

8-25-2012

## Kenyon Collegian - August 25, 2012

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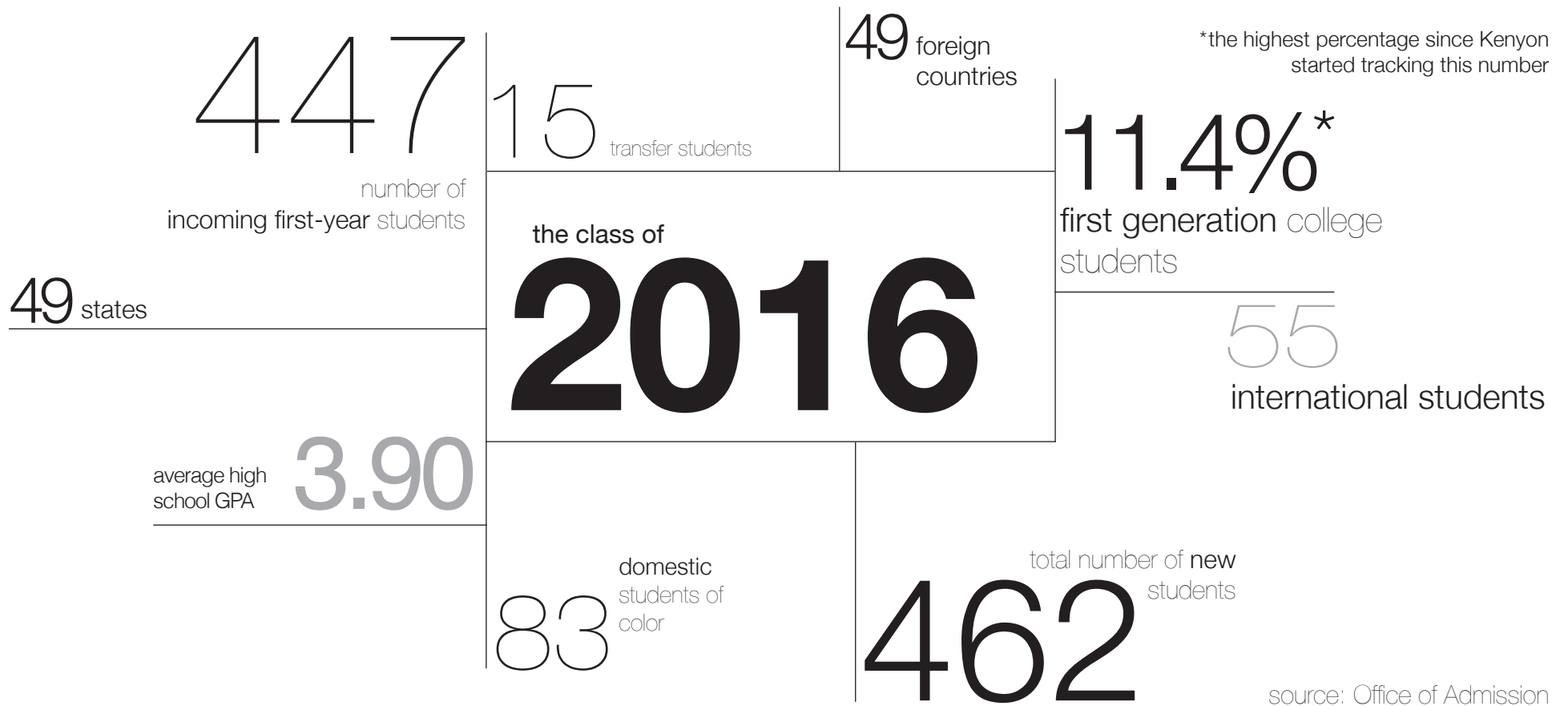
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# the Kenyon Collegian

Serving Gambier, Ohio Since 1856



## Despite Lower Enrollment, New Students are World Class

SARAH KAHWASH

Brazil, Greece, Jamaica, France, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan — the class of 2016 is the most international in the College's history with 55 international students, 12.5 percent of the class.

Also new to campus are 51 first-generation students, or 11.4 percent of the class, which is the highest percentage of first-generation college students since the office of admissions began tracking this number.

