

# COMMUNIQUE

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Students dress up in costumes for Rea Coffehouse concert. **Page 7**

## Meet new dean, Dr. Edith Barrett

By Tori Brokaw

Chatham University's School of Arts, Science and Business welcomed this academic year Dr. Edith Barrett as its new dean. Her mission at Chatham is to bring experiential learning to the campus to help students get a well-rounded and meaningful education.

She has lived in Pittsburgh since Aug. 1 and is already loving the people of the city, who are "unbelievably friendly," she said.

Dean Barrett completed her undergraduate degree at Baylor University and earned her master's degree and Ph.D. in psychology from Northwestern University. Her favorite memory during her undergraduate years was when she took a statistics class, which led her to become a psychology major. She then continued to do further statistical work with the professor and appreciated that one-on-one time  
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## Community gathers together on anniversary of Tree of Life shooting

By Carson Gates

Oct. 27 marked four years since the targeted shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue that killed 11 people. This tragedy happened half a mile from the Shadyside Campus at Chatham University's Shadyside Campus – and has

many community members still mourning.

Chatham's Jewish Students' Association (JSA) held a memorial on the Shadyside Campus. This consisted of a reading of the 11 names that were taken, a reading  
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The Tree of Life Synagogue on Oct. 27, 2022. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit

## Hockey teams continue to grow

By Josie Barton

The Cougars are transitioning from the field to the ice as both the men's and women's ice hockey teams prepare for their respective seasons to begin.

The women's ice hockey team ended its 2021-22 season with a 12-8-0 record in its United Collegiate Hockey Conference (UCHC). As the first collegiate varsity women's ice hockey program in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the team is taking steps in a new era – building the program from the ground up and making their way to the top of the UCHC.

Michael O'Grady, Chatham women's ice hockey head coach, is ecstatic about the growth he has seen after joining the program in 2019. Leading by example, O'Grady's coaching philosophy encompasses passion and consistency  
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## ‘Jewish students in Pittsburgh, Jewish people in Pittsburgh and everywhere are hurting’

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of a poem and then walk to the Tree of Life Synagogue.

This is not the first year the JSA has held a memorial, but this year saw the lowest turnout yet.

JSA co-president Jorie Meil, who’s also involved with the Communiqué, wants students to know that the grieving process is not over.

“I think that people who aren’t Jewish don’t still feel the loss of it because all of Pittsburgh felt the loss, but the Jewish people in Pittsburgh are still really mourning,” Meil said.

The memorial was promoted by the JSA via its Instagram page. Chatham President Dr. David Finegold sent out an email to the University promoting a citywide memorial service at Schenley Park.

“We obviously wanted to [promote the event more], but I don’t think that it should be solely our responsibility when this is something that doesn’t just affect the JSA,” Meil said.

The rise in antisemitism has not gone away since the shooting four years ago.

*“I think that people who aren’t Jewish don’t still feel the loss of it because all of Pittsburgh felt the loss, but the Jewish people in Pittsburgh are still really mourning,”*  
-Jorie Meil



The 10/27 Healing Partnership, JFCS Counseling Services and Center for Victims set up a tent at Tree of Life Synagogue on Oct. 27. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit

The Anti-Defamation League noted a 34% increase in antisemitic incidents in 2021. These are not issues that exclude liberal art institutions; Ithaca College in New York has reported five swastikas found on its campus since January.

Dr. Finegold wants to make sure something like that does not happen at Chatham.

“Thankfully, I’m not aware of any of those incidents for us, and certainly it would be against the honor code, and we would crack down hard if we saw it,” Dr. Finegold said. “But you know, I think ideally what we want is promoting a tolerance where that wouldn’t occur. If it is happening, you know we want to try to identify who’s responsible and take very quick action and let people know that we don’t have any form of hate speech or threats. We

important to Chatham, but they need to include Jewish students in activism,” she said. “They need to not forget other than the anniversary that Jewish students in Pittsburgh, Jewish people in Pittsburgh and everywhere are hurting.”

While many students who were at Chatham in 2018 are now gone, this is something that will always impact this community.

