
The Kenyon Collegian

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Kenyon Collegian - January 27, 2022

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College eliminates signature residential program at Farm

LINNEA MUMMA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Last week, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President informed Kenyon student farmers that the residential program at the Kenyon Farm will be eliminated next semester, after 10 years as the only collegiate residential farm program in the country. Though plans for the future of the Farm's residential program are not yet solidified, the College hopes to hire a post-baccalaureate fellow in place of the four to six students who typically live there.

Provost Jeff Bowman said that the two offices did not make the decision to end the residential program alone, and it was done in "careful consideration" of those who work and live there. "We have consulted with faculty, alumni, and professional farmers about how to advance the goals of the program, and regularly consider the input of students who work or volunteer at the Farm," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

The current farmers, however, felt particularly blindsided by the choice to end the residential program. None of them were informed of the decision until Jack Cheston '22 had an individual meeting with Director of Green Initiatives Dave Heithaus, who ultimately revealed that the program would be ending.

"That's honestly what's the most hurtful about this. We were trusted with the Farm, and we've been running it ourselves... And then they don't even consult us on these major

decisions," Lynn Butzlaff '22 said. "It's like they don't even really care about the people who are doing that work."

In efforts to increase awareness about the importance of keeping the Farm's residential program, the farmers have since created and circulated a petition expressing their disappointment at the program's end, which has amassed over 700 signatures as of Wednesday from students, faculty, alumni and others.

The Farm and its residential program began in 2012, when the College purchased the land on Zion Road as a way for students to gain hands-on and pre-professional agricultural experience. Since then, students have transformed the Farm, overseeing more than 30 animals, mitigating emergency crises — such as a chicken coup catching fire in the middle of the night — and maintaining the farmhouse.

Student farmers have done this work almost entirely on their own. At the beginning of the academic year, the manager of the Kenyon Farm resigned suddenly, leaving students with the responsibility of making decisions about farm life by themselves. According to Cheston, after their manager's resignation, the College took away the Farm's emergency credit card, and farmers needed to learn how to deal with their finances another way.

Heithaus praised the farmers for their quick thinking and problem solving, and said that the decision to end the residential program should



The residential program was established in 2012. | COURTESY OF LYNN BUTZLAFF

not detract from the work they've put into the space. "The team at the Farm has always done an admirable job of working with minimal supervision," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "The decision to end academic-year residence is in no way a reflection of our student managers' perseverance or commitment."

But many were still unimpressed. Many members of the past and present Kenyon community took to Twitter to raise concerns and share the petition. Farm alumnus Dante Kanter '21 was particularly impacted by the Farm and distressed by this decision, calling it "callous" and "inhuman" in a message to the *Collegian*.

"I have said repeatedly — often to tour groups — that the farm (by which I do and have always meant the farm house) was Kenyon to me.

It has been Kenyon to several generations of farmers," he said. "By destroying the residential program, you are destroying an entire way of life at the college."

Butzlaff, too, spoke to the necessity of the residential program, saying that much of the work and conversations about planning happened outside of volunteer hours. This space, according to Butzlaff, is the cultural heart of the Farm community.

"So much of the Farm and so many of the successful projects we've had is because we're there all the time," she said. "It heightens that collaborative atmosphere."

Molly Orr '24, who began work at the Farm in the fall of her first year, was also deeply hurt by this decision. During the pandemic, she has found the Farm to be her main connection to campus life, and she cannot fath-

om a future at Kenyon without the residential opportunity.

"Since the first couple of weeks that I was volunteering at the Farm, I always saw myself living there in the future," Molly Orr '24 said. "It has always been an assumed part of my arc at Kenyon. So it's personally devastating to imagine a future at Kenyon where the Farm is not my space and a space I can offer to other people."

The Farmers will host a picket in conjunction with the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee (K-SWOC) on Saturday, Jan. 29 from 1-4 p.m. to protest this decision, and they encourage all who are interested to join them.

College moves into Activity Level 2 with 18 student cases

AUDREY BAKER
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, the College transitioned into Activity Level 2 following the latest results of the spring semester's reentry testing. There are currently 18 active student cases, according to the College's COVID-19 Dashboard. As of Jan. 26, 59 students and 27 employees have tested positive for COVID-19, with over 1,500 tests being administered between Jan. 3 and Jan. 26.

As of Tuesday, the daily average of new COVID-19 cases in Knox County was 81, with 12 deaths in the past two weeks and a test positivity rate of 26%. Also as of Jan. 25, 42% of the county is fully vaccinated.

Under Activity Level 2, or "moderate precaution," students are required to wear masks indoors with a few exceptions: in their own dorm rooms and while dining and exercising. Indoor events may be held within the 85% target capacity, and sports teams may practice while taking measures to mit-

igate viral spread. All classes must be held in person by Jan. 31.

The shift to Activity Level 2 loosens Kenyon's prior COVID-19 restrictions. On Dec. 30, before students returned to campus, the College entered Campus Activity Level 3 as a precaution amidst a national spike in COVID-19 cases caused by the highly contagious omicron variant. The College also required mandatory testing for all students and employees upon returning from winter break, and that all students receive a COVID-19 booster shot by Feb. 7, in addition to being fully vaccinated.

As defined by the College, Activity Level 3 is a state of "enhanced precaution" that places restrictions on in-person events and gatherings and requires students to wear masks indoors at all times, with the exception of their own dorm room. Although most classes remained in-person under Level 3, a few began the semester online at the professor's discretion. These restrictions resembled those made in mid-September following a sharp rise in cases, as well

as those made upon students' return from Thanksgiving break in late November.

Unlike last semester, Peirce Dining Hall remained open for dine-in meals during Activity Level 3. Chair of the COVID-19 Steering Committee Drew Kerkhoff explained that this was due to the low January temperatures. "Given the winter weather in Ohio and the distance of most private dormitory spaces from the dining hall, for many students take-out would essentially mean many cold walks and mostly cold meals," Kerkhoff wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "And any common spaces where they might choose to eat could easily become more crowded than Peirce."

All students were subject to mandatory testing upon returning to campus; students who did not take a test by Jan. 21 faced disciplinary action. The College also encouraged students to test themselves at home before arriving on campus, and delay their return to campus to complete isolation if they tested positive. Over 130 students reported

testing positive over break, though due to the College's isolation period being lowered to five days — in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — many were able to return to campus as originally planned.

Students are required to submit documentation of their booster shot through PyraMED's student portal by Feb. 7 or face disciplinary action. Students who received their booster at the College's clinic on Nov. 17 do not need to upload documentation.

CAs to receive stipend, apartment positions reinstated

AMELIA CARNELL
NEWS EDITOR

On Jan. 21, Community Advisors (CAs) received an email from Vice President for Student Affairs Celestino Limas outlining several changes to the CA position, most notably a switch from hourly pay to a stipend of \$10,000 a year, and the return of apartment CAs for the 2022-23 school year.

Kenyon used a stipend-based system for CAs until 2015, when it switched to the current wage-based system. At the time, CAs praised the move to an hourly wage, as the old stipend system created a situation where CAs could be overworked, and negatively impacted students receiving financial aid by counting against any need-based aid they qualified for.

CAs are currently compensated at employment Tier 3 rate — \$11.94 per hour — for 18 hours a week, with an understanding that the precise number of hours they work may vary from week to week. Additionally, CAs receive a housing subsidy, as they are charged the cost of a double residence hall room though they are assigned to singles — a discount of \$1,000 for residential halls, and previously \$2,500 for CAs living and working in apartments. Now, they will be paid a stipend of \$10,000 over the course of the year in 10 monthly payments of \$1,000. According to Limas, stipends are the most common form of compensation for similar positions at Kenyon's peer institutions.

Limas said the new stipend will be structured to avoid negatively impacting students on financial aid. "[Previously] the stipend and room credit were applied to a student's account, which can impact a student's financial aid award in some circumstances. In the new model, CAs will be paid directly," Limas wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

The email to CAs also announced the return of apartment CAs, just one year after the program was discontinued. There were CAs in apartments until last year, when the College suddenly announced they would be replaced by two graduate assistants. CAs at the time raised concerns, including that students living in apartments would lack the support a CA provides. "In speaking with apartment residents and Community Advisors, we felt that students were better served by having more peer support," Interim Director of Residential Life James Jackson wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. However, the apartment CA position will now be a distinct job, and the current Kent State University graduate CAs will remain for the 2022-23 school year to assist in the transition back to apartment CAs, according to Limas.

Limas explained the reasoning. "In returning CAs to apartments but in a differentiated way, we can feed two birds with the same seed - tailoring their roles to meet the needs of their particular resi-

dents while making sure that all students have access to key information and resources," he wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Croffoot-Suede echoed this sentiment, and said the return of apartment CAs may incentivize more people to stay in the job, as it provides an opportunity for advancement which currently doesn't exist.

According to Limas, these changes came through an extensive process, including focus groups he held with CAs, students and administrators throughout the fall semester. However, some CAs felt caught off guard by the email. Ever Croffoot-Suede '23, who has worked as a CA for the past two years, found the changes to be mostly positive, but was surprised when she got the email.

