

COMMUNIQUE

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NEWS



Return-to-campus policies compared to other universities. **Page 3**

OPINION



Café Rachel should once again allow use of meal swipes. **Page 4**

VISUALS



A new edition of the Radar features art by Oliver Barns '24. **Page 7**

FORUM



Never-before-seen submissions to Missed Connections. **Page 8**

Trespasser in Chung Apartments raises safety concerns for students

By Carson Gates

Jan. 26 was shaping up to be a normal day for AnnaMarie Zayas '22. The senior, returning late that night from student teaching, parked her car at Chatham Apartments. While walking back to her residence at Chung Apartments, though, she passed a man holding an umbrella; he appeared to be waiting to be let into Chatham Apartments, Tower D.

"I didn't think anything of it. People wait for someone to let them in all the time," Zayas said.

As she approached the doors of Chung, she heard footsteps behind her. It was the man she just passed in front of Tower D.

Zayas felt uneasy, so she quickly found her keycard and hurried toward the front door. She scanned in, and as the door was closing, she heard the man yell to her to hold the door.



Campus police are located in the Rea Garage. Photo Credit: Alyssa Bruce

Frantically, Zayas ran upstairs to her room, as the man behind her ran and grabbed the door just before it closed.

"We heard the door on our floor open," said Zayas, "and it was him."

Zayas bolted the door shut and fixed a chair against the door handle to keep her safe. She then called campus security and ex-SEE SAFETY, PAGE 2

Cougars ride the polar express

By Haley Daugherty

When players say they compete with ice in their veins, they usually don't mean literally. Chatham University has been taking this phrase to a new level as multiple athletic teams have reported traveling to practices, meets and competitions with no heat on their buses.

During the day, this is not such an issue because the bus has time to sit in the sun and get warm.

However, teams that travel early

in the morning when it's still dark fall victim to the cold.

"At the beginning of the year it wasn't that bad because it was warmer," said hockey player Jackson Koblick '24. "Now it's gotten colder, and we aren't able to warm up until we're on the ice. Me and a lot of the other players have started wearing gloves and bringing blankets on the bus to try and get warm."

SEE BUS, PAGE 5

Student Government adds to campus culture with installation of spirit rock

By Benjamin Fozard

Some students may have noticed the bright blue rock in the quad, across from Café Rachel. This colorful rock is accompanied by a plaque that identifies it as the spirit rock, and it is the first step in Chatham Student Government's (CSG) plans for a spirit garden.

SEE ROCK, PAGE 6



Two residence hall doors found to not lock correctly

SAFETY, FROM PAGE 1

plained to them what happened.

This incident has raised questions and concerns from students about safety on Chatham University's campus in Shadyside.

Before campus security arrived to address the Jan. 26 incident, Max Wigfield '24 ran to the second floor to confront the man.

"I figured their door was locked, which was good, but there were other people on that floor and in that building who were home," he said. "I just knew other people weren't ready if someone barged into their door."

Wigfield, with only a mask and his phone, began to question the man.

"He wasn't giving any straight answers," he said.

After a few minutes of Wigfield stalling the man, campus security arrived and arrested the suspect.

"Public safety showed up extremely quickly," Wigfield said.

"The suspect was transferred by officers to another facility due to a personal condition identified while in custody," said Chatham Police Chief Donna Grossi. "His arraignment with [Chatham University Police Department] will follow his discharge from the facility."

Students received an email about what happened at Chung, as well as an attempted snatching of a student's purse along Fifth Avenue. This incident was in connection with the same suspect who entered Chung. The attempted robbery happened before the man tried to enter Chung, but it was only

reported after the suspect was already in custody.

Overall safety on campus

Beyond these incidents, students told the Communiqué about two main doors of other residence halls that could be opened without the use of a keycard: Rea House and Fickes Hall.

The Rea House residents had put in work orders that they said had been unaddressed until the incident that occurred at Chung. The door can still be opened without a keycard, if it is not pushed all the way closed.

The door at Fickes Hall had been able to be pulled open if it was yanked hard enough. This was fixed by maintenance staff the day following the incident at Chung.

Chatham Police gave this advice

to students regarding safety on campus.

"Be cautious of others entering buildings directly behind you and report any suspicious activity. Be aware of your surroundings as much as possible and take action to keep yourself safe."

