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The Kenyon Collegian

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## Kenyon Collegian - March 31, 2022

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# The Kenyon Collegian

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## Journalist Sheila Coronel to speak at 194th Commencement

Theresa Carr  
Staff Writer

On March 21, the Office of Communications announced that Sheila Coronel, director of the Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, will address the Class of 2022 at the 194th Commencement on May 21.

Recent Commencement speakers have included Marquette University Men's Basketball Coach Shaka Smart '99, journalist Nate Silver and author John Green '00. Like speakers before her, Coronel will be awarded an honorary doctorate at the ceremony, the latest in a long series of honors including the Ramon Magsaysay Award and the Columbia University Presidential Teaching Award.

Coronel's journalism career began in the Philippines during the end of the Ferdinand Marcos regime. Her work frequently focuses on Filipino politics, authoritarianism and freedom of information. In 1989, she was a founder of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. The Center's reporting on Filipino President Joseph Estrada raised awareness of his corruption and suspicious wealth that led to an impeachment trial and a popular movement to remove him from office.

Coronel's career speaks to a concern for and belief in the importance of investigative journalism for demo-



Sheila Coronel has reported on authoritarian regimes in the Philippines. | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE

cratic society. In addition to her roles as director and professor, she frequently writes and speaks publicly about investigative journalism. She also serves on several boards of journalist associations and publications: the Committee to Protect Journalists, the *Columbia Journalism Review*, *ProPublica* and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

In the press release announcing her selection, President Sean Decatur said that the focus of her journalism would give her words particular relevance to this year's graduating class. "These seniors are graduating in the midst of ongoing turbulence around the world, and Coronel's extensive experience investigating authoritarian regimes and human rights abuses is incredibly rel-

evant today," he said. "Kenyon strives to be an institution that takes a stand for freedom and democracy around the globe, and Coronel's words will surely inspire us in that work."

Upon the publication of the press release, Coronel tweeted that she was "thrilled" to be invited to speak at Kenyon's commencement.

## Over 200 student workers participate in one-day ULP strike

Grant Holt  
Staff Writer

On March 3, over 200 student workers went on strike in one of the largest student-worker strikes to happen on a college campus. The strike followed the College's decision to discontinue the student residency program at the Kenyon Farm, which the Kenyon Student Worker Organizing Committee (K-SWOC) asserted was an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP).

Molly Orr '24, a student farmer who participated in the strike, said that the strike demonstrated the solidarity between student workers. "The support that over 200 student workers demonstrated for the Farm by striking with us was really meaningful," she said.

This strike comes during K-SWOC's nearly two-year-long fight for union recognition. In March of last year, approximately 126 student workers went on strike for one day, which was then followed by a two-week strike in April, when approximately 170 student workers left their workplace and demanded union recognition.

The most recent strike was spurred by the College's January decision to end the student residential program at the Kenyon Farm, which had been one of the only collegiate residential farm programs in the country for 10 years. The College clarified that this change would not include a reduction

in the number of positions or work hours available to students. Many student farmers, however, felt blindsided by the decision and shortly after voted unanimously to authorize an ULP strike in protest.

Striking students included workers from multiple campus departments, including a majority of Community Advisors, Apprentice Teachers, Library and Information Services workers, Horn Gallery employees and Wright Center workers. Striking students formed a day-long picket line in front of Chalmers Library, and gathered for a rally outside of Rosse Hall where student workers and farmers gave testimonials.

The College issued a press release the day of the strike to reiterate that no students would be penalized for participating.

"While some student workers may be engaging in a strike, the College's goal remains to ensure that all students, including striking students, continue to receive an excellent education and enjoy the many resources Kenyon provides its students, without retaliation or discrimination," the College said in their press release.

In a post-strike all-student email, K-SWOC highlighted how multiple other colleges and universities responded to similar undergraduate organization efforts with voluntary recognition or an election agreement. Specifically, K-SWOC referenced how Hamilton College signed a stipulated elec-

tion agreement the previous fall allowing their student admissions workers to unionize. They also referenced how Grinnell College signed a neutrality agreement with the Union of Grinnell Student Dining Workers (UGDSW), allowing an election for UGDSW to represent almost all Grinnell undergraduate workers.

K-SWOC justified the strike by denouncing the College's continued resistance to unionization efforts on campus.

"[Strikes] only occur when the employer refuses to work with their employees as equals to reach compromises that meet the interests of both parties involved," they wrote in their email. They further commented that Kenyon remained one of the only institution that refuses to recognize a budding student union.

K-SWOC concluded their post-strike reflections by stating "three fundamental truths" revealed by the March 3 strike. They affirmed the continued presence of K-SWOC on the College campus, noted the feelings of solidarity among student workers provoked by the decision to end the Farm's residency program and stated the possibility of future strikes.

"We will not, however, back down from our commitment to the principles of workplace democracy in which all student workers have a say that cannot be ignored in the conditions of their employment," K-SWOC

wrote in their email. "Top-down decision making that ignores the concerns, needs, and ideas of student workers, and any worker on campus, and negatively affects workers is something we cannot accept."

On Monday, March 28, the Kenyon farmers sent a community email requesting that the College extend the Farm residency program into the 2022-23 academic year to allow for a committee of students, faculty and administrators to deliberate and arrive at a mutually agreeable decision.

"As we approach Kenyon's bicentennial, we want to see the Farm well embarked on a successful and sustainable future, an educational program that achieves its full potential to enrich the lives of students," the farmers wrote in their email. According to Orr, the farmers have not yet heard back from the administration regarding their proposal.

Orr said this represents a pattern of the farmers, and other student workers, being ignored and disrespected by the administration. "[This] underscores for us that the only way that the Farm can be protected, that we can protect the thing that we love, is to have a union. And we'll do whatever we need to do to make that happen," she said.



# As war in Ukraine continues, Kenyon holds vigil and panel

**JOSHUA HERTZ**  
NEWS ASSISTANT

On March 25, the Center for Global Engagement held a vigil in the Alumni Dining Room in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

At the event, members of the Kenyon community voiced support for those affected. “Today, we offer our witness not only to the suffering of those within the country’s borders. We also bear witness to the suffering of those with deep connections to Ukraine,” Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Ted Mason said. He also voiced the College’s support for Ukrainian students. “Kenyon wishes to do everything in its power to support you, to relieve some of your pain,” he said.

Mayor of Gambier Leeman Kessler ’04 also spoke at the vigil. “Since its founding, Gambier has been an international community, one that cannot take for granted our connections beyond our borders,” he said. “When there is strife, when there is injustice, it goes beyond those borders and affects us here.”

As Russian President Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine enters its fifth week, the United Nations has recorded 3,039 Ukrainian civilian casualties, with 1,179 killed and 1,860 injured. According to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the actual figures are much greater, as stalled reports from regions experiencing hos-

ilities arrive and await confirmation. OHCHR also estimates that the conflict has displaced at least 10 million Ukrainians, about a quarter of the country’s population, and at least 3.9 million of those displaced have been able to flee the region.

Ukrainian students Yana Honcharuk ’24 and Sofia Shyroka ’25 delivered impassioned and emotional remarks to those in attendance. Honcharuk read three poems recently written by Ukrainian soldiers. Those gathered were particularly moved by the third poem entitled “Lovers on a Bicycle,” written by Ostap Slyvynsky the day before he left his home to defend Ukraine. “Let me be at least until midday, I won’t live through the night,” the poem read.

Shyroka, in her speech, spoke about her home and how similar it was to the U.S. “A home that was supposed to be a synonym for safety is now a target for Russian missiles,” she said. She also expressed her frustration at the gruesome events her friends had experienced. “Something in this world is totally off, and I think it’s our responsibility to react to it,” she declared.

Shyroka’s call to action is part of a larger discussion on campus about foreign involvement in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. To address this, the Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD) held a panel discussion featuring Kenyon alumni familiar with the



Mayor of Gambier Leeman Kessler ’04 spoke at the vigil. | JOSHUA HERTZ

issue on March 23. CSAD Director David Rowe moderated the discussion, while panelists included *Defense News* reporter and National Press Club President Jennifer Judson ’04, former Peace Corps Ukraine volunteer Emily Olson ’17 and Atlantic Council Senior Fellow and News Editor of *Tablet Magazine* Jeremy Stern ’11.

The panel members spoke about the broader political, cultural and economic impacts of the conflict and the incentives and obligations of other countries, specifically the United States. “Fundamentally, this is Putin’s desire to restore the Russian Empire and to protest and prevent

Ukraine, which he thinks is part of Russia, from becoming closer to the West and gaining closer ties to the European Union and to NATO,” Judson said. “It’s ingrained in Ukrainian history that they have been independent in the past, and they’ve always fought to continue to be independent.” Stern also pointed out that many Russians feel a sense of defeat from the fall of the Soviet Union and wish to restore a former glory to their country. Olson, adding to Stern’s point, explained how 70% of Russians still believe the war in Ukraine is just.

