How to be a Kenyon Student
First-Year Reference Guide

FROM THE EDITORS

This is one of many times over the next few days that you will be instructed on how to be a model Kenyon student. In fact, the orientation program you’ve just begun is designed, essentially, to introduce you to the norms and expectations that are part and parcel of Kenyon’s social contract. As you work your way through enumerable presentations and lectures over the next few days, you will learn what makes the quintessential Kenyon student.

These lessons are invaluable, and you should heed them. But part of being a member of this community is picking up on the small rhythms of life here that don’t fit so neatly in a school-produced handbook — how we socialize and interact with our professors and peers in the classroom. This special issue of the Collegian, which publishes every Thursday with news and insight into the College and Gambier communities, is designed to help you learn those rhythms.

We don’t have all the answers, but we have been where you are now. We all sat wide-eyed through Convocation as our president heralded the achievements and accolades of our class. We ambled toward Peirce Hall afterward and shared our first meal with hallmates that night. It is through the lens of collective experiences that we write to you now.

What you will find as you begin your career here is that Kenyon is rife with eccentricities. After all, this is a place where it is still practically a capital offense to use your cell phone on Middle Path, even if texting has become a necessity of daily life. There is one bar and three restaurants. And yet no one seems to be bothered by this. Over the next few weeks you will hear terms and phrases unique to Kenyon and discover traditions and customs that will be foreign to you at first. Try them all. Deny nothing. Our advice: embrace the quirks of Kenyon life, and you’ll have a much better time here.

Be mindful, too, that there is no single way to “do” Kenyon. You should forge your own path here, and build on the College’s traditions rather than following them to a T. In other words, use this issue as a starting point. We’ve provided you with the tools to begin your Kenyon journey, but we cannot determine how you will use them.

So welcome to Kenyon. We’re excited to see where you go from here.
Academics

Picking classes 101: Starting the year off right

By HENRI GENDREAU | OPINIONS & PHOTO EDITOR

On a hot Monday in late summer, Professor of Anthropology David Suggs received a knock on his office door.

Suggs’ office, an enclave of hefty tomes, artifacts, rugs and Botswana statuettes, sits in Palmer House, the blush-green-turreted building that greets visitors climbing the winding hill that opens up magically to Kenyon’s leafy campus.

It was first-year Orientation, and the person at Suggs’ door had re-searched classes for the coming se-mester and had seen that Suggs’ ever-popular Introduction to Cultural Anthropology required professor ap-proval.

What makes you want to take this class, Suggs wanted to know.

“For it sounded interesting and it was something I have never studied before, I guess,” I said somewhat lamely.

“That’s a good reason,” he said.

And it is. You will hear administrators and students alike speak of how first years ought to spend the semester “experi-menting” and “trying new things.”

And that especially holds true for academics.

But don’t trust me. “You never know. What do you think you might like?” David Suggs, professor of Political Science, asked a group of first-year students in Ransom Hall.

“You should ask why you came to a place like Kenyon,” Baumann said. “What’s happening in the classroom.”

For the first semester, “you can’t fulfill all of those [distribution] requirements but you should fulfill at least some of them mind.”

For example, a math class (which counts as a natural science) and a physics class would not fulfill the requirement because the first is in the math department and the second in physics.

More information about distribution requirements can be found on Kenyon’s website or in academic handbooks at the admissions office in Ransom Hall.

“I got the advice to go to my professors, but was it was something I have never studied before.”

The courses must also be in the same department.

“Some students take a course in the same department, but you should ask why you came to a place like Kenyon,” Baumann said.

To Dr. Adele Davidson, a professor of English, students should “ask to do the writing. … You’re not really limited, career-wise, by your major.”

“Sometimes students think office hours are when you’re in trouble, rather than just a way to go beyond what’s happening in the classroom.”

Scott Cummings, professor of Chemistry, said “Students always come back and tell [the English department] that they’re the ones in their office being asked to do the writing. … You’re not really limited, career-wise, by your major.”