“The members of this class are resilient, fun and ready to join the Kenyon family.”

*Director of Admissions Darryl Uy*

With 447 first years and 15 transfer students, the class of 2016 totals 462 students — down from 484 last year.

“In my nine years, this is the first time we have brought in a smaller class [than the year before],” said Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jennifer Delahunty.

This anomaly can be traced to what admissions officers call “melting,” whereby students defer for a year or receive admission from other colleges off their waitlists. “This past admissions

cycle was extremely unpredictable, not just at Kenyon but at many other institutions as well,” said Director of Admissions Darryl Uy. “When a school takes a kid off its wait list, it causes a chain reaction from one school to the next to take a kid off its wait list in order to fill the spot that just ‘melted’ away or opened up.”

The admissions office, nonetheless, is unfazed by the reduction in numbers. “As we work on expanding the residential options on campus, the slightly

smaller first-year class is a kind of a blessing,” Delahunty said.

Academically, the class of 2016 remains on par with last year's crop. The average high school GPA among matriculating students is 3.90, equal to last year's record high, though average standardized test scores shifted. While ACT scores rose slightly, SAT scores took a small dip. The admissions office maintains variation in test scores does not reflect a dent in

see 2016, page 3

## Feature Film Premiere Rolls Into Gambier

DAVID HOYT

For one night only, the Kenyon Athletic Center's (KAC) Toan Indoor Track, which normally plays host to runners and the occasional rained-out convocation, will morph into a Hollywood movie palace.

*Liberal Arts*, a new film shot at Kenyon, and starring Josh Radnor '96 and Allison Janney '82, will have its premiere at the KAC on Sunday, Sept. 2. And while it may not be as glitzy as Oscar night, the event will feature free popcorn, drinks and Twizzlers, plus an appearance by Radnor, who also wrote and directed the film.

Although the premiere was originally booked for Saturday,

it was moved to accommodate Radnor's schedule. He will appear at a preshow half an hour before the screening.

“There [will be] some surprises [in the preshow], and I think it's just going to be fun,” said Director of Campus Events Bethanne Fowler, who helped plan the premiere. “We're thrilled to be able to offer this to the Kenyon community, to the students, faculty and staff, before the official premiere,” she said.

In the film, Radnor, who is best known for starring as Ted Mosby in the hit sitcom *How I Met Your Mother*, plays Jesse, a 35-year-old New Yorker who returns to his Ohio alma mater

see *LIBERAL ARTS*, page 2

## Wiggin Street Coffee: A New Twist on a Campus Favorite

ANNA DUNLAVEY

Walking through the Gates of Hell, the white building on the corner of Wiggin Street and Gaslin Avenue still looks like MiddleGround, a staple in Kenyon's campus life since 2003. With a closer look, however, the seemingly familiar sign hanging above the door — which once pictured coffee beans — now reads “Wiggin Street Coffee,” and instead shows coffee leaves. The changes continue inside.

A wide black carpet spans the entrance, and the rest of the floor is covered in new hardwood flooring. The walls have changed from blue to a warm earth tone. There are no longer mismatched couches by the windows. Instead,



SAM COLT

Coffee connoisseurs have revamped the former home of MiddleGround.

matching seats form nooks on both sides. There are no menus, just boards behind the counter. Cash registers have been replaced with iPads, which nine new Ken-

yon student employees will have to master. And depending on the drink, servers brew the coffee for each customer personally.

see *CAFE*, page 2

## Class of 2016: Get Involved Any Way You Can

If you're reading this, it's likely you're nervous right now. Nervous all of the stuff you brought to college won't fit in your McBride double. Nervous you won't get along with your roommate. Nervous you won't be able to keep up with the reading in your classes. Nervous rural Ohio is not for you.

In fact, you might be so nervous you can't think about anything beyond first-year sing. That's fine. But soon enough, you're going to have to make a choice: stay nervous or get involved. Do the latter.

