

# C O M M U N I Q U É

VOL. 78 ISSUE 5

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

NOV. 2, 2021

## NEWS



The Clery Report reveals drop in campus crime in 2020. **Page 3**

## Tunnels on campus: fact or fiction?

By Madalena Filosemi

One of Chatham University's most distinguishable assets is its historical Shadyside campus, consisting of Victorian-style buildings that give students an air of "familiarity, a level of comfort and inexplicable warmth," said Samantha Whitman, a former student who left the University in 2019.

Since being chartered as Pennsylvania's Female College in 1869, there have been countless documents, such as architectural drawings, that provide students with more insight to the inner workings and layout of Chatham's unique structure.

With this rich history, there is a collective curiosity of the unknown realms of the campus that fail to be shown in photographs or sketches.

SEE TUNNELS, PAGE 2

## Halloween Happenings



The Drama Club dresses up for the Haunted Hospital in the Mellon Center. Students were able to attend the haunted house on the night of Oct. 30. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit

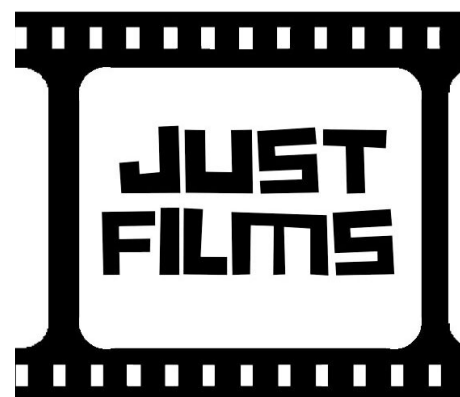
## Film series spotlights social justice

By Kyle Ferreira

The "Just Films" series at Chatham University presents documentaries about social justice and activism to meet goals of social, political and economic change. The films promote conversations on equality and hope to inspire action.

The series utilizes the impact that visual media can have on viewers to inform them about social justice in an engaging way.

SEE FILMS, PAGE 6



The "Just Films" events are free and open to the public. Photo Credit: Chatham University

## OPINION



Maintenance issues are a burden to students and staff. **Page 4**

## Cougars go to playoffs in new record

By Carson Gates

For the first time in Chatham University's history, all of the fall sports qualified for their respective playoffs. Here's a look at the different paths each of them took to get to the postseason.

### Volleyball

The volleyball team concluded its last regular-season game on Saturday, Oct. 30 against Westminster. The Cougars finished up PAC play with a 13-5 record going into the postseason.

The volleyball team added head coach Joseph Bortak after the 2017 season. That year was the last time the volleyball team made the playoffs. Bortak and his team have grown since his first year at the helm. Volleyball attained a better winning percentage each season

SEE PLAYOFF, PAGE 5

## Students want to know if there are tunnels beneath the Shadyside campus

### TUNNELS, FROM PAGE 1

Kiserian Spence '22 said when he was a first-year student, he overheard other students speaking about hidden underground tunnels connecting the Mellon Center to other surrounding buildings.

“At first I thought they were just rumors, but after a buildup of multiple people insisting that there were mysterious pathways to other parts of the campus, I had to see for myself,” Spence said.

On a late night in March 2019, Spence and four friends gathered to inspect different areas of the Mellon Center, starting on the first level and working their way down to the back of the boardroom.

“We initially didn’t stumble upon anything of interest, but once we searched around the Mellon boardroom, we noticed what looked to be an open maintenance closet with a covered, locked door behind it,” Spence said.

Although Spence and his friends did not venture any further, he said that he had a “strange feeling that there was more behind that door” than those working at Chatham wanted to let on.

With the lack of any written or physical evidence of the tunnels being present at the time of his excursion, Spence abandoned his search.

However, Chatham’s archive specialist, Molly Tighe, has recently discovered a pamphlet dated back to 1983 that supports these stu-



An old photograph on a postcard depicts Mellon Hall. Photo Credit: Chatham University Archives

dents’ theory.

The document reads that, in 1941, “Other family employees lived on the second floor of the Carriage House. A tunnel connected the house with the garage.”

So, at one point, there were tunnels on campus. Maybe there are still tunnels beneath the campus today.

If they do still exist, they have likely been sealed off to keep out

any adventurous souls seeking answers to this spooky rumor-turned-fact. It’s possible that no one has entered them in decades.

The tunnels hold the secrets of who passed secretly under this campus, preserved in time far below the modern-day buildings and advances. Their secrets may never be known, but what lies beneath the campus in those tunnels will remain part of the lore of Chatham.