Meil wants to make sure that Jewish history is not just seen as the Holocaust. The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh has a new exhibit in the JKM Library, with a section of it being in remembrance of the Tree of Life shooting.

Dr. Finegold wants to find a way to honor and promote Jewish history outside of the Holocaust.

For students looking to get in contact with the JSA, follow the organization on Instagram @jsa.chatham or contact Meil via email at Jorie.Meil@chatham.edu.

want to take action on that.”

Meil does not want activism for Jewish people to go forgotten – or to even be remembered once a year at the end of October.

“Non-Jewish students need to know that activism is often very



Memento left outside the Tree of Life Synagogue. Photo Credit: Jorie Meil

## Experiential learning at the forefront of Dean Barrett's plans at Chatham

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during her education.

"My fondest memory of the years as a student was getting to work with a professor," Dean Barrett said.

Dean Barrett's career path led her to Chatham after spending four years as associate dean at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

at the University of Connecticut. She found that the size of Chatham eases her ability to make a difference for the students, faculty and the institution.

"I was looking for a dean position where I could make a difference," Dean Barrett said.

Dean Barrett said that the day in the life of a dean may bore students because it consists of many



Dr. Edith Barrett. Photo Credit: Chatham University

in-person and Zoom meetings, as well as analyzing data and statistics. She uses these statistics to see what is going on at Chatham.

When asked about her philosophy on education, Dean Barrett explained that she wants students to be prepared for "a lifetime of careers." She shared that many people's first jobs out of college might not be their jobs for the rest of their lives – but they will bring them to the next stages in their careers.

"Students walk away with more than a skill but also an understanding of the environment they live in, the people, the places and the spaces we all live in," Dean Barrett said.

Experiential learning is a big part of that.

"I live and breathe experiential learning," Dean Barrett said.

She discovered her connection with experiential learning during her time at the University of Connecticut as the director of urban and community studies. Dean Barrett based this program on experiential learning.

"You can't understand cities

unless you really get out into the streets," she said. She then became a strong proponent of learning through experience at that level and continues advocacy for it here at Chatham.

Dean Barrett is currently working to expand Chatham's experiential learning and service-learning programs. She finds that experiential learning puts together all the pieces of what students learn in the classroom through hands-on experiences, such as laboratory experiences or working with a nonprofit or agency.

As for her other plans for Chatham, Dean Barrett said she wants to ensure students can get the classes they want when they need them. She said she wants to "keep the curriculum alive" to fit the needs of the students and the institution. Finally, the dean shared some advice for the students, which is to take a variety of courses in their undergraduate years – including ones outside of their comfort zone.

Dean Barrett wants students to know that she is approachable and that if there are ever any issues, students can feel free to visit her office on the second floor of Braun Hall. She said that she wants to hear the students' perspectives on how she can help make Chatham a better place and their ideas for how to strive to do so.

*Check out future Communiqué coverage for more profiles on other people who joined Chatham University this academic year.*

## POLICE BLOTTER

All information is provided by Chatham University's Public Safety

**3:30 p.m. Oct. 14** - Officers were dispatched to Woodland Hall and transported a student to the hospital.

**1:30 a.m. Oct. 15** - Officers responded to Dilworth Hall for a loud party. Upon arrival, the party was located and shut down for the night.

**5:35 p.m. Oct. 20** - Officers were dispatched to the Chatham Apartments for a student not feeling well. The student was then transported to a local urgent care.

**10:30 p.m. Oct. 21** - Officers received a call from Linzer Apartments for the smell of gas. Upon arrival, officers noticed it was not natural gas but gasoline. A vehicle in the parking lot was found to have a small gas leak. The owner was notified and will have the problem fixed.

**1:30 a.m. Oct. 23** - Officers were dispatched to Rea Hall for an intoxicated student. Upon arrival, the student was transported to the hospital.

**Other incidents** – Officers responded to four traffic accidents. There were no injuries reported, and officers placed a report on file.

Additionally, officers responded to seven alarms on Shadyside Campus, and all were deemed to be false.

Officers also took in several lost and found items. If students lose something they can stop by or call the Rea Garage to check on a lost item.