"We knew changes were coming, but we knew nothing about these specific changes," she said. Croffoot-Suede also thought there should have been more discussions before final decisions were made. "A lot of CAs felt like there was a step — possibly missed — between asking for feedback, and maybe floating ideas to get approval or disapproval before making decisions," she said.

Ilan Magnani '24, who began working as a CA in the fall, was frustrated by the lack of specificity in Limas's email.

"I saw one of the only numbers provided in the email being this figure of \$10,000 per year. And I was like, 'Oh, cool, that sounds like a lot of money,'" they said. "That initial feeling of positive changes sort of just quickly faded away into confusion because the email actually provided very few details."

Magnani expressed frustration that they and their coworkers were left to figure out what these changes meant themselves. "I was left with a feeling of confusion, and frustration that my coworkers were literally taking out their calculators and doing their own calculations trying to figure out what the difference in our pay was going to be," they said.

Magnani was also upset by Lima's request that students be patient with specifics until a new director of residential life is hired, as they felt that it discouraged questions about a significant change, especially given that current CAs will be asked to reapply in early February.

Croffoot-Suede said the stipend system would accurately compensate her and other CAs because they don't work regular hours. "The problem with the CA role now is that we're paid hourly, which means that it's really hard to judge how many hours you work a week because so much of it is just talking to students, or providing help, or answering questions — and it's hard to tally that up," she said.

According to Jackson, the move to a stipend is also in response to concerns CAs raised about their compensation being impacted by academic breaks. Limas' email to CAs expanded on the logistical arguments, explaining that the move to the stipend is also reflective of the CAs' role as leaders on campus. Croffoot-Suede agreed.

"Sometimes when you're doing these kinds of very amorphous leadership responsibilities, you might feel like you're not getting compensated, because it's hourly," she said. "The difference of the pay systems will help make it more of a leadership role. I think it already is, but I think representing that in how it's paid might help."

Magnani, though, is concerned that this perspective will refocus the CA role away from being purely a form of employment. "I worry that the emphasis on the position as being an opportunity to develop leadership skills takes away from the fact that it's a job that people are doing because they need a wage," they said.

Katherine Crawford '21, who worked as a CA, also expressed concerns about the implications of stipend pay. "Stipend pay inherently opens you up to exploitation, because you aren't being paid hourly. They can make you work more hours, and pay you like \$1 an hour, without any consequences," she said. "That's just a very dangerous way to define the role."

Magnani also raised concerns that the move to a stipend might be a response to the fact that CAs and other student workers have organized to form a union of student workers, and suggested it could be a preemptive effort by the College to remove CAs from the collective bargaining unit. "CAs are being taken out of the normal mode of pay that structures student work for pretty much everybody else. I'm personally concerned about that," they said.

Limas's email to CAs also included the possibility of a reimagined head CA role. "Some Community Advisors have expressed an interest in taking a larger student leadership role within Residential Life, so we are looking into ways to provide those opportunities. While the Head CA role is an option, we are early in the process and will explore other potential options as well," the email read.

Crawford said the head CA role is particularly beneficial given the high degree of turnover in the Office of Residential Life.

According to Limas, the CA role will continue to evolve under the new Director of Residential Life, who will be announced in the coming weeks.

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Ruthann Daniel-Harteis is named new director of SASS

GRANT HOLT
STAFF WRITER

Ruthann Daniel-Harteis assumed the role of director of Student Accessibility and Support Services (SASS) on Jan. 3. Daniel-Harteis took over the role from Erin Salva '79, who retired in November.

According to Dean of Academic Advising and Support Thomas Hawks, the search committee for the new SASS Director formed in August and comprised representatives from the faculty, SASS, the Office for Civil Rights and Dean of Student Development Robin Hart Ruthenbeck. The search committee posted hiring notices in multiple venues, including the *Chronicle for Higher Education* and the Association on Higher Education and Disability, as well as social networks like the Disability Studies in the Humanities listserv and the International Network of Women with Disabilities Facebook group.

Among the search, two finalist candidates visited campus in November to meet with students, faculty and representatives from the Cox Health and Counseling Center, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Office for Civil Rights, SASS and the Office of the Provost. The search committee offered the directorship to Ruthann Daniel-Harteis at the end of November.

An Ohio native, Daniel-Harteis holds a bachelors in art therapy from Bowling Green State University and a master of science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from California State University, Fresno.

Before joining Kenyon, Daniel-Harteis was the director of disability support services for the Bluegrass Community and Technical College in Lexington, Ky. Prior to that, she was the associate director

of disability support services at the New College of Florida. In addition, Daniel-Harteis worked in the disability support services office for the California State University system at Sonoma State University and California State University Monterey Bay.

Under Daniel-Harteis, SASS will remain focused on providing accommodations to students for the current semester, as well as asking them to plan for the upcoming academic year. She also said that SASS is planning a series of events for the campus community that will answer student questions and concerns regarding accommodations, and inform more about commonly used accommodations provided to students.

"These opportunities may look like virtual 'office hours' or brown bag conversations depending on where we are with covid," Daniel-Harteis wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "I am also currently seeking out conversations and connections with campus partners looking for ways to collaborate across campus with the goal to continue working toward a truly Inclusive and Accessible Kenyon."

According to Hawks, SASS registrations have more than doubled in the past five years. He looks forward to expanding student access to SASS services and to working with Daniel-Harteis.

"I'm excited to work with Ruthann to find ways for SASS to continue to increase access and equity for Kenyon students," Hawks wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Hawks also noted that SASS will continue previous efforts by Salva to provide students with accommodations, including the identification of COVID-19 testing options for students who had not taken a test



COURTESY OF RUTHANN DANIEL-HARTEIS

before arriving at Kenyon or who lacked the resources to pay for such testing.

"I know Ruthann is enthusiastic about working with faculty to assist them in implementing course design elements like Universal Design for Learning that will help faculty meet the diverse learning needs of all Kenyon students," Hawks said.

Daniel-Harteis looks forward to helping make Kenyon more accessible, a goal that she believes requires constant attention and care.

"So much good work has already been

done toward this goal — and yet I think 'accessibility' is always a work in progress," Daniel-Harteis said. "It is really hard for me to imagine that we will ever reach a point where we will be able to say we are completely finished with making things accessible. I am looking forward to connecting with people and experiences here at Kenyon."

College reveals comprehensive housing redevelopment plan

JOSHUA HERTZ
STAFF WRITER

Last week, Vice President for Student Affairs Celestino Limas held a series of informational presentations for students outlining Kenyon's plans for the construction of new residence halls and the renovation and demolition of existing ones.

To improve the quality of housing at Kenyon, the College plans to transition away from traditional dormitory-style housing toward suite and apartment-style living. This comes after a survey in May of 2020 found students prefer newer, apartment-style residences. "Traditional-style housing ... is a bit of a thing from the last century and I think they want to make certain that we're meeting the needs of our students," Limas said.

In 2020, before the College housed students off campus — due to a historically large first-year class — Kenyon's residential capacity was 1,814. Limas says the College believes that through construction and renovation, it can increase its capacity to 2,241, while also improving Kenyon's overall housing quality. Limas explained how capital improvements will give the College's infrastructure an upgrade so it can better accommodate students with disabilities and other living requirements, as well as larger enrollments. However, Limas repeatedly emphasized that greater residential capacity does not necessarily

mean larger enrollments. "If anything, COVID has taught us that there is definitely a strong benefit to an institution having excess capacity within housing inventory," he remarked.

The first changes to be made will take place in May when the College will cease use of the Pines at Apple Valley and the Kenyon Inn for student housing. "[It's] important for us to return this coming fall to having all of our students living here at Kenyon," Limas said.

In their stead, the College will construct modular housing units to accommodate students until new residence halls are complete and old residence halls are renovated. Limas confirmed that these temporary housing structures will have on-site laundry, lounges and kitchen space for student use. Further information regarding modular housing, including locations and floor plans, will become available at a later date.

The second major change to campus — though still pending approval — is the first component of a larger four-part project called the Historic District Renovation. This long-term endeavor aims to renovate Kenyon's oldest buildings. Phase one will be the renovation of Bexley Hall to house 36 suite-style living accommodations. "This would actually be the result of a unique donor gift that the College has secured that would actually accelerate the Bexley renovation," Limas said. "Ground will

actually be broken on Bexley this semester so that students may be able to live in it come fall [2023]."

The third development to campus housing will be the construction of three new residence halls in the South Quad that will hold 104 new apartment-style beds each, adding a total of 312 beds to the College's housing capacity. Two of these buildings will be located behind Hanna and Leonard Halls on each side of Old Kenyon. After the demolition of Bushnell Hall and Manning Hall, in the fall of 2024, a third building will be constructed further south and adjacent to Old Kenyon.

One new feature of the South Quad will be the use of K-Cards to enter buildings, apartments and bedrooms in lieu of traditional keys, a move that the College says will help to improve campus safety. Each building will also be equipped with generators to sustain critical building systems during emergencies. Construction for this project will start immediately after Alumni Weekend this summer. Unfortunately for students who plan to live in Leonard, Hanna, Old Kenyon, Manning, Bushnell or the Tafts next year, it will be noisy, according to Limas.

"There is going to be construction noise right around you the entire academic year so if this is a concern for you, I would recommend looking north for your housing," Limas said.