“It’s not as important what you major in. What’s much more important are the courses you take. I mean, yeah, when you’re a junior and thinking about what you want to do after college, you’ve got to finish the race, you’ve got to finish the major.”

While students shouldn’t fret about the distribution require-ments, both Shutt and Baumann recommended keeping them in mind.

For the first semester, “you can’t fulfill all of those [distribution] requirements but you should fulfill at least some of them right from the outset,” Shutt said. “Other than that, go where your heart leads you.”

“They should ask themselves why they came to a place like Kenyon,” Baumann said.
Get involved: A sampling of extra-curriculars at Kenyon

Sooner or later you will realize that Kenyon has a club for just about everything. Take an early look at a few of the clubs that may spark your interest at the Fall Activities Fair on Saturday, Sept. 7.

Fools on the Hill

"Fools on the Hill is a great experience as a first year because of the bond it fosters and the mentality it promotes. The other Fools are among my closest friends. I know them better than other students and we all share a passion for entertainment and comedy. Improv as a form of acting emphasizes skills useful to any individual, such as creativity, spontaneity and confidence. As an activity, I've never found it to be too much of a time commitment. I will say that a Fool should have a rather extensive sense of humor; we tend to explore rather wild scenes and jokes. That said, anyone interested in improv should audition for Fools."  - Kip Clark '16

Equestrian Team

"The Equestrian Team is a great way to meet people. If you grew up riding horses then it's a great way to rekindle your interest. One of the best things about our club is that you don't need any experience. ... Being on the team costs $100 per semester and lessons are about $20 each. ... For the people who are interested in being more competitive, we also go to about three or four shows a semester. ... Hickory Hill Farm [where the team rides] has horses and extra gear, so you don't need to provide anything. ... It's a great group to have around and it's a great support system."  - Helen Rogers '15

Kenyon Film Makers

"Being a part of the Kenyon Film Makers gave me the opportunity to continue pursuing my interests in film making while at Kenyon. Not only did it give me access to tools I might otherwise not have access to ... but it also presented me with the opportunity to meet other like-minded people. The club also holds film festivals throughout the year. ... I personally enjoy editing so I took the chance to help edit people's films for a couple festivals. ... If you enjoy collaborating on film projects or making your own, the Kenyon Film Makers is a great resource on campus."  - Bradley Raynor '16

The Chasers

"Trying out for the Chasers was one of the best decisions I made. ... It gave me something to look forward to during the week, after a long day of classes and studying. We practice Sunday through Thursday night, usually from 10:15 p.m. to 11:15 p.m. ... Being in an a cappella group is a big time commitment. ... It is totally worth it, though. Getting up on stage for the fall and spring concerts is the best feeling. Usually Rosse Hall is close to being full. One of the best parts of being a Chaser is the brotherhood. ... Each member begins to feel like part of one big, happy, singing family."  - Emily Hurd '15

Club Soccer

"Club soccer only meets twice a week; it's fairly relaxed ... it's good to have something in the week to calm down, exercise a little. It's also a great way to meet people and it doesn't require anything outside of practices. ... Last year, we had a player who never really played soccer in his life before, so he asked us stuff like, 'How do I pass the ball?' Yet, he worked pretty hard and was actually one of the really good players on the field when we played against Oberlin. ... Also, every now and then professors play for the club. Anyway, everybody should join; we have no tryouts."  - Felix Jansen '16
Where Alcohol is/is Not Allowed

Alcohol is not allowed in academic or administrative buildings (or surrounding areas), the Horn Gallery, or anywhere on the first-year quad. For students of legal age, alcohol is allowed in residential spaces and Gund Commons.

Students of legal age may drink on the patios and steps of residential buildings and surrounding lawns as long as they remain on College property and do not create a disturbance.

Drugs

Less than 100 grams of marijuana considered for “personal use” will be confiscated by Campus Safety along with any paraphernalia. The student may face College judicial action but their name will not be reported to the sheriff. Any greater quantity found will be confiscated and the student will be reported to the sheriff.

If hard drugs are discovered, the student will be reported to the sheriff, regardless of the amount.

