Course feedback limited in scope

JULIE FRANCE | FEATURES EDITOR

During final exams it can be a lot to ask of students to take a moment from studying to fill out course evaluations — and even more so to take the time to write a well thought-out response. But while 90 to 92 percent of Kenyon students do complete all of their course evaluations at the end of every semester, their efforts may not be going toward what they expected.

“I’m assuming that the administration reviews [the course evaluations] and then, unless the students say something very poor about the professor, they wouldn’t do anything about it,” Lea England ’16 said. “But, if the student does say something about a professor, then I’m assuming they talk to them.”

In actuality, if a student chooses to express concerns about a professor in one of the supplemental, narrative questions, administrators never see those answers.

Kenyon’s website only specifies the supplemental course evaluation questions “will not become part of the official review dossier used by department chairs, the provost and [the] Tenure and

Student managers to be phased out

PHOEBE ROE | NEWS ASSISTANT

Four student managerial positions at the Kenyon Athletic Center (KAC) will be eliminated over the course of the current semester in order to increase the hours of Kenyon’s full-time assistant coaches.

“Everyone wants to be full time, everyone wants to get benefits, everyone wants to be paid more,” said Steve Gruenberg, assistant coach for the football and baseball teams. “You might be able to hold on to coaches a little bit longer if you can pay them a little bit more.”

Most assistant coaches are paid for six months of employment, and many choose to either find alternative employment for half of the year, or move on to other coaching jobs at different schools. This leads to a regular rotation of new assistant coaches, which can be problematic as student athletes and assistant coaches attempt to build relationships.

Assistant coaches have many jobs at

Off-campus study sees slight decline

PHOEBE CARTER | STAFF WRITER

The number of students interested in off-campus study programs took a slight hit as the College continues to implement and refine a new fee structure for the program. Two-hundred and forty-five sophomores applied to study abroad in early November, protesting that the bursary payment process is too time-consuming. Meanwhile, Marne Ausec, director of the Center for Global Engagement, which administers study abroad procedures, said she has been encouraged by the “persistent rates,” or the number of students who did not drop out of the program after initially applying.

That percentage, she said, was more important than the raw number of applicants because of the College’s fluctuating class sizes. On average, Ausec said, about 52 percent of graduating seniors have studied off campus before they leave Kenyon.

Under the old payment system, students who went abroad would pay tuition directly to their off-campus study program, plus an $1,800 fee to Kenyon to cover various administrative costs. Beginning this year,
CSAD to host economic inequality forum

The Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD) announced Monday that former Washington Post blogger Ezra Klein and political scientist Robert Putnam will be among the participants in its biennial conference — which this year will focus on political angles on economic inequality.

In an email to students, the Center shared a new flyer for the conference, which will take place April 9-11. In addition to Klein and Putnam, the flyer listed Austan Goolsbee, a former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Obama; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, the director of the Congressional Budget Office during the George W. Bush administration; New York Times columnist Ross Douthat; and Brookings Institution fellow William A. Galston.

“Besides addressing some of the recent economic and financial headlines, the conference will offer an opportunity to consider timeless questions about stable liberal democracy,” according to a description of the conference on CSAD’s website. The Center calls this topic “just the sort of inquiry for which Kenyon’s liberal arts environment is so well suited.”

Thomas Karako, assistant professor of political science and CSAD’s director, said the conference’s topic was timely because “inequality lately seems to be on the lips of politicians everywhere — right, left and center.”

“CSAD is working with a number of campus partners to make this happen,” Karako said as plans for the conference began to take shape. “Faculty comment to me that they’re working the topic into their classes, and student groups are putting together events or discussion groups, all of which reflects Kenyon’s characteristic engagement in the policy issues of the day.”

This is the third biennial CSAD conference. In 2012, the topic was “Should America Promote Democracy Abroad?” and 2010 saw the first conference, “The Future of Political Parties.”

— Eric Geller

Village has watery mess on its hands

When Mayork Eckman discovered a stream of water in front of his house on the afternoon of Wednesday, Jan. 29, he knew something was wrong.