## What the Post-Gazette strike means for the future of journalism

By Lilly Kubit

On Oct. 6, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette printing, design, distribution and advertising employees went on strike after the Post-Gazette's owner, Block Communications Inc., declined to pay additional money so employees could maintain their existing healthcare benefits.

At noon on Oct. 18, members of the Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh, which represents about 100 newsroom employees, walked out and joined the other workers on the picket line after taking a 38 to 36 vote a day prior.

Today, if you walk along North Shore Drive near Stage AE, you'll notice some people with signs saying they are on strike against the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for unfair labor practices. This strike will determine how newsroom workers are treated and compensated by management for years to come.

If it fails, local journalism faces a dark future.

This is the first newspaper strike in Pittsburgh in 30 years.

According to the Newspaper Guild of Pittsburgh, the strike came on the heels of Block Communications Inc. declaring in 2020 an illegal impasse on contract negotiations. These union members have been negotiating with the company for a contract since 2017. They haven't received a raise in 16 years, despite inflation. Prior to walking off the job, many union members participated in a byline strike, leav-

ing their names off their published stories.

In December, I am graduating and entering the workforce to look for work as a photojournalist, and I am scared I will not be able to afford the life I want on a journalist's salary. Journalists should be focusing on how to provide the best coverage, not how they can scrimp and save to afford to do their job.

In an age where technological advancements have made information move lightning-fast, accurate reporting is more important than ever. Journalists strive to provide an unbiased filter for this information, which helps lessen the



Melissa Tkach stands outside the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette office on Thursday, Oct. 27. Photo Credit: Lilly Kubit

amount of clickbait and misinformation shared.

Local news publications are especially crucial to communities because they can do closer-to-home coverage than national news can.

Many journalists work long, hard hours, and with owners like Block

Communications Inc. not giving them raises to keep up with inflation, their work is paid less than what it is worth. At a certain point, underpaid journalists are forced to choose which they value more: their work or their lives.

This is why unions are so important. Alone, workers might not be able to advocate for themselves and demand proper treatment; one worker against a goliath of a corporation is an almost impossible challenge. Unions help one voice become many, and ultimately help workers have more negotiation power.

Some Post-Gazette reporters left the union to continue working. They have kept their jobs, and the striking workers are only denouncing the paper's owners – and The Butler Eagle, the company that has been printing the Post-Gazette during the strike.

The temptation to not join a strike or abandon a union in an effort to avoid upsetting employers is understandable, but not joining together to protest unfair policies will cause more exploitation of workers in the future – in journalism and other fields.

When union members defect, unions lose power. Journalists cannot rely on the hopes that they will be paid well simply because their work is important.

Without unions fighting for ethical working conditions, student journalists like me could be graduating and entering a field where

they are underpaid.

While I would love to work as a photographer for a local publication – and have already gained experience through three internships with local media outlets – this treatment of journalists has made me afraid to work in the field full-time, and I have started to search for jobs in other fields in case I can't make enough money. I am devastated knowing I might not be able to do the work I am passionate about, but I refuse to be paid less than my work is worth.

The Post-Gazette is still publishing content, but readers should consider going elsewhere for news to support the striking workers. It is more vital than ever to support the workers and other media outlets in this city who are picking up coverage in the wake of Post-Gazette workers walking off the job.

Newsroom workers on strike have started a publication called Pittsburgh Union Progress ([union-progress.com](http://union-progress.com)), and other newsrooms such as Pittsburgh City Paper and PublicSource have pledged to assist in covering events. College newspapers are another great source for local news.

The outcome of this strike will decide the future of our news culture and climate in Pittsburgh. Will writers receive fair compensation or be worked to burnout? While I hope it is the former, without the support from all of us, these striking workers will see no end to the impasse.

## Upcoming games

Compiled by Dylan Vogel and Josie Barton

**Nov. 1 - TBD:** Women's volleyball to play in the PAC Quarterfinal

**Nov. 2 - TBD:** Women's soccer to play in the PAC semifinal tournament

**Nov. 3 - TBD:** Women's soccer to play in the PAC semifinal

**Nov. 4 -** Women's ice hockey to play at 7 p.m., taking on Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y.

Men's ice hockey to play at 7 p.m. against King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Penn.

