

# COMMUNIQUE

VOL. 79 ISSUE 3

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

FEB. 22, 2022

## OPINION

Letter to the  
Editor



Letter to the Editor on Chatham Student Power activity. **Page 4**

## Faculty vote on tenure

By Abbey Sullivan

Chatham University's Capstone Review Committee reached a consensus with the Board of Directors to reinstate the institution's tenure policy. If passed, this will mark a departure from the current Capstone contract system. The change went up for vote by the faculty at large on Feb. 17, with results coming the week of Feb. 21.

"I think a big takeaway for me was how strongly invested everybody was in the good of the institution," Dr. Joseph MacNeil, interim dean of the School of Arts, Science & Business, said of the committee and board's agreement. MacNeil chaired the committee.

A tenure contract model states, broadly, that professors are guaranteed employment at their college or university, provided there are no  
**SEE TENURE, PAGE 2**

## Snow days and detours



February snow caused the stairs to the Campbell Memorial Chapel to be temporarily closed to students due to icy conditions. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit

## Winter sports break records

By Haley Daugherty  
and Carson Gates

### Men's Basketball

With a record of 19 wins, only three losses and a home play-off game secured, the Chatham University men's basketball team is on the road to success. With a roster full of talent, including leading scorer Malik Potter '22, leading rebounder Ben Pollock '22 and three-time rookie of the week Blaine Gartley '25, the Cougars have their eyes on a PAC championship ring.

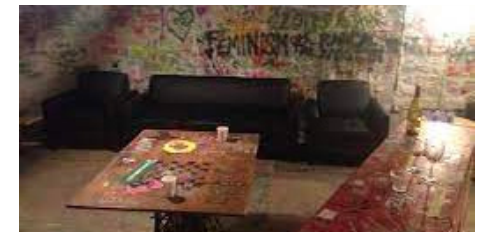
Gartley attributes the team's success to its culture and the coaches' constant support.

"We really focus on toughness and battling through mental blocks," Gartley said. "Our coaches support us no matter what. ... There's an expectation to give it our all and leave it all out on the court every game."

With players suffering from a medley of injuries, the team must depend on each other and their supporters to battle through playoffs.

**SEE RECORDS, PAGE 5**

## LIFESTYLE



Student raises awareness for Rea Coffeehouse project. **Page 6**

## New IT updates

By Abigail Hakas

Chatham University's Information Technology Services announced several big changes for 2022 in an email to students and faculty on Feb. 4.

As of this month, ITS will be renamed IT Support Services. This rebranding was the decision of Chatham's Chief Information Officer Paul Steinhaus. Alongside the name change, the management has taken on new hires, including manager Paula Love, who previously was a tech at Chatham for four years. She will replace Andrew Kraus.

Each campus will have one senior tech: Betsy Austin at Shadyside, Mark Briski at Eden Hall and Jeremy Young at East Side. Jason Lemon is another new tech at Shadyside. Leland Claus will join as a full-time AV in March. Until April, Josephine Friedman will be working as a  
**SEE TECHNOLOGY, PAGE 3**

# Professors have new opportunity to gain tenure

TENURE, FROM PAGE 1

exceptional breaches in expected behavior and conduct. These standards are set and maintained by the university at large.

“Implied with a tenure position is more academic freedom, and our contemporary times require that sort of freedom,” said Dr. Jennie Sweet-Cushman, a member of the Capstone Review Committee.

Chatham instituted this model in years past, MacNeil said, yet it was later voted to be replaced by the Capstone contract model upon the initial growth of Chatham’s graduate programs. The earliest graduate professors – primarily in the health sciences – were hired as clinical faculty, which necessitated a need for tenure reevaluation.

“It was made to unite the faculty, and it really worked very well,” MacNeil said regarding the Capstone model’s implementation.

The Capstone contract process included an incremental probationary period (two periods of two years, followed by an additional three years), after which a profes-

sor is promoted from assistant professor to associate professor. The decision for promotion was based on the compilation of a professor’s chronicled scholarship, creative work, contributions to Chatham and the greater community, among other things.