At Kenyon, you'll find there are seemingly endless ways to get involved. Follow through on that, but don't box yourself in. Just because you didn't act in high school doesn't mean you shouldn't audition for a play. If you designed your high school's yearbook, branch out to literary magazines (or join the *Collegian*). If you weren't good enough for varsity, sign up for an intermural. Push your comfort zone, and you may be surprised by what happens.

In a few weeks, you'll attend the activities fair — a kind of extra-curricular bazaar. It will be overwhelming. Your nervousness may return. But sign up for something. Whether you're nurturing a passion or discovering one, it's better than staying in and complaining about your roommate.

If there's nothing that appeals to you, take the initiative and start something new. Consider Brave Potato. Founded in 2007 as Flash Mob Theater, it has grown into one of Kenyon's most prolific performance groups. Along the way, it has challenged the monopoly Kenyon College Dance and Drama Club (KCDC) has on theatre at Kenyon. Last spring, it was named the Campus Organization of the Year.

Or consider the blog arm of this paper, the *Thrill*. In less than a year, it has earned a reputation for breaking news and sarcastic humor, not to mention thousands of daily hits.

So what organizations does Kenyon College need right now? Probably not another a cappella group, to be honest. But our staff would love to see a table tennis team, a student DJ agency or a student bartending business — just to name a few.

Of course, joining a student organization is a major time commitment. When you sign up, make sure you're willing to invest. No organization wants a member in name only. By the same token, be wary of hyperextension. Don't let your external obligations trump your academic ones. In the end, you're here to earn a diploma.

We'd also be remiss if we didn't plug our own organization. This year, as always, *The Kenyon Collegian* is looking for talented writers, reporters, photographers, videographers, designers, bloggers and illustrators. The fact is, all kinds of skill sets are vital to producing and distributing the news. If you think you can help us serve the Kenyon community, go to [www.bitly.com/JoinTheCollegian](http://www.bitly.com/JoinTheCollegian), and you'll be notified when we have our recruitment meeting.

So, with that, we welcome you to Kenyon College. It's a place that means quite a lot to quite a lot of people. We hope you'll become one of them. See you at Highlighter (you'll know what that means soon enough).

## Cafe: From Bean to Cup, Owners Value Production Process

*continued from page 1*

On the whole, Wiggin Street Coffee seems less quaint and more modern than its predecessor. Since its parent company, One Line Coffee, has locations in Granville, Newark and Columbus, some might say that is exactly what it is. Co-owner Mark Forman is not one of them.

Forman and his family entered the coffee business nine years ago with River Road Coffee House in Granville, Ohio. "It's in an old farmhouse. There's nothing else like it. That's what we feel every coffee house should be like," For-

man said.

Five years later, they decided to open another River Road Coffee nearby in Newark. Afterwards, "we got very interested in where our coffee was coming from," Forman said, thus beginning a quest to roast their own coffee.

They started small, making only a few specialty roasts. Eventually, however, they came to realize the early production process is most important to a good roast, which led them to their coffee philosophy: farmers are the most important part of coffee making. "It's a lot of hard work, there's a lot

of depth and a lot of opportunities for things to go wrong on the farm," Forman said. "It takes a lot of dedication from the workers."

Now, the Formans roast all of their own coffee at a production center in Heath, Ohio. They have also followed their coffee to its source, visiting farms in El Salvador to assess the conditions there. They also plan to make trips to Colombia and the Dominican Republic in the fall and winter.

Though Forman has experience with college students, as Granville is home to Denison Univer-

sity, he was initially wary of opening a coffeehouse in Gambier. He knew MiddleGround was "much more of a restaurant" than he intended his coffee shop to be. When former MiddleGround and current Village Inn (VI) owners Margaret Lewis and Joel Gunderson said they planned to extend the VI's hours to include lunch, however, Forman began to think a place focused on coffee could thrive with a few food options such as muffins and oatmeal.

"We are a coffee house. We are not food people," Forman said. "We are coffee people."

## Liberal Arts: Radnor's Love Letter to Kenyon Gets its Campus Debut

*continued from page 1*

to celebrate the retirement of a favorite professor (Richard Jenkins). While on campus, he falls in love with 19-year-old Zibby (Elizabeth Olsen, younger sister of the famous twins), and the two discuss the college experience, adult life and the nature of the liberal arts.