The Village of Gambier was confronted with a major water leak last Wednesday. Village Administrator Suzanne Hopkins reported the incident to the Council last Monday.

What was originally thought to be a watermain leak at East Brooklyn and North Acland Streets turned out to be a break in a service line that Hopkins called “substantial.”

Hopkins said the Village used 111,500 gallons more water than average on the day of the leak. Small’s Sand & Gravel of Gambier responded swiftly, Hopkins said, and was able to repair the leak.

At the meeting, the Council approved an emergency $1,500 for leak protectors to ensure that the leak did not extend to other lines, because the Village had detected an increase of 3,500 gallons above average for three days straight.

Hopkins said Village maintenance crews were to check all hydrants on Tuesday. She said the weather, which dropped into negative temperatures in the evening, was a likely factor in the break, and that the Village had not yet received an invoice from Small’s.

— Henri Gendreau

Board of Trustees gather for winter meeting

Kenyon’s Board of Trustees will convene for their annual winter meeting this week with the express goals of passing a budget for the College and hearing presentations from the board’s subcommittees. The board also expects to hear from the College on the issue of housing costs, a topic raised by students at the last board meeting in October.

Unlike most Board meetings, which are held on campus, the winter meeting’s location rotates between off campus venues. This year’s winter meeting will be hosted by Alan Rothenberg ’76, who lives in San Francisco.

“The location is reflective of the Board’s being very mindful of the demographics of the school moving in a westerly direction,” said Board Chairman Barry Schwartz ’70 in a previous interview with the Collegian.

Although snowstorms have affected millions of Americans this week, Schwartz said board members unable to make it to San Francisco by Thursday, when the meeting begins, would be able to participate by phone.

The Board’s main goal for the meeting will be the approval of a new budget. “The budget conversation is important,” Schwartz said.

Additionally, the College will present potential solutions to the problem of unequal housing costs. “I expect to hear from the administration on [housing],” Schwartz said. Any action the Board takes will likely affect seniors first, who are most eligible to live in more expensive apartment-style housing.

— Sam Colt

Social Media Director Josh Fitzwater on his Kenyon regrets:

“There was an ill-fated meme that I made one time... The Thrill took it and created all over it, which was fine. I found a random photo of a bicycle that I thought was cool. The first year (of working here) was kind of a lot of beta testing to see what works for different audiences, and like clearly that didn’t work for anybody. What’s interesting is that it’s that sort of the content marketing game. Not everything is a slam dunk and sometimes you push your people off by trying to do something you think that they may like and they’re like, ‘Come on, you’re trying too hard.’”

— Graham Reid

Village Council—

Monday, Feb. 3

• Village Administrator Suzanne Hopkins reported a major water leak that occurred last week. Village maintenance crews and representatives from Small’s Sand & Gravel Inc. responded and were able to repair the leak.

• Hopkins reported the Village is running low on salt reserves and is in the process of getting more.

• A representative from Energy will report at the upcoming Streets and Utilities Committee meeting, to be held Monday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. in the Gambier Community Center, about a community aggregation for gas. If Council approves the plan, it will be on the November ballot.

• Gambier’s spring Dumpster Day will be Saturday, May 3 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Gambier Maintenance Barn, and the fall Dumpster Day will be Saturday, Oct. 4 at the same time and place.

• Gambier Mayor Kirk Emmert reported he and other members of the Council and Village community attended the most recent meeting of the committee to update Kenyon’s campus master plan, and that he appreciates the College’s inclusion of Village administrators.

• Council approved the 2014 budget unanimously.

• Council passed a resolution for membership into the Knox County Regional Planning Commission, which aims to promote the well-being, land management and beautification of the county.

• Council approved by title only the first reading of an ordinance to amend existing law to provide a slight percentage increase for employees’ wages and benefits.

• Council approved $26,275 to BirdTree Inc. for improvements to East Woodside Drive from Allen Drive to Gaskin Avenue.

• Council approved an emergency $1,500 to ensure control of leaks in the Village.

Village Record—

Jan. 30 – Feb. 5

Jan. 31, 4:09 a.m. — Student complaint of difficulty breathing, mild weakness, sore ribs and chills in Caples Residence Hall.