The resulting five-year contract then increased to another six years, following the same review process; a final six-year review took place after that – resulting in candidates being promoted to full professors.

The immense work incurred by the Capstone contract progress on the part of the Faculty Review Committee – a separate entity charged with reviewing professors as part of the Capstone contract model – was a pertinent reason for their push for tenure reinstatement.

The proposed tenure model will reduce the review process to annual reports submitted to department chairs and deans. If a professor incurs a majority of negative annual reports, the Faculty Review Committee will conduct a review process similar to that from the Capstone model.

“The current system puts the burden on the faculty member to prove they deserve to stay. A tenure system puts the burden on the university to say that you should go,” Sweet-Cushman said.

The Capstone Review Committee envisioned several goals for improvement at Chatham, including a sense of dual-governance between the board and faculty, greater aca-

*“Protections [in contracts] are very important, especially for those of marginalized identities...”*  
- Dr. Sweet-Cushman

## POLICE BLOTTER

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

**4:45 p.m. Feb. 7** – Officers were dispatched to Woodland Road near the bridge for a hit-and-run report. No one was injured, and officers took a report.

**12:45 p.m. Feb. 8** – Officers received a call for an injured student who fell somewhere located on Fifth Avenue. The student stated that they slipped on a patch of ice and fell. The student had cuts and scrapes to the face area and was transported to the hospital by city medics.

**11 a.m. Feb. 11** – Officers were dispatched to Laughlin House along with city police (because someone also called 911) to assist a student who was not feeling well. The student was transported by a city police unit to get the assistance needed.

**7:20 p.m. Feb. 11** – Officers received a call for shots fired around the area of Graham Field, and there was a Chatham University practice going on at the time. The coach locked the gates and moved everyone inside the locker room area while the Wilkesburg police along with Chatham police checked the area with nothing found. Once it was deemed safe, everyone was escorted out of Graham Field.

**2:45 p.m. Feb. 14** – Officers received a call at the East Side campus for a sick student. The student was safely transported to the hospital by city medics.

democratic freedoms for professors and a push toward a more diverse and equitable hiring process.

With a tenure-based model, both the committee and the board hope to draw more faculty candidates to Chatham as the institution expands and diversifies its campus.

“Protections [in contracts] are very important, especially for those of marginalized identities who are questioned more than others,” said Sweet-Cushman, hopeful for the long-term results for the tenure model. “The entire idea of the

academy is that it is a place where expression is valued. We don’t judge what the expression is because the value lies in that expression, and tenure facilitates this.”

MacNeil also predicts the change will be positive for Chatham.

“Chatham has a wonderful story to tell right now. We are growing, where most schools are not,” he said. “Our academic scholarship is getting better, and we are hiring more faculty members who are doing even more exciting things.”



## Chatham announces changes to IT to improve department

**TECHNOLOGY, FROM PAGE 1**  
part-time tech/AV. Finally, Craig Olear was hired as the manager of Technical Services/AV.

Olear is “going to mainly be here for the classroom. He will be going in and doing updates to the classrooms,” Love said, adding that he will be managing “any of the projectors, going in and possibly upgrading those and doing things to better the campus.”

The ITS department currently has eight student workers and about 22 total staff members, according to Love. IT Support Services told students to expect more updates as the team grows and moves forward.

These changes come on the heels of five days of tech issues that plagued both faculty and students. At 8:27 a.m. Jan. 28, ITS sent out an email informing students that my.Chatham.edu had gone down, meaning students would have to obtain a link to access Brightspace, their emails and Cayuse. This issue seemed to be resolved about two hours later at 10:56 a.m., according to an email from ITS, but both my.Chatham.edu and Chatham.edu went down the next day.

At 11:17 a.m. Jan. 31, ITS sent an email stating that phones to financial aid, the help desk and student services were not working. Later that day, ITS sent two emails informing students that both sites and the phones were fixed at 4:04 p.m. and 4:41 p.m., respectively.

