

# COMMUNIQUE

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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

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## NEWS



Class of 2023 plans to upgrade essential needs corner. **Page 3**

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See the close-up beauty of snow at Eden Hall. **Page 7**

## Dean Salvador Bondoc strives to foster cross-campus community



Dr. Salvador Bondoc Photo Credit: Chatham University

By Riley Hurst Brubaker

Dr. Salvador Bondoc joined Chatham University as the dean of the School of Health Sciences in September 2022 after leading Quinnipiac University's occupational therapy program from 2013 to 2022. His hope for Chatham is to strengthen the sense of unity between Chatham's Eastside and Shadyside locations.

While much of Dean Bondoc's

early career focused on practical work as an occupational therapist, his work in higher education was a natural progression to that profession.

He was offered an instructing position upon graduation from the University of the Philippines after working as a tutor while he finished his undergraduate studies. He spent the early years of his career as a practicing occupational therapist. **SEE BONDOC, PAGE 2**

## Intramural sports look for a fresh start

By Emma Griffith

Since Chatham University went all-gender in 2015, there has been a rise in attention put on Chatham Athletics. Intramural sports – which are recreational sports not under the NCAA umbrella – are a great way for college students to engage with peers, get active

**SEE INTRAMURAL, PAGE 5**

## New student clubs to ramp up this term

By Abigail Hakas

This past fall brought in Chatham University's class of 2026 and, with it, a swath of new clubs and student organizations. Now that first-year students are adjusted to campus life, these clubs hope to offer students activity, interaction and community outside of the classroom.

### Tabletop Gaming Club

Meets weekly or biweekly from 4

to 6 p.m. Fridays in the Carriage House Main Lounge.

The Tabletop Gaming Club hit the ground running with an Uno tournament in the fall. Now, it has 60 active members.

Club president Sophia Margittai '25 started the group as a place for members to play Dungeons & Dragons, but it has expanded to cover any tabletop games they can get their hands on.

**SEE CLUBS, PAGE 6**



Tabletop Gaming Club plays Dungeons & Dragons in the Carriage House. Photo Credit: Tabletop Gaming Club



## ‘I want to create the perception that we are a connected campus’

**BONDOC, FROM PAGE 1**

pist and instructor before making the switch to higher education in the early 2000s as a full-time faculty member at Quinnipiac University.

Though he has only been at Chatham for about six months, Dean Bondoc said that he has felt welcome at the school. “Everyone has been very warm and friendly,” Dr. Bondoc said.

Despite the warmth and strong sense of community that Dean Bondoc has received while at Chatham, there is one area of improvement that he has intentions of addressing – inter-campus connections.

“Chatham is unique in such a way that it’s a small institution, but it feels large because we have three separate [locations] and each campus has its own unique identity,” he said. “The plus is that it creates a diversity of thought, but it can be difficult to make connections between campuses.”

He observed that despite the short distance between the Shadyside and Chatham Eastside locations, there is a lack of travel, or communication, between the two, particularly at the undergraduate level.

“I want to create the perception that we are a connected campus,” he said. “When I talk to undergrad students, it’s like they have no idea what’s going on at Eastside, but it’s

only a mile from Shadyside campus. It’s really surprising.”

Chatham’s School of Health Sciences has several programs, which are split between the Shadyside location and the Eastside location. Most of the graduate-level programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy and counseling psychology take place at Chatham Eastside, while undergraduate courses in the exercise science and athletic training programs take place on the Shadyside Campus.

For students in the School of Health Sciences, this disconnect can become an issue as they progress through schooling, especially for those who wish to pursue Chatham’s integrated degree program

and individuals in the Pathway to Nursing program.

Dean Bondoc acknowledged that even with the lack of travel between Chatham’s Eastside and Shadyside locations, the framework for a better campus relationship is in place.

“The great thing about Chatham is that sense of community, even if it’s not happening fully, the design is there,” he said. “We can strengthen those connections.”

For him, the first steps to strengthen campus connections starts with how he leads the School of Health Sciences.

“I’ve learned to lead by example. It’s a bit like an inverted pyramid but more like a bowl. There’s that

space inside and you need the capacity to support everyone that you bring in, including the students.”