When Rowe directed the panel to U.S. involvement, all panelists

expressed a desire to further support Ukraine while also wishing to avoid a direct conflict between the U.S. and Russia, given the threat of Russia’s nuclear arsenal. “There’s not much we can do besides give Ukraine the weapons that we’re giving them. Potentially, in my personal opinion, we could give them more, but obviously that’s not up to me,” Judson said.

On Monday, April 4 at 5 p.m., CSAD and the CGE will hold a student-led panel in the Community Foundation Theater to further discuss the issue. All students are invited to attend.

## Lawn mower catches fire in front of Cromwell Cottage

**AUDREY BAKER**  
NEWS ASSISTANT

On March 15, a riding lawn mower on the lawn in front of Cromwell Cottage caught fire, alarming bystanders.

A maintenance worker had been using the lawn mower in the area around 3:30 p.m. when the fire began. Gambier Mayor Leeman Kessler ’04 had been seated on a bench near Middle Path, waiting to pick his daughter up from Wigin Street Elementary School, when he noticed smoke coming from the direction of the lawn mower, which he initially mis-

took for dust that the lawn mower kicked up.

“When I saw the maintenance worker running from the vehicle that clued me in that it was serious,” Kessler wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

Kessler found a fire extinguisher in the Church of the Holy Spirit and gave it to a staff member, before running to Gund Gallery to find another one. By the time he returned, the fire had grown beyond the capabilities of a fire extinguisher, and the Mount Vernon Fire Department (MVFD) was on the



Mount Vernon Fire Department extinguished the fire. | COURTESY OF LEEMAN KESSLER

way. Although onlookers were worried that it would spread, the MVFD was able to put the

fire out quickly. It left a large patch of burnt ground where the lawn mower had been and a blackened stretch of tree trunk

where a tree had briefly caught fire.

The fire was completely extinguished by 3:50 p.m.

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# Alumni weigh in on moniker change at Senate forum

AMELIA CARNELL  
NEWS EDITOR

On March 22, President Sean Decatur and the Campus Senate co-chairs hosted a virtual open forum for alumni to discuss the ongoing moniker change process. In the forum, they announced the current frontrunners for a new moniker, which include the Crows and the Owls.

Campus Senate began a semester-long review of the Lords and Ladies monikers in spring 2021. It concluded that the current monikers are not in line with Kenyon's values and recommended that the College select a new one. Though the voting process was initially scheduled to happen in the fall, the process was delayed several times, until Decatur announced a timeline earlier this semester. As recent *Collegian* reporting shows, the debate over the Lords and Ladies has been around since they were used as nicknames in the *Collegian* ("lords" in 1936 and "ladies" in 1976), after which they grew into popular use.

Thomas S. Turgeon Professor of Drama Jonathan Tazewell '84, faculty co-chair of the Senate, emphasized the monikers' contentious history during the forum. He said that, unlike with the Lords and Ladies, students, alumni and other community members should have formal say in the new moniker. "I think that we should be more intentional and more thoughtful about this process," he said.

At the forum, Vice President for Advancement Colleen Garland shared that the moniker suggestion form, sent out to the community in February, has already received 1,300 responses from alumni, students, parents, faculty and staff. According to Garland, a significant portion of responses are from alumni, and most alumni responses indicate support for a new moniker.

The Senate co-chairs began the meeting by sharing their perspectives on the moniker change. Delaney Gallagher '23, student co-chair of the Senate and a women's lacrosse player, shared that she feels it is im-

portant for Kenyon's sports teams to compete under one name and one moniker. She then addressed alumni athletes on the call, saying that the values of Kenyon athletics will continue, even under a different name. "It is that character and that value and that sense of shared community that should be represented as a tradition to be kept. Not necessarily every name that we use to embody them," she said.

Assistant Director of Community Partnerships Alyssa Gómez-Lawrence '10, staff co-chair of the Senate, raised that the Lords and Ladies monikers, in addition to not being gender inclusive, are insensitive given their classist roots. Tazewell added on to this, sharing his perspective as a student-athlete alumnus. "It's important to me that this place is a place that not only says that it holds everybody and has a place for everybody, but that represents that in the way it represents itself to the world," he said.

Many of the alumni on the call demonstrated support for the cur-

rent monikers by wearing Lords and Ladies merchandise, and their questions expressed skepticism of the change. Some raised concerns that a new moniker will erase history that is important to them or will take away something that makes Kenyon unique. The panelists assured those on the call that a new moniker will not erase any alumni identity as a Lord or Lady.

The call concluded with the co-chairs sharing their personal favorite moniker suggestions. Tazewell voiced his support for the Owls, donning a Kenyon Owls hat. Gómez-Lawrence, however, supported the Crows, another leading contender. But Gallagher had different ideas altogether, campaigning for the Salamanders. Decatur said that while naming is not his strong suit, he has confidence in the Kenyon community to select a new moniker.

Molly Vogel '00 shared more alumni insights in an article for the spring issue of the *Kenyon Alumni Magazine*. The article shares the perspectives of several alumni on both

sides of the issue. Kellyn Caldwell '12, who supports keeping the Lords and Ladies monikers, argued that instead of changing to a new moniker, Kenyon should instead expand the definitions of Lords and Ladies to be more inclusive.

On the other side, Ken Schultz '00 wrote that changing the moniker is an essential demonstration of support from the College for trans and nonbinary students. "Every message Kenyon can send that supports LGBTQ+ students living as their true selves will be a godsend," he wrote.

The moniker suggestion and feedback form will remain open through April 11, at which point Campus Senate and the Office of Communications will review all submitted suggestions. Up to five top suggestions will appear on a ranked-choice voting form, which will be sent out to the Kenyon community on April 22.

# Republicans pass modified legislature maps in 4-3 vote

ADAM MARGOLIS  
NEWS EDITOR

On Monday night, the Ohio Redistricting Commission approved new Ohio legislature maps 4-3. The maps passed along party lines, with the four Republicans, including Ohio House Speaker Bob Cupp and Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman, voting to approve them. Since none of the Democrats on the Commission, nor Republican State Auditor Keith Faber, voted for the maps, the plans will only last four years.

These maps represent the Ohio Redistricting Commission's fourth attempt at passing plans for reconfiguring Ohio's State House and State Senate districts. The Ohio Supreme Court requires that the new maps reflect the partisan split of Ohioans' statewide voting preferences. According to the *Columbus Dispatch*, over the last decade, Ohioans voted in favor of Republican candidates 54% of the time on average and Democrats 46% of the time.

The Commission made its third try late last month, when they pro-

posed changes to the proportional distribution of Ohio legislative districts. Those maps were approved by the Commission on Feb. 24, but rejected by the Ohio Supreme Court on March 16.

In its decision, the Court threw out the third-round maps and mandated that the Commission meet to draft an "entirely new General Assembly-district plan that conforms with the Ohio Constitution." The Court had also rejected the Commission's original and second-round plans, which were proposed late last year and gave Republicans a 57-42 advantage in the State House and a 20-13 advantage in the State Senate, and deemed them unconstitutional. In its March 16 decision, the Court also ruled that the new maps should be drafted in a public setting to increase "transparency and public trust."

To comply with the Court's recommendation that the maps be drafted in a public setting, the Commission hired independent mapmakers from the University of Florida and the National Demographics Corporation to redraw the map. On March 24, a

livestream began broadcasting the mapmakers as they worked on the new plans.

However, by the March 28 deadline, the independent mapmakers had not produced a final map for consideration. In its place, Cupp and Huffman proposed slightly altered versions of their rejected third-round maps. These maps seem to meet the proportional representation standard by giving Republicans a 54-45 advantage in the State House and a 18-15 advantage in the State Senate, but their passage roused the ire of state Democrats.

In a tweet posted on Tuesday, State Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-28) referenced that the maps had been made outside of the public's eye, referencing the livestream, and argued that the Commission's Republicans deliberately decided to pass the maps without any transparency or regard for the constitutionality of their plans.

"We made a historic move towards transparency, but Republicans hijack the process," Sykes tweeted. "This ridiculous diversion is insulting to voters and comes at considerable

expense to Ohio taxpayers," he continued.

However, according to Cupp and Huffman, approving the redesigned third-round maps was the only way to meet the 11:59 p.m. deadline. According to Cleveland.com, Huffman referred to the modified maps as a "failsafe."