“They just had certification is-

ues, backend issues that needed to be taken care of. They had to deal with a third party,” said Love when asked why the sites and phones stopped working.

Chatham ITS has taken steps to try to avoid this from happening again, including a reorganization of staff to ensure that someone oversees the certification and any issues that may come from it. ITS will also be implementing new software: TeamDynamix TDX and Sassafras. The TDX software will be available as a landing page for students sometime in the summer or fall.

The software will allow IT to get “classroom updates, if there is a classroom with an issue we will know,” Love said.

Information on fixing IT issues will be available on the page, including a resource that informs stu-

dents what sites are down. The essential sites for Chatham students, like Microsoft programs, will be included in the down detector.

Alongside these essential sites are sites unaffiliated with Chatham like Discord, which Love said will be added to the down-sites list along with other gaming-related sources, which came as a decision from the IT department.

“We will be putting the other alerts for Microsoft and necessary sites, and we thought we might as well add those,” Love said.

Tutorials and training on using the TDX site are to be expected.

“We’ll be doing trainings for it, for staff and faculty, and I think they’re going to put a training out for students also,” Love said.

These changes will benefit students, but internal changes are being made in IT, as well.

“There is another software we are implementing, Sassafras, that is for our inventory. It takes care of software and inventory of all our devices,” Love said. The IT department has planned a “total reorganization for internal communication and external communication” to help improve the service for students and faculty.



**READ MORE  
ON OUR  
WEBSITE**

*Visit [chatham-communicate.com](http://chatham-communicate.com)  
or scan the QR  
code to read more  
stories.*



Students can seek IT-related help in Woodland Hall on Chatham’s Shadyside campus. Photo Credit: Abigail Hakas

# Chatham Student Power and its guise of progressivism

Dear editor,

I originally joined Chatham Student Power (CSP) because I wanted to further educate myself and become more active in social justice issues. I went to the first meeting in the fall, and the general consensus was that they don't do much in fall but get ready for the Sustainable Fashion Fair in the spring. If I had known that the magnum opus of a progressive student organization was sustainable fashion, I would have joined the Green Team and saved myself the disappointment, but this does highlight how sustainability has been used as a calling card to appear progressive without taking the time to learn about other pressing issues.

I want to preface this by saying that transitioning toward sustainable practices to address the climate crisis is paramount and often intersectional to progressive issues such as income inequality, racial disparities, etc. However, from my experience with CSP, its approach to addressing climate change has been strictly environmental. Environmental activism is convenient activism when you do not attempt to recognize and/or work with the actual people being affected.

The lack of diversity in issues is off-putting and, frankly, makes me not want to participate in the club at all. On Nov. 13, the same day that CSP marched down Fifth Avenue to protest Chatham's fossil fuel investments, there was also



Photo Credit: Jorie Meil

a protest in honor of Jim Rogers, a Black man who died after being tased several times by police in East Liberty in October. CSP promoted this protest once on an Instagram story the night before it took place, but it was quickly drowned out by promotion for the climate march, which the group had been doing for multiple weeks ahead of time. Clearly, this showed prioritization of one event over the other. I am not from Pittsburgh, so even if I could have attended the protest for Rogers, I would not have felt comfortable enough to go by myself. Also, the fact that I

probably would have been going by myself regardless felt even more discouraging.

Activism is a collective effort, and students have always played an instrumental role. CSP missed a valuable opportunity to not only bring awareness to Chatham students but also to show solidarity with the greater community. This organization has so much potential to inspire constructive conversations about progressive issues, but that is something I have yet to see.

-Lauren Cox, class of 2025



**Submit a question**  
For more information on how to submit a question, go to [chathamcommunique.com](http://chathamcommunique.com).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*The Communique 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)).*

## *Records shattered in Cougar's winter conquest*

### RECORDS, FROM PAGE 1

"I'm really proud of our guys for playing through injuries, and we wouldn't be anywhere without our trainer Sam," Gartley said. "We have a great bench, and without the guys competing in practice every day, we would not be nearly as successful as we are now."