Campus Safety Jurisdiction

Campus Safety cannot cite underage drinking in the Village Inn, the Gambier Grill, or the Kenyon Inn because these are private businesses and Safety officers do not enter unless they are called.

Late-Night Rules

Academic buildings: The Art Gallery is closed at 11:00 p.m. each night. Other academic buildings close between 12:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. If students need to stay in a building later, they need permission from a faculty member. Campus Safety will then regularly check in on the student. These rules apply seven days a week.

Parking lots: In order to prevent vandalism, Campus Safety and the sheriff will ask students leaving in parking lots for extended periods to vacate.

The Train and Gap Trail: These areas are under the control of the Village. The sheriff enforces them but Campus Safety does not. Safety, however, will ask you to leave these areas after dark so students can avoid confrontation with the sheriff.

Open Containers

Open containers of alcohol are not allowed anywhere on Village property. This restriction includes Village roads (outlined in red) and the areas surrounding private residences (white buildings).

Roads that are not in red are College property, but open containers are not allowed. The sheriff cannot cite you on those roads, but Campus Safety has authority.

Open containers are allowed on South Quad. The first light post on the walk north from Old Kenyon, however, is Campus Safety’s boundary line. At that point the academic area begins and officers will stop anyone with an open container and request him or her to return to the quad.

Smoking

Smoking is not allowed within 15 feet of a dorm, and public buildings. Smoking is permitted in designated areas.

Public Intoxication

On College property: Safety will take the student back to his or her room without issuing a citation.

Village streets: The sheriff can cite or arrest publicly intoxicated students. A student can improve his or her chances of receiving only a citation by remaining polite and respectful of the sheriff’s deputy.

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Dorm Life

Decorating

A dorm room is the center of academic success. It’s the home base during college. It’s the foundation for four great years. But what about that light bulb you left back home? Or that extra towel you surely needed?

Enter Harcourt Parish’s Annual Rummage Sale, a Gambier community institution since the 1950s. Harcourt Parish sells items donated by community members and students from the previous year. Eighty percent of the proceeds go to other charities and 20 percent go to Harcourt Parish.

First-year students will have the opportunity to snag Harcourt Parish’s sought-after objects at a first-years-only rummage preview sale on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Here are some tips to keep in mind before the sale.

• Command hooks, any and all types, are your best friends (except for the ones that make holes in your wall, of course). Make sure to load up on adhesive tape. Make that wall into your own work of art.
• Give your dorm room a personal touch. Twinkle lights are cheap and can give your room a holiday cheer during the winter. Check Walmart for good offers on themed lights.
• Check Amazon for specials on a multitude of cheap posters.
• Consider painting your own frames using Dollar Store stencils. Spray paint on a canvas to make quote pictures. That way, you can choose the color, size and saying for far less than retail price.
• If a funny pattern or print on a wrapping paper catches your eye, use Modge Podge to cement it to a canvas for a wall hanging. Stores like Patina and some specialty card stores sell sheets of wrapping paper with map designs.
• Use storage bins to fit things in tight spaces. That under-the-bed space can be a saving grace in a crowded room. In the long run, organized bins can save you from accidentally buying things twice.
• Kenyon paraphernalia from the Bookstore is always on spot. Check out the Bookstore for ways to spice up your room.

— Emily Sakamoto

Roommates

There is nothing that can make or break your first-year experience more easily than your living situation, and sharing a space with someone is a tricky dance for even the most flexible of people. You are bound to have at least one, if not more, seemingly catastrophic fights with your roommate during the course of the year. The trick is not to avoid the inevitable fights, but to deal with them afterwards and figure out how you can make your living situation work for the both (or three) of you.

Below are some helpful hints I’ve accumulated over the years to help deal with problems that may arise with your roommate during the year.

Make a roommate living agreement: The roommate living agreement that your Community Advisor (CA) asks you to complete is the most efficient way to avoid issues before they happen. Set guidelines and simple rules early on to avoid such annoyances. Even if you don’t complete the entire agreement, talk about your sleep schedules, social interests and extracurricular commitments early on so you can avoid stepping on each other’s toes.