### *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  
Alice.crow@chatham.edu*



### *Going to school with COVID-19*

*In fall 2020, Phebe Kimble '24 got COVID-19 ahead of Thanksgiving break. University policy has since changed, but Kimble said her experience was confusing and frustrating. Scan the QR code to visit our website and read this three-part series.*



## Crime statistics down

*Latest Clery Report reveals one burglary, vehicle theft*

By Alyssa Bruce

During the 2020 school year, campus reports of violations such as drug usage or assault have decreased for the most part, when compared to previous years, according to this year's Clery Report.

This may be due to the fact that many students were not on or near campus due to the pandemic and virtual learning.

The Clery Report includes crime statistics on the Shadyside and Eden Hall campuses, as well as nearby public properties and non-campus properties, such as Graham Field in Wilkinsburg and Highmark Stadium in Station Square.

Every college is legally required to publish an annual report in accordance with The Clery Act. This act was passed in 1990 after Lehigh University student Jeanne Clery was raped and murdered by another student in her dorm room.

On the Shadyside campus, the

majority of the violations occurred in residential facilities. A total of 36 of the year's 38 violations were in the residential facilities. This is consistent with past years.

There was four sexual assault violations, which is down one from the previous year. There were no dating violence reports, compared to one in 2019.

There was one reported motor vehicle theft, along with one burglary, in 2020. Neither of these violations occurred in 2019 nor 2018.

According to a past Communiqué police log, it appears that theft occurred on Sept. 24, 2020 at 4 p.m. The missing vehicle was stolen from the Pelletreau Apartment parking lot. The vehicle was then recovered in a different neighborhood. Those who stole the car were consequently found and arrested.

However, it is unclear how serious the burglary was, along with the details of the crime. This burglary doesn't appear to have

been reported in the Communiqué's fall 2020 police logs or in the early spring 2020 police logs. It is possible that this event happened towards the end of the spring semester or over the summer months.

The 2020 report also had three drug law violations that led to disciplinary action, compared to eight in 2019. While the numbers of 2020 liquor law violations have slightly gone down from 2019, there were still 29 reported -- compared to 31 in 2019.

Students are able to report dating violence and sexual crimes to both the health center and the counseling center. Student Health Services can be contacted at 412-365-1714. Counseling services can be contacted at 412-365-1282 or [counselingservices@chatham.edu](mailto:counselingservices@chatham.edu).

There are resources for students to report any incidents. For emergencies, students can call 412-365-1111. For non-emergencies, students can call 412-365-1230.

The entire report can be viewed on Chatham's website. View coverage of the 2019 Clery report on the Communiqué website.

## POLICE BLOTTER

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

**9 p.m. Oct. 13** - Officers received a call for the smell of marijuana in Laughlin Hall. Officers located the smell and Residence Life was notified.

**11:58 p.m. Oct. 14** - Officers were notified of a vehicle crash involving a Chatham University shuttle on Fifth Avenue. When officers arrived, it was discovered that the vehicles had bumped one another. No damage or injuries were reported.

**12:30 a.m. Oct. 16** - Officers received a call for an intoxicated student at Woodland Hall. Upon arrival, officers checked on the student, who was OK.

**1:41 a.m. Oct. 24** - Officers received a call to the Pelletreau Apartments for an intoxicated student who had been assaulted. Upon arrival, officers found the student, who was then transported to the hospital without further incident.

Crimes and Violations	2018	2019	2020
Sexual Assault-Rape	2	3	3
Sexual Assault- Fondling	0	2	2
Burglary	0	0	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	1
Dating Violence	2	1	0
Illegal Weapons Possession Violations - Referrals for Disciplinary Action	0	1	0
Drug Law Violation - Referrals for Disciplinary Action	4	8	3
Liquor Law Violations - Referrals for Disciplinary Action	12	31	29

Each year, universities are required to publish a report of crime and violations on campus and on public properties near campus. Chatham's 2020 Clery report was published at the end of September.

## *Campus maintenance issues can be a burden to students and staff*

By Abbey Sullivan

The return to in-person learning also brought with it a large return to on-campus housing in both dorms and apartments. Combined with the largest Chatham University first-year class to date, there are now more living spaces to maintain than ever, many of which house students who have never lived on their own before.

Naturally, this adjustment will come with growing pains. The submission process for maintenance requests is frustrating to many students; the links to submit the requests are not intuitively found on Chatham’s website. Plus, the ChathamU app, which also houses the form, is often unreliable.

The submission process – recently clarified in an email sent by Residence Life – uses confusing language and leads students to

frequently conflate “maintenance requests” with “work orders,” when students may only submit the former. The email reads “As you submit a maintenance request, please be aware that a maintenance request and a work order are two different entities. When you submit the maintenance request to our office, Residence Life then submits the work order to Facilities directly.” This explanation fails to clarify what exactly is the difference between the two.

Another common complaint among students is the length of time it takes for maintenance staff to solve a residency issue, ranging from broken window blinds and leaking fridges to emergency floods.