Bouncing back from a loss against Washington & Jefferson College, both men and women's basketball will enter the playoffs at home on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

#### **Women's Ice Hockey**

This season was already shaping up to be special for the women's hockey team as players celebrate the 25th anniversary season. It was

*"Our coaches support us no matter what. ...There's an expectation to give it our all and leave it all out on the court every game."*

*- Blaine Gartley '25*

made even more special due to several team and individual records being broken during this season's campaign.

The team broke the program record for both total wins in a season and in the conference. The Cougars wrapped up their regular season with a 13-10 total record and a 12-8 record in United Collegiate Hockey Conference (UCHC) play.

The previous record for wins was back in 2015 with 10 overall.



Ally Nolan '24 with her team. Photo Credit: Chatham Athletics

Beside team records being broken, four individual accomplishments have also been broken.

Ally Nolan '24 is the all-time leader in goals and in points for one season.

Allison Corser-James '24 scored the fastest goal in program history in just 19 seconds, now ranking 12 of all-time in the NCAA for fastest goal scored in-game.

Finally, Brooke Almond '23 is now Chatham's leader in assists per season.

"It's amazing to see the individuals be recognized and the team this year with all the records we've been able to set," said head coach Mike O'Grady. "It's taken our team to do that."

The Cougars sit in fourth place heading into the UCHC playoffs and will host their second-ever playoff game. The first time came just last season, which saw them beat Alvernia University in the first round. This year will see the women's hockey team square off against Stevenson University on Feb. 23 at Pittsburgh Ice Arena.



Men's hockey celebrates a win. Photo Credit: Chatham Athletics

#### **Men's Ice Hockey**

It wasn't just the women on the ice who broke records this year. The men's team also got in on the action.

The men's ice hockey team also surpassed its previous win record, as the players wrapped up this season with a 9-12-2 record and an 8-8-2 UCHC record.

This UCHC play is good enough for the Cougars to host their first-ever home game on Feb. 23 at Frozen Pond Arena.

*"It's amazing to see the individuals be recognized and ... all the records we've been able to set."*

*- Coach Mike O'Grady*

Last year was the men's team's first time making the playoffs, and players are looking to build off of last season's success.

"Last year the goal was to make the playoffs for the first time ever. This year [it's] to build off that. The expectations are to make the

playoffs and we did that, and the first goal is to host a playoff game and get the first playoff win," said head coach Michael Gershon.

The program record for all-time points was broken and is now held by Michael Lamison '22 with 46 points in 85 games played. The captain also now holds the record for most games played as a Cougar.

Tristan Simm '22 has been going back and forth with Lamison all

*"The expectations are to make the playoffs and we did that, and the first goal is to host a playoff game and get the first playoff win."*

*- Coach Michael Gershon*

season for being leaders in several stat categories. Simm now is the all-time leader in assists, assists in a season and total points in a season.

Rounding out the individual accomplishments is Andrew Warhoftig '23 with goals in a season, and Zack Conner '25 with points per game.



## The Sound of Musick: Student seeks to revive Rea Coffeehouse

By Charlotte Larson

When Alex Musick '22 was assigned the task of studying and further documenting a piece of Chatham University's history for the University archives, he was instantly drawn to Rea Coffeehouse.

The unique basement of Rea House is a little-known space to some students, but for Musick it is one of the most historically-rich places on campus. He has ideas for reviving the space as a go-to spot for events and is seeking student support.

Rea Coffeehouse began as a small venue for students to engage in and host creative events. Its heavily graffitied walls have seen everything from painting nights and poetry readings to concerts. The space has been a part of the Chatham landscape since the

1960s, when the school was first granted the Julia and James Rea House.

The Coffeehouse has evolved with time and seen periods of great engagement coupled with long stretches of rest. Fewer events have been held in the space largely due to COVID-19 distancing protocols, but it is clear students have not lost interest in this illusive hide-away. Concerted efforts to preserve the basement venue have taken place over the years, including a Facebook group founded by students that shares images from the Coffeehouse's early days to about 2017.