Address issues directly: I cannot stress the importance of this enough: Do not let issues fester. If you have a legitimate problem with your roommate, discuss it with him or her with intent to fix the issue and not exacerbate it. Don’t put Post-It notes on their dirty clothes on the floor saying, “This is disgusting.” Politely tell him/her that you find their unwashed clothing slightly unhygienic and ask if the two of you could find a way to clear it out. Communicate your intent to find a solution to the problem. Showering their clothing with disabilities will not fix your issues, only exacerbate them.

Never resort to physical violence: It seems like the simplest solution, I know. You find your roommate outside of an Old Kenyon party and she refuses to put her shoes on and go home. You’re fed up with everything you’ve had to put up with so far — and now you’re here. Outside of Old Kenyon, slapping her across the face and telling her to grow up. This is not the answer. Not only have you risked incarceration but you have also nailed the proverbial coffin shut on ever fixing things with your roommate.

Talk to your CA if issues persist: If your roommate has repeatedly disregarded your living agreement and attempts to actively resolve issues and you’ve avoided violence as a means to solving your problems, it’s time to talk to your CA. Tell him or her specific instances where your roommate has refused to acknowledge the living agreement, and your CA will start the process of roommate mediation — a conversation between you, your roommate and the CA to discuss the issues that have led you to that point. If mediation fails, you may choose to begin the process of a room change. In my experience, mediation is enough to get the conversation started where before it was lacking.

— Lauren Toole

Laundry Room

Laundry Day: Purple surprisingly not separated

1. Sort: Wash in cold if your item is brightly colored, delicate or tight jeans. Use a cold-water detergent.
2. Load washing machine
3. Select cycle: Press the button for cold or warm. Then select normal, perm press, delicates or bulky.
4. Add detergent: Fill detergent lid up to the designated line and pour into the compartment on the right inside of the detergent drawer. Laundry detergent pods go straight in the machine with clothes.
5. Pay: Locate the gray K-Card swiper on the wall. Swipe your K-Card or put coins in the machine and then punch in the washer number. Press enter. After the swiper displays the cost of the load, press enter again. The swiper will read your current balance and then you must press the start button on the washer.
6. Sort items for drying: You can put almost any item in the dryer, unless you do not want the item to shrink or it is made out of wool, rayon, linen or silk.
7. Load Dryer
8. Select Heat Setting: Most clothes should be dried on medium heat. Select high heat only if you are in a hurry and select delicates if you are using a dry cleaning bag.
9. Repeat step five and fold

Is laundry not your thing? Dormside Depot offers complete laundry services through their website, www.thedormsidepot.com. Moreover, the Bookstore provides dry cleaning services through Gault Cleaners.

You may drop off items at the Bookstore on Tuesdays and pick them up on Thursdays, or drop off items on Thursday and pick them up on Tuesday.
Oh, the places you’ll go (when you go off campus)

Do you have access to a car?  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>How does rampant bourgeois commercialism make you feel?</th>
<th>Like capitalist swine!</th>
<th>But what if it's bougie ice cream?</th>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>I'm hungry</td>
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<td>Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream</td>
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<td>I'm hungry ... for adventure</td>
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<td>Dream of nachos.</td>
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<td>I just want food now</td>
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<td>Melt cheese</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Honey Run</td>
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<td>Colonial City Bowling Lanes</td>
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December-old programs bridge college and community

A one-of-a-kind, nationally recognized initiative — Food for Thought — may pop the "Kenyon Bubble." That’s the idea, at least, for Professor of Sociology and Rural Life Center Director Howard Sacks. Prompted by a study conducted between 1994 and 1997 in which students explored the relationship between family, farming and the surrounding rural community, and by the growing threat of urban sprawl from Columbus, Food for Thought is a college-wide initiative focused on food, farming and rural life.

Supported by a 2002 grant from the McGregor Fund, Food for Thought has three components. “One was to build the study of agriculture and rural life into the curriculum,” Sacks said. “The second was to make it a significant aspect of co-curricular [...] engagement with the surrounding community through agriculture, and then the third component [...] was to work collaboratively with the community to help preserve farming.”