Looking even farther into the future, Kenyon plans to dramatically expand

the First-Year Quad by adding three new buildings for an additional 276 beds. One building will square off the existing First-Year Quad, while the other two will be located behind Norton Hall, creating a square with Watson Hall. More extensively, there are plans to add additional floors to the existing three buildings, which will add 102 additional beds. In total, the First-Year Quad project will earn the College an increase of 370 beds.

Finally, the College will implement the remaining parts of the Historic District Renovation. This will affect Old Kenyon, Hanna and Leonard Halls. Old Kenyon will go from holding 150 in traditional living to 100 in suite living. Leonard and Hanna will follow suit. This will decrease the total number of beds by 73, but dramatically increase the number of suites.

With new infrastructure comes new opportunities. Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities James Jackson will be holding sessions this spring to seek out student feedback for new opportunities and new possibilities. The College is also working directly with the Student Council's Sustainability Committee to gain further student perspective.

Ohio lawmakers approve revised map in 5-2 party line vote

ADAM MARGOLIS
NEWS EDITOR

On Saturday, Jan. 22, the Ohio Redistricting Commission voted 5-2 along party lines to approve an updated state legislative redistricting map that would give Republicans in both the state House and Senate significant majorities.

Ohio's state legislative district map was originally introduced late last year, when the Ohio House and Senate approved a map that would have given the Republican Party an additional five state House and three state Senate seats. In January, the Ohio Supreme Court struck that map down in a 4-3 decision, deeming it unconstitutional.

"We hold that the plan is invalid because the commission did not attempt to draw a plan that meets the proportionality standard in Article XI, Section 6(B)," Justice Melody Stewart wrote for the majority. "We also conclude that the commission did not attempt to draw a plan that meets the standard in Section 6(A) —that no

plan shall be drawn primarily to favor a political party."

Following the ruling, the redistricting commission was given 10 days to redraw their state legislative map.

Ohio's redrawn congressional district map, approved by the Ohio State Legislature late last year, was also struck down by the Ohio Supreme Court. The map would have removed two of Ohio's Democratic U.S. House seats, giving the GOP a 13-2 advantage in Congress. They also reduced the overall number of U.S. Congressional districts the state has from 16 to 15, meaning at least one incumbent would have lost their seat. In its 4-3 decision, the Ohio Supreme Court struck the proposed map down, claiming it unduly favored the Republican Party and violated a 2018 amendment to the Ohio Constitution aimed at inhibiting partisan gerrymandering in the state.

That redesigned congressional map would likely change the landscape for Ohio's U.S. House seats, which would primarily affect the districts in which two incumbents will need to face off

against each other to fill one seat in the upcoming midterms.

The new state legislative maps approved on Saturday still significantly favor Republicans. The plan gives Ohio State House Republicans a 15-seat advantage with a 57-42 seat breakdown, and State Senate Republicans a 17-seat advantage with a 20-13 seat breakdown. Since the plans were approved along party lines by the commission's three Republicans, the new maps will only last four years.

"For Knox County voters, the commission's January 2022 map is identical to the September 2021 map," Professor of Political Science and Associate Director of Kenyon's Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD) Nancy Powers wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. Knox County is currently part of Ohio District 68, which Powers noted includes an affluent, suburban area on the northeast edge of the Columbus metro area where the district's Republican State Rep. Rick Carfagna lives.

Powers implied that redistricting would allow Knox County voters to select a representative with whom they

have more in common. "That part of the district has little in common with the communities of Knox County. So I think the newly proposed House District 98 complies with the spirit of the constitutional amendment that Ohio voters approved six years ago," she said.

However, Democratic state legislators remain displeased with the redrawn state maps. In a *Columbus Dispatch* article, Democrat and Ohio House Minority Leader-elect Allison Russo, Ohio-24, expressed dismay. "It is shameful that we are here again, adopting yet another unconstitutional map in direct contradiction to the Ohio Supreme Court," she said.

Ohio state Democrats argue that the new maps are not proportional, as they do not align with statewide voting preferences. According to reports, about 54% of Ohio voters prefer GOP candidates, while 46% prefer Democratic candidates.

Professor Powers also noted that the distribution of districts, which favors Republicans by 52 to 42, will also likely fail to meet the Ohio Supreme Court's order to redraw the districts in alignment with the amendment's re-

quirement to create proportional representation.

Still, Ohio Republicans, including Gov. Mike DeWine, opined that it would be difficult to draw a map that both respects the Ohio Constitution's proportionality requirement and obeys the 2018 anti-gerrymandering amendment.

"I can't say it's impossible. Maybe there's a map out there, but we didn't see one," DeWine told the *Dispatch*.

The future of the newly redrawn state legislative and congressional district maps remains uncertain. In the coming days, the Ohio Supreme Court will likely rule on whether or not the maps reapportioning state legislative districts meet the Ohio Constitution's proportionality standards. The filing date for state-level candidates is Feb. 2, 90 days before the election.

As for the state's U.S. House district maps, lawmakers have until mid-February to come up with new plans and send them to the Court for review. Candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives are required to file to run by early March.

Dr. Gretchen Sorin delivers MLK keynote

SOPHIE PECK
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, Jan. 17, Kenyon celebrated its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Dialogue with virtual programming hosted by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI). Dr. Gretchen Sorin, director of the Cooperstown Graduate Program in museum studies and author of the 2020 book *Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights*, delivered the keynote address. The presentation, titled "African Americans, Mobility, and Freedom," drew on themes of mobility and freedom.

President Sean Decatur introduced Sorin by highlighting her successes, which include being a finalist for the 2021 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) image award in nonfiction and a Silver Gavel Award from the American Bar Association for a documentary adaptation of *Driving While Black*.

Sorin began her presentation with an excerpt from King's oft-quoted "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" before moving on to discuss the civil rights movement through the lens of mobility. From the time enslaved Africans stepped foot in the New World, Sorin said, they had limited mobility. In the period after slavery was abolished, African Americans had more, albeit limited, freedom to move around. African Americans' desire for freedom of movement led to the mass consumption of cars during the Great Migration. To some African Americans, the acquisition of an automobile was a measure of success. It signified that you had some level of economic stability and a good job. "A fine car was a way to show everyone that you had made it," Sorin said.

While cars made it possible for African Americans to achieve the freedom of mobility, Sorin stressed the idea that the landscape of segregation meant they were not always safe in the places they were travel-

ing. For example, "sundown towns" are places where African Americans could work during the day, but were forced to vacate by the evening to maintain their safety. The legacy of these towns is still alive today. To avoid any trouble, many African Americans stuck to highways rather than risk going through smaller towns. However, even the roads they traveled on carried a legacy of racism, as highways were constructed through communities with high African American populations, destroying homes and displacing residents.

As a solution to these travel woes, a man named Victor Green published *The Negro Motorist Green Book*, a guide book that listed safe towns and establishments for African Americans on the road. Green hoped that one day African Americans would no longer need the sanctuary provided by the book. "Victor Green felt that if middle-class African Americans could go out on the road and meet white Americans, it would convince them that African Americans were just like them," Sorin said.

Automobiles facilitated the transportation and communication that gave life to the civil rights movement. Sorin reckons that without the automobile, "there could have been no civil rights movement at the time."

Sorin ended her speech with another line from King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," reading, "we know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." Sorin suggests that the message envisions a future in which racial prejudice is eliminated, and she spoke about how the words resonate with us today just as they did in 1963.

Kenyon increases wages for non-student hourly employees

HANNAH DOURGARIAN
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Dec. 10, President Decatur sent an open letter to the Kenyon community announcing that the pay for Kenyon employees holding hourly, non-union retail and clerical positions would be adjusted to a minimum wage of \$15 an hour, effective Jan. 1, 2022. This was a result of a comprehensive review of the pay and classification systems for Kenyon's hourly employees, in response to concerns that the wages were not fair. This change went into effect the same day that Ohio's statewide minimum wage increased from \$8.80 to \$9.30 an hour.

The main goal in this review of the baseline hourly wages and in the decision to increase them is to help Kenyon become a more competitive employer, according to Vice President of Finance Todd Burson. The Office of Human Resources researched the local economy, specifically the businesses of Knox County, to determine the wages and benefits that employees working for other businesses were receiving, and how they compared to Kenyon employees' compensation.

The Office of Human Resources reviewed the previous salary grades 3, 4 and 5, which categorized different positions based on skill and value. The Office of Human Resources determined from this review that it would be more functional to classify these positions into two new salary grades — mid- and high-level positions — and to determine new appropriate baseline wage lev-

els considering the level of skill they required. The review then went to the senior staff for further consideration.

Recent inflation was a significant incentive for considering how other employers in the area are paying their employees, and what an appropriate hourly wage should be. "As we've seen, inflation the last three to four months now has been going up, so as the senior staff was reviewing this proposal, adjusting these pay ranges and going from ranges 3, 4 and 5 to just a mid and high, we also took into account the inflation that's taking place right now," Burson said. "We had not seen an uptick in the turnover rate, but there was always a concern."