**Nov. 5 -** Women's hockey to play at 3:30 p.m. at Arcadia University. **TBD:** Women's soccer to play in the PAC championship.

Men's and women's swimming and diving to meet at 10 a.m. for its first conference meet at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Men's ice hockey to play at 4 p.m. against King's College.

**Nov. 8 -** Women's basketball to battle at 7 p.m. against Penn State Altoona in the AFC.

**Nov. 11-13 -** Women's squash to

play Franklin & Marshall College, Dickinson College and Drexel University in Lancaster, Penn.

Men's squash to play Drexel University, Haverford College and Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Penn.

**Nov. 11 -** Women's ice hockey to play at 7:30 p.m. against Arcadia University.

Men's and women's swimming and diving to meet at 6 p.m. against Westminster College at the Sigo Falk Natatorium in Pittsburgh.

**Nov. 12 -** Women's basketball to play at 2 p.m. against Fredonia in the AFC.

Men's basketball to play at 4 p.m. against Penn State Harrisburg in Middletown, Penn.

Women's ice hockey to play at 3:30 p.m. at Arcadia University.

Men's ice hockey to play at 7 p.m., taking on Utica University in Utica, N.Y.

**Nov. 13 -** Men's basketball to play at 8 p.m. against Waynesburg University in the AFC.

Men's hockey to play at 3 p.m. at Utica University.

## Fall sport standings

**Women's soccer:** 6-1-3 PAC record

Finished fourth in the PAC with a 4-0 first round against Bethany. Will face Westminster on Nov. 2 in the semi-finals.

**Men's soccer:** 2-6-2 PAC record

Finished eight in the PAC and did not qualify for the playoffs

**Women's volleyball:** 6-4 PAC record

Finished fifth in the PAC, and will be on the road to face St. Vincent in the first round on Nov. 1.

**Men's and women's cross country:** Both teams finished eight at the PAC Championship on Oct. 29.

## Cougars skate toward a new season

**HOCKEY, FROM PAGE 1**

tency.

"I want to develop a program that helps develop the whole human – student, athlete and human being," O'Grady said. "We value respect, hard work and accountability."

With a finite number of local teams, the coaching staff approaches the recruiting process with creativity.

Ushering players from areas around Pittsburgh and New York, Colorado, California, Alaska and Canada, the team flourishes in diversity, culture and experience.

"You get to make friends that will be there for you all over the world," O'Grady said.

### Men's ice hockey

After a successful 2021-22 season, ending with a 7-7-4 season record in the UCHC, the men's ice hockey coach Michael Gershon holds great expectations in his third season of coaching the team.

"We need to beat the teams that are below us, compete with the teams that are above us and do it consistently," Gershon said.

Gershon focuses on using the natural talent of each player on the ice by giving them the freedom to make individual decisions. With an ever-evolving program and a diverse group, the team's game routine has changed significantly throughout the years.

"We want them to be predictable to our own team and unpredictable to the opponent," Gershon said. "You can't score without the puck

and you can't get scored on if you have the puck."

Holding the fourth spot in the UCHC preseason poll ranking, the highest in program history, the team looks to build on their semifinal spot from last year. Gershon expects great opportunities and a solid team structure this season.

"We're constantly playing meaningful games in our tournament and our league," Gershon said. "At the end of the day, it's the guys on the ice."

Gershon is committed to his players' development on and off the ice and his passion for the sport. The team's alumni support and praise reflects their long-term goal to stay relevant and committed to a strong future alumni.

"We hope they come in as young men and leave as young adults," Gershon said.

### Looking ahead

With a goal to win its conference, O'Grady looks forward to the upcoming competition. The women's team's next game will take place on Nov. 4 against Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y. Ranked the sixth team in the country, the Golden Flyers hold a high standing after knocking the Cougars out of the playoffs for two consecutive years.

The men's team will face off against King's College in its first conference game on Nov. 4 in Wilkes-Barre, Penn. After beating the Lions twice in the 2021-22 season, Gershon expects a battle – but nothing the Cougars can't face.

## Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh set to open exhibit in the JKM Library

By Lauren Cox

Chatham University has partnered with the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh to establish an exhibit of Jewish artwork and artifacts on the first floor of the Jennie King Mellon Library.

Following the shooting in 2018 at the nearby Tree of Life synagogue, Chatham and the Holocaust Center held a survivor program in the Campbell Memorial Chapel.

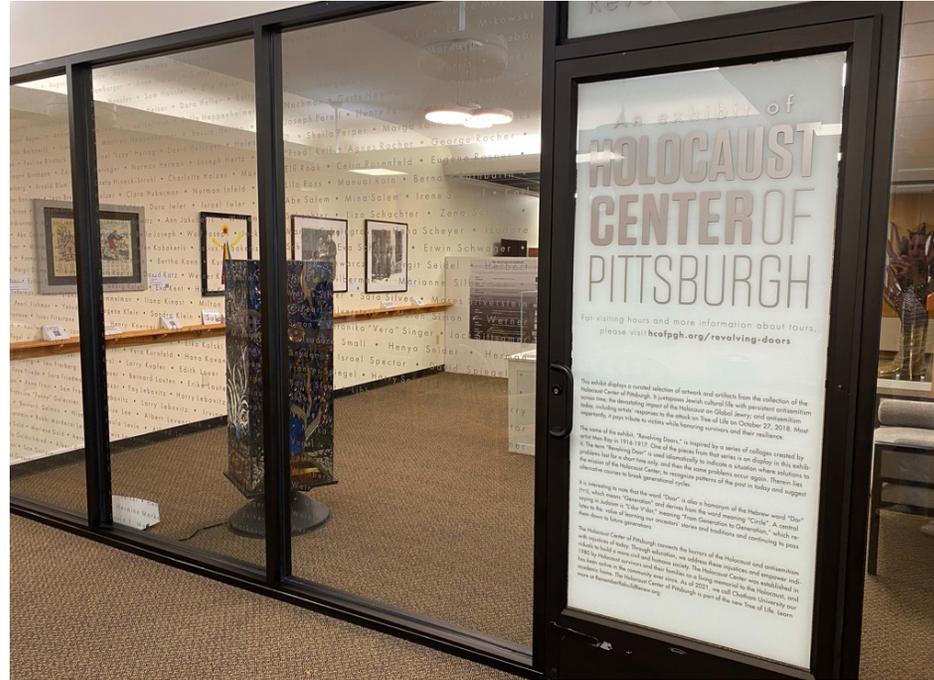
Dr. Lauren Bairnsfather, an adjunct professor of history at Chatham, described this moment as “a real spirit of camaraderie” that cemented the Center’s relationship with the University.

Besides her work at Chatham, Dr. Bairnsfather is the executive director of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

Since then, Chatham and the Holocaust Center have maintained a formal relationship through new minors offered by the University, including Jewish studies and Holocaust, genocide and human rights studies.



Inside the Holocaust Center. Photo Credit: Carson Gates



Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh at the JKM Library. Photo Credit: Carson Gates

The exhibit, titled “Revolving Doors,” is expected to run through spring 2024.

The exhibit will be open to Chatham students and community members from Shadyside, Squirrel Hill and beyond. Dr. Bairnsfather said that universities outside of Pittsburgh have already expressed interest in visiting it.

“Revolving Doors” is inspired by Jewish artist Man Ray’s collage series, a piece of which will be on display.

Dr. Bairnsfather believes that the artifacts are arranged to show “a situation where solutions to problems last for a short time only, and then the same problems occur again.”

The structure of the artifacts within the space reflects the cycle of Jewish life, anti-Semitism and

healing from devastating acts of violence against the Jewish people, particularly the Holocaust and the Tree of Life shooting, where 11 people were killed.

The glass windows of the exhibit display the names of Holocaust survivors who lived in Pittsburgh. Some of the artifacts were donated to the exhibit, and other pieces are from the Holocaust Center’s collection, which has been chosen to reflect the revolving door motif.

Dr. Bairnsfather said the exhibit will be “living and breathing,” meaning some artifacts may be removed or added to highlight a “complicated narrative in such a small space.”