"I was English, with a minor in history," Jesse says in the movie. "Just to make sure I was fully unemployable."

In addition to the Gambier premiere, the College's Office of Alumni and Parent Programs is organizing screenings for alumni groups in over a dozen cities around the country.

"It's a \$25 flat rate in every city, and that includes a movie ticket and then appetizers at a party afterwards," said Alexandra Compton, the Office's director of regional events. "We're buying out movie theaters to be able to do this, and most of them have sold out."

Radnor will be present at one of the screenings in New York City, which will occur on Sept. 6. "It will be held at the same time as the *New York Times* is having the screening of the movie for the critics," Compton said. "We're in the theater right next to it."

"I think Josh [Radnor] wanted [the Premiere as] a special way to say thank you to Kenyon for allowing them to shoot the movie here."

*Alexandra Compton, director of regional events for the department of alumni and parent programs*

Although the premiere was not scheduled as an Orientation activity, Director of New Student Orientation Erin Ciarimboli believes the event serves as a postscript to Orientation. "I think it's a great introduction for new students," she said. "It's a great moment for Kenyon and an exciting thing for new students to be a part of."

*Liberal Arts* was the talk of Gambier during the summer of 2011, when principal photography took place on campus. Many students who were on campus during the summer participated in the production as crew members and extras, and enjoyed rubbing elbows with stars including Zac Efron, who has a minor role.

The majority of the 97-minute picture was shot at Kenyon, but it also includes scenes filmed in New York City, Columbus and Mount Vernon.

Shortly after its Kenyon debut, *Liberal Arts* will be released nationwide beginning Sept. 14. The Colum-

bus release is Sept. 28. The movie is currently scheduled in about 40 cities, but not yet in Mount Vernon, according to Compton. The film has already been screened sporadically at various film festivals and received a positive response in January at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

The Kenyon debut is more than just a film screening, though. It's also a token of Radnor's continuing relationship with Kenyon. "I think Josh wanted it as a special way to say thank you to Kenyon for allowing them to shoot the movie here," Compton said. "It shows how much he loves this place."

*The Kenyon premiere of Liberal Arts will begin at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 2. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., with the preshow at 7:30 p.m. A Q&A with Josh Radnor, IFC Films president Jonathan Sebring '78 and producer Jesse Hara will follow the film.*

## the Kenyon Collegian



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*The Kenyon Collegian* reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The *Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or less. Letters must also be received no later than the Sunday prior to publication. *The Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.

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# Gambier Gets *Real*: Student Skits to Address First-Year Issues

SARAH LEHR

Last May, when most Kenyon students left for summer vacation, the cast of *Real World: Gambier* stuck around to begin planning this fall's production.

Cast member Asha McAllister '15 took notes during the brainstorming process and at one point scribbled a single word in large, bold letters — "SPANDEX."

Five years ago, a community advisor approached Director of New Student Orientation and Community Programs Erin Ciarimboli about various problems she had encountered in her first-year residence hall.

To address these problems, students created a series of educational skits called *Real World: Gambier*. The production derives its name from the long-running MTV reality show *The Real World*. The cast attempts to entertain — that's where the spandex comes in — while simultaneously addressing a series of serious issues, including bigotry, alcohol, drug use and sexual assault.

Joshua Henderson-Cox '13 participated in *Real World: Gambier* two years ago. This year, he is one of the show's student coordinators. He says this fall's format will differ from previous performances.

"It's going to be more free form," Henderson-Cox said. "It flows better. It's quicker."

The show will also feature new material. While the script is not yet final, McAllister hopes this year's presentation will address academic concerns in contrast to past shows, which solely addressed social issues.

"The cost to attend Kenyon is extremely high and ultimately what we're here for is academics," she said. "I felt like I navigated the social scene with ease freshman year, but college classes were an adjustment."

"This year, I think we drew on our own experiences at Kenyon much more than in years past," said Student Coordinator Sarah Johnsrude '13.

Last May, the cast spent hours sharing personal stories and outlining the performance.

This week, just a few days before the show's debut, they reconvened to assign parts and to hold the first rehearsal.