In the last decade, these components have taken form. Academically, students can take classes on food and farming from different departments, including philosophy and environmental studies. “The liberal arts is all about a synthetic intellectual experience and carrying that out into the world,” Sacks said. “It’s about seeing that the biology of something, and the culture, and the philosophy, and the ethics and the economics of it all link together back into having a good life.

This idea of having a good life, according to Sacks, is essential to a liberal education. “What does it mean to live a good life? That’s the only question liberal education is about. And one of the keys to learning how to live a good life is learning connection to place,” he said. “Just like learning how to write well, learning how to think critically, learning how to be able to conduct individual research or learning how to work collaboratively [...] I would add learning connection to place.”

Kenyon teaches this “connection to place” through several avenues. First, the Rural Life Center, a college-to-community program established in 1998, promotes various educational, scholarly and public programs to engage with Knox County. “We’ve done all sorts of public projects. Radio series, exhibits, series of articles in the local newspaper, public events,” Sacks said. “We’ve developed a local food council with people from all over the county, including students, to figure out how to promote local buying and selling.”

The weekly farmer’s market is a must-see for students, this can mean working on an independent study or joining People Endorsing Agriculture (PEAS). Becca Kasongo ’14, manager of the Rural Life Center, has done everything from working with a family farm to conducting oral history interviews with area residents. Last summer, she worked closely with AVI, Kenyon’s food service provider, and their director of sustainability, John Marsh, to learn about the College’s local food program and engage with the community.

“Students at Kenyon, we really interact with our own friends and professors and just the people around Kenyon,” he said. “We never really get to interact with people we don’t really see, like the Amish community. [...] We don’t really think about ‘why do they come here?’ [...] You wouldn’t believe me if I told you that an Amish lady wakes up at four in the morning to cut up zucchini and put it in a basket and takes it to [Pierce].”

And, of course, every student on campus can partake in the greater community when visiting Peirce Dining Hall. About 40 percent of the food served in Peirce is produced locally, according to Sacks. “This includes butters, jam, honey, beef, pork, spelt flour, yogurt, applesauce and, depending on the season, a wide variety of fresh produce. By recognizing the Rural Life Center’s efforts in Peirce, Sacks hopes to shift the public’s opinion on food production and sustainability, essentially turning the cafeteria into a classroom.

Nonetheless, there are challenges to working with local food production. For instance, most dining service directors can purchase food online from a national food distributor. In contrast, Marsh, as well as AVI chefs, must be more flexible. “You have to prepare food in small batches and set your menus according to what’s available seasonally,” Sacks said. “AVI was willing to go that route with us and do things differently.”

Still, Marsh is happy to make the extra effort if it means working with local farmers. “I could do it all right here at my desk [...] but I’ve found that most all of the relationships that I have, all the new products that we come up with, and all the new venues that we have, all comes from being in the field,” he said. “You don’t do that on the phone. You have to be with people.”
When Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies Ric Sheffield was raised in Mount Vernon, they are shocked. “They’ll go, ‘No way.’ There are no black people in Mount Vernon,” Sheffield said. Recalling numerous conversations with students over the years, Sheffield and Professor of English Ted Mason were two of Kenyon’s first African-American faculty members. Since arriving in 1989, they have seen Kenyon grow in both size and diversity.

In the College’s Bentley Hall Seminary day, the school’s Episcopal affiliations provided means for students from missionary schools in Asia and Africa to attend the seminary and accompanying grammar school. African prince Kwalukatate attended the grammar school until his early death of influenza, and small number of Chinese and Japanese students consistently enrolled at the seminary.

Kenyon’s 16th president Gordon Chalmers was the first to begin actively recruiting African-American students to the College. “Chalmers, I think, had a personal belief in the College being open to everyone and making an effort to establish an African-American presence in the student body,” said Tom Stamp, College historian and keeper of Kenyoniana. Chalmers visited schools along the east coast, including Central High School in Philadelphia, Pa., where he met Allen Ballard and Stanley Jackson; in 1952 they became Kenyon’s first black graduates. After the time, roughly 500 students attended Kenyon at a cost of $380 per year.