Jan. 31, 10:32 p.m. — Student lost consciousness/fainted in Ascension Hall. Safety officers responded and assessed. Student declined Squad or call to nurse.

Feb. 1, 3:23 p.m. — Fire alarm activated in Storer Hall. Temperature in room very warm. Maintenance contacted to remedy and reset alarm.

Feb. 3, 3:30 a.m. — Student(s) did not follow instructions from Safety officer(s) and continued to behave mischievously in Peirce Hall.

Student Council—

Sunday, Feb. 2

Student Council heard about a plan for greater accessibility to community service initiatives and discussed the merits and drawbacks of such a plan. Council also announced the winners of two campus offices, gave the go-ahead for three clubs and the Business and Finance Committee (BFC) approved various club expenditures.

• Student Council heard ideas from writers Pete Rodrigue ’14 and Grant Josi ’14 about expanding the College’s community service programs. The discussion included the possibility of a first-year-specif ic program during Orientation and the need for a centralized set of information; although many organizations perform services, information on those programs is not always widely available.

• The Academic Affairs Committee reported on the success of last semester’s program to make the late withdrawal option more visible to students. The registrar noticed a decline in last minute requests.

• The Student Life Committee reported the election to Campus Senate of Independent Representative Alex Britt ’15 and First-Year Representative Lily McBride ’17.

• Council approved three new student organizations: Tabletop Club, a group focused on various games; Kenyon Music Society, an informal organization of musicians; and Partnership of East Knox County and Kenyon College, a group dedicated to helping the recently defunded school district. Students will act as teaching aids and provide extracurricular activities.

• Council approved the Business and Finance Committee’s decisions regarding the supplemental budgets of 11 organizations: Relay for Life, Men’s Frisbee (only two-thirds of lodging costs were approved), Cinearts (no money was allocated for food), Indigenous Nations at Kenyon, Middle Eastern Students Association, Kenyon College Outdoors Club, Renegade Theater, Kenyon Film Makers, Hot Meals and Club Tennis. Martial Arts Club did not present a budget, and no funds were allocated.

• The Buildings and Grounds Committee reported that Maintenance plans to reorient a sideways storm drain, which has proved dangerous to cyclists, once it becomes unfrozen.

• Council heard updates from class committees on successful events from last week and future event planning.

— Graham Reid
an art, I was always really against political art.” At Kenyon, Tsymbalyuk studied studio art as well as German and Italian.

“Was working, I had a very normal life, and then … I just couldn’t stay home,” said Tsymbalyuk, who moved to Kiev from her hometown of Mykolaiiv in September to be closer to the action. “My life is pretty much nonexistent except for [the protests]. I don’t sleep much these days, and sometimes only eat once a day. I’m so energized by the spirit here.”

Demonstrations began in November 2013 in Maidan Square when Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych broke his promise to sign a free trade agreement with the EU and accepted financial support from the Russian government. But Yanukovych’s government also faces criticism over alleged internal corruption and a failure to properly manage the Ukrainian economy.

After the protests were attacked by police forces at the end of November, over a million people came to the square and set up the tent city of Maidan in order to devote their full attention to protesting the alleged violence and corruption of Yanukovych’s government.

“The people in the square are not there because they want to join the EU or whatever, but because of the fight here in Ukraine,” Tsymbalyuk said. “The corruption is absolutely horrible.”

Tsymbalyuk decided to move to the Kenyon campus when she started receiving letters from friends at Kenyon about what they were reading in the news. “I realized that Western media coverage is very skewed,” she said. The posters Tsymbalyuk sent to students to hang around campus to raise awareness of Ukrainian events were part of her effort to “tell people what was really going on.” She also reached out to the community to raise funds for medical care.