Dean Bondoc’s ability to support everyone within the school is one of his greatest strengths, according to Mary Jo Loughran, associate dean of the School of Health Sciences who acted as interim dean before Bondoc took on the role.

“He shares his clear ideas of what he wants to do here, but he isn’t set in how those changes come about,” Dr. Loughran said. “He’s extremely good at listening and watching and asking questions that allow us to look at what we have been doing, what works and what needs to be tweaked or changed completely.”



Chatham Eastside entrance on Penn Avenue. Photo Credit: Chatham University

## POLICE BLOTTER

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

**8:15 a.m. Jan. 19** – An officer took a report for a damaged Chatham van. The van backed into a University light, and the back window shattered. The light was not damaged.

**12:55 a.m. Jan. 20** – Officers were dispatched to the Haber Apartments because a fire extinguisher was set off. Someone opened an unsecured door and set off the fire extinguisher. Officers assisted with the clean up and advised to always lock the door.

**4:56 p.m. Jan. 23** – Officers were dispatched to Linzer Apartments for a burning smell. When officers arrived, they found the washing machine had been overloaded, and the motor was burning. Officers turned off the washer and unloaded it.

**10:55 p.m. Jan. 23** – Officers responded to Chung Apartments for a suspicious person. Upon arrival, officers discovered the suspicious person was a Parkhurst employee who walked down the wooden stairs to catch the bus on Fifth Avenue.

**Noon Jan. 26** – Officers were dispatched to Chatham Eastside for a motor vehicle accident. Upon arrival, officers noticed that a vehicle had gone over a high curb and got stuck. AAA responded and got the vehicle off of the curb. No one was injured and the vehicle had minor damage.

**1 p.m. Jan. 27** – Officers received a call for a burning smell in Woodland Hall. Officers found a projector that was showing a movie and had a burning smell. IT was notified and cleaned the projector.

**9:50 p.m. Jan. 27** – Officers were dispatched to Chung Apartments for a domestic dispute. Upon arrival, the male student in the domestic dispute was leaving campus. No one was injured, and the domestic dispute was only a verbal argument.

**4 p.m. Jan. 28** – Officers were notified of people using Graham Field without permission. Officers found young individuals playing football on the field. The young individuals were asked to leave, which they did without incident.

**3:15 p.m. Jan. 31** – Officers were dispatched to Chatham Eastside for a vehicle accident. Upon arrival, officers observed a vehicle on the steps near Washington Boulevard. The driver was not injured, but the vehicle had severe damage and had to be towed. The railing to the steps was damaged and blocked off with caution tape.

**Other reports:** Officers conducted four medical transportations to Med Express or UPMC Shadyside.

## Class gift aims to bring something practical, beautiful to Shadyside Campus

By Abigail Hakas

Chatham University's class of 2023 is hoping to raise \$2,500 for its senior gift project: a new essential needs corner in the Shadyside Campus' Student Health Services building.

Student Health Services currently has an essential needs corner, but former Class of 2023 President Zoe Wise '22 came up with the idea to improve it since the options are limited. She wants to expand it to accommodate dietary restrictions and have a wider selection of hygiene products beyond tampons, like razors and deodorant.

The \$2,500 will go to purchasing larger shelves and bins and creating a stockpile of non-perishable items. Future classes may need to fundraise to resupply it, Wise said, but the first stock will last several semesters.

The project comes amid rising grocery prices that could potentially exacerbate food insecurity issues on campus. The Bureau of Labor Statistics found that prices for groceries had risen approximately 12% since December 2022.

Wise explains that students may not have the resources to afford necessities, especially with mounting costs.

"It's no secret that the price of groceries is going up. I know, a simple trip to the grocery store for a student might have been \$30-\$40

before COVID or even during, but nowadays they're seeing prices exponentially rise ... and that's not always attainable for students," she said.

Current Class of 2023 President Katie Crouch '23 is heading the project after Wise graduated. She says that students aren't always able to make it to grocery stores during a busy semester, which is why the project is important to her.

"It's so hard to be able to go to a grocery store and get this stuff and the things that we're going to be providing to people are things that are expensive, but everyone needs them," Crouch said.