To report a crime or public safety matter, contact Chatham University Police Department

Emergency:

412-365-1111

Non-emergency:

412-365-1230



The Chung Apartments on Fifth Avenue. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit

POLICE BLOTTER

All information is provided by Chatham University's Public Safety

4 p.m. Jan. 19 - Officers were dispatched to Hicks Estates for a sick student. Upon arrival, officers notified city medics, who transported the student to the hospital.

10:50 p.m. Jan. 27 - Officers were notified of marijuana use at Pelletreau Apartments. Students were identified and referred to the dean of students.

6:55 p.m. Jan. 29 - Officers were notified of a plumbing problem in Woodland Hall. Officers posted an "out of order" sign and notified facilities.

Noon Feb. 2 - Officers were dispatched to Fifth Avenue in front of Chatham Apartments for a person hit by a car. The person hit, who was not a Chatham student, was transported to the hospital with minor injuries, and officers took a report. The driver was identified and was not a Chatham student.

How Chatham's return-to-campus policies compare to other universities

By Jorie Meil

The COVID-19 Omicron surge hit the United States just as colleges around the country were preparing for winter break. As a result, many schools had to re-evaluate their COVID-19 safety procedures for the spring '22 semester.

Here's a look at Chatham University's policies and how they compared to those of other nearby schools.

Chatham University

Chatham University announced the first round of information regarding returning to campus via email on Dec. 22, 2021. The University decided to hold classes virtually for the first week to accommodate entry testing for all students.

Students were required to get tested within 48 hours of returning to campus, and Chatham offered tests to students during the week of Jan. 3. Due to the high number of cases shown through the result of entry testing, online classes were extended through Jan. 18.

After Jan. 18, it was left up to professors to decide when they wanted to return in-person, with a deadline of Feb. 4 to transition to the delivery mode originally listed for the class.

"I don't like that they put a hard limit on returning to in-person. I feel like most students prefer to have hybrid learning where you get to pick if you want to be in-person or not," said Rylee Napolitan '23.

In addition, Anderson Dining Hall only offered take-out options through Jan. 29, and Café Rachel suspended in-person dining and studying until Jan. 28.

Chatham also updated mask policies, no longer permitting gaiter-style face masks. The University encouraged the use of N95, KN95 and surgical masks. The school provided two KN95 masks for any student or employee who



Photo Credit: Chatham University

needed one.

"I do wish they would have supplied more [masks], especially with their recommendations," Napolitan said. "Not everybody can afford N95 masks, and the school can't expect them to spend a big chunk of money on special masks."

"I have definitely found myself seeing that more people are wearing KN95s, which is nice, but I do understand that it is hard to get

them," said Will Grasso '24.

University of Pittsburgh

University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) allowed residential students to return to campus on Jan. 8 for the spring '22 semester. All faculty and students were required to get tested before or shortly after returning to campus.

During the first 2 1/2 weeks of the semester, the university operated remotely.

concerns by signing a petition pushing for virtual learning options.

"I do worry that because there is no universal online option, that a lot of students will come to class feeling sick and not get tested because they are worried about falling behind," said Pitt student India Krug '24.

Pitt required all community members to be vaccinated by Dec. 6. Students were told that their ability to enroll in classes for the spring term would be suspended without documentation of vaccination. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported on Jan. 10 that Pitt had disenrolled several students.

READ THE REST OF THIS STORY ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit chathamcommunique.com or scan the QR code to read the full story on different COVID-19 policies across Pittsburgh universities.



"We have to wear masks within university buildings, classrooms and residential buildings. For the most part, people are pretty good about mask wearing," said Pitt student Jannah Farag '24.

Once campus life resumed, classes began on Jan. 10 and were only offered virtually until Jan. 27. Once in-person classes resumed, there were few options for hybrid learning. Many students voiced

Students frustrated over no more Café Rachel meal swipes

By Jackie Clark

A recent change to the Chatham University community came in the form of new dining policies. As of last semester, meal swipes would no longer be accepted at Café Rachel; now students can only use flex dollars there.

Chatham University should re-implement the use of meal swipes at Café Rachel. This was a key way to reduce costs on an otherwise expensive meal plan that is required for many students.

