be a graduate assistant, if playing is not an option.

Tahbaz also prides himself on being more than a soccer player. He is trying to make life better here for all students. Besides being a member of student government, Tahbaz is a part of the Chatham Activities Board.

"I put myself in roles to make an impact at this campus," he said.

The men's soccer team's next home game will be at Graham Field on Oct. 20. This will be the club's last home regular-season game before the team attempts to get ready for playoffs.



Tahbaz kicks the ball at a soccer game. Photo Credit: Chatham Athletics



Men's soccer team players pose with their families on Graham Field after a win against Washington & Jefferson College on Oct. 9. Photo Credit: Chatham Athletics

Students juggle busy class schedules while creating jewelry

By Jake Lach

Looking for something to give your outfit a little more pop? Several students at Chatham University use their creativity and entrepreneurship to sell handmade jewelry.

Here's a look at a couple of them and where to find their creations.

Wishbone Jewelry by Sydney Amdurs

Sydney Amdurs '23 (@sydneyamdurs on Instagram) used her time during the first COVID-19 shutdown to begin Wishbone Jewelry. Amdurs uses sustainable ma-

terials to make accessories, from rings to necklace pendants, by hand.

"I use a lot of beads, crystals and other things like that," Amdurs said.

Most of the materials are sourced from either family and friends or local thrift and vintage shops.

"I think it's so cool that people who have that mindset become interested in my stuff," Amdurs said.

Amdurs has sold around 200 items since beginning in April 2020. To shop Wishbone Jewelry, find Amdurs' shop on Etsy or go to @wishbonejewelry_ on Instagram.

"People that are interested in my jewelry are interested in bettering the Earth and bettering the place around them."
- Sydney Amdurs



Wishbone Jewelry
Photo Credit: Collin Keys



Lets Get Shrinky
Photo Credit: Juliette Lopez

Chatham Chats

Is there a way to not get overwhelmed by classwork?
- Overwhelmed Scholar

Hello Overwhelmed Scholar,

Classwork can sometimes feel like there is a lot to do, with so little time to do it. One of the biggest things that could potentially aid you in not feeling so overwhelmed would be to prioritize your time.

Perhaps you could try to make a schedule for your day. You could include class times, practice/game times if you're involved with a sport, meeting times for any clubs you're in, etc. Then look and see when you have free time and when you can crank out those assignments. But be sure to include some time for yourself for things like eating, sleeping, relaxing and reflecting on your day.

College should be an enjoyable time for you, so don't neglect your

physical and mental health. If you feel you're still overwhelmed, maybe try talking to your professors to see if there is any way that they could help you to get everything accomplished. If you feel comfortable speaking with a professional, Chatham has some great counselors who could help you to navigate this tough time.

I have faith in you!

Sincerely,

A Helping Hand



Submit a question

For more information on how to submit a question, go to chathamcommunique.com.

Let's Get Shrinky Juliette Lopez

Juliette Lopez '21 (@juliettelopez on Instagram) started Let's Get Shrinky during the recent pandemic, as well.

"It started off as kind of my quarantine hobby," Lopez said.

Lopez hand draws designs called Shrinky Dinks -- polystyrene sheets that retain color and shrink when heated -- to make the earrings. She comes up with designs based on stuff she likes, but she also offers custom-ordered pairs.

"People send me a lot of their pets. ...I get a lot of cats, a lot of dogs," Lopez said.

Through the past year and a half, Let's Get Shrinky has sold over 370 pairs of earrings. Most of the sales are made through Instagram, but Lopez also makes sales through Depop.

In addition to selling their designs online, both Amdurs and Lopez attend local fairs and markets, so keep an eye out for them at future events in Pittsburgh.

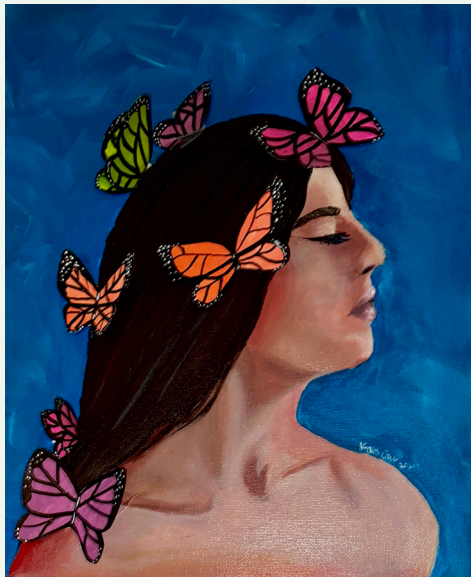
The Radar

A series featuring Chatham artists

By Lilly Kubit



Katie Crouch '23 is studying for a major in visual arts with a concentration in studio arts and a minor in psychology. She is an artist with an affinity for 2D art. Her main medium is graphite and colored pencil, but she also paints and occasionally works in ceramics and sculpture. Her work focuses on people. "It really changes your perspective on how you observe people in real life. It is really cool how you can notice unique little details about people just by creating a portrait of them," Crouch said. Her other hobbies include shopping, scrolling on Pinterest or TikTok and working as an art teacher at a summer camp. For more art from Crouch, check out her Instagram account @katieecrouch.