The plan is not only to create something practical for students, but something beautiful too. Crouch, an artist herself, wants to have some aspect of the essential needs corner painted by Chatham artists, but the details aren't concrete yet.

"I know a lot of previous class gifts have focused on beautifying our campus, but I really wanted to make a lasting difference in the lives of our students," Wise said. "I would love for people to donate because it is not just beautifying our campus, it's making it more accessible for future students to come."

If readers want to donate, the fundraising campaign can be found by searching "Chatham University" on GiveCampus.com.



## True crime has the power to change lives – for better and for worse

By Jackie Clark

True crime is a cultural phenomenon that has taken over entertainment by storm.

Streaming services like Netflix provide its users with a buffet of documentaries on serial killers such as Ted Bundy and John Wayne Gacy. The Investigation Discovery Channel is entirely devoted to showing dramatizations of crimes. True crime has made it to social media, too, and it can have damaging results.

People on social media have started making accusations and wild theories about the Idaho stabbings. Four University of Idaho students were fatally stabbed last fall, and internet users have jumped at the chance to get involved with the case.

Jeremy Reagan, a law student at the University of Idaho who lived

near the students, was accused of being involved in the stabbings after he appeared suspicious to internet users during an interview. After a wave of online theories, he decided to submit his DNA to the police unprompted to put a stop to it.

The fact that people need to approach the police and test their DNA because of internet speculation is a shocking consequence of true crime content and discussions. Our obsession with heinous acts has produced a toxic culture of extrajudicial punishment.

Some people are viewing it as a game with a boogey-man-like character rather than a tragic event where a selfish criminal has created long-lasting consequences for the victims — deceased or alive. Our obsession with true crime and theories about cold cases affect real people.

It disconnects the audience from the real events because the victims are now characters in a story. In Netflix's recent drama series, "Monster," some viewers talked on TikTok how attractive they found serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer and expressed sympathy for his poor childhood. This content depicts serial killers as tragic people who cannot control these urges, and it uses the victims as a part of the killer's story.

The insensitivity to victims isn't the only damaging effect of true crime. The media depicts a narrative that may not reflect the actual facts of a story, which makes it easy to jump to conclusions and accuse someone who is innocent. In the Netflix documentary, "Don't F\*\*\* With Cats," online sleuths harassed and accused Edward Jordan, an innocent man, of killing kittens. He later died by suicide.

I come to this story as a criminology major. My interest in true crime led me to assume the position of vice president for Chatham University's Cold Case Club, which works to solve crime cases, because I wanted to contribute to possibly finding closure for victims and their families. We treat these cases as cases and not as conspiracy theories or horror stories. Solving cases is not entertainment for us, and it shouldn't be for anyone else.

And there can be positive results from people getting more involved in true crime. Gabby Petito was

murdered by her fiancé in Wyoming's Bridger-Teton National Forest in August 2021. Her case went viral on social media, especially TikTok, and helped police find her body. Her family was able to get closure because of social media. This only makes it more frustrating to see the incredible power of social media being used to damage lives instead of heal them.



Crime scene tape. Photo Credit: David von Diemar via Unsplash

It has an easy capacity to generate online effort to find justice, but it is all too easy to become obsessed and promote unfounded theories when you view true crime as fiction rather than reality. If you watch true crime, remember that the shows, videos and movies you're watching are depicting real events with real people and real deaths.



Lady Justice holds a set of scales. Photo Credit: Unsplash

## Intramural sports look to rebound and garner more community involvement

### INTRAMURAL, FROM PAGE 1

and to take a break from the daily stressors of class and schoolwork.

However, there has been little involvement from students in recreational sports at Chatham. The intramural section on the University's athletic website has not been updated since 2019.

Graduate student Anthony Aiello is Chatham's intramurals coordinator. His goal is to create an upbeat environment for students.

"[I'm] in charge of setting up and hosting events for students to take a mental break from school. Life

of a college student can be very stressful, so we try to create outlets for students to come and have fun with their peers," Aiello said.

While this is his first year in the position, Aiello has been making strides to increase student engagement.

"It has been difficult getting participation," he said. "Intramurals weren't big in the past, so it's been hard to advertise and get the word out about [them]."