This timeline presents a challenge, according to McAllister. "It's difficult because we all had lives over the summer and now we've come back and [we] don't have much time," she said. "However, in my experience with theatre, it always seems like [the show] is not going to happen. Then it pulls together in the last minute and the audience is moved."

Those moving moments inspired many cast members to sign up.

As a first year, Henderson-Cox was impressed by *Real World: Gambier* when one of the actors broke character after a scene on sexual misconduct and spoke about the problem of rape culture in America and at Kenyon.

"He was this cool, popular senior and it was inspiring to see him speak up like that," Henderson-Cox said.

While Ciarimboli selects the student coordinators, she said "once the program actually starts I don't give them an agen-

da. Students develop the show themselves."

The cast of 12 includes a mix of sophomores, juniors and seniors.

"I don't think I've ever been with a cast that is as conscious as this cast has been about what our intent is," McAllister said.

To this end, the cast must keep in mind a very specific audience — overwhelmed first years who are both apprehensive and excited.

"We remember how when you get to campus for Orientation you're saying goodbye to your parents and everything you've ever known," McAllister said. "You're being shuffled around and all of this information is being thrown at you, so we tried to make the show fun and entertaining to provide a sort of release. The audience will definitely laugh."

*Real World: Gambier is at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 29 in Rosse Hall and is mandatory for first years. After the show, first years will meet in their residence halls with their community advisors, discrimination advisors and sexual misconduct advisors.*

# 2016: College Welcomes New Class to Campus

*continued from page 1*

the academic strength of Kenyon's admits. "We know that some students just don't test well but are still brilliant in the classroom," Uy said of the role standardized test scores play in each application. "We would rather have students focus on their academics in high school instead of stressing over a test that they take for a few hours on a Saturday morning."

Delahunty and Uy point to a variety of experiences among first years and transfers that suggest the class of 2016 has already made a positive impression and promises to be a substantial contribution to Kenyon student life.

"There's a student whose film was shown at the National Film Festival for Talented Youth in Seattle, another who's a

nationally-ranked corgi junior handler, a beekeeper and a slew of bloggers," Uy said, also describing the class as "full of writers, scientists, athletes, musicians, thespians, artists, political interns, budding farmers, environmental conservationists and community leaders."

Dean for Academic Advising and Support Jane Martindell

emphasized the apparent appreciation for knowledge among members of the class of 2016. "They really want to explore and discover all that they can," she said. "... They want to make a difference in the world."

Though the official school year has yet to start, Uy expressed confidence the class of 2016 will mesh well on campus: "the members of this class are resilient, fun and ready to join the Kenyon family."

# be in the know.

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3. Thinking about getting into writing or publishing? You aren't going to land that internship without some published clips, and joining the *Collegian* guarantees a robust writing portfolio.

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The  
Kenyon Collegian's  
*dictionary*  
of  
THE GAMBIER LANGUAGE

Bostonians have “wicked,” Southerners have “y’all” and Midwesterners have “pop” instead of “soda.” Each part of the country has its own dialect, and Gambier is no different. Below, some terms you’ll find useful during the next four years.

A

**All-stu**, *n.* Short for “all-student email,” an email that all subscribed students receive. Used to sell and buy items, promote events, spam inboxes, etc. You can also access allstus without cluttering your inbox through allstu2.com, a forum-style listing created by Mark Larus ’13.

B

**Ba-by Dra-ma**, *n.* A nickname for the class “Introduction to the Theater.”

**Beer and Sex**, *n.* A program taught by upperclassmen to educate first years about drugs, alcohol and sexual encounters.

**BFEC**, *n.* Brown Family Environmental Center. Pronounced “Bee-Feck.”

**The Bulls-eye**, *n.* Either of the rooms with circular windows at the top of Old Kenyon, historically inhabited by fraternity brothers.

**The ’Burbs**, *n.* Also called “NCAs.” This is a nickname for the North Campus Apartments.

C

**Club O-lin**, *n.* Where fun goes to die during finals week. Everyone holes up in Olin Library, and to make it seem more appealing, calls it “Club Olin.”

**Comps**, *n.* Short for “comprehensive exams.” What each senior has to complete to graduate with a degree in his or her major.