“What turned the previously peaceful protests violent was the passing of anti-protest laws on Jan. 16 by the Ukrainian Parliament. They have restricted anti-government speech and made it more difficult to organize opposition. The hospitals are not safe because [if you are identified as a protestor], you will be kidnapped or taken to jail immediately by the police,” Tsymbalyuk said. She added that volunteer doctors have been providing medical care, supported entirely by donations. Tsymbalyuk contacted Elena Anachkova ’15, Adam Marjai ’16 and Anu Nael ’14 for help organizing a campaign at Kenyon. Together they raised over $1,500 in a week by collecting money in Peirce Hall. “It was incredible, it really was,” said Timothy Kotoski ’16, who joined the fundraising effort on campus. “So many people were really aware of what was going on … or were really interested to learn. We are really grateful,” Marjai said people who donated were “saving lives.”

Nael, Tsymbalyuk’s friend and roommate of two years, said she felt inspired by Tsymbalyuk’s work. “She’s a very beautiful human being,” Nael said. “She’s very inspiring.”

Tsymbalyuk insists that she is no hero. “One weekend I went [to Maidan] and peed garlic for two days straight,” she said. “It’s not revolutionary.”

Recently, Tsymbalyuk was able to accompany a journalist to the front lines of the resistance, where women are not usually allowed. For this, in addition to the act of protesting, which is illegal, Tsymbalyuk could face years in jail. But “for some reason, I have no fear about it,” she said.

“I am very optimistic that we will win in the end,” she said, despite a lack of progress in recent days. “I see [the protest efforts] as a victory already because … it’s a big awakening of national consciousness.”

Tsymbalyuk described her involvement at Maidan as a turning point in her life. As she prepared to leave Kenyon last spring, she never imagined she could make such a marked difference in her country. Then the protests started and she realized that just being a presence in Maidan makes an impact.

And despite her previous distaste for political art, Tsymbalyuk recently made a piece about Maidan that features ribbons — which evoke the ubiquitous flags of the protests — on which people wrote their impressions of Maidan. The piece was related to a similar project she did while at Kenyon. “I view art as a dialect, and for me it is the most successful dialect I could make personally,” she said. “I wanted it to be a bridge with the people there.”

“These are probably the most beautiful times I have experienced in my life,” she said. “Because people have this big goal and there’s so much struggling and suffering, I feel like people unite and the best sides of people come out.”

In a memorandum filed last month, the College claimed Ellen Kaufman ’13, a former sexual misconduct advisor (SMA), was not liable for her actions relating to the student who accused Zingarelli of sexual assault last year. The memo asserts Kaufman acted as a volunteer for the College while serving as a SMA and thus had no liability under the Volunteer Protection Act (VPA), a federal law designed to protect nonprofit and government agencies from civil liability.

“Under this act, if a volunteer of a nonprofit organization acts on behalf of the organization and, as a result, causes some harm … the volunteer cannot be held liable,” the memo reads. The VPA makes an exception for willful, criminal or gross negligence, but the College claims Kaufman did not act in this way.

Although the memo focuses on Kaufman, it also represents an attempt by the College to avoid a lengthy and expensive court trial.

“Because the Plaintiff has failed to state a claim for negligence as to Ms. Kaufman, the vicarious liability claim and negligence-supervision claim against Kenton must also be dismissed,” the memo asserts.

If successful, the memo would exonerate Kaufman from any fault and diminish Zingarelli’s claim against the College.

The motion for leave to respond to the College’s VPA defense, which would be considered filled if the motion is granted.

“A review of the Complaint reveals that Kaufman’s conduct was, at a minimum, reckless misconduct or a conscious flagrant indifference to Stephen’s rights,” read the brief filed Monday.

The brief also claims the VPA would not disclaim liability, whether or not Kaufman acted criminally.

“Even if this Court determines that Kaufman is entitled to immunity arising from her status as a volunteer … such immunity has no effect on Kenton’s liability for the harm caused by Kaufman as its agent,” read the brief.

The brief’s language suggests Kaufman may be granted immunity under the VPA. Lawyers for Zingarelli argue Kaufman’s actions were “reckless misconduct,” an exception to the law, but write later of Kenyon’s liability “even if Kaufman is immune.”

As Kenyon and Zingarelli wait for a decision from Judge Orth Eyster, who also presided over the earlier sexual assault trial, litigation against Zingarelli’s accuser has advanced.