Fortunately, Chatham’s maintenance staff has a separate plan for such emergency situations and

instructs students to call the Residence Life on-call phone number; these circumstances include fire, lack of heat/electricity, flooding and major structural damage.

Most recently, maintenance has communicated to on-campus residents that heating via radiators will turn on when the temperatures reach below 55 degrees. However, due to the age of the dorms and apartments, radiators are often plagued with issues. Most radiator knobs have been painted over throughout the years, making them hard to turn on or adjust the heat at all. An influx of reported heating problems this winter will likely only lengthen the time students will have to wait for repairs, instead of the radiators being fixed prior to this semester’s move-in date.

Chatham’s maintenance staff is a

***Chatham should invest in more supplies for students to solve smaller issues and give incoming students lessons on how to solve specifically non-dangerous issues.***

small team tasked with the upkeep and repairs of countless student dorm rooms and apartments. In order to help them manage the amount of requests they receive, Chatham should invest in more supplies for students to solve smaller issues – drain cleaner and plungers, for example – and give incoming students lessons on how to solve specifically non-dangerous issues they may encounter in their living situations.



Dilworth Hall is a dormitory on campus. Photo Credit: Chatham University



Woodland Hall was constructed in 1909. Photo Credit: Chatham University

# For the first time, all fall sports teams are playoff bound

## PLAYOFF, FROM PAGE 1

under Bortak. The volleyball team has finally earned its playoff spot.

Bortak contributes this season's success to the "hardworking student-athletes who want to get better each day."

Having his team "buy-in" was something important to Bortak. Chemistry is something Bortak insisted was a major component in his team finishing in the top three.

The volleyball team is led by senior Emily Richie. The four-year starter leads the Cougars in kills and points.

While it is hard to not think about future possible playoff matchups, Bortak is trying to not look too far ahead.

"We are looking to take it one day at a time," Bortak said.

Bortak and his squad have been playing a three-game a week schedule and were looking to secure time off with a first-round bye. The Cougars just missed out on that bye and will be hosting Geneva on Nov. 2

If the Cougars win, their semi-final bout will be on Nov. 4 against Bethany. The PAC finals will take place on Nov. 6.

### Women's Soccer

Women's soccer advances to the playoffs as the third seed. The Cougars lost on a tiebreaker for second place to Grove City. Finishing PAC play with a 7-2 record, the women's soccer team is looking to repeat as champions.

Head coach Betsy Warren is focusing on her squad's next opponent. Even though her Cougars were the higher seed this past Saturday, she was not going to be taking the game lightly.

"When you get to must-win situations, it doesn't matter who you play," Warren said.

Women's soccer faced Geneva on Saturday. Warren was not going to look past this game.

"Geneva is a team that last year gave us a good fight and they come on strong at the end of the year"

The Cougars thrashed Geneva by a score of 4-0.

Warren believed that much of the team's accomplishments this season have come from depth. Warren is proud of how her team has rallied together after overcoming injuries and adversity all year.

The women's soccer team is led by senior Morgan Anderson, who is leading in goals, shots and points. While in net, Tyler Colburn, '22 is looking to continue her regular-season success.

The women's soccer team is moving on to the semi-finals on Nov. 3 at Grove City. The team is looking to go back to the finals which will be on Nov. 6.

### Men's Soccer

For the first time in program history, the men's soccer team went to the postseason. Finishing the year with a 6-3 PAC record, the Cougars locked up the fourth position in the playoffs.

Just making the postseason is enough for head coach Keith Danley.

Danley believes this is just the start for the program; he wants to be in the playoffs consistently. He's confident in his squad's ability.

"I'll take our group any day," Danley said.

The Cougars have victories over the top two ranked teams in the PAC. Danley knows his team has the potential to beat anyone on any given day.

Danley and his team faced Bethany in the first round on Oct. 30.

The last time the men's soccer team played Bethany, the game ended with a Cougars victory by a score of 2-1. The game got physical as it had a total of nine yellow cards and one red. Danley was expecting this same level of emotion on Saturday.

"Playoff games are always emotional," he said.

The Cougar's season came to a close on Oct. 30, losing a close-fought game with a score of 2-1.

### Cross Country

The men's cross country team wrapped up its PAC season this past Saturday at PAC Championship meet at Eden Hall. The Cougars as a team finished in sixth place. They were led by first-year John Matics. The team had a total of three runners finish in the top 50.

The women's team also met at Eden Hall for its PAC Champion-

ship meet on Oct. 30. The women as a group finished in fifth place. The Cougars were led by senior Esmee de Cortie who finished in the top 25. A total of four runners for Chatham finished in the top 50 for the race.

The next meet for both squads will be NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regionals, which will be held Nov. 12.