Musick is an Immersive Media major with a passion for music. Although he did not have the chance to attend prior Coffeehouse events, he quickly uncovered the exciting musical notes of its past in the



The spatial photogrammetry record of the Rea Coffeehouse by Alex Musick.



A room in the Rea Coffeehouse. Photo Credit: Moe Williams

archives.

Seeing pictures of posters, performers and audiences of this “nexus for the ‘80s and ‘90s punk scene,” as he says, piqued his curiosity. Musick soon decided to focus a class project around collecting and compiling images of Rea Coffeehouse to generate a spatial photogrammetry record.

Once immersed in his work, Musick began to ask why the space had not been used for concerts in so long. It seemed to him that Rea Coffeehouse was a “living record” that should not remain sedentary in Chatham's history, but continue to move with new waves of students. And, of course, who wouldn't want to attend an underground concert right on their campus?

After finishing his archive proj-

ect, Musick imagines his first step toward bringing live music back to Rea Coffeehouse will be to gather a group of interested students through a Music Appreciation Club. This club will source local talent, plan events and host free, inclusive concerts to breathe new life into the venue.

Above all, Musick hopes to maintain the integrity of the Coffeehouse as a Chatham-centric space. He is looking for students to help him in his endeavor, saying, “Any interest at all is more than enough.”

Contact Musick via email at [alexander.musick@chatham.edu](mailto:alexander.musick@chatham.edu) if you want to help rock the Rea Coffeehouse.



## ***WINTER TROUBLES COME TO CHATHAM***

*Winter brings many challenges to Pittsburgh, and Chatham is no different. Frequent snowfall and fluctuating temperatures led to icy roads and sidewalks in February. While some students were concerned about the danger posed by icy campus paths, others took advantage of the snowy weather with winter fun. Students can report concerns over icy paths or injury to Public Safety at 412-365-1230.*



*Students disregard new “No Sliding Allowed” signs at the top of Chapel Hill and participate in the longstanding tradition of sledding on Chatham’s Shadyside campus. Photo Credit: Katelyn Nee*



*Stairs behind the Campbell Memorial Chapel are found to be dangerously icy and taped off for student safety. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit*



*The path from Shadyside campus to Shady Avenue covered in snow and ice due to lack of shoveling in early February. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit*

## Join our new media group

The *Communique* 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](mailto:alice.crow@chatham.edu) to contribute.

## Story tips?

The *Communique* is always looking for story ideas!

Send your story tips and questions to [Communique@chatham.edu](mailto:Communique@chatham.edu) or Alice.crow@chatham.edu



## COMMENCEMENT SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022



### At the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Downtown Pittsburgh

#### Submit Application for Degree Conferral

- To graduate, you need to submit your online degree conferral application.
- The deadline is Tuesday, March 22. Log into MyChatham/myTools/Degree Conferral Application/May 2022.

#### Order Regalia & Additional Announcements

- Regalia should be ordered through the campus bookstore by Monday, Feb. 28. Order graduation announcements (and other items) through Herff Jones.

- Sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs

## Staff List

**Editor-in-chief**  
Alice Crow

**Faculty advisor**  
Sara Bauknecht

**Digital editor**  
Jorie Meil

**News editor**  
Michaela DeLauter

**Opinion editor**  
Abbey Sullivan

**Sports editor**  
Haley Daugherty

**Media editor, Photos**  
Lilly Kubit

**Media editor, Videos**  
Riley Hurst-Brubaker

**Podcast host**  
Jeremiah Davis


**Social media team**  
Morgan Kohler  
Jade Lombardo


**Contributing writers**  
Anna Betar  
Jackie Clark  
Carson Gates  
Abigail Hakas  
Jake Lach  
Charlotte Larson  
Chelsea Perello  
Alison Righetti

**Contributing photographers**  
Katelyn Nee

## Check us out online

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

 @Communique\_CU

 @Communique\_CU

 @ChathamCommunique

## Letters to the editor

The *Communique* 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 *Communique* 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)).