Zingarelli’s accuser filed a counterclaim alleging the College’s failure to inform her of an impending trial in her case. Zingarelli’s accuser directly addresses the legal complaint: that she and Kaufman spoiled evidence “designed to disrupt Stephen’s defense against [her] false accusations.”

But his accuser flatly denies the allegation. “[The Defendant did not commit said tort and at the time she deleted the contact information regarding Plaintiff’s phone, and deleted some of the text messages … no litigation was either contemplated or pending,” read the answer and counterclaim.

Although he cannot be retried in criminal court, the civil suit raises the possibility of compensatory and punitive damages against Zingarelli, which are sought in excess of $25,000. Both the original complaint and the counterclaim demand a trial by jury.

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**Kenyon’s first social media director departs after two years**

MADELINE THOMPSON  
NEWS EDITOR

After two years as Kenyon’s social media director, Josh Fitzwater will leave his post on Feb. 14 to become director of digital strategy and accounts for Cement Marketing in Columbus. Fitzwater was Kenyon’s first social media director, and has been responsible for developing the college’s presence on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, and for facilitating the transition from a print to a digital focus. His parent company, Delahunty, is a contributor.

“[I] had a seven hour interview with just about everybody who was alive on campus,” Fitzwater said. “They didn’t know what to expect with a social media person — if this person was just going to manage content or if they were going to move the needle forward.” He was, of course, hoping to do the latter, especially because Kenyon was not noticeable as an online entity at the time. What really convinced him to take the position was the offer of the “keys to the castle” in terms of digital marketing. “I had a lot of creative freedom,” Fitzwater said.

During his time at Kenyon, Fitzwater has worked with several different Kenyon departments to promote their brands. One of these collaborations resulted in the blog “Acceptance Letters: Parents, College and Letting Go,” to which Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Jennifer Delahunty is a contributor.

“I just felt like we needed to more directly address parents, because if you give them appropriate information I think they’ll understand their role in the whole process,” said Delahunty, who has worked with Fitzwater on several projects. “[Fitzwater] was part of the whole integrated marketing plan, and when we do something in print or in email he would put it out into the social networking sphere. We didn’t have a Twitter account before Josh showed up.”

The project Fitzwater calls the “feather in his cap,” however, is the layout of the Along Middle Path section of the Kenyon website. “[Along Middle Path] is a content aggregator that … gives us the ability to post stuff in real time,” Fitzwater said, calling it Kenyon’s “CNN page.”

**Impact of course evaluations, not visible to administrators, varies**

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Promotion Committee.

“We have the program set up so that even if I want to see it, as the provost, I can’t,” Interim Provost Joe Kleinster said. “That’s so that faculty can feel confident that they can ask some questions that might, in some situations, indicate that this project or this lecture didn’t go so well. The whole idea is that they can learn from it and improve for the next time and also not to be afraid that this will somehow affect their relationship with the College.”

Some students expressed concerns, though, that this policy elucidates an avenue to report violations of college policy.

“My professor told us to all meet her at 12:30 [p.m. for class] rather than 11:00, and I’m thinking you can’t do that,” a student, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said. Though extending classes before the allotted time is against College regulations, many students rely on the faculty course evaluation at the end of each semester as the proper means of notifying the College of such problems.

Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee and Professor of French Mort Guiney offered a different course of action for students who think their voices have not been heard.

“If a student had a serious complaint about the teaching in a particular course with a professor, the two avenues that I think the student could pursue would be to talk to the chair of the professor’s department and another one … would be to talk to the next person who is responsible in the administration for the academic mission of the College, and that would be the provost,” Guiney said.

“So in the end, if the College isn’t even looking at [the course evaluations] except to review for tenure and promotion, then what’s the point in even doing [course evaluations]?” England said. “That just seems kind of ridiculous, the whole system.”

Professor of Biology Siobhan Fennessey said, “I think students are fair about [evaluations]; they may be mad or they may be disappointed with how they performed in a class, but I’ve never felt like anyone retaliated by giving you low, low scores. So I think people take it seriously and understand sort of what it’s about.”