Mid-level positions include those such as data entry specialists, financial aid assistants and administrative assistants in the Department of Physical Education and Athletics, among others. These positions will earn a new minimum baseline salary of \$15 an hour, an increase from \$11.94 to \$13.97 an hour. High-level positions are those such as administrative assistant to the President's Office, administrative assistant to the Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, office manager of the Offices of Human Resources & Civil Rights, and others. These positions have a new baseline minimum wage of \$17.35 an hour, increasing from between \$13.97 and \$16.35 an hour.

Wages for Bookstore employees have also increased, although the salary grades have remained the same. Instead of Bookstore jobs being categorized as mid- or high-level positions, they are still classified

as salary grades 1 (customer service and sales associates), 2 (accounting, data entry, sales shipping and receiving coordinator positions) and 3 (book associates). The minimum wages have increased from \$9.45 an hour to \$12.00 an hour in salary grade 1, from \$11.55 an hour to \$14.00 an hour in salary grade 2 and from \$15.68 an hour to \$17.00 an hour in salary grade 3.

The increase in wages has been warmly acknowledged by many Kenyon employees for its practicality. "It has already impacted our ability to recruit and hire great people," Angus MacDonell, the general manager of the Kenyon Bookstore, said. "Prior to the recent rate adjustment, we received only one enquiry after posting for our open permanent part-time positions. We reposted the same positions after the new rates took effect and received 15 applications within a few days."

Even more than increasing Kenyon's competitiveness as an employer, the adjustments have been a source of good news in the midst of the ongoing pandemic-related uncertainty. "The recent hourly wage increase was a pleasant surprise and certainly appreciated," Babette Cichanowicz, administrative coordinator at the Career Development Office (CDO), wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Kenyon is a wonderful place to work and the work I do in the CDO is fulfilling. It's a win-win!"

Leeman and Rachel Kessler '04 gain large TikTok following

MIA SNOW
FEATURES EDITOR

As mayor of Gambier and priest-in-charge at Harcourt Parish, respectively, it's known that Leeman Kessler '04 and Rachel Kessler '04 are active in the Gambier and Kenyon communities. It's less known that over the past year, the couple has developed massive followings on TikTok — a social media app used to create and share short, personal videos. Their respective accounts have over 150,000 followers combined — with 115,000 of them following Mayor Kessler — and that number is rapidly increasing.

The Kesslers both attended Kenyon, meeting at their first-year orientation. “We really are Lily and Marshall from How I Met Your Mother,” Mother Kessler said. After time away from Gambier, they finally returned in 2015 so Mother Kessler could assume her position as priest-in-charge of Harcourt Parish and work as chaplain at Kenyon.

Though Mayor and Mother Kessler are now posting regularly on TikTok, neither joined the app with any intention of gaining popularity. A Kenyon

student created Mother Kessler's account last year, but she only began posting on the account recently as a fun outlet to express hobbies, interests or whatever came to mind. “I like just being able to talk randomly about things off the top of my head, and I want to in a way that's more energizing and interactive,” she said. Mayor Kessler created his account soon after Mother Kessler so he could interact with his wife on the app. “That was literally the reason why I wanted to be on the app, so I could leave snarky comments,” he said.

Before long, the pair had developed large followings. Mayor Kessler recently began posting videos centered around ominous and humorous Ohio lore, which pose more questions than they answer, and have made the account a viral sensation. Mayor Kessler also enjoys posting about his role as mayor of Gambier, his work as an actor and H.P. Lovecraft impersonator and his other interests, such as gaming and reading.

“I try to get people aware of local politics and interested in local politics, to teach about what it means to be mayor,” he said. “And for me, play is such

a valuable way of interacting with people. I'm so excited to have found a sense of play that people resonate with.”

Mother Kessler's account similarly expresses her eclectic taste in film, literature and everything in between, but most of her content encourages open discussions of faith and religion. She works to inspire dynamic conversations and provide a space for people to share their thoughts. “I'm not trying to convert anybody. I'm sharing my story, my experiences and letting people who come from fundamentalist backgrounds know that it's actually okay to question,” she said.

The Kesslers agreed that what they enjoy most about the app is the sense of community they've found in sharing their interests and experiences. “I find that there are rich and fascinating conversations to be had on a platform like TikTok, and it gives a space for people who would not have a space to share those thoughts in other ways. I find that incredibly rewarding,” Mother Kessler said.

You can find Mayor Kessler on TikTok @mayorlovecraft and Mother Kessler @nerdypriest.



In over a year, the couple has amassed 150,000 combined followers. | COURTESY OF LEEMAN KESSLER

Kenyon Copenhagen students disembark from time abroad

JOSEPH POZO
STAFF WRITER

Adjusting to collegiate life as a first year is notoriously difficult for many. But for the first-years that studied abroad in Copenhagen, beginning their first semester in Gambier comes with unprecedented challenges.

The Kenyon Copenhagen program began this year, when the College admitted its largest first-year class in history — 560 students — which, while an impressive feat in a pandemic, also came with repercussions. The influx of admitted students further strained a housing system that was barely meeting the needs of the student body. The additional first years, as well as the unusually high number of seniors graduating in December, required the College to think creatively about its housing situation. Thus, the program was born, and 50 Kenyon students were shipped off to Europe to begin their college careers.

In partnership with DIS Copenhagen — a nonprofit study abroad foundation — Kenyon offered first-year students the option to begin College with a semester-long abroad program that included courses taught by Kenyon faculty, similar to the Kenyon-Exeter and Kenyon-Rome programs.

First years in Copenhagen highly appreciated these courses — taught by Associate Professor of English Sarah Heidt, Professor of English Sergei Lobanov-Rostovsky, Associate Professor of Psychology Irene López and Professor of Economics and Environmental



Around 50 first-year students attended the newly created Kenyon-Copenhagen program this fall. | COURTESY OF OWEN WELLS '25

Studies Robert Alexander — as many felt that the DIS courses alone would not prepare them for the rigor of their first semester in Gambier. “When we were in DIS, there were other Kenyon kids who were juniors that were with us, and while we were there, they told us, ‘These DIS classes are nothing like you'd see at Kenyon,’” Halle Preneta '25 said.

The Copenhagen Program offered first years a distinct experience, not only because of its geographical location, but also because of the program's unique schedule. Its structure

provided Copenhagen students multiple weeks throughout the semester to conduct field studies, take trips for specific classes or to simply see the Danish countryside. “There were almost like break weeks from school,” Preneta noted. “Professor Heidt was like, ‘The kids at Kenyon don't even have a break until November,’ and we were all like, ‘Oh my God.’”

Now on campus at Kenyon, Copenhagen students have certainly been forced to grapple with many adjustments. This has been eased to some extent by their residential placement.

The majority of Copenhagen students now live together in Mather Residence Hall, a decision that allows for students to see familiar faces, but also leads to a potential lack of exposure to non-Copenhagen first years.

Copenhagen students seem to have developed a special notoriety now that they've returned to campus. When asked how he felt he and his cohort had been received back at Kenyon, Owen Wells '25 quickly answered, “Have you seen the Yik Yaks?”

When it comes to Yik Yak — the location-based anonymous social media app — the Copenhagen students are in on the humor. Wells joked, “It's kind of funny, when we were in Copenhagen, we were the Kenyon kids, and now that we're back, we're the Copenhagen kids.”

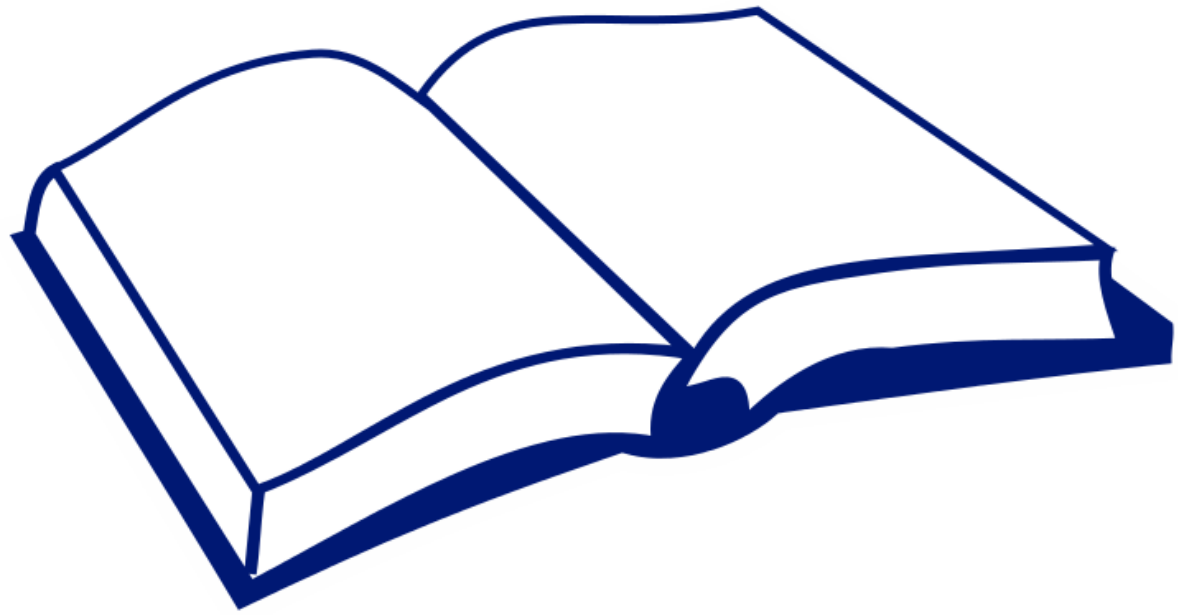
While the Copenhagen first years begin to navigate Kenyon as all previous classes have, they look back fondly at their time in Denmark, and are appreciative of having 50 familiar faces that they can smile and wave to as they discover the campus together. Wells is very grateful for the reception he has received from the Kenyon community. “Once you branch out, everyone is a bit excited to meet you, and honestly impressed that you are branching out. Generally, I feel like I've been received with open arms,” he said.