During the fall and spring semesters in 2020, students were able to use their meal swipes at Café Rachel for a certain combination of items. However, in 2021, this policy was abandoned. When I went up to the counter last semester and ordered, the cashier was confused by the amount of items I planned to purchase with a meal swipe. She explained to me that the policy had changed.

After this experience, I knew I needed to downgrade to a smaller meal plan with fewer meal swipes and more flex dollars.

Chatham University should re-implement the use of meal swipes at Café Rachel.

Toward the end of every semester, many students scramble to spend as many meal swipes as they can before they leave the University for break. No one wants to have wasted their money by failing to use swipes for which they had already paid. However, it's unrealistic to think that students will use all of their meal swipes at Anderson Dining Hall every morning, afternoon and evening within four months. That is where Café Rachel was the perfect place to pick up a quick snack on the go and use a meal swipe. Students could even create a meal there by buying a drink, a sandwich and a bag of chips.

The time flexibility of Café Rachel's hours, location and products were helpful for students' busy schedules. With all of these advantages, it's hard to comprehend the reasons for Chatham removing meal swipes at Café Rachel.

Unfortunately, I'm not the only student who's had this experience and is frustrated. Everyone I speak to shares my confusion about the policy change. Purchasing groceries can supplement the issue, but food on campus still remains a struggle. Anderson Dining Hall may not always be as accessible as Café Rachel due to its place on campus (far away from the Fifth Avenue apartments, for example), leaving the café as the most viable option at times. An amendment to this policy would tremendously help students' finances.



Café Rachel is located on the Shadyside campus. Photo Credit: Alice Crow

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).

Cold buses could potentially put student athletes at risk

BUS, FROM PAGE 1

While layering up helps, student-athletes say that long drives in the cold become uncomfortable after a certain amount of time – especially with January and February being among the coldest months of the year.

“On a two-hour ride to a meet, I spilled a cup of hot chocolate and it froze to the floor,” said track team member Justin Desabato ‘23. “Then, after the bus driver realized the heat wasn’t working, he handed out blankets that were in the bus storage.”

Players usually take the time on the bus to relax, unwind and get their minds right for the competition ahead. With the buses being so cold, competitors are worried about other things.

“It definitely feels like there’s more chances of injury,” said hockey player Michael Lamison ‘22. “We have to do more to make sure our bodies get warm enough that we won’t get hurt on the ice. ... It

“I spilled a cup of hot chocolate and it froze to the floor.”

- Justin Desabato ‘23

would be nice if we could just relax on the bus rather than shivering and worrying about staying warm.”

Unfortunately, the heating issues are out of the drivers’ hands.



Photo Credit: Unsplash.com

During the trips, drivers turn the heat all the way up in an attempt to warm up the bus with no success.

“I sit in the back of the bus and it sounds like there is a heating system trying to run, but it just blows cold air through the vents like air conditioning,” Koblick said.

Chatham University uses two different bus companies for athletic transportation. For competitions that are farther away – meets or games that are out of state – Chatham utilizes a third-party bus company called Elite. When competitions are closer or for practices, Chatham uses its own buses. According to players and coaches, trips with no heat have been on Chatham-supplied buses.

“The drivers that we’ve had have told us that the buses are difficult to heat up when the temperatures are 0 or sub-zero,” said track and

“It definitely feels like there’s more chances of injury...”

- Michael Lamison ‘22

field coach Eden Bloom. “I think that it does become a bit unsafe when players are that cold for hours and it’s so cold outside.”

When asked about the lack of heating, Chatham’s athletic director Leonard Trevino appeared to be surprised that there was a problem and ensured that he would look into the issue.

“Our athletes deserve to be comfortable and shouldn’t have to be dependent on layers to keep warm while they’re inside,” Trevino said. “We need to look into this and fix it.”

“I sit in the back of the bus and it sounds like there is a heating system trying to run, but it just blows cold air through the vents like air conditioning.”

- Jackson Koblick ‘24

The athletic department is planning on reaching out to the bus facilities to see what is causing the problem. Trevino said both buses are new and, while used often, should not be having these issues. The athletic department recommends that athletes report future issues to their Student Athletic Action Committee (SAAC) representatives in order for problems to be handled promptly.

“Our athletes deserve to be comfortable and shouldn’t have to be dependent on layers to keep warm while they’re inside.”