Aiello has hosted a few different events in the past year that have had support from students.

"So far we've done some soccer,

ping pong and teqball, which is a mixture of soccer, ping pong and a golf simulator," Aiello said.

Unfortunately, not every event was successful.

"We also tried to do a flag football tournament but because of some weather issues and not enough teams signing up, we didn't get that one underway," he said.

Aiello has high hopes for intramural events this spring. He, and other members, have started brainstorming upcoming games for the Chatham community.

"We're looking to do more things like cornhole, disc golf and some

basketball. We are always open to suggestions from the students," Aiello said. "If we can hear what the students would like to do then we could cater our events to the feelings of the students."

If you would like to offer suggestions for future intramural events, want to create a team or learn more information, reach out to Aiello at [anthony.aiello@chatham.edu](mailto:anthony.aiello@chatham.edu).

Students who are interested in signing up or want to view upcoming intramural events can check out Chatham University's Athletic & Fitness Center Instagram page [@chathamuafc](https://www.instagram.com/chathamuafc) or view the My-Chatham "Happenings" Web page.

### RECENT NEWS

Alyssa Laukus '26 was named President's Athletic Conference (PAC) rookie of the week

Women's and men's hockey competed for donations to the Mario Lemieux Foundation through Union Fitness



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Feb. 8

- Women's basketball to play against Allegheny College at 7 p.m. at the Athletic and Fitness Center (AFC). Dean's Hour Tailgate will take place from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the AFC lobby.
- Men's basketball to play at Allegheny at 7 p.m.

#### Feb. 10

- Women's hockey to play Neumann University at 7 p.m. at the Hunt Armory including a Chatham Cougar ear warmer giveaway
- Women's squash to play at Princeton University at 11 a.m. and the men at 1 p.m.

#### Feb. 15

- Men's basketball to play against Westminster College at 7 p.m. at the AFC for "Throwback Night" including a 2019 PAC Champions shirt giveaway

#### Feb. 18

- Men's hockey to play against Nazareth College at 7 p.m. at the Hunt Armory with BYOM (Bring Your Own Mug) best mug contest including free hot cocoa
- Women's lacrosse to play at La Roche University at 1 p.m.
- Men's lacrosse to play at Oberlin College at 4 p.m.
- Men's baseball to play against Hilbert at 2 p.m. at West Field

### READ MORE STORIES ON OUR WEBSITE

Visit [chathamcommunicate.com](https://www.chathamcommunicate.com) or scan the QR code to read how the Crushing Cancer with the Cougs hockey games raised money toward the Mario Lemieux Foundation.





## New student organizations aim for continued growth in their second semester

### CLUBS, FROM PAGE 1

The club aims to be a comfortable place for people to socialize while playing, Margittai says.

“I noticed that the members of the club are majority very open about being queer and very open about being on the [autism] spectrum, and those are also two things that I’m pretty open about, too,” they say. “I think that this is a really great way to have two different groups. That’s what I really, really hope that people can find – new friends.”

Right now, the club uses games borrowed from the Carriage House. The goal is to receive funding to purchase more games and provide more options for game nights. Also on the agenda are classes for Magic: The Gathering and other tabletop role-playing games.

Information: @ChathamTabletopGamingClub on Instagram and interested students can join the email list via email at Sophia.Margittai@chatham.edu. Faculty adviser: Hunter Dyar.

#### Mental Health Club

*Meets from 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Carriage House’s 24/7 Lounge and 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays in Beckwith Auditorium inside of Buhl.*

Last summer, Christine Worms ‘25 reached out to Jackson Adkins ‘25 to address a problem she felt Chatham’s student body had: mental health was not being talked about enough.

“A lot of folks think that mental health really only applies to them, or the people in their life, if it’s a problem,” Adkins says. “If you’re suffering from some mental illness, then you have the conversation about mental health, when in reality, it’s a lot more about like, ‘OK, this is how I’m feeling today.’”

Together, the two of them are co-presidents of the Chatham Mental Health Club. The structure of the meetings are pretty fluid, Worms says, meaning students can bring whatever issues they have into a safe space to find more coping methods for mental wellness or to get connected to external resources.