Kenyon students and professors share their favorite books

RONIN BERZINS
FEATURES EDITOR

CAMRYN LANGLEY
STAFF WRITER

For those of us who love to read, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed by a marketplace oversaturated with entertaining literature. Without question, reading can inform us, but what people are reading tells an interesting story as well; it gives a peek at what issues and ideas are pertinent to the time and space we occupy in the world. So, we polled eight Kenyon students and professors with the simple question: If you could recommend one book you've read, what would it be? Their answers ranged from climate change-inspired stories about trees to philosophical treatises about our relationship with and responsibilities to the world around us. Here's what some Kenyon folks had to say:



COURTESY OF NAE VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Austin Johnson, assistant professor of sociology

The Body Keeps the Score by Bessel van der Kolk and *On Freedom* by Maggie Nelson

"Kolk's book is excellent and I think that we could all really benefit from thinking about how our bodies and minds are affected by things we're not even consciously reflecting on. I read that over break and it helped me process some of the COVID stuff and be kinder to the people in my life. I would also recommend *On Freedom* by Maggie Nelson, because it will help us all figure out how to negotiate our own personal responsibilities and our expectations of the institutions in our lives."

Benji Chang '24

The Overstory by Richard Powers

"It's a book about trees. It's interestingly told from the perspective of families whose lives have been touched by trees. It's an excellent book thinking about climate change in our current era and also friends and family."

Karen Hicks, professor of biology

Tomorrow's Table by Pamela Ronald and Raoul W. Adamchak

"Ronald and Adamchak make this argument that organic farming and genetic engi-

neering, though they are sometimes seen to antagonize each other, are great ways we can think about food and deal with food security. I found it really interesting and it makes a lot of sense to me as a geneticist, and as someone who has worked with transgenic organisms in the lab, and I understand how that can be a fast and precise way to manipulate productivity. I keep an organic garden at home, and I think it's very important for us to decrease pesticide use both for human health and also for the health of the planet. There's no reason that organic farming and genetic engineering can't work together."

Max Reynolds '24

Stories of Your Life by Ted Chiang

"Every story in that book holds a little gem, a little piece of great science fiction literature. There are wonderful ideas held in that book."

Daniel Weiss '24

The Anthropocene Reviewed by John Green

"It is one of my favorite books now. It's

structured in a very readable way; you can spend five minutes reading an essay and put it down. It's searingly real, that's one of the things I really enjoyed about it. Its candor is really striking. John Green is really good at capturing things about what it feels like to be human and put it into words. I think that especially right now in 2022, with all the anxiety, a book like that is valuable. It feels to me like it's not just a collection of personal essays; it feels like an endeavor to try to find some meaning during the COVID era and that for me is really powerful. It provides solace in the fact that you are not alone and other people are dealing with the same thing."

PJ Glandon, associate professor of economics and department chair

The Trees by Conrad Richter

"It's a historical fiction trilogy about life in Ohio in the late 18th century. It gave me and might give students here a sense of what this

place was like a long time ago when settlers first arrived."

Blythe Zadrozny '22

Out of Egypt: A Memoir by Andre Aciman

"As a senior, I'm thinking a lot about leaving, remembering and changing. I read this memoir my freshman year, but its stories and ideas are still shaping how I think about things three years later."

Spencer Dew, visiting assistant professor of religious studies

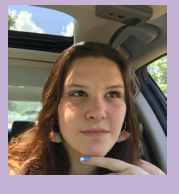
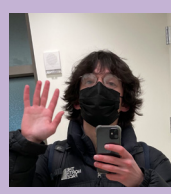
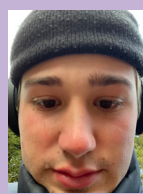
Autobiography of Malcolm X by Alex Haley and Malcolm X

"It's a fascinating story of self-creation, an epistemological adventure, which obviously speaks to issues of religion and race. It's a great read."

Question	Answer	Senior Class Total:	Junior Class Total:	Sophomore Class Total:	First-Year Class Total:
		26	23	19	18
		Jackson Wald '22	Ben Weiner '23	Marcelina Balaguer '24	Grace Donnelly '25
The triples in Old Kenyon with circular windows, host to many a raucous night, are known as?	Bullseye	Bullseye	Bullseye	Bullseye	Portholes of Insanity
According to data compiled from Google and Reddit, what is the most popular conspiracy theory in Ohio?	The moon landing was fake.	Biden stole the election	Flat earth	Vaccines are bad	That Ohio doesn't exist
What word, the name of a common fruit, is the top word Ohioans look up how to spell?	Banana	Banana	Banana	Banana	Pineapple
True or False: Gambier was named after Lord James Gambier, a famous benefactor of Kenyon College, who made his fortune as a tobacco smuggler in the early 19th century.	False	False	False	False	False
Weekly Scores		3	3	3	1

CLASS CLASH

Compiled by Ronin Berzins '22





Left: *Huapalcalco / Conversion A and Rancho Grande / Conversion B*. Right: *Sepia: V* | COURTESY OF ELLA DEMAK

Gund Gallery celebrates 10th year with spring exhibition

ELLA DEMAK
STAFF WRITER

The current Gund Gallery exhibition, *Call/Response: The Gund Gallery Turns 10*, is now open to visitors. As the Gallery celebrates its 10th anniversary, its curators are looking ahead with new art from different perspectives, and what connects past, present and future. This semester's installation is a continuation of the fall semester's *Call/Response* exhibition, a show of works from the Gallery's own collection.

Curator of Academic Programs Jodi Kovach explained that the new exhibition highlights how the Gallery has evolved over the years. "This is a way for us to gain new perspective on the works we have in the collection by interpreting them in dialogue with these other pieces," she said. The Gallery's curatorial team — including student associates — also created labels to emphasize the connections between the pieces on display



Untitled (Portrait of Ross in L.A.) | COURTESY OF MARC6MAUNO

and the ones from last semester, making the associations clearer for museum-goers.

When asked about her favorite piece, Kovach mentioned the addition of a Felix Gonzalez-Torres installation called *Untitled (Portrait of Ross in L.A.)*. The piece is composed of candy, and it is a memorial to the artist's partner, Ross Laycock, who died of AIDS in

1991. "It is a metaphor for the diminishing body when a person dies, and when a person is sick," Kovach said. The work challenges the idea of what art belongs in a museum, and it invites the viewer to take a piece of candy from the exhibit home with them. Gallery Director and Chief Curator Daisy Desrosiers felt similarly about the

piece. "I'm always amazed by the charge and yet the simplicity of this work," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Stop by, you'll see."

Torres' multi-sensory installation is just one of the new pieces on display; many other pieces encourage students to experience art from different cultures. Livia Corona Benjamin's *Huapalcalco / Conversion A and Rancho Grande / Conversion B* — black and white photographs of repurposed grain silos — are "aesthetically very astute," according to Kovach. "The piece engages with various aspects of Mexican history, and also speaks to a lot of issues that are important to students on campus and what they're studying," she said.

McArthur Binion's *DNA: Sepia: V* is another unforgettable work. The artist used copies of personal documents, including his birth certificate and address book, as the work's foundation. Binion's piece is a statement on his life and his experiences growing up as a brown man in

the South. Looking closely, the viewer is able to gain insight into Binion's process and understand the meaning behind it, as if looking through a lens at his own history.

If you saw last semester's exhibition, this semester's works will expand the discussion. If you missed last semester's exhibition, they are bound to start a conversation. "The Gund Gallery is a space for unexpected connections to be made, and for your imagination to wander into new territories," Desrosiers wrote. "Don't hesitate to stop by, you never know what you may find and the new discoveries you'll make!"

The pieces in *Call/Response* will be on display throughout the spring semester, and you won't want to miss them — they will stay with you, as the Gund Gallery continues to tell stories we haven't heard before.

Student musicians shine in virtual Angela Waite performance

CECILIA OSHINS
ARTS EDITOR

This past Saturday, 11 Kenyon musicians across all class years performed at the Angela Waite Student Recital in Brandi Recital Hall. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the hall was closed to the public and the recital was instead livestreamed for about 50 people. Despite this setback, the recital went smoothly, showcasing a variety of genres and instruments.

The music department chose these students based on their exceptional performances from last

December, when they performed before a jury of faculty members as part of their final grade. Those who played exceptionally well earned an invitation to play for the public last weekend.

The recital is a favorite amongst Kenyon's music lovers because it provides a chance for the talented musicians to show off their abilities to the rest of the school. Every performance was incredible; each piece conveyed strong emotion and left the in-person audience in awe.