Following the move, Sykes and Ohio House Minority Leader Allison Russo (D-24) issued a joint statement on March 29 in which they claim that the Republican maps are unconstitutional and that the majority of the Commissioners passed the maps in an attempt to subvert the bipartisan and transparent redistricting process mandated by the Ohio Supreme Court.

"The Republican maps fail to comply with the Constitution and Court requirement that maps must reflect the statewide preferences of Ohio voters," the statement read. "Republican commissioners chose their own partisan power over the Ohio voters they have a duty to represent," Russo wrote in the joint statement. "It is abundantly clear that Republicans

lack the political will, not the ability, to adopt constitutional maps."

Professor of Political Science and Associate Director of Kenyon's Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD) Nancy Powers said that it was unsurprising to see the Commission's partisan officials attempting to maintain a majority by slanting the gerrymanders in their favor. Even so, Powers stressed the negative effects that this type of partisan gerrymandering has on the democratic process.

"This whole debacle involves two serious problems for the quality of our democracy," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "One is representation of voters' preferences. The other is horizontal accountability. ... The court has tried to hold the redistricting commission to account for following the constitution and the commission has seemed to test the court's resolve, rather than to comply."

Due to the maps' delayed approval, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose said that the original primary date of May 3 would need to be changed. The primary will take place sometime between May 24 and Aug. 2.

# Knox County Foundation to fund community internships

HANNAH DOURGARIAN  
NEWS ASSISTANT

Kenyon College will receive \$33,000 in funds over the next two years from the Knox County Foundation (KCF), a collection of individual philanthropic funds that serves as an endowment bank for all of Knox County.

The foundation will support Kenyon's Community Internship Program, which funds student internships with Knox County's local nonprofit organizations. Half of the funds will be used to pay student interns for their participation in these nonprofit internships during the 2022-23 academic year, and the other half of the funds will be used to pay student interns in the follow-

ing academic year.

Established in 2017, the Community Internship Program aims to connect students with local internships during the school year, giving them an opportunity to work closely with Knox County residents and apply their skills and knowledge while contributing to the community.

The vast majority of these internships started off unpaid, although now thanks to funding from three third-party donors — the KCF, Mark and Denise Rasmer and Park National Bank — over 60% of these internships are now paid. The Office for Community Partnerships reviews each internship opportunity to determine a

pay scale comparable to on-campus jobs.

Lee Schott, dean for career development, believes that offering more paid internships will increase their competitiveness, and also make their pay scale more competitive with that of on-campus jobs. "It raises the profile of the program," he said. "These were great opportunities, but you start funding them, you raise the profile; you're getting more students involved."

Jan Thomas, director of the Office for Community Partnerships, noted that the new funds represent the local community's interest in working and creating connections with Kenyon students. "They realize that Kenyon students have some

expertise. They're very creative, they're really fun to work with, they have good ideas, they have some skills — a lot of these nonprofits are very small, so they have maybe just two or three employees," she said. "Kenyon students actually have a lot to offer across the board, regardless of their major, to these local nonprofits."

For the Career Development Office and the Office of Community Partnerships, obtaining KCF funding has been a multi-year process. Kenyon College initially requested money from the KCF in 2020, but received less than it had hoped for, as the foundation was uncertain that Kenyon's efforts would be successful. After a year of giving pre-

sentations and writing grant proposals for larger funds, the College's efforts were ultimately successful.

"We continue to build and iterate the program and make it better, and I think that's been recognized by the funding that they've been giving us," Schott said.

The College believes that the new funding will also allow it to pilot one or two community-engaged summer internships this coming summer. Kenyon plans to submit another proposal to the KCF in two years when the grant period ends, with hopes that there will continue to be a number of opportunities to deepen the relationships between Kenyon students and the Knox County community.





Women were admitted into Coordinate College in 1969. Kenyon became fully coeducational in 1972. | COURTESY OF KENYON COLLEGE

## A look into the beginning of coeducation at Kenyon, 53 years later

MADELEINE MAGILL  
STAFF WRITER

The end of Women's History Month provides a good opportunity to look back at Kenyon's own history of coeducation, and recognize that the school wasn't always so open to a strong female presence.

Kenyon first began admitting women in September of 1969, though it wasn't completely coeducational at first. Female students attended the Coordinate College for Women, which had its own dorms (Mather, McBride and Caples), and had assigned designated hours on the men's part of the campus, which included the library and public buildings. Nonetheless, the addition of women sent shockwaves through the century-old, all-male college. There were mixed opin-

ions about women's presence at Kenyon, and *Collegian* articles from the fall of 1969 tell that story.

Some students were apprehensive about the integration of women on campus. A *Collegian* poll in October of 1969 reported that 55% of Kenyon students preferred some form of separation between Kenyon and the Coordinate College for Women, while only 43% of students reported that they were satisfied with the development of the Coordinate College.

Others were afraid that women and men could distract each other from their studies. A *Collegian* report from 1966 relayed a concern about women in the library: "Two people who are sexually interested in each other cannot study together well."

Due to these widespread

discriminatory beliefs and women's status as Coordinate College students, women in Gambier were not treated as equals to their male counterparts. Though they had representatives and were allowed to sit in on Student Council meetings, women were non-voting members. One student wrote a Letter to the Editor in October of 1969 which expressed support for two different student councils. The letter expressed that men and women had different interests at Kenyon and the separate student councils would uphold that.

Despite the mixed opinions about the role of women on campus, Kenyon students did tend to agree on one thing: expanding the number of hours men and women were allowed in gender-specific spaces. The strict rules in place, called

parietals, significantly limited the number of hours men and women were allowed in each other's dorms and when women were allowed on the men's part of campus. As reported by the *Collegian*, only 1% of Kenyon students in 1969 wanted stricter parietals. 43% wanted more liberal parietals and 40% wanted them abolished entirely. The College, however, upheld the parietals in 1969, arguing that dorms are not "for the private use of their residents."

In the Oct. 30 edition of that same year, Chris Finch '71 contributed to the *Collegian* in a section entitled "Notes from the Underground," in which he vehemently supported the expansion of women and people of color on Kenyon's campus, highlighting that parietals were obstructive to the

community. "If you're having trouble getting laid now, you'll have trouble getting laid when the hours are gone." Like Finch, John Crowe Ransom, literary critic and first editor of the *Kenyon Review*, supported the development of the Coordinate College. He is quoted in the *Collegian* stating that the women would improve the men's manners and style. "I think Kenyon men need it," he wrote in an article.

The Coordinate College for Women was abolished three years after its founding, when Kenyon became fully coeducational in 1972. Today, women make up the majority of Kenyon's campus (about 55%), and the first women in 1969 deserve credit for paving a way in the face of apprehension and resistance.

## Kenyon alumnus Mike Gibbons leads US Senate race in Ohio

CHARLIE STUTZ  
STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of spring break, I had the opportunity to speak with Mike Gibbons '74, leading Republican candidate for an Ohio seat in the United States Senate. Gibbons started out in the Senate race with virtually no name recognition in a crowded field of well-known Republicans like Jane Timken, former chair of the Ohio Republican Party, J.D. Vance, author of *Hillbilly Elegy*, and Josh Mandel, former treasurer of Ohio and the previous Republican frontrunner in the polls.

Despite his firm competition, Gibbons shot up in the polls and is now ahead of Mandel by a little over one percentage point, according to Real Clear Politics (20% Gibbons, 18.7% Mandel). Part of Gibbons' success in the polls can be attributed to his attack ads smearing his Republican opponents. In these ads, he frequently uses football analogies and calls himself "Trump Tough" and his Republican opponents "RINOs" (Republican

in Name Only). Gibbons has also received the endorsement of Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, as well as a few other Ohio state legislators.

During his time at Kenyon, Gibbons studied economics and political science, while also playing on the football team, and was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He credited "Mrs. Dunn," a former Kenyon political science professor, with helping him find his direction in life. After graduating in 1974, Gibbons went on to obtain a master's in management from Case Western Reserve University and a law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He later founded Brown Gibbons Lang & Company in 1989, which has grown to become one of the largest middle market investment banks in the country.

Gibbons often points to his meager upbringing in Cleveland as a primary motivation behind his career in politics. "I pretty much started out with nothing. ... If it wasn't for

this great country I live in, I wouldn't be where I am now," he told me. The investment banker sees himself as an example of the American dream and wants every American to believe in this ethos. "If you work hard in America, put in the time and the effort, you can achieve the American dream," he said. "I have done it, and I want my kids to have the same opportunity."

Gibbons believes the opportunity to achieve the American dream comes through businesses rather than government. "Every dollar spent in the public sector, it's a dollar taken out of the private sector," he said. "I believe in negotiating bills when we take into account all the consequences of those bills. I'm there to point those consequences out."