- Athletic director Leonard Trevino

CAMPUS SPIRIT ROCK

Chatham Student Government's path to a spirit garden

ROCK, FROM PAGE 1

Debuting in summer 2020, the spirit rock is meant to bring color and interactivity to the Quad. The rock is meant to be painted over and over again by the student body. Students are now able to get paint for the rock at the Carriage House.

“Our four-year plan for CSG class of 2022 is to create a spirit garden outside of Coolidge Hall to add school spirit to the Quad, increase student engagement on the appeal of the campus and clean up some of the landscaping around the Quad,” said CSG class of 2022 president Becca Pennington in an interview during the 2021 fall semester.

This sort of project is not unheard of. The students at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) have been doing the same thing to a fence for years. However, unlike the CMU fence, the spirit rock has not been highly used.

Pennington said the rock needs relocating to spark student engagement.

“The spirit rock has not been utilized much since its placement. Personally, I think it needs moved, so it is more in visual view,” Pennington noted.

The spirit garden project is now underway with the supervision of CSG.

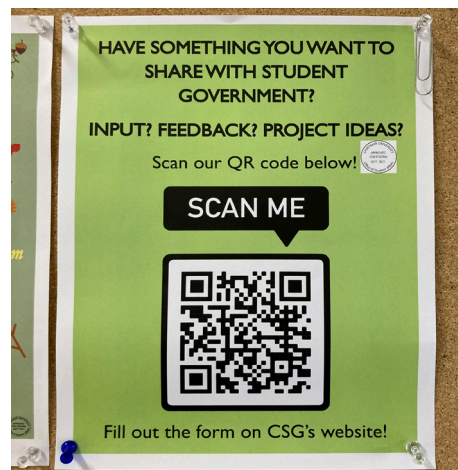
“Currently, our senior class project is to add a rock designed

‘C’ to the spirit garden, rearrange and replace the spirit rock to make it easier for students to utilize, for visual purposes, plant purple perennials for aesthetic appeal and functional for pollinators and clean up the landscaping outside of Coolidge Hall.”

This is the most recent idea from CSG to bring the Chatham community together while making the campus more beautiful.

“We currently have a rough plan of the spirit garden for our senior class gift, which will be completed in March 2022. We will begin fundraising, so be on the lookout for the start of our campaign and feel free to share thoughts and ideas for anything else to be added to the spirit garden,” Pennington said.

Ideas and thoughts can be shared with Pennington by contacting her at Rebecca.pennington@chatham.edu or scanning the CSG QR code to give suggestions.



The spirit rock with plaque outside Coolidge Hall in September 2021. Photo Credit: Alice Crow

“The spirit rock has not been utilized much since its placement.”
- Becca Pennington ‘22



Chatham Chats
WITH THE COMMUNIQUÉ

Submit a question

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

The Radar

A series featuring Chatham artists

By Lilly Kubit



Oliver Barns '24 is studying for a major in visual arts with a concentration in studio arts. He is an abstract artist with modern influences. Barns' main medium is ballpoint pen and charcoal. His work focuses on mental health and social issues. "There's a specific meaning behind [my art] for me but... my art is purely up to your imagination," Barns said. His other hobbies include playing "The Sims," making YouTube videos and sewing. For more art from Barns, check out his Instagram account @oliver.inigo.art.



*"What do you see"
(Sharpie, plastic wrap)*



*"Scatter brained"
(acrylic paint, Scrabble
pieces, hot glue)*



*"Flow"
(acrylic paint)*

Join our new media group

The Communiqué has started a new media group focused on producing videos, podcasts and other creative media to tell important stories.

Do you want to join the staff? Please email alice.crow@chatham.edu to contribute.

Story tips?

The Communiqué is always looking for story ideas!

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



Chatham Missed Connections

The Instagram account Chatham Missed Connections is dedicated to connecting students with anonymous submissions. In collaboration with the account, here are never-before-seen submissions. View more on Instagram @Chatham.missed.connections.

“To the kid snowboarding outside of Linzer -- you gliding down the railing was so cool omg.”

“It’s already been said, but the guy who works at Café Rachel is fine asf, please give me a chance.”

“To the tall girl with brown hair in Chung Apartments -- you should leave your snap and become a model because I’m falling in love.”

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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).

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).