"Bliss"
(acrylic paint on canvas)

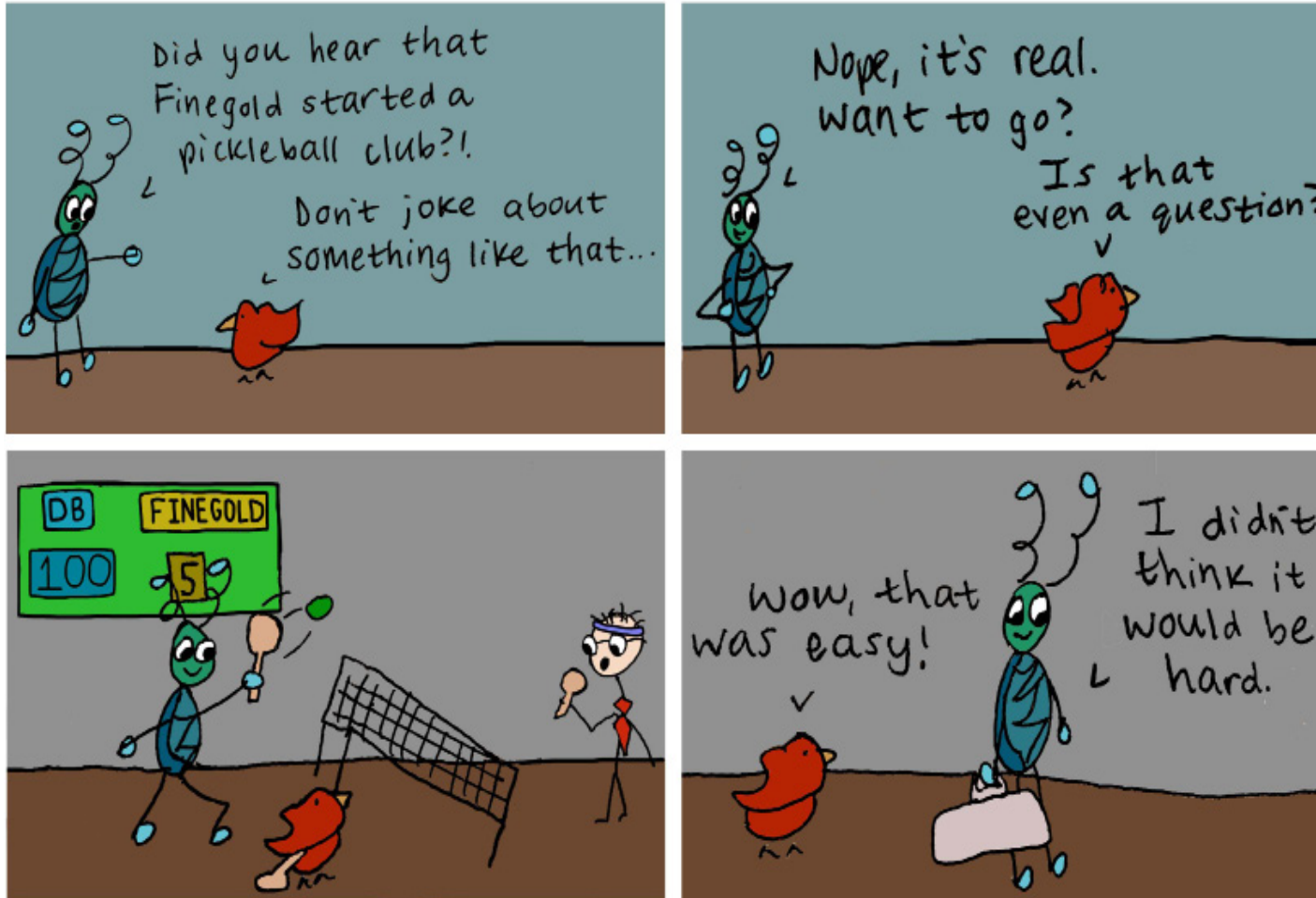


"Golden"
(acrylic paint on canvas)



"Hello Dolly"
(graphite pencil and white gel pen on paper)

Out of Left Field: Pickleball club



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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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).