He further believes that a reduction in spending by the government can lead to lower taxes, which help fuel job growth through businesses. "I believe strongly that the Republican agenda is the agenda that helps people get ahead," he said. "I

believe we should help the people who can't help themselves. But I do believe that civil society is where most of the aid for the poor and for the people who aren't in a good position should come from. ... The idea that everyone should live off the government is completely wrong and that is what I stand for as a conservative." Gibbons also discussed his belief that climate change is not caused by humans and condemned the Green New Deal. Additionally, he expressed concerns that the current high inflation hurts working-class Ohioans.

The success of Gibbons' campaign seems promising to his supporters, but he has work ahead of him. Mandel has maintained much of his supporter base throughout the primary campaign and has big-name endorsements like Sen. Mike Lee of Utah, Sen. Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming and radio personality Mark Levin. Gibbons and Mandel will fight tirelessly in the next two weeks in order to edge ahead of each other, with Timken, Moreno



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and Vance trying to remain in contention. According to Inside Elections, this Ohio election is "solid Republican," meaning that whoever wins the Republican primary will most likely win the general election. With a plurality (34.3%) of Ohio Republican voters still undecided, according to Real Clear Politics, and the coveted Trump endorsement still up for grabs, this primary will continue to be cutthroat and aggressive.



# Chamber Singers perform a successful concert after tour

ANNALIA FIORE  
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, March 26, the Kenyon College Chamber Singers performed at Rosse Hall conducted by Professor of Music Benjamin Locke. This particular concert held at Kenyon garnered a sizable audience of students, alumni and professors, filling most of the auditorium.

The Chamber Singers had just returned from their spring tour, which took place over a four-day period at the beginning of spring break. In previous years, the nearly 50-person group has road tripped across the East Coast and to various parts of the Midwest and the South. This year, though, was different: The Chamber Singers limited their tour to Ohio, performing in Columbus, Cincinnati, Findlay and Mansfield. Though the group normally stays with alumni and various host families during their journey, this year they stayed in Gambier each night after their performances to limit potential COVID-19 exposure.

The spring concert back at Kenyon began with the Chamber Singers lining the two aisles of Rosse Hall, commencing the program with “Sangena,” a traditional Zulu processional with a merry rhythm. While the rest of the

songs were performed more statically, for “Sangena,” the choir swayed in unison with beaming smiles. It was a bright, cheerful introduction to a more serious program. For the first half of the concert, many of the song selections were traditional choral pieces, from Johann Sebastian Bach to Dutch composer Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck. A highlight was Bach’s “Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied,” a 15-minute-long, three-part choral hymn inspired by the Psalms. The choir began slow and somber, but crescendoed to a triumphant climax in part three with fluctuating cries of “Alleluia!”

After the piece concluded, the program shifted slightly towards folk pieces and more contemporary arrangements, including a mournful musical adaption of Emily Dickinson’s poem “Heart not so heavy as mine,” a lovely addition to the program considering the rich literary tradition at Kenyon. One number in particular, “Ae Fond Kiss,” was richly layered with contrasting sopranos and baritones and featured three talented soloists: soprano Jana Heckerman ’22, alto Nyandeng Juag ’22 and baritone Joseph Ferrari ’24, the last of whom delivered a resonating and fervent performance as the choir faded out beneath him. Next came “The Lover’s Ghost,” a spooky



The Chamber Singers had just finished their tour. | COURTESY OF PROFESSOR LOCKE

English folk song reminiscent of Edgar Allen Poe.

Throughout the concert, the singers rearranged themselves based on the different parts for the piece they were singing. In particular, for “When Shall We Three Meet?,” a modern arrangement inspired by Macbeth’s three witches, Locke arranged the choir into three sub-choirs, explaining who sang in which part, and joked

that now the audience “knew which witch was which.” The Shakespearean number began with the three respective choirs whispering and hissing the lyrics in ominous tones, growing gradually more forceful until the song culminated in a fervent, cascading cry of the main title. This particular song featured the baritones, who added a resounding foundation to the piece as a whole.

The spring performance ended with the Chamber Singer’s traditional closing number “Kokosing Farewell.” Locke invited Chamber Singers alumni to join the choir as they sang Kenyon’s classic hymn, with many teary-eyed singers remembering their days in Gambier. The performance concluded, a warm concert full of talent, enjoyed by all who attended.

# Stagefemmes put on reading of *The Eliza Script* by Alexa Derman

CECILIA OSHINS  
ARTS EDITOR

Over the weekend, Stagefemmes performed a staged reading of *The Eliza Script* by Alexa Derman, which was successful due to the small cast’s ability to bring the play to life through their expressiveness. Derman — playwright and finalist for numerous awards including the Starr Reading Series, Pegasus PlayLab and other organizations — worked alongside Stagefemmes, and was present at the reading for a brief Q&A directly following the performance.

*The Eliza Script* follows a queer female scientist named Lorrie, played by Alexis Mladineo ’24. Her life’s work is to build an intelligent robot, LI-9, played by Grace Donnelly ’25, which Lorrie intended to represent a feminist critique of the male gaze. Much of the play explores the ethical implications of building a conscious robot, particularly one designed to appear female, and using it for household tasks. By humanizing a machine, the play attempts to find the line between ar-

tistic critique and exploitation of the subject. The script utilizes this irony to force the audience to consider the limitations of heteropatriarchal scientific development, and the difficulties of navigating it as a woman in STEM.

The cast was composed of five actors and a narrator. While there was no movement on stage, the actors portrayed each character beautifully, with emotional monologues spoken directly to the audience and strong expressions. Donnelly did a wonderful job portraying a character who uses the same heavily repeated phrases, while still managing to create a sense of humanity and draw empathy from the audience. Another character who made the show great was Peter, an oblivious male figure played by Max Farkhat ’22, who added a subtle but comical element to the production.

The limitation of simply reading Derman’s script was more apparent in some scenes than others, particularly in moments where Lorrie is working on LI-9. The narration conveyed these scenes as gentle and intimate, though



Aelxa Derman was in the audience for the reading. | COURTESY OF SARAH GROUSTRA

with both actors standing and looking at the audience rather than interacting with each other, it came off as more impersonal.

At the Q&A session following the reading, Derman discussed the ideas behind this play and some of her other projects. She talked about how her work as a playwright comes from

a queer and feminist perspective, and that technology has been a major inspiration given how much of an impact the internet had on her (and the rest of her generation’s) development. Additionally, Derman discussed another play she wrote, *Girlish*, which attempts to bring the internet onto the stage. Her work illustrates that technology can

provide a lens into the human psyche, the physical manifestation of society’s values.

Overall, the production was fun and engaging, but more importantly was a clever critique of gender roles in all different kinds of relationships — romantic, platonic and professional.



## STAFF EDITORIAL

# *We support the College's condemnation of transphobia*

Yesterday, President Decatur published a blog post that recognized Transgender Day of Visibility and condemned the recent transphobic attacks on Associate Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Dorian Rhea Debussy. We stand by Decatur's words, and thank him for writing this post. That said, this statement is a month overdue, and there is still more to be done in support of the transgender community at Kenyon and around the nation.

Back in mid-February, Kenyon issued an official statement in support of Debussy's resignation from their position as an NCAA facilitator, following a change to the association's transgender policy. After Debussy resigned from their position as an NCAA facilitator, they became the target of severe hate comments. Decatur, in his letter entitled "Fear Will Not Silence Us," emphasized the College's support for the trans community, but he failed to outright condemn the transphobia that has been directed towards Debussy and trans individuals around the country.

It took four weeks for the College to issue this initial statement supporting Debussy's decision — a response that came nearly two weeks after we called on it to do so. During this especially difficult time for Debussy and the trans community at large, it was crucial that the College stood up for its trans community members by speaking out against transphobia and providing supportive outlets for both students and staff.

It is important to contextualize the hate comments directed at Debussy with the nationwide upward trend of transphobia. After the NCAA's change to its transgender policy following Lia Thomas' first-place win at the NCAA's Division I swimming championship, it has become blatantly obvious that transphobia is gaining momentum across social media. Additionally, the Florida Senate recently passed a bill entitled "Don't Say Gay or Trans," which will soon head to Gov. Ron DeSantis for approval. In addition to Florida's bill, more than 290 anti-LGBTQ+ bills were introduced across 33 states in 2021, with 140 of them specifically anti-transgender bills.

After the College's February statement, Unity House hosted a conversation event on March 2 called "Transmisogyny and Effective Allyship," where they expressed their displeasure with the College's apathy. Following the conversation, they delivered protest signs and a list of demands to Ransom Hall, urging the College to take concrete and visible steps to condemn transphobia and transmisogyny, which Decatur has since responded to nearly a month later.