The night began with a stunning harp solo from Sydney Zimmerman '22, which set the mood

for the evening with a calm and challenging classical piece, called "The Minstrel's Adieu to his Native Land." The complexity of the instrument and piece displayed the advanced level of the performance. There was only one harpist, but every other musician that followed brought something unique to the stage. The entire recital started off with slower pieces, generally transitioning into faster and more energetic songs as the night progressed.

Over the course of the evening, the audience heard a variety of sounds, from the marimba to the classical guitar. There was

also variation in genre. Although the majority of the pieces were classical, one of the final performances was the song "Pretty Funny" from the musical *Dogfight*. This was a particularly attention-grabbing number sung by Katie Kress '22, who embodied the emotions with captivating expressiveness.

The recital ended with an energetic performance by Khue Tran '25 on the piano. This was a memorable piece to finish with, though the virtual format meant that the evening ended abruptly just after.

Due to the livestream format,

there were no opening or closing words, and only the moments when the students were playing were visible to the virtual audience. Despite the high number of attendees in the livestream, the whole evening felt informal and intimate. While there is no doubt that the pandemic has hampered in-person performances, this event did a wonderful job of making the recital accessible to anyone who wished to join, and all the musicians embraced the challenge of putting on a virtual recital with enthusiasm.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Students deserve a louder voice in administrative decisions

Yet again, the College has made significant decisions impacting the student body without taking student input into account — an example of top-down decision making. Kenyon recently announced that Community Advisors (CAs) will no longer receive hourly compensation and instead will be given semesterly stipends. In addition, the College has ended the residential program at the Kenyon Farm, effective next semester.

These decisions should not have been made without first hearing from those who are directly impacted by them. We urge the College to listen to those whom they claim to serve, as these decisions will completely transform one's undergraduate experience.

While we understand the College is free to make decisions as it sees fit for its future, the identity of the school as a liberal arts and student-driven institution relies on student input in order to prosper. Not only have these voices been continuously ignored when decisions are made, they are rarely considered in the first place.

Making decisions that significantly impact both the living and working conditions of students without consulting them prior to or during the decision-making process is unacceptable. We have written about issues of transparency before, and we will continue to write about them until the College honors the importance of students' input in their own campus experience. It is disheartening that we have to keep repeating ourselves.

We aren't the only ones who feel like we are shouting into a void. The College's decision to remove CAs from an hourly wage in favor of a semesterly stipend without soliciting their input or consulting them prior further demonstrates a severe lack of respect for their workers. Without an hourly wage in place, CAs are at further risk of being exploited by the College, as there is no safeguard in place to ensure that they aren't overworked without proper compensation.

Farm workers, too, are feeling the effects of the College's top-down decision making. Residents of the Kenyon Farm have expressed their disappointment at the termination of the program, citing the tremendous community feel that it provides. These students should have had the opportunity to petition or, at the very least, have their thoughts on this matter be heard by Kenyon's administrators.

The Kenyon Farm is the only student-run, residential college farm in the country. The College has elected to disband one of the most unique opportunities available to the student body. In doing so, Kenyon puts the overall success and culture of the Farm at risk. The residence has served as an essential community space for Farm volunteers, and the program has been featured as a selling point of the Kenyon experience.

The College itself acknowledges the value of the pre-professional opportunities at the Farm, calling the work of the farmers "incalculable" on its website, and stating that their jobs "keep the farm running." This is true: At the beginning of this year, the Farm manager quit and students ran operations entirely on their own. If this work is so valuable to the College's success, why not consult the workers before changing their conditions?

Enough is enough. Regardless of how one feels about a union at Kenyon, no one can dispute the fact that students deserve to have a say in the way they want to spend their undergraduate career, especially with the price tag that comes with a Kenyon education.

The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Jordy Fee-Platt '22 and Linnea Mumma '22, managing editor Amanda Pyne '22 and executive director Joe Wint '22. You can contact them at feeplatt1@kenyon.edu, mumma1@kenyon.edu,

Kenyon's residential farm program is integral to campus life

THE KENYON FARMERS
CONTRIBUTORS

The Kenyon farmers were recently informed that the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost have decided to disband the residential program at the Farm, effective next fall. As the only student-run, residential college farm in the country, this is an immense loss.

The Kenyon administration has no clear plan for what program will replace the model of four to six students who normally live at the Farm. Students have lived and worked there since the inception of the program in 2012, and the farmhouse has been central to our work and culture since then. The decision to disband the program shows that Kenyon's administration has no conception of the contribution we bring to campus. Moreover, we believe that this decision must be understood in the context of a bevy of recent attacks on student work.

Most of us started working here because we were drawn to the community and we wanted to eventually live at the Farm. In fact, the farmhouse is directly marketed to students by the admissions office as one of the main selling points on the College's website, and was the reason many student farmers chose to come to Kenyon. With that community uprooted, much of the appeal of the Farm will vanish, to the great detriment of the program. The Kenyon community will suffer as a result. We believe that the Farm, with the residence as its cultural heart, brings a unique, creative, immersive and experiential learning venue to campus. We fail to see how removing our responsibility over the day-to-day maintenance of the Farm improves our learning and working conditions.

We develop a sense of professional responsibility each day, from the impromptu changing of a broken heat lamp to engaging with our community over drop-by egg sales. Projects that need to happen, happen organically — discussed over the breakfast table or while warming up inside after a long, cold work day. Some of our proudest recent achievements — a functional compost structure, a pond filter built from scratch, and our relationship with the Center for Hope — were all ideas sparked within the community space. And it is a community space. Our house is the center of our community.

We were told that the decision to disband the residential program was made with direct consultation with President Decatur and Provost Bowman's offices. We believe that they were also under the guidance of the College's legal counsel, Jones Day, recently hired to bust the unionizing efforts of K-SWOC. It is our opinion that the College sees the residential program as problematic because it is tied to our labor. We believe that they recommended striking the residential program to eliminate room and board as a point of negotiation when we bargain for a union contract. We are worried that this could have consequences on the labor rights of other student workers, whose housing costs and living conditions are connected to their work on campus, such as Community Advisors. It is disappointing, but not especially surprising, that the College is allowing lawyers in offices far from Gambier to strike the heart of our community.

The decision to end the residential program exemplifies Kenyon's lack of respect for our contribution to campus and our rights to workplace autonomy. We will be picketing on Middle Path on Saturday, Jan. 29 from 1-4 p.m., and we encourage anyone who values the Farm to join us. We also encourage you to sign our petition to the school to keep the residential program, which will be disseminated via all-student email.

The Farm brings a vibrant culture to campus that is unmatched elsewhere. We won't let Kenyon take it away without a fight.

Unanimously,

Joanna van Dyk '22

Jack Cheston '22

Molly Orr '24

Lynn Butzlaff '22

Djibril Branche '23

Rose Cobb '22

Chloe Shane '22

The opinions page is a space for members of the community to discuss issues relevant to the campus and the world at large. The opinions expressed on this page belong only to the writers. Columns and letters to the editors do not reflect the opinions of the *Collegian* staff. All members of the community are welcome to express opinions through a letter to the editor.

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 fewer. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday 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.

A note to students to start the semester: You are loved

BIJAN KHAGHANI
CONTRIBUTOR

Kenyon students need to hear this more: You are loved.

As a College, we focus so much on what's ahead that we never realize how far we have come as students. As the semester begins, it's important to take a moment and reflect on the achievements of each class thus far.

First-year students: You endured your first semester — one full of uncertainty alongside the struggles of transitioning into college.

Sophomores: After spending a little less than a year away from the Hill, you all came back stronger than ever, picking up where you left off. You joined clubs and organizations, took leadership and created new spaces.

Juniors: This may have not been the college experience you were expecting, but you're here now making the most of it. So while it feels that our years here have been cut short, know that you have succeeded in keeping the beautiful traditions of Kenyon alive while also navigating the world we live in.

Seniors: You've made it to your final year at Kenyon. It's been a long journey, but you've made it on your own and you've worked tirelessly to make sure the Kenyon of old never died. While there may have been moments where you've wanted to give up, you didn't. That's something to take immense pride in.

From one Kenyon student to another, I thank you all for making this place a home for me — a home I wish to continue to help grow for years to

come. To that end, I would then like to say: You are loved.

If you are an art major who has worked tirelessly in Horvitz to finish a project, you are loved. If you are a CA, or any student worker for that matter, who actively serves your community, you are loved. If you help promote programming for students to go to and actively try to make campus a more lively place, you are loved. If you've been the friend who has sat there on the Middle Path benches and listened to your friends' struggles with an open heart and mind, you are loved. If you have tirelessly been on your grind to make the most out of your college experience, you are loved.

February is coming and around this time, most Kenyon students begin to feel fatigued and more and more

stressed. While I am unable to directly relieve that pain, let this letter be a message to you all: Know that you are loved and tell yourself that from time to time. Love is very powerful.

When you say you are loved, let it both be an inward affirmation and an outward acceptance of the achievements that you've made over the course of your time at Kenyon.

I wish you well this semester and I hope to see you around.

You are loved.

Sincerely,
Bijan Khaghani '23



Sarah
Tomasi '23

Illustrated by Sarah Tomasi '23

The Kenyon community needs to denounce antisemitism

NOAH GERHARDT
CONTRIBUTOR

If we continue to say nothing about antisemitism, it will continue to explode.