She also hopes it will expose more people to Chatham and inspire conversations about social justice and identity-based violence.

“Some people say [Chatham] is a hidden gem. ... When we bring school groups, then more students will see that this wonderful place is here and is an option for them,” she added. “For us, being around a university [is] a game changer because we have all of the energy here, the inquiry that’s happening here, the learning, the production of scholarship – it’s a very exciting place to be for any Holocaust Center.”

### Read more stories on our website

*With an important mid-term election on the horizon, Tori Brokaw lists her “5 ways students can be more engaged.”*

*Arlo MacFarland has their second “Lightning Rod” story out. This time on the band Water Trash and their show at Bottlerocket Social Hall.*

*To read these stories and more, visit our website [chathamcommunique.com](http://chathamcommunique.com) or scan the QR code below*



## Coffeehouse costumes

*The Rea Coffeehouse hosted an open mic night along with several Chatham student bands on Oct. 28. The audience and performers dressed up in the Halloween spirit.*

By Lilly Kubit



Ian Zimmerman '26 dressed as Hurricane Ian.



Liam Lyons '24 was "in a pickle."



Ryan McFarland '24 and Evelyn Fay '25 dressed as Tick-Tock the Crocodile and Tinker Bell.



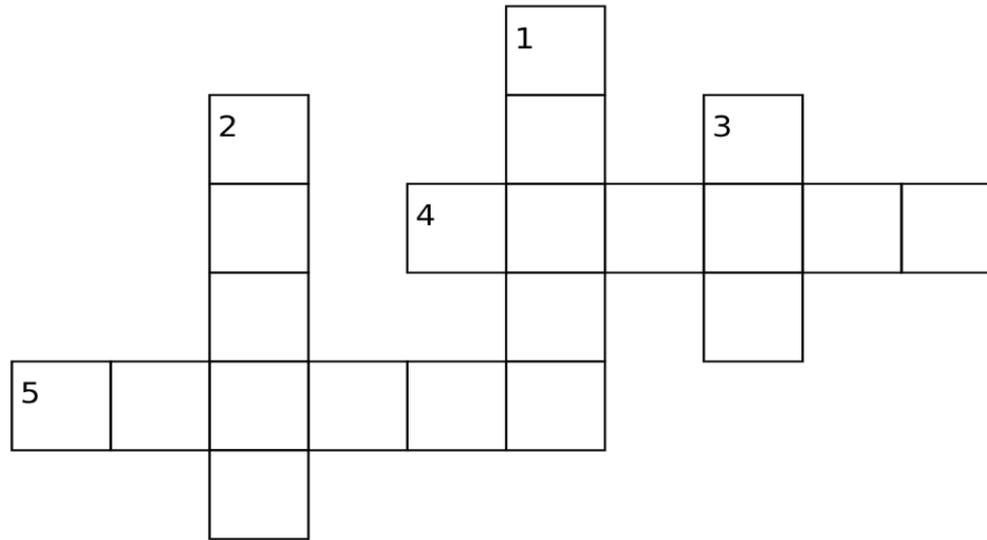
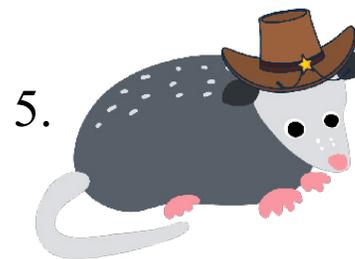
Chris Szarka '26 and Morgan Rapsky '26 dressed as Odie and Garfield.



Benji Keeler '25, Maggie Vargo '25, and Rae Kraybill '25 dressed as Pennywise, Pennywise and David Bowie.

## Halloween crossword

*Help the opossum pick his favorite Halloween costume by completing the crossword puzzle.*



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Jackie Clark

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Emily Jacobs

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John Matey

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**Contributing photographer**

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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 Abigail Hakas ([abigail.hakas@chatham.edu](mailto:abigail.hakas@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 [carson.gates@chatham.edu](mailto:carson.gates@chatham.edu) or [communique@chatham.edu](mailto:communique@chatham.edu).