The fact that this message took so long is disheartening and was anxiety-provoking for trans community members. We must continue to push the College to act quickly in confronting transphobia and all forms of discrimination. As a school that promotes its ability to embrace people of all backgrounds, Kenyon should have acted sooner than it did.

*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](mailto:feeplatt1@kenyon.edu), [mummal@kenyon.edu](mailto:mummal@kenyon.edu), [pyne1@kenyon.edu](mailto:pyne1@kenyon.edu) and [wint1@kenyon.edu](mailto:wint1@kenyon.edu), respectively.*

## WEEKLY COLUMN

# This Kenyon Life: With COVID-19, we need to care for all

HANNAH SUSSMAN  
COLUMNIST

As a generation, we have been raised in a world on fire. There is no shortage of things we should care about, things we should want or things we should do. On almost any topic, there is an article with a title followed by "and why you should care." But there is a human limit to our empathy and attention spans. Look at how quickly the world moved on from discussions about Black Lives Matter, the Me Too movement and, most recently, the war in Ukraine. In many ways, it is impressive that so many people continued to actively care about COVID-19 throughout the pandemic thus far. I use the phrase "actively care" because I believe that people do still care about the aforementioned subjects. However, they are no longer actively demonstrating or acting on their care. Similarly, students do still care about COVID-19 and its impacts, but many students no longer actively care by wearing masks or limiting gatherings. Despite the desire to leave the world of COVID-19 behind, the pandemic continues to pose a significant threat to immunocompromised, chronically ill and disabled students. The threat that COVID-19 poses to the Kenyon community is not something that we "should" care about — it is a threat we need to actively care about.

Last week, an immunocompromised and disabled Kenyon student anonymously wrote an essay titled "The Bare Minimum," scattering it around Peirce. Following Kenyon's lifting of the mask mandate, the essay discusses the author's fear and anxiety surrounding people no longer masking. "People shouldn't have to be controlled to do the right thing. They should do it because they care," the author argued. Ultimately, the essay begs the question: Do students not wearing masks care about other people? I have considered this question before, and up until yesterday I was prepared to answer "no." I applaud the author of the essay, as it is concise, powerful and thought-provoking. That said, I believe there is still hope.

People don't need to be "controlled" to do the right thing, but they need to be told who they are caring for. Rather than condemn unmasked students, it is necessary to emphasize that many students are still at risk. In an interview with ABC News, Dr. Jeannina Smith, medical director of the transplant and immunocompromised host service at the University of Wisconsin, stated that COVID-19 continues to pose a threat to immunocompromised patients. "I see the devastating effects of this viral infection every day as it leads to death and disability of my patients who were previously leading healthy, active lives," she said. Dr. Smith went on to explain that despite medical advances, even mild forms of COVID-19, such as omicron, can have devastating effects on patients who are immunocompromised, chronically ill and disabled.

After years of pandemic living, getting people to actively care starts with breaking down the barriers to empathy. If one death is a tragedy, but a million is a statistic, you tell them a name and a story. If out of sight becomes out of mind, you stand up in front of everyone. You must replace statistics with people and replace distance with presence. Tell your classes, your teachers, your friends: Make the community realize this is not abstract caring — this is real-life protection.

Our generation was the first to practice school shooting drills throughout our education, a reality we would be remiss to assume hasn't played a formative role in how each of us moves through the world. Each school has slightly different protocols for a school shooter, but the four-step model is most broadly used: run, hide, fight and seek help. These aren't ineffective steps, and in fact, they are very similar to the steps we have attempted throughout the pandemic. We pretended that COVID-19 would not be able to reach us, isolated for months, then armed ourselves with vaccines and boosters. We ran, we hid and although we fought, COVID-19 is still real and still a real threat. Now, as a school and community we need to listen to those who are immunocompromised, those with disabilities, those who still care. It is hard to advocate, and it is hard to acknowledge the pandemic is not over, but I believe in the strength of Kenyon students to not only care for themselves, but also for others.

I know that asking immunocompromised and disabled students to publicly demand change isn't a perfect strategy. I know that it certainly isn't fair, but I believe it is the only feasible alternative without a mask-mandate. It is not fair to ask people of color to explain racism and privilege. It is not fair to ask women to explain sexism or assault. It is never fair to force marginalized people to be unpaid teachers and leaders, but it is effective. We are taught that being immunocompromised or having a disability is something that makes us weak, but that discounts our voices. We are not small, or feeble, or broken; our voices are loud and they are resilient. Our voices deserve to be heard. Our fear deserves to be heard. Don't give people the excuse of assuming no one in their class needs them to wear a mask. It is possible that I am naive, but I still believe that people are capable of actively caring. I believe that if you tell them directly, Kenyon students will listen.

*Hannah Sussman '25 is a columnist at the Collegian. She is a sociology major from Glencoe, Ill. She can be reached at [sussman3@kenyon.edu](mailto:sussman3@kenyon.edu).*

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.

# “Bothsiding” the Russian invasion of Ukraine is a harmful fallacy

**SALVATORE MACCHIONE**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, effectively inciting the largest military invasion in Europe since World War II. The military assault — which was, in its inception, allegedly supposed to be a 72-hour “military operation” seeking to “demilitarize and denazify” Ukraine — has since turned into an atrocious, prolonged conflict responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians and the displacement of millions more.

As Kenyon students, outside observers and sympathetic human beings, it is imperative that we do not attempt to justify Russia’s senseless, imperialist violence with the Kremlin’s own deceit and lies — we cannot, and must not, fall into the fallacious trap of “bothsiding” Russia’s

cruel invasion of Ukraine. Make no mistake: Russia, and only Russia, is to blame.

Unfortunately, some of the American discourse in both liberal and conservative media spheres has mirrored the rhetoric of Putin’s propaganda that absolves Russia of this blame. In the weeks preceding the onset of the Russian invasion, leftist and right-wing talking heads alike vocally and cynically doubted the many alarms of invasion raised by the White House and U.S. intelligence, with some, such as independent journalist Glenn Greenwald, openly dismissing the accurate warnings as baseless “anti-Russia propaganda.”

After the start of the invasion, other individuals, like 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard and Fox News host Tucker Carlson, blamed NATO for encroaching on Russian territory, implying that NATO’s eastward expansion forced Russia to act accordingly: by bomb-

ing Ukrainian children’s hospitals and other civilian targets, of course. Even the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) said that American imperialism “set the stage” for Russia’s invasion and subsequent slaughter of innocent Ukrainian civilians.

Each of these talking points are not only egregious and astonishingly false, but tacitly dilute the true magnitude of Russia’s humanitarian atrocities. Everytime someone repeats the lie that “Nazis run Ukraine,” or that Russia is simply trying to rid of “American-funded biolabs,” Russia evades due culpability on the world stage. After all, Russia’s motives are entirely imperialistic, with the propaganda serving as a cover for Russia’s true desire to annex additional eastern Ukrainian territory, as they did with Crimea in 2014.

This is not to say that Ukraine’s politics and wartime policies are infallible, of course; in just the last month, Ukrainian President Volody-

myr Zelensky has outright banned 11 opposition parties, all while enlisting extremist militias, like the far-right neo-Nazi Azov Battalion, for military assistance.

However, while these actions are inherently problematic to say the least, they in no way justify the Kremlin’s decision to senselessly slaughter innocent Ukrainian men, women and children under blatantly false pretenses. It was Russia’s decision to amass nearly 200,000 troops on Ukraine’s border, it was Russia’s decision to break the Minsk agreements and ultimately it has been Russia’s decision to act the way it has — not America’s decision, not NATO’s decision and most certainly not Ukraine’s decision. To say anything different is deliberately dishonest.

# The Middle Path Partnership is a democratic necessity on campus

**UE LOCAL 712 EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
CONTRIBUTOR

The Middle Path Partnership will be 10 years old next year. We, the UE Local 712 Executive Board, know that many people on campus don’t know what it is or why it exists. We would like to answer these questions.

Back in 2012-13, the Trustees and President Nugent decided to outsource our Maintenance Department to Sodexo. We in Maintenance learned about that decision when we met with the former business manager, Mark Kohlman, to negotiate our contract for the coming year. But we were told there was no contract to negotiate: We would be working for Sodexo within the next couple of months, and nothing we had to say could change that.

Helped by faculty, alumni, staff and student allies, we challenged that decision in public meetings. Our allies said that kicking Maintenance out of Kenyon was wrong because it violated the trust we should have in each other as part of a community. Faculty were upset that children of Maintenance workers would no longer be able to attend Kenyon or other GLCA schools as part of the tuition remission program. Many people were upset that the outsourcing decision was made in secret and imposed on Maintenance without consultation.