If students don’t want to talk, they provide coloring sheets for a non-verbal emotional outlet. For this term, Adkins and Worms hope to have a speaker come to campus to educate students about mental wellness sometime in April.

Information: @ChathamMentalHealthClub on Instagram, Jackson.



Chatham University Sustainability Explorer Post. Photo Credit: Sebastian Mull

Adkins@chatham.edu and Christine.Worms@chatham.edu. Faculty adviser: Dr. Jennifer Morse.

**Chatham University Sustainability Explorer Post Meetings are subject to the club members’ and guest speakers’ schedules**

Even if you’re not a sustainability major, this club might interest you. Sebastian Mull ‘25 created it as a way to teach all students methods of incorporating sustainability in their desired career.

If he gets more funding, Mull plans to set up trips off-campus to learn about sustainability. He is also looking into making the club an affiliated branch of the Boy Scouts of America’s Explorer program. He hopes to get more resources and expand the club to teaching non-Chatham students from ages 12 to 20.

“That would allow us some growth and then also that is going to bring us connections to the scouting program. We are kind of

two organizations in one, which is pretty neat,” he says.

For April, Mull plans to have a tree planting and Earth Day event.

Information: @ChathamExplorer on Instagram and Sebastian.Mull@chatham.edu. Faculty adviser: Dr. Tony Goreczny.

### *Preparing for your career path: steps to take while still in school*

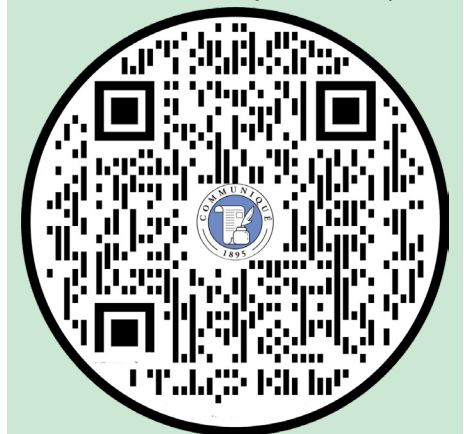
*Second in a three-part series about preparing for commencement.*

By Alice Crow

“What should I do after I graduate?” Director of Career Development Kate Sheridan knows that students often worry about their answer to this question.

“It can be really paralyzing if you don’t have a very clear path,” Sheridan said, “and for many people, we don’t.”

*Scan the QR code, or visit our website [chathamcommunicate.com](http://chathamcommunicate.com) to read the rest of this story*





# VISUALS

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## Snow settles in at Eden Hall

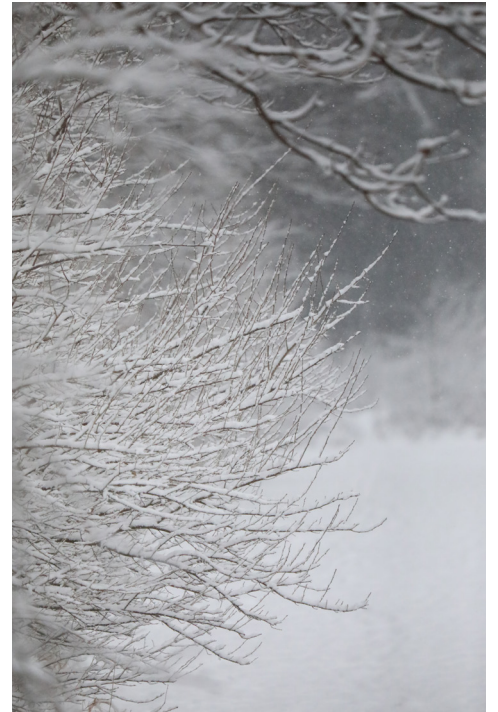
By Maggie Kudrick

*Memories of everlasting snow*

*But now*

*What was today*

*Tomorrow goes*





## Guess the location

Use the three provided pictures to guess each Chatham place

1.  +  + 
2.  +  + 
3.  +  + 
4.  +  + 
5.  +  + 
6.  +  + 

Want to stay up to date on everything Communiqué? Scan the QR code to subscribe to our new digital newsletter.



For answers to this edition's puzzle, keep an eye out for the next print issue of the Communiqué on Feb. 21.

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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 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).