That became painfully obvious following the hostage situation on Jan. 15, 2022, at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas. This event was not out of nowhere nor was it unexpected. One day before the incident, a woman in New York City allegedly told a group of Jewish children that Hitler should have killed them, before spitting on one of the kids. Days after the events, Rep. Lauren Boebert of Colorado's 3rd congressional district (who is already under fire for her Islamophobic remarks about her colleagues) accused Jews visiting the U.S. Capitol of "reconnaissance." On Jan. 23, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. equated public health measures and vaccine mandates to the genocide of at least six million Jews, and millions more Roma, Poles, LGBTQ+ people and others. He even went so far as to say that Anne Frank was in a better position now than an anti-vaxxer in the United States. Attacks on American Jews are an American staple and Kenyon has a responsibility to speak out on antisemitism as an institution that supports "a culture in which [the community] contribute[s] to the well-being of others."

What happened in Colleyville is becoming the norm, and Jews are accustomed to it. I am

accustomed to it. Once, my elementary classmates casually told me that Jews killed Jesus. It was not the first nor last antisemitic incident in my life, but it was the first time I felt wholly Jewish. Everything else that I am ceased to matter. I consolidated my Jewish identity, because the world was trying to pry it away from me. In that moment, there was a numbing fog that clouded my mind and accepted these situations as inevitable. I felt unsafe.

The silver lining is that I had help to clear the skies. When those classmates said I killed Jesus, another classmate sitting next to me came over and rightfully disassociated himself from them, making me feel that I was still included and wanted at my school. When 11 of my siblings were murdered at the Tree of Life Synagogue on Oct. 27, there was uncertainty in the fog, and that uncertainty was confirmed when another Jew was murdered at the Chabad of Poway on April 27. When Oct. 27 and April 27 came then passed, friends and family voiced their support through words and deeds, and I regained my feelings of security and hope as the fog lifted.

At Kenyon, however, there is only profound silence. The administration, student organizations and student government all appear to be apathetic. As of right now, only a few professors

have made mention of Congregation Beth Israel, and only one friend has reached out to me. Maybe enough Jews didn't die to justify a reaction. Maybe people did not know how to react. Maybe the FBI's initial statement that the crisis was not "directly" targeting the Jewish community deluded people. I don't know.

But to those who remain unsure about antisemitism, Rabbi Angela Buchdahl (who the attacker spoke with over the phone while holding hostages at gunpoint) mentioned in her latest sermon that she remains "deeply unsettled" and that if "you are not feeling unsettled, you are not paying enough attention." To those who remain unsure about voicing support, Rabbi Buchdahl pointed to January 15th's Torah portion, in which Jethro says to Moses that he cannot free the Jewish people from slavery alone, and that "in the fight against antisemitism, racism, extremism, and hatred of every kind... We cannot do it alone."

I want to acknowledge that I am very, very privileged. Many Jews are white, especially Ashkenazim like myself, and are shielded from prejudice a great deal because of it. I am a white, cisgender, heterosexual male living in the United States. I am at the very top of American privilege. But if I put on a kippah and a tallit, or adver-

tise my Judaism in any way at all, that privilege disappears.

I also need to acknowledge that the perpetrator was reeling from serious mental health issues and that they violated not only human rights, but Islam, a religion of peace, love and charity. However, no matter who was targeted, what the motivation was or who perpetrated the attack, it must be vocally condemned for what it was: an act of violent Jew-hatred. And to my knowledge, Kenyon has either refused or forgotten to do so.

I plead that Kenyon does not continue to be silent on Jewish insecurity. If no one says anything against this antisemitic attack, then white supremacists, religious extremists and violent radicals anywhere will feel emboldened to finish what the perpetrator started. I wish a peaceful solution had come. Instead, a troubled man is dead, the global Jewish community has been reminded we are not safe, the fog is annexing our minds and the world appears to be indifferent.

In the words of Elie Wiesel, "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference."

To those who feel unsure of what to do or how to respond, please feel free to contact Marc Bragin, the Jewish chaplain on campus, at braginm@kenyon.edu.

Ian Good hired as permanent head coach of Lords football

KATIE SPARVERO
SPORTS ASSISTANT

On Dec. 23, Kenyon's Director of Athletics, Fitness and Recreation Jill McCartney announced that Ian Good will be the new head football coach. Good, who has been the defensive coordinator since 2019, will take over

the mantle of head coach this fall after previously serving as Kenyon's linebackers coach from 2017 to 2019. Prior to coming to Kenyon in 2017, Good worked at Wayne State University (Mich.) and Kalamazoo University (Mich.), serving their football teams as a linebacker coach and

team social media director.

Under Good, the Kenyon football program will look to improve on their disappointing recent seasons. The Lords finished with a 3-7 record in 2021, earning them a seventh-place finish in the NCAC and have not had a winning season since 2012. They allowed

an average of 37.1 points per game, while scoring just 18.2 points per game. Drawing from his experience as the Lords' defensive coordinator, Good said that he hopes to build a winning culture through developing a sense of community amongst the players. "We want to do as many

things as we can as a team... to really build that familial trust and belief in each other," he said. By building that trust and working through adversity in their daily lives, Good believes that the Lords will find success on the field.

Good hopes that this success doesn't just manifest on the field, but in their lives off the field as well. "If we can find a way to enhance their lives and make them better people while they're a part of our football program, and get them ready for grad school or to get a job after college, that's our main measure of success as a football program," he said.

The Kenyon community will get their first look at the Kenyon football program under Good when the team returns to play in the fall. With more than 60 returning players, the team will look to build on their shared foundation and find greater success.



After a run as defensive coordinator, Ian Good will take over the program. | COURTESY OF MIKE MUNDEN

After difficult December, Ladies earn two NCAC victories

MAGGIE FOIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Over winter break, the Ladies' basketball team stayed busy, competing in five games, where they went 0-5. Since then, the Ladies are 2-1, moving them to 5-13 for the year and 3-6 in the NCAC.

On Dec. 18, Kenyon lost to Case Western Reserve University 94-40.

Despite some strong defensive stands, the Ladies couldn't find an offensive rhythm, and the Spartans held the lead for the majority of the game.

After some time off, Kenyon competed at the Smokey Ballenger Classic at Otterbein University in two games on Dec. 29 and Dec. 30. At the four-team event, the Ladies first lost

to the Albion College Britons (Mich.), who earned an 80-61 victory after a strong first-quarter run. The Ladies' last game of the Classic ended in a 74-70 loss against Mount Saint Joseph University. Their defeat came despite Katie Orefice's '23 career highs of 29 points and 16 rebounds in the game.

On Jan. 12, Kenyon

returned home to compete against Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU). Though the Ladies had a five-point lead going into the second half, the Battling Bishops prevailed as Kenyon lost their offensive rhythm, scoring only 21 points in the second half. OWU came away with an 82-62 victory.

Three days later, the Ladies very nearly defeated

the Oberlin College Yeowomen on the road. Kenyon fought hard through an overtime period, but Oberlin ultimately overcame the underdog team 77-75 to remain undefeated at home.

Just after the start of spring semester, the Ladies were victorious against the Hiram College Terriers on Jan. 19. Kenyon's 69-63 win came after each team held the lead several times. With two minutes left, the game was tied at 63. Greta Propp '22 and Madelyn Anderson '22 closed out the game by going 6-6 at the free-throw line.

More recently, the Ladies fought hard this past Saturday to overcome the Allegheny College Gators with a 72-69 win. The Ladies started off the game strong by going on a 6-0 run. By the middle of the second quarter, Kenyon led 32-22 over Allegheny. The Ladies stumbled in the last three minutes of the half, going into the locker room only up by four. The Gators pounced on the opportunity, and they led the Ladies by a single point at the end of the third.

With two minutes left in the fourth quarter, Orefice, who was later named NCAC Player of the Week, scored to knot the game at 66. After grabbing key rebounds, Orefice and Claudia Cooke '24 both sank their pair of free throws to secure the win for the Ladies.

On Wednesday, the Ladies were not able to keep up their momentum, falling to the College of Wooster by a score of 71-68. The Ladies led the Fighting Scots for the entire first half, and headed into halftime up 40-31. As the two teams returned from the break, Wooster began to claw back. The Ladies surrendered the lead in the waning minutes of the third quarter. The two teams traded the lead for much of the fourth quarter, before the Fighting Scots took the lead for good with just over three minutes remaining in the game. Grace Connery '22 tied her season high in points with 21.

The Ladies next compete this Saturday against DePauw University in Tomsich Arena.



Katie Orefice '23 shoots a free throw. | COURTESY OF SEJIN KIM/KENYON SID/NCAA

Swimming and Diving enjoy training trip in Florida

CALEB NEWMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

While it snowed in Gambier in early January, Kenyon's swim and dive teams enjoyed the sunny beaches of Sarasota, Fla. before coming back to compete in Gambier. The trip gave the team an opportunity to recharge before the spring semester began. The Lords and Ladies now only have one more meet before the NCAC Championships on Feb. 9.

The annual trip did not include any official meets, instead serving as an opportunity for the Lords and Ladies to train, regroup and bond as a team. "I really enjoyed hanging out and cooking with the other girls in my villa and getting to know them better," Kate Alexy '22 said. Class dinner was a favorite part of the trip, according to Alexy. "[It] is always fun because we dress up to take pictures on the beach and then go to dinner as a class."