The pushback was so widespread that the Trustees decided to delay outsourcing. Instead, they formed a committee from students, faculty, staff and the leaders of the Maintenance unions that debated outsourcing and its alternatives. That committee met during 2012-13. Throughout that year, students, faculty, staff and alumni continued to fight against the proposed change. The Trustees agreed not to outsource our department. In return, Maintenance workers agreed to take part in a coopera-

tive arrangement with management where we would talk and make decisions together. The Middle Path Partnership (MPP) was the compromise that came out of those meetings.

We saw this partnership as a way to save our jobs. We also saw it as a way to work together with managers to save the College money and to do our jobs efficiently. The cost of this compromise was that Maintenance workers took a pay cut. We have not yet made up that loss in pay. We saw that sacrifice as worth it, because we still worked for Kenyon; we were still part of the Kenyon community and we had a better way of doing our jobs.

President Decatur, along with the national presidents of the Maintenance unions, signed the founding charter of the MPP in August 2013, and we appreciate his support. As he said recently, every member of Kenyon’s staff should be valued for the expertise they bring to their jobs. Top-down decision making that ignores the expertise of workers is insulting and inefficient. It is inefficient because decision makers won’t benefit from the ideas of those who know their jobs well. The MPP gets people with different kinds of expertise together in a room during weekly meetings, where we talk with each other and then make decisions by consensus. The results are much better than when a few people ignore the expertise of workers, telling them what to do without taking their knowledge into account. The MPP also demands trust and respect between managers and workers, something that used to be lacking.

Years after it was first introduced, the MPP has been immensely successful in saving the College money. For example, beginning in 2012, we decided as a group to combine painting, plastering and tile work into one individual’s job duties. We were, therefore, able to eliminate the need for outside contractors to do these jobs. We also saved about \$100k/

year by adding the drywall work that our carpenters took on. Having our electricians take on the installation of card access systems around campus also provided major savings compared to outsourcing those jobs. Our work in building automation has also greatly reduced utility costs. The College also saved money when we took on numerous remodeling jobs in house, including installing furnaces and air conditioning units. All of this work used to be done by outside contractors at greater costs, and often with less care, than when we do the work ourselves. Ian Smith, vice president for facilities, planning and sustainability, is currently in the process of totaling up all of the cost savings achieved by the MPP since we started in 2013.

There is nothing like this cooperative arrangement between management and labor at any other college or university. There is a reason for that: Making the MPP work is hard. It is hard to reach consensus on decisions about how to do our jobs. It can be hard to look past earlier disagreements and find ways to trust and respect each other as equals. We are struggling with these problems right now. We are also struggling with recent statements made by the College’s lawyers that the Trustees want to keep open the option of outsourcing us.

The MPP is proving its worth and we are working hard to make it a success. That lawyers speaking for Kenyon are ignoring our efforts and successes makes us wonder what and who we are fighting for. That those same lawyers refuse to accept that the MPP is part of our unions’ collective bargaining agreements is also a problem. Because of these legally binding agreements, the consensus decision-making that is essential to the MPP cannot be ignored by workers or managers. Everyone is held accountable. Everyone would have to work together. These statements by Kenyon’s lawyers, speaking for the College,

make us wonder if the Trustees even care about the MPP and its members.

We keep fighting for the MPP because we see it as a way to avoid the outsourcing that almost kicked us out of the Kenyon community and our jobs. More importantly, we keep fighting for the MPP because working together to serve students, faculty, staff and administrators is the only way to do our jobs well. We owe the Kenyon community a lot for this chance to keep our jobs and to do them better. The best way we can pay them back is by making the MPP work, and the only way for the MPP to work is when we make decisions together.

In this way, we honor and respect each other, managers and workers, for our knowledge and skills. We also take advantage of each other’s strengths as we move forward together as equals to make the best decisions that benefit the entire community. Outsourcing violated the spirit of the Kenyon community. The MPP is true to that spirit and we are trying hard to make it succeed.

*Please feel free to talk with us in Maintenance about the MPP if you have any questions. Please also feel free to attend our weekly meetings on Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and contact us to be put on the invitation list.*

Sincerely,

UE Local 712 Executive Board



# Ladies win their 24th national title for first time in 13 years



Hart won six events at the NCAA Championships, leading the charge in Indianapolis; the Lords finished fifth. | A.J. MAST

**CALEB NEWMAN**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Over spring break, the Ladies bested 10-time defending national women's swimming and diving champion Emory University by claiming their 24th national championship, the most in any women's division in NCAA history and their first since 2009. The Lords were in search of their 35th national championship, but ended up finishing fifth. From March 16-19, Kenyon swimming and diving competed in Indianapolis at the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving National Championships.

## Ladies

Having won the NCAC championship, Kenyon women's swimming and diving got off to a great start in the meet. At the end of day one, the Ladies were in first place with 100 points, but Denison University and Emory University (Ga.) were not far behind with 94 and 91 points, respectively.

Crile Hart '22 started her reign of dominance in the meet by winning the 200-yard individual medley in 1:57.76, beating her previous NCAA record time of 1:58.04. In the 50-yard freestyle, the Ladies grabbed two of the top three spots with Emmie Mirus '22 finishing in second (22.77) and Alexandra White '23 in third (22.92). Hart and Mirus teamed up with Jennah Fadley '25 and Olivia Smith '23 to compete in the 200-yard medley relay, where they set a new NCAA record time of 1:39.59.

The Ladies had a small lead going into day two. The coaches had told the team what position they expected to be in at the beginning and end of each day. Since the other teams had more swimmers competing on day one, the Ladies did not expect to be ahead. "It was actually very exciting," Mirus wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Little did we know, that was just the first of many days out-scoring the projections!"

Throughout the day, the lead flipped back and forth between Kenyon and Denison. The Ladies stayed on top due to their strong relay performances. Hart, Mirus, Sydney Geboy '25 and White broke the 200-yard freestyle relay NCAA record with a time of 1:30.39. Later in the day, Hart and Mirus paired up with Smith and Fadley in the 400-yard med-

ley relay, where they swam a record time of 3:38.05.

The Ladies also found success in individual events. Gabrielle Wei '25 placed third in the 400-yard individual medley (4:20.50). Smith finished fourth (54.62) in the 100-yard butterfly, and Hart won the event in 53.21.

The Ladies entered day three with a 2.5-point lead over second place Denison. With just a quarter of the meet left, the Ladies had 311 points. A strong day by Emory put them in position to potentially grab the lead, trailing Kenyon by just 4 points. Denison lurked in third with 306.5 points. With a minuscule margin for error, the final day of the meet would determine the national champion. "We were all excited that we were performing better than expected in regards to team points but obviously nervous going into the last day, especially the last session because we knew it was going to be a battle until the very end," Hart wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

The Ladies did well in the 200-yard backstroke: Smith finished fourth (1:59.04), while Hart took the crown (1:56.54).

In the 100-yard freestyle, Mirus was seeded third and was not expecting to win. However, she touched the wall at the 49.90 mark in dramatic fashion to capture her first career individual NCAA title. "I [experienced] this moment when I touched the wall of 'wow, I don't think anyone beat me. That's crazy!'" Mirus said. "Winning the event didn't (and doesn't) matter so much to me individually; I was just super excited that it helped put my team in position to win the whole meet."

Throughout the meet, the team fed off each other's races. "Emmie Mirus' 100 Freestyle in finals on the last day of NCAA was one of the most inspiring swims I have ever seen," Hart said. "It was after that race that the whole Ladies team and coaching staff had so much confidence in each other and our ability to finish off the meet."

As the day went on, the Ladies remained atop the leaderboard. The thought of breaking Emory's 10-year run started to become a possibility for the Ladies. "We all started to really think 'wow, we could really do this,'" Mirus said.

The Ladies continued day four with a third-place finish (2:14.57) by Fadley in the 200-yard breaststroke. The final event of the

meet was the 400-yard freestyle. Needing a sixth-place finish or better to win the national championship, the swimmers' nerves were calmed. "We were confident in ourselves that we could do what needed to be done," Hart said. After a slow start, the Ladies were in eighth place at the halfway mark when Hart and Mirus dove into the water to complete the final two legs of the race. They made up tons of ground, and subsequently helped their team finish third in the event to clinch the trophy for the Ladies.

"The feeling of winning a national championship hit in waves for me," said Mirus. "It started with near disbelief, then relief, then this huge wave of joy that was almost certainly unbreakable at that moment."

Behind Kenyon's 446 points, Emory finished in second place with 439 points and was followed by Denison with 411.5. It was the first national championship for Kenyon College in any sport since the men's swimming and diving team won in 2015.