Ballard’s book The Education of Black Folk chronicles the difficulty he experienced as one of two black students. “[Jackson and I] had the misfortune to become the first of our race to enter Kenyon College,” Ballard writes. “We were, in fact, forced to suppress our natural inner selves so as to conform to the mores of a community in Philadelphia, Pa., where we had met Allen Ballard and Stanley Jackson; in 1952 they became Kenyon’s first black graduates. After the time, roughly 500 students attended Kenyon at a cost of $380 per year.

The first black professor would not arrive until 1975, when Kenneth Bluford joined the English department. Bluford remained Kenyon’s only black faculty member until 1988, when Sheffield and Mason arrived. After Bluford’s departure, the number of African-American professors on campus grew to four with the additions of Professor of History Robert Hinton and Professor of Psychology G. Renée McDonough.

But 1996 was a difficult year for the small group. Hinton was denied tenure and McDonald was turned down for a second reappointment, sparking a series of heated all-student emails and protests in front of Rose Hall. In a speech given at the 50th-anniversary celebration of having African-Americans on faculty, Sheffield said he and Mason “made a pact.” “We told each other: if you go, I go,” he said. It wasn’t until 2005 that an African-American faculty member — Professor of Sociology Maria Kohlman — was given tenure.

During his time here, Mason has served on diversity task forces and written for Xeroxpublica, a literary journal of social issues published briefly in the early 1990s. “I was quoted on a poster as saying that one of our problems here at Kenyon was a conspicuous level of comfort,” Mason wrote. “I meant it when I first said it and still do, because that comfort has a price, as all forms of blindness do.”

Mason summarized Kenyon’s present-day challenges in three parts: “How do we diversify the pool, how do we increase the likelihood of getting a more diverse faculty through the hiring of different folks and … how do we keep them here?”

Several groups have been organized over the years to address these various issues, including the 1991 Committee on the Disadvantaged and two diversity task forces in 1987 and 2006. The recommendations of the task forces aimed to attract and maintain minority faculty and students, and addressed weaknesses in the College’s approach to recruiting. They suggested a multicultural center and recommended “the sponsorship of events to heighten awareness of minority issues.” They expressed goals such as having “minority faculty hired into positions that are specifically related to Afro-American curricular areas” and attracting “minority candidates for any new tenure-track position.” Since then, Snowdon Multicultural Center was created, a partnership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was established and the Yudhannah Dissertation Fellowships became available to faculty among many other opportunities.

“Ethnicity is one thing, but socioeconomic factors as well. ‘Most of these students often come from countries where there is no private education,’” Professor of Biology Haruhiko Itagaki said. “Nobody has ever saved money into the world they’re going to try to live in, it makes sense that a campus should also at least to some extent reflect the diversity of the country.”

The combination of Nagant’s fundraising and Delahunty’s recruiting efforts proved successful in attracting students with more varied backgrounds, despite the fact that Kenyon’s faculty is currently more diverse than its student body. “When … Georgia and I came to Kenyon in 2003, [Kenyon] was between eight and nine percent domestic students of color, and this last year was over 18 percent,” Delahunty said, referring to the Class of 2016’s status as the most diverse to enter Kenyon. “We’re hoping that this year will be even more successful.”

Admissions is taking steps to increase diversity in areas other than race, and are becoming more and more important in today’s difficult financial climate. “Ethnicity is one thing, but socioeconomic is another,” Delahunty said, adding that gender and first-generation status are included under the broad umbrella of diversity. As its term two weeks ago, the Board of Trustees voted to add $2,092,000 to the financial aid budget for next year, so that Kenyon can continue to meet 100 percent of need — something Delahunty called a “deeply-held value.”