Though responsive to the requirement multiple choice questions range from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree.”

“The individual faculty members see it that way, not as a means score or average at all … obviously you could do the math with that result, but we don’t provide it that way to the faculty because the faculty have felt that over summarizing results in just an average … is reducing the information too much so that they don’t get a full picture of what happens in a course,” Kleinster said.

Fennessey said that constantly takes into account the course evaluation results because of the ever-changing nature of her field. “I read some where that the amount of information in the sciences doubles every five years,” she said. “So, textbooks are constantly being revised, information added, so there are always new things to bring people up to date on.”

As for changing the course evaluation process, revising the standard questions doesn’t look likely.

“We’ve talked about the possibility of going back and looking at those questions,” Guiney said. “Not [to] necessarily change them, but seeing if those are the best questions, if that’s the best way of eliciting information from the students.

“But, it’s a very long-term idea,” he added. “I don’t think it’s going to happen this year.”
CGE encounters confusion about new payment system

The Danish Institute for Study Abroad, Kenyon-Exeter and Sweet Briar had the highest number of applicants with 24, 12 and 10 respectively.

Staffing changes reflect hardship for assistant coaches

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the College switched to a home-school tuition system, in which students continue to pay their Kenyon tuition and the College uses that money to pay for the study abroad programs.

"Off-campus study is an expensive proposition for a college," Ausec said. "You're sending tuition dollars away."
The College is helping students understand the new payment system, by providing them with an estimate of each program's costs.

"There's this perception that the new fee policy makes this unaffordable," Ausec said. "The reality is not the case."

Several sophomores applying to study off campus offered criticisms on the new fee structure.

Emily Tanji '16, who plans to study at the London School of Economics and Political Science for a year, said she had "mixed feelings" about the new system.

"It is obscure[ing] what Kenyon does with the funds that are left after paying for the program, and this may financially burden students more than what is actually necessary," Tanji said.

Emma Therrien '16, who applied to spend a semester at Victoria University in New Zealand, also questioned where excess funds go.

"It seems unfair that students will be paying the included health and counseling fees and the student activities fees when we won't be here to use those services," said Therrien, whose tuition in New Zealand will cost approximately $4,000 less than a semester at Kenyon.

Ausec admitted the College had "gotten some pushback" about its new fee structure, saying, "nobody wants to pay anything more than what they think is fair."

Student attitudes differed depending on how expensive their program was relative to an equivalent amount of time spent at Kenyon.

Megan Remillard '16 applied to the Kenyon-Exeter Program in England, and found that she "would be getting more than expected for the cost of tuition with Kenyon-Exeter."

The program provides a generous stipend for living and travel, perks she would not have received had she stayed at Kenyon for the year.

Ausec said her office received "lots of phone calls" from students trying to determine whether their finances could handle the new payment scheme.

Ausec "had to create an entirely new system" to process the new study-abroad tuition payments.

"There were definitely things that we learned from," Ausec said. "This semester has gone much smoother."

Of the 254 people who applied to study off campus, 114 applied to go off campus during the fall semester alone, 91 in the spring, 26 for the full year and 14 for a split-year program.

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Staffing changes reflect hardship for assistant coaches

Continued from Page 1

the KAC, but their most important is working closely with studentathletes when coaches cannot. "We have [a student] professor ratio that's 10 to 1 here, and we have a coach who often deals with these athletes more than any professor, and he's at a 40 to 1 ratio," said Justin Newell, assistant director of athletics and director of the KAC.

With the change in employment, there will be five student managers rather than nine. The hours that would have gone to the four student managers will go to assistant coaches to help them stay for the full year.

"We justify adding those positions, [coach]es becoming full time, because we won't need those student managers anymore," Newell said, referring to the increased functions the assistant coaches will take on in the absence of the student managers.

Though the change will allow for more consistency as far as assistant coaches are concerned, it will cut down on available student jobs.

The student-manager program started roughly four years ago and has grown to be a competitive position, and will continue to be even more so now that fewer positions are available. When hiring a KAC manager, Newell says he looks for students who know the building well and are willing and capable to lead and direct their peers.