When the Lords and Ladies arrived back in Gambier, both were scheduled to have a meet against Ashland University on Friday, Jan. 14. However, only the Ladies competed after the Lords' meet was cancelled due COVID-19 complications. Both teams competed on Saturday when Kenyon hosted Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Northern University in a double-dual meet on Saturday, which also served as Senior Day. The Lords and Ladies domi-



After their trip, the Lords and Ladies won in a double dual meet. | COURTESY OF PRINCE ADABLAH

nated both weekends, but Saturday's victory was particularly meaningful. "Standing on the bulk-head with my 10 other senior classmates for our last swim meet in the Lowry Center pool was so surreal and heartwarming," Crile Hart '22 said.

The Ladies continued their successful ways, winning 201-41 over the Ashland Eagles. Kenyon finished first in all 11 swimming events and both of the two diving events. A week later, they beat the Case Western Reserve Spartans and the Ohio Northern Polar Bears 216-84 and 248-48,

respectively. Hart finished first in the 200-yard backstroke, while Alexy was first to touch the wall in the 100-yard backstroke.

The Lords produced similar results against the Spartans (226-73) and Polar Bears (239-51). Marcus Hong '22 finished first in the 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard butterfly.

Hong was one of four men's swimmers to win two individual events on Saturday for Kenyon, while Ania Axas '23, who was named NCAC Women's Swimming and Diving Athlete of the Week, was one of

two women to finish first in two individual events.

On Wednesday, Feb. 9, the NCAC Championships will begin. Kenyon has a quick tune up meet in Oxford, Ohio this weekend, but this season's training has all been leading up to the big meets in February. "We are hoping to carry the energy, enthusiasm, commitment, and drive that we had at the beginning of the season through the championship meets in February and March," Hart said.

In two meets, Lords and Ladies earn three NCAC honors

TATI GROSS
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, Jan. 15, the Kenyon track and field teams competed at the Wooster Quad meet. The Ladies finished in third with 109 points, while the Lords finished in second with 94 points.

The Ladies had 16 top-five finishes in the meet and took home first place in two events. Davida Harris '22 won the 800-meter race (2:33.83), and Nina Beardsley '24 took the mile with a time of 6:16.83. Meanwhile, the Lords also had individual successes. The 800-meter relay team of Emmanuel Makelele '25, Hans Schwarz '22, Charles Atkins '25 and Tapiwa Gono Phiri '25 finished first (1:35.35). Phiri also won the 200-meter dash in 23.62 seconds. For his success, he was named NCAC Men's Sprints/Hurdles Athlete of the Week. Riley Orth '24 won the shot put with a throw of 44-11 $\frac{3}{4}$, nearly three feet farther than the next finisher.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, the Kenyon track and field teams were back in Wooster for the Fighting Scots Invite. The Ladies finished fourth (72 points) in the meet, while the Lords finished sixth (54 points).

The Ladies placed nine individuals and one relay team in the top five, while notching two individual event wins. On the field, Paula Soric '25 won in the triple jump, breaking a school record. Her record-breaking jump of 11.13 meters was four feet longer than the second-place fin-



Angus Soderberg '22 won the 800 meter race. | COURTESY OF KENYON ATHLETICS

isher. She also placed second in the long jump. Soric was named an NCAC Women's Field Athlete of the Week. In the track events, Alice Riley '23 won first place in the one mile race with a time of 5:34.79. In the 400 meter, Sierra Smith '22 took second place with her time of 1:06. Logan Vidal '25 and Lorien Kauffman '24 finished second (2:31.12) and third (2:31.59) in the 800 meter, respectively.

The Lords gained almost half of

their points from their two event wins. Angus Soderberg '22 finished first in the 800-meter dash with a time of 2:04.04, while Riley Orth '24 placed first in the shot put with a 46-4 feet throw. Orth was named NCAC Men's Field Athlete of the Week for his throw. The two efforts combined accounted for 20 of the team's 54 points. Tapiwa Gono '25 accounted for 14 points with a second place finish in the 60-meter dash and a third place finish in the

200-meter dash.

The Lords and Ladies will next compete this Saturday in Springfield, Ohio at the Steamer Showcase.

Lords earn second victory of the season against Waynesburg



The Lords continue to battle against tough competition. They have dealt with several COVID-19 related issues. | SEJIN KIM/SID/NCAA

CALEB NEWMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

While most of the student body was at home over winter break, the men's basketball team was on the court competing. Despite winning a game prior to winter break, the Lords remain winless in 2022.

On Thursday, Dec. 9, the Lords trailed Oberlin College by only one at halftime. Midway through the second half, however, the Yeomen went on an 18-4 run. From there, the Yeomen never looked back, winning 82-69. Nick Lewis '23 led the Lords with 14 points while going 5-8 from the floor in 31 minutes of play.

The Lords traveled to Richmond, Ind. on Dec. 18 to compete against Earlham College (Ind.).

With 2:44 left in the game, the score was tied at 66. The teams traded points until Earlham was able to grab a two-point lead late in regulation. Sergio Matabuena '25, who had 19 points in the game, took a 3-point shot in an attempt to win the game. Unfortunately, the ball bounced off the rim, resulting in a heartbreaking Lords loss.

The Lords were in Gambier for their last non-conference game of the season on Dec. 20. Kenyon was able to pick up a 68-49 win against Waynesburg University (Pa.).

The Lords returned from their holiday break expecting to play Denison University and Wittenberg University. However, both games were postponed due to COVID-19, so the Lords first faced another NCAC foe, Oberlin

College, on Jan. 8. Kenyon played at Hiram College on Jan. 10 with no fans in attendance per Hiram's COVID-19 policy. Kenyon lost both of those games, 77-66 and 77-65, respectively. The uncertainty surrounding postponements forced the Lords to be prepared for anything. "No one had answers, not my coach nor the captains nor the trainers, so we had to make changes in our daily routines on basically a daily basis," said Matabuena.

On Jan. 12, the Lords faced the College of Wooster, which now sits atop the NCAC standings. The Lords were sensational in the first half, shooting nearly 37% on 19 attempts from behind the arc and over 50% from the floor. Kenyon came out of the locker room leading 49-38. The Fighting Scots realized they were

20 minutes away from suffering a major defeat. In the second half, Wooster locked down on defense, forcing the Lords to go just 1-15 from beyond the arc. On the offensive side of the ball, the Fighting Scots improved from shooting around 45% to 60% from the floor in the second half. When the buzzer sounded, the scoreboard read Kenyon 77, Wooster 91. Nonetheless, Miles Versa '25 had a standout game, scoring 26 points in 24 minutes.

On Jan. 15, Kenyon returned home to host Wabash College and Allegheny College. The Lords lost 92-64 to Wabash. The Allegheny game was much closer, but the Lords still were unable to prevail. Despite Kenyon opening the game on a 13-0 run, the Gators were able to come back with a run of their own to go into half-

time up by four. Allegheny went on to win 85-80.

After Monday's game against Denison was postponed due to inclement weather, the Lords traveled to Delaware, Ohio to compete against Ohio Wesleyan University. David Mazon '25 had 18 points in the game, but it was not enough as the Lords lost 79-60.

The Lords are 2-15 on the year. "We weren't happy with the results of the games, but in each one, we learned something about ourselves and our identity," said Lewis. "We've had a number of close games that come down to a couple of lapses in possessions, but once we eliminate those mistakes, I believe that the wins will come." The Lords next game is Senior Day on Saturday against DePauw University.

Over break, Ultimate teams compete at Nationals in Norco

FINN ANDERS
STAFF WRITER

Usually only having a spring season, USA Ultimate hosted a fall championship to accommodate the lost playing seasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic. SERF and Blu-Ray, Kenyon's ultimate frisbee teams, traveled to Norco, Calif. to compete in the 2021 College National Championships as Kenyon students were wrapping up their fall semester.

Following a difficult tournament with the best schools in Division III, SERF placed 11th in the

nation out of the 16 teams. SERF also won the D-III men's Spirit Award, which was given to the D-III team who were deemed to have most honored the spirit of ultimate frisbee. Blu-Ray placed 15th with the same number of competitors.

Both Blu-Ray and SERF struggled at the beginning of the tournament during the pool play stage. SERF ended the first day 1-2 and Blu-Ray ended 0-3. SERF's win against Brandeis University (Mass.) allowed them to advance to the championship bracket, and Blu-Ray went on to play in the 13th-place round robin.

The next day, SERF played against Carleton College (Minn.) in what was considered one of the most entertaining matches of the tournament. Despite 90 minutes of high-level play, Kenyon suffered another defeat, 15-13, and was knocked out of the championship bracket. SERF lost one more game following the Carleton defeat and then won their final match against University of Rochester (N.Y.), finishing 11th.

As Blu-Ray advanced to the round robin stage of the tournament, they continued to face tough opponents, suffering losses to University of Puget

Sound (Ore.) and University of Richmond (Va.) on the second day. Despite the continued adversity, Blu-Ray did not back down and continued to compete at a high level in their final match, winning 11-10 against Wheaton College (Ill.). The victory was much needed due to their early tournament struggles.