Head Lords and Ladies Swimming and Diving Coach Jess Book was named co-Division III Coach of the Year for the third time since he took over the job nine years ago. In addition to lifting the team trophy, Hart earned D-III Swimmer of the Year for the second time in her career, having won four individual events and three of the four relays she was in. "It was the most perfect ending to my swim career that I could have ever imagined," Hart said. "I couldn't have asked for a better last meet of my career ever."

## Lords

While the Ladies were powered by seniors, the Lords found success with sophomores and juniors.

The Lords started the meet with a win in the pool and on the board for day one. Bryan Fitzgerald '23 finished first in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:21.58. Israel Zavaleta '24 made his national championships debut with a win in the 3-meter diving competition (561.80).

On day two, Fitzgerald won the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 3:47.62. David Fitch '22 was bested in the

100-yard butterfly, finishing in second (46.86), but still holds the NCAA record at 46.46 seconds.

At the halfway point in the meet, the Lords were in eighth place due to their relays underperforming with a pair of disqualifications. However, their energy persisted, and they were determined to keep going in the meet. "We never lost our hunger to win," Fitzgerald wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "It's a very encouraging takeaway from this meet that what we have as a team is deeply ingrained in us."

Zavaleta helped the Lords gain back points in the meet. He won the 1-meter event with a score of 576.40, breaking not only his own Kenyon record, but also shattering the previous championship event record set in 2002 by almost 20 points. He fell 2.3 points short of the NCAA record. Kosian added a fourth-place finish (47.04) in the 100-yard backstroke.

With 216.5 points, the Lords were in sixth place and ready to earn a top-five finish on day four. Kosian placed second in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 1:42.90.

At the end of the meet, Kenyon men's swimming and diving earned 282.5 points, which was good for a top-five finish. Emory won the meet with 427.5 points. The Lords also had athletes who earned individual honors. Zavaleta earned NCAA Diver of the Year, while Head Men's and Women's Diving Coach Ron Kontura won Dive Coach of the Year. Fitzgerald was named Swimmer of the Year.

While the Ladies will look to defend their title next season for the first time in 13 years, the Lords will be looking to win their first national championship since 2015. "There's no way to guarantee a result," Fitzgerald said. "Our actual finish in the standings depends on who else shows up. However, sort of by definition actually, there will be no path to winning if we don't act like winners for the entire year."



# Baseball begins regular season with three victories at home

**JORDY FEE-PLATT**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Lords baseball team had to wait for quite a while to begin their regular-season slate upon returning from Florida, where their spring break games were held. After four games were postponed due to inclement weather last week, Kenyon finally returned to the field for their home opener on Tuesday against Bluffton University. The team was clearly excited to get back in action, as they earned a two-game sweep of a doubleheader against the Beavers with 5-2 and 6-3 victories. On Wednesday, Kenyon continued their stellar run of play with a victory over Muskingum University 5-3, extending their win streak to six and moving to 11-6 overall.

Over spring break, Kenyon started their season strong in the Sunshine State. After losing their first three games, the Lords bounced back to win eight out of their last 11, returning home with an 8-6 record. Their turnaround was in large part thanks to the performance of two-way player Alex Gow '22, who was especially brilliant on the mound in Florida. In three starts, the Northern California native did not allow a single earned run, and he recorded an outstanding 30 strikeouts in 18 innings. His second start against Hood College (Md.) earned him a National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association honorable mention for National Pitcher of the Week, when Gow threw a complete-game, seven-inning shutout with 15 strikeouts.

Gow started on the mound for the Lords' home opener on Tuesday. After a 1-2-3 first inning, the visiting Beavers found their stride in the second, when a couple of slowly hit ground balls found a hole between the infielders to ignite a rally. Later in the inning, Bluffton took advantage to take a 2-0 lead. However, Kenyon was unfazed. In the bottom half of the second, the Lords scored four runs to set the tone for the rest of the game. After back-to-back singles, Tripper Capps '24 was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Will



Alex Gow '22 earned an honorable mention for National Pitcher of the Week. | COURTESY OF JOSH DUCHENEAUX

Sturgeon '22 then moved the line forward with an infield single, before Drew Robinson '24 was also hit by a pitch, tying the game at 2. A wild pitch in the following at-bat allowed Capps to score, giving the Lords a 3-2 lead. Kenyon later added a fourth run to extend their advantage.

The purple and black spent the rest of the game attempting to hold onto a slim lead. They were able to do so after great relief pitching and some excellent defense. The Lords' bullpen provided five scoreless innings to close out the seven-inning game.

But the relievers certainly didn't do it alone. A key double play ensured Kenyon would hold on to win. In the top of the third, Bluffton had a runner at third with one out. Beavers outfielder Garrett O'Reilly hit a flyball to center. Robinson circled the ball and made the routine catch.

However, his next move was far from routine. After securing the catch, Robinson fired a dart to home plate on the fly to catcher Andrew Rabinowitz '22 to throw out the run-

ner tagging from third base, making a spectacular double play. Robinson quickly knew he had a great shot of throwing out the baserunner. "I was confident that I would throw him out if he tried to run," Robinson said. "As soon as I caught it, I saw him take off and let the ball fly. Once I saw that the throw was on target, I knew [Rabinowitz] was going to make the out at the plate." Following Robinson's outfield assist to end the third, Kenyon's bullpen shut the door in the late innings, and the home squad secured a 5-2 victory.

Despite outstanding pitching through the first six innings, the Lords found themselves behind 1-0 in the second leg of the doubleheader. Again, Robinson made a game-changing play, this time in the batter's box. With runners on second and third with two outs, Robinson bounced a single through the right side to knock in two and give his team the lead. The Illinois product credited his approach at the plate. "I was definitely looking to hit the ball

the other way. And even though I hit it off the end of the bat, sometimes you get lucky and the ball drops," Robinson said. "Definitely not my best swing, but it got the job done."

In the following inning, the Lords opened the floodgates, scoring four runs in the bottom of the seventh to extend their lead to 6-1. Despite a nerve-racking ninth inning, the team held on to win 6-3 to complete the doubleheader sweep. Sturgeon was proud of the way the squad responded after the long layoff. "It was great to get out there and get into rhythm back at home. I thought we threw the ball really well — a bunch of guys stepped up and protected leads in both games," he said. "I've been really impressed with our consistent development as a team."

Kenyon was equally fantastic in their win over Muskingum on Wednesday. They jumped out to an early lead in the bottom of the second, thanks to Robinson yet again. The Lords' centerfielder hit a two-run double to left-center, scoring Capps

and Luke Meister '24. A sacrifice fly extended the Lords lead to 3-0. In the sixth, the Fighting Muskies got a run back to narrow the home's lead to 4-1. However, Meister, who went three for three, hammered a solo home run to left-center, his first of the season to answer back in the bottom half.

After two home runs by Muskingum in the eighth, the Lords lead stood dangerously at 5-3. In the final frame, the Fighting Muskies built a rally, putting runners on first and second with one out and the go-ahead run at the plate. Southpaw Joel Biery '22 entered the game with this dicey situation in front of him, and came through in the clutch for the Lords. Biery struck out the last two hitters of the game, securing the hard-fought victory.

The Lords will look to extend their winning streak this weekend when they travel to face Hiram College in a doubleheader matchup on Saturday.

## Ladies beat No. 13 Washington and Lee, Lords move to 5-4

**TATI GROSS**  
STAFF WRITER

### Ladies

The Ladies got off to a rough start during spring break, dropping their first two matches against Pomona-Pitzer (Calif.) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Mass.), both by a score of 9-0. On March 10, the Ladies lost to No. 11 Carnegie Mellon (Pa.) 7-2, and then a day later to No. 5 Wesleyan University (Conn.) 9-0. They also fell to the University of Mary Washington (Va.) 7-2.

On March 6, the No. 18-ranked Ladies finished the three-day Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) NCAA Division III Indoor Championship with a match victory against host Centre College (Ky.) 5-1. Three wins came from the doubles teams — consisting

of pairs Eleni Dakos '24 and Daria Beshentseva '22, Erika Pontillo '23 and Natalie Connelly '25, and Anna Winslow '22 and Lalasa Nagireddy '25 — as well as the final two from Dakos and Winslow in singles matches.

On March 9, the Ladies defeated Haverford College (Pa.) in a similar style, with three doubles and two singles wins. Pontillo and Winslow, Catriona MacIntosh '23 and Nagireddy, and Dakos and Beshentseva won the doubles, while Dakos and Beshentseva won the singles. In a shortened match against Millsaps College (Miss.), the Ladies posted a 6-0 win, with all players winning in the singles matches on March 15. Four days later, the team won 5-4 against the No. 13-ranked Washington and Lee University (Va.), with two wins for singles (Beshentseva and MacIntosh) and three for doubles

(Beshentseva and Dakos, Pontillo and Winslow, Nagireddy and MacIntosh).