"You're responsible for the whole building on your shift," said Nate Lotze '14, a student manager at the KAC for the past two years.

Along with closing the KAC every night, student managers make sure other KAC employees come in on time, oversee all cleaning jobs and contact the proper individuals to handle any emergencies that may arise. "Really, it's their show to run," Newell said.

Student managers have more responsibility than desk workers, and are paid roughly three dollars more per hour, approximately $10.50.

As well as being an important position at the KAC, the student manager position offers a leadership position for students, a valuable asset for a résumé.

"I think that's something that can provide valuable experience and skills for students, and it's a way to move up the ladder to more of a leadership capacity," Lotze said. "If it disappeared completely, that would be a little disappointing."
Kenyon students and East Knox team up in face of cuts

GRAHAM REID
STAFF WRITER

A mere six miles from Kenyon lies the East Knox Local School District, a system ravaged by budget cuts in the wake of a failed school levy. In response to this crisis, Phoebe Roe ’16, who is also the Collegian’s news assistant, founded a group dedicated to helping the district: the Partnership of East Knox County and Kenyon College (PEKK).

The group has a long-term vision for a range of projects including assisting teaching, fundraisers and after-school mentoring. “We’re hoping to have good relations with the kids, help them with homework, things like that,” Roe said.

According to PEKK’ s executive director of East Knox Middle and High School District, Pete Rodrigue, who is also the principal of East Knox Middle and High School District, the partnership proves “a long-lasting genuine partnership between our two schools. That would be outstanding for our kids and also provide valuable experience for Kenyon students.”

Kenyon students will also have the opportunity to teach lessons during the time East Knox Middle and High School students would otherwise be in study hall. Budget cuts forced four of these free periods into students’ daily schedules. In the elementary school, Professor of Spanish Clara Roman-Odio, PEKK’s advisor, is working to bring Kenyon students into classrooms as teaching aides in Spanish, math, reading and art.

The project’s implementation has not been without its challenges. Kenyon students must drive to the school district, which makes finding time to volunteer more difficult. “The scheduling is rough,” Roe said. “It’s a matter of getting people out there.”

On East Knox’s side, Busenburg was initially worried the project would bring extra work and complications. “My first reaction was a combination of excitement and hesitancy,” he said.

According to Busenburg, Roe’s efforts to alleviate his worries by improving programs that are already in place has been “persistent, organized and enthusiastic.”

While Roe was at first concerned that potential socioeconomic differences between Kenyon and East Knox students would pose an issue, she realized after her first day with the students that “they’re very eager to learn from us.” She found the administration much more amenable to the partnership than she had expected.

Leaders of the group are hopeful students on both sides will benefit from the program. “We are excited at the idea of exploring and supporting [and] offering Kenyon students an opportunity to see the real world and needs, and practice teaching skills,” Roman-Odio said.

Busenburg, too, anticipates “a good working relationship” for our students benefit,” and thinks the partnership will be helpful for all. Ultimately, the group hopes to push Kenyon students to look beyond the bubble of the Hill and help the greater community. “We have the opportunity to make a difference here, and we’re not given that opportunity frequently,” he said.

One of Roe’s primary goals is to help high school students look into and ultimately attend college; East Knox has historically had low rates of students moving into higher education. This year, according to Roe, about one third of seniors took the ACT or SAT. The partnership will allow students to consider counseling and travel to East Knox for a day in May and also plans to bring some high school students to Kenyon’s campus.

Though leaders are still working out the project’s logistics, its leaders are confident Kenyon students will find the job fulfilling. “I think Kenyon kids are really going to enjoy the experience,” Roe said.

Service requirement may be implemented

HENRI GENDREAU
NEWS EDITOR

If two seniors get their way, community service may take on a whole new dimension at first-year orientation.

Pete Rodrigue ’14 and Grant Jossi ’14 presented ideas to Student Council on Sunday that would promote and further fund community service opportunities, including a program for first-year students.

“We were interested in seeing ways that would be relatively easy and agreeable to people to expand community service at Kenyon.”

Pete Rodrigue, Class