**The Cove**, *n.* Technically, it’s called the Gambier Grill. But it becomes the Cove at night, when it turns into a 21-and-older bar. The nickname of “The Cove” is leftover from when the establishment used to be called “The Pirate’s Cove.”

E

**Ex-ten-do**, *n.* The weird chunk of time in between lunch and dinner when Peirce is still open, but not serving any hot meals. One can find leftovers, cereal, fruit and bagels to munch on until dinner. Monday through Friday, the hours are 1:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday they are 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Extendo does not exist on Saturdays.

F

**Fra-ter-ni-ties**, *n.* Alpha Delta Phi (ADs), Beta Theta Pi (Betas), Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKEs, pronounced “Deeks”), Delta Phi (D-Phis), Delta Tau Delta (Delts), Phi Kappa Sigma (Phi Kapps).

G

**The Gap Trail**, *n.* The Kokosing Gap Trail, a bike trail that runs along the Kokosing River down the hill from campus.

**The Gates of Hell**, *n.* The gates at the entrance to south campus on Middle Path.

**The Gund Fa-mi-ly**, *n.* The patron saints of Kenyon. George Gund is the namesake of Gund Residence Hall, Jessica Gund of Gund Commons, and their son Graham de Conde Gund ’63 of the Gund Gallery, which he also happened to design, along with many other campus buildings.

**Gun-der-world**, *n.* Gund Residence Hall.

H

**Hall-cest**, *n.* When members of the same hall hook up. It’s convenient at first, but hall dinners might get a little awkward.

K

**KAC**, *n.* **1.** Stands for “Kenyon Athletic Center,” but the letters are pronounced as one word, as in “Kack,” not “K-A-C.” — *v.t.* **2.** To go to the KAC, as in “I’m KAC-ing.”

**Ken-yon Pur-ple Per-son**, *n.* A creepy person dressed in head -to-foot purple and skintight spandex who runs around campus at various points throughout the year in an effort to promote Kenyon pride. He/she appears without warning and disappears just as mysteriously, often leaving a stream of terrified students in its wake.

**The Ken-yon Krud**, *n.* An illness that affects the entire campus simultaneously. With so many people from so many places living on one campus, germs are bound to spread. When a lot of people get sick at once, it’s called “The Krud.”

L

**Long Side**, *n.* In McBride and Mather dorms, the longer side of the building. Sides are split in half by the breezeway on the first floor, lounge on the second floor and kitchen on the third floor. The other side is, naturally, “short side.”

M

**Milks**, *n.* A nickname for the Morgan Apartments, given because some think they look like milk cartons.

N

**The Naz**, *n.* Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU), located a few miles away.

**The Nuge**, *n.* The nickname for Kenyon President S. Georgia Nugent.

P

**Peeps**, *n.* The Peeps O’ Kenyon, a co-ed society. Some speculate their name is an acronym for “People who Experiment with Every Possible Substance.” Make of that what you will.

S

**Smather**, *n.* Samuel Mather Hall, located in the Science Quad (see: Squad), home of the psychology and neuroscience departments and next to the naked dancing baby angel statues. Called “Smather” instead of “Mather” to avoid confusion with the Mather dorm.

**So-ror-i-ties**, *n.* Epsilon Delta Mu (EDMs), Theta Delta Phi (Thetas), Zeta Alpha Pi (Zetas).

**Squad**, *n.* The Science Quad, a.k.a those four buildings between Rosse and Hanna. Contains Samuel Mather (see: Smather), Tomsich, Hayes and Higley.

**Star-chon**, *n.* Nickname for members of the Archon Society, a co-ed service society.

**Su-i-cide Lights**, *n.* The holiday lights wrapped around the trees lining Middle Path within the Village. Used to brighten up the dreary, gray days of an Ohio February.

Q

**Quest**, *n.* A nickname for “Quest for Justice,” the popular introductory political science course.

V

**The Vern**, *n.* The nearby city of Mount Vernon, Ohio.

W

**Wiggle-Ground**, *n.* Wiggin Street Coffee, which recently replaced the MiddleGround cafe as the go to coffee spot on campus.

— compiled by Jane Simonton