The Ladies went 4-5 during the break. They will look to improve their 5-7 record on the year in the next game against Grinnell College (Iowa) on Friday.

### Lords

For the No. 21-ranked Lords, the first win came against Wesleyan University (Conn.) on March 11. After losing all three of their doubles matches, Kenyon returned with strong singles play. Rishil Kondapaneni '25, Thomas Kallarakal '23, Eric Zhang '25, Rakan Audeh '24 and Henry Wessel '22 won their singles' matches to lead the Lords to a 5-4 victory.

The second win came on March 15 against Coe College (Iowa), with the Lords winning all singles and two

doubles matches. Luis Andres Platas '23, Kondapaneni, Kallarakal, Audeh, Christophe Leblanc '25 and Wessel each won their singles matches, while Kenyon's doubles wins came from the pairs of Christian Picot '25 and Leblanc, and Jacob Smith '23 and Harshal Rukhaiyar '24.

The Lords went 2-2 over break. They lost 5-2 against Carnegie Mellon University (Pa.) and 6-3 against Southwestern University (Texas). They will look to stay above .500 in their match this Saturday against North Carolina Wesleyan College (N.C.).



# After excelling in Florida, Ladies suffer tough losses in Ohio

**KATIE SPARVERO**  
SPORTS ASSISTANT

The Kenyon softball team kicked off the 2022 season with a successful trip to Florida, going 15-3 in the Sunshine State before dropping two games to Otterbein University.

After struggling in 2021, the Ladies were looking for a better start to the season. In their opener, Kenyon's offense exploded against Martin Luther College (Minn.). A six-run first inning put the Ladies on top, and they never looked back. Emily Pater '22 started the game, allowing just one earned run. At the plate, she went three for three while knocking in three runs. After five innings, the game was called with a final score of 21-4.

While their first game had been an offensive outburst, the Ladies' game against Albion College (Mich.) was a pitchers' duel. After walking the game's first batter, Nicole Bishay '22 was stellar, pitching a seven-inning shutout and relying largely on groundouts and flyouts to dispatch the Britons. She credited her performance to her growth as a player over her four seasons at Kenyon. "I think because I gained confidence, I was able to perform well and allow the fielders behind me to do their jobs and get the outs we needed on the field to come back in and get some hits," Bishay wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. She also drove in the game's only run with a fourth-inning double.

The next day, Pater helped to keep the Rochester Institute of Technology (N.Y.) at bay to secure a 1-0 win, with Sara Campagna '22 driving in the game-winning run. The Ladies had to rally for a come-from-behind win against the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford (Pa.). After falling behind 3-0

by the third inning, the Ladies pounced on a series of errors and wild pitches to take the lead, winning 7-4.

Kenyon's first loss of the season came in extra innings against Rockford University (Ill.). Despite the Ladies taking a 6-0 lead into the seventh inning, the Regents were able to capitalize with their runners on the basepaths and take an 8-6 lead. Though the Ladies tied the game in the bottom of the seventh inning, Rockford plated four runs in the eighth and took the game 12-9. Kenyon got back to winning ways with a dominating 8-0 win over New Jersey City University (N.J.). Bishay pitched another shutout, while the Ladies were able to put up consistent performances at the plate. Grace Finn '22, who went two-for-two against the Gothic Knights, attributed the team's ability to bounce back to their focus on details instead of wins. "Rather than focusing on wins, we're just trying to improve as much as possible while also playing the best softball we can," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*.

After an off day on March 9, the Ladies got back into action with a doubleheader sweep of Drew University (N.J.) and Immaculata University (Pa.), their first of four consecutive doubleheader sweeps. Bishay and Kenyon were the first to beat Drew this season (5-1), while Emily Buckwalter's '22 seven RBIs helped the Ladies cruise to a 15-1 win over Immaculata.

The Ladies beat Western Connecticut State University (Conn.) 7-1 on the strength of a complete game from Bishay. In the latter half of the doubleheader, Kenyon's offense was dominant against the State University of New York (SUNY), Delhi (N.Y.). Nicole Archambeau '23 drove in four



Nicole Bishay helped the Ladies to a 15-5 record. | COURTESY OF KENYON ATHLETICS

runs, and Pater, Tori Rogers '22 and Amanda Harris '25 combined for a five-inning shutout (16-0). The next day, the Ladies beat Albion for a second time (6-3) before taking the second game of the day from SUNY Brockport (8-3).

A day off on March 13 left Kenyon refreshed and ready to take on Skidmore College (N.Y.) and Wilmington College. The Ladies beat Skidmore 11-3 thanks to a leadoff home run from Finn and three-hit games from Maddie Friday '24 and Buckwalter. Though the Ladies had just two runs in five innings, they were able to grab momentum in the sixth from a passed ball by Wilmington. Thanks to the offensive outburst and stellar pitching from Bishay, who had earlier that day been named NCAC Pitcher of the Week, the Ladies earned a 10-1 win in six innings. Earning Pitcher of the Week had been a goal of Bishay's this sea-

son. "The competition in our conference is pretty tough this year, so it was really rewarding to see that the hard work we had put in during the off season really paid off in terms of how we performed in Florida," she said.

Though the Ladies' 13-1 run to start the season was the best in program history, they faltered in the penultimate Floridian doubleheader. Mustering only two combined runs on the day, Kenyon fell 3-2 to SUNY Oneonta and 9-0 to Central College (Iowa), with the latter being called after five innings. The Ladies left Florida on a high note as they collected their 14th and 15th victories of the season by defeating the University of Maine at Presque Isle 14-5 and Alfred State College (N.Y.) 11-0.

In their first games back from spring break, the Ladies dropped both halves of their doubleheader against Otter-

bein, falling 12-11 in the first game and 4-2 in the second.

The Ladies' record stands at 15-5 for the season. Kenyon will next play a doubleheader at Denison University on Saturday, their first conference games of the season. Finn believes that the team will be able to take lessons from their losses to Otterbein and come out on top. "Against Denison, we just need to play solid defense and have timely hitting," she said. Bishay noted that the team will have to build on their own energy to continue their strong play against Denison and in the future. "We all know how to play softball, but making sure that we keep the momentum in our favor could really be the deciding factor in whether we win or lose," she said.

# Lords and Ladies lacrosse teams keep their seasons rolling

**FINN ANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

While much of the student body headed home for a restful spring break, Kenyon's men's and women's lacrosse teams worked tirelessly to earn impressive early-season records, with the women's team standing at 7-1 and the men's team at 6-2.

## Ladies

Since the season began, the Ladies have been winning their games by an average of 8.5 goals, a statistic that looks as impressive on the field as it does on paper. Most recently, the team traveled to Allegheny College and won handily 16-5, dishing out the Gators' first loss this season in the process.

Maddie Garner '24 led the team with four points (three goals, one assist). Just days earlier, Garner scored three goals and tallied two assists in Kenyon's 18-8 win against University of Mount Union. Despite such impressive performances, the Ladies suffered a tough loss to No. 14 Catholic University (D.C.) with a final score of 14-8 on March 6, but have been undefeated since then. Kenyon's leading goal scorer, Caroline O'Neil '23, has tallied 30 goals already, an average of 3.75 goals a game.

O'Neil expressed how elated the team is to be playing so well after a long break due to COVID-19. "Collectively, the team is incredibly optimistic about the streak of impres-

sive performances," she wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "Having the last two seasons shortened has made people, me especially, have a deeper appreciation for being able to have a real season."

## Lords

Since the beginning of spring break, the Lords have had a record of 4-2. In both losses, Kenyon had their chances. Against No. 8 Franklin and Marshall College (Pa.), the Lords seemed to be in control of the match in the first quarter, but they couldn't keep up with them and dropped the game 11-6.

Against Albion College (Mich.), the Lords continued to stay neck and neck through-

out the contest, but Albion was able to score the go-ahead goal in the fourth quarter to win 13-12.

Despite their struggles, the team's wins have been notable. The Lords tallied double-digit goal totals against Centre College (Ky.), beating them 12-7 on March 13. Cameron Longway's '25 hat trick helped the Lords secure a 14-5 victory over Adrian College (Mich.). Most recently, Kenyon defeated Allegheny College in a remarkable fashion, winning 15-4. Longway shined in the game against the Gators, scoring five goals on eight shots. He is the team's leading goal scorer with a total of 15 on the season.

Both Kenyon lacrosse teams

will play their next matches on April 2. The Lords will be traveling nearby to play rival No. 20 Denison University, while the Ladies will play Wittenberg University at home at the Benson Bowl. With such amazing records to begin the season, both teams hope to continue their momentum as the playoffs approach.