Women's Volleyball. Photo Credit: Chatham Athletics



Women's Soccer. Photo Credit: Chatham Athletics



Men's Soccer. Photo Credit: Chatham Athletics

## Just Films series focuses on topics of equality and social justice

### FILMS, FROM PAGE 1

“The series is designed to use the power of film to promote conversations about social, political and economic change. It is also intended to engage the community broadly and deeply in dialogue with the goal of pursuing equality together,” said Dr. Jessie Ramey, director of the Women’s Institute at Chatham University.

The series is organized by five organizations in Pittsburgh: the Women’s Institute at Chatham University, the NCJW Center for Women, the Women and Girls Foundation, the Women’s Law Project and YWCA Greater Pittsburgh.

“As one of the co-founders of the series, Chatham is proud to host the films each month on our beautiful campus and to welcome community members along with students, faculty, staff and alumni,” Ramey said.

The “Just Films” series’ organizers select films that align with their mission.

“A selection committee from the partnering organizations selects each season’s films with an eye toward intersectionality and variety of issues. Nearly all of the films are made by women, and many will be showing in Pittsburgh for the first time,” according to Ramey.

Each screening is followed by a discussion with a panel of local experts and activists.

“I would argue that the great-

*Films begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Beckwith Auditorium on the following Wednesdays in September 2021 through March 2022*

*“Coded Bias” - Sept. 8*

*“Unlearning Sex” - Oct. 13*

*“\$avvy” - Nov. 10*

*“Belly of the Beast” - Jan. 12*

*“Unapologetic” - Feb. 9*

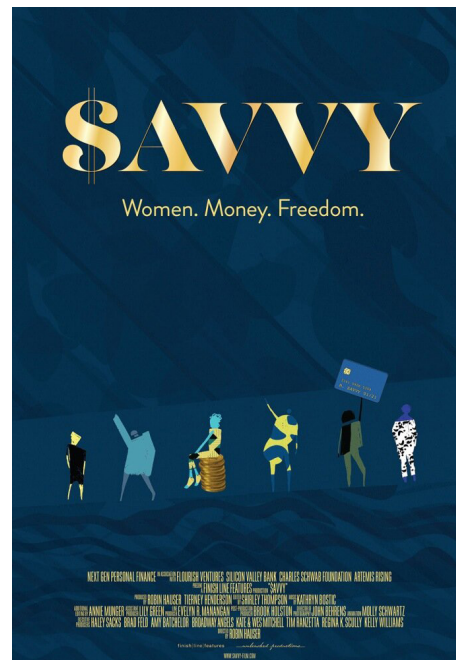
*“No Small Matter” - March 9*

est advantage to seeing the films at Chatham in a group is the panel discussion. Immediately after each film, a panel of subject matter experts discusses the film, and the audience is able to make comments and ask questions. The panel portion of the evening is my favorite part of the ‘Just Films’ experience,” said Adale Sholock, community engagement manager at The Center for Race and Gender Equity, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh.

The “Just Films” series is important to see on campus because availability is limited.

“A few [but not all] of the films are or will be available on streaming services,” Sholock said. “I think that people should see these films because they are informative and help build bridges across our experiential differences. As a result, viewers are able to increase their understanding of others and build empathy within our increasingly diverse communities.”

The next film in the series is “\$avvy,” which will be screened on Nov. 10. It investigates the historical, cultural and societal norms around women and money. The film questions why women often take a backseat to their finances.



“\$avvy” will be screened on Nov. 10 and investigates the historical, cultural and societal norms around women and money. “Belly of the Beast” will be screened on Jan. 12 and explores illegal sterilizations in women’s prisons. Photo Credit: Chatham University

**VISIT THE  
COMMUNIQUE  
WEBSITE FOR  
HALLOWEEN MOVIE  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

## ***SPOOKY SEASON ACTIVITIES***

*Students were able to attend a variety of events in October, and many with a Halloween theme. Students can learn more about future events on the Happenings & Events section of my.Chatham.edu.*

By Lilly Kubit



*John Mamas '23 paints in the Rea Coffeehouse at the Minor Bird's poetry reading on Oct. 25.*



*Felicity Moffett '21 and Gabriella Briceño '22 at the Just Films reception for "Unlearning Sex" on Oct. 13.*



*Julissa Soto '23 gets a reading at the Tarot or Treat event, part of Marvelous Mondays on Oct. 25.*

## Out of Left Field: Spooky Halloween



*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*





### 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 platforms for more information.*

### Check us out online

 [chathamcommunique.com](http://chathamcommunique.com)

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### Letters to the editor

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

### Corrections

The 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](mailto:alice.crow@chatham.edu)) or ([communique@chatham.edu](mailto:communique@chatham.edu)).

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