“Because Kenyon promises to meet 100 percent of need, it must also be ‘need-aware’ and take prospective students’ need for aid into account when deciding whether or not to accept them. Few schools are able to make such a promise, but it would take a ‘herculean’ effort to make Kenyon need-blind, according to Delahunty. Compared to similar liberal arts schools, Kenyon’s relatively small endowment provides a considerable roadblock to diversification efforts. Williams, which had a $1.8 billion dollar endowment last year, is able to present a much more attractive aid package to disadvantaged students. Nagant acknowledged Kenyon’s own disadvantage in the competition. ‘Socioeconomic diversity’ is huge challenge for us,” Nagant said. “You just try and do what you can within the constraints that are immovable objects.”

Today, Kenyon continues to face considerable challenges in trying to attract students of varying backgrounds to a remote hill in the middle of the second whitest congressional district in the country. “It takes a special kind of person to come out in the middle of the second whitest congressional district in the country. ‘It takes a special kind of person to come out in the middle of the second whitest congressional district in the country.”

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Diversity over the years has slowly but consistently increased since former president Gordon Chalmers began actively reaching out to students of color in the late 1940s.

“Students of Color”

Increased efforts to recruit students from Asian countries has brought discoveries and challenges.

“...I've been in Beijing all my life and I've never really been to a rural area, so coming to Gambier was such a big change for me. I really hate Beijing's pollution and the crowds everywhere. I feel like coming here was a very good change for me because... I can [see] stars in the sky for the first time,” Li said. “I feel like I can live 10 years longer by staying here for four years.”

Many of the Chinese students Kenyon admissions officers meet share Chen's and Li's feelings about the College's setting, “I think what appeals to a lot of international students is the close-knit community,” Broeren said. “They want that small setting, especially students from Shanghai, where there [are] 23 million people. They love the fact that there's no traffic light.”

Kenyon's small setting doesn't appeal to all foreign students, though. According to Nugent, when Kenyon admissions officers traveled to India to run a focus group with potential students, they made some startling discoveries. "All the things that are of sort of positive things for us were completely different," Nugent said. "The overwhelming sense for Indian students was that if it's a small college it must be bad, because if it were good you'd get big. And then rural was associated with no electricity, no running water. We'd have to think of a completely different way of familiarizing people with this kind of education.”

In part to tackle that challenge, Li is now helping the Office of Admissions efforts to make Kenyon more global. Last summer, she joined Broeren on the China Liberal Arts College Tour in Beijing, she decided that she wanted a school with a small setting, so she set up interviews with representatives from Grinnell and Kenyon.

“I met with Bev More, who was the Director of International Admissions at Kenyon, and she's now my host mom,” Li said. "I really clicked with [Bev] and she told me she thought I was a perfect candidate for Early Decision and I was a re-
The Collegian’s dictionary

OF THE GAMBIER LANGUAGE

All-stu, n. Short for “all-student email,” an email that all subscribed students receive. Used to sell and buy items, promote events, spam inboxes, etc. To subscribe, send an email to allstu-request@kenyon.edu with “SUBSCRIBE” in the body of the email. Do not send the email to allstu@kenyon.edu and do not put anything else in the email.

B-F-C, n. Brown Family Environmental Center. Pronounced “BEE-Feck.” Not to be confused with the BFC (Business and Finance Committee (BFC, pronounced B-F-C)).

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

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

Co·shoc·ton, n. The avenue in Mount Vernon where Walmart and most of the fast food restaurants are, along with Knox Community Hospital (KCH). This ugly strip is in contrast to the older and more charming downtown Mount Vernon.

D-Cat, n. Nickname for Kenyon President Sean Decatur.

Gap Trail, the, n. The Kokosing Gap Trail, a bike trail that runs along the Kokosing River down the hill from campus. Was originally a railroad line, which is why an old stream train is on display near the KAC.

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

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

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

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

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

Squad, the, n. The science Quad, aka those four buildings between Hanna and Rosse. Contains Samuel Mather, Tomsich, Hayes and Higley Halls.

Wig·gle·ground, n. Wiggin Street Coffee, which recently replaced Middle-Ground cafe. The go-to coffee spot on campus.

Quick Tip #5
If you want to avoid the rush, go to the KAC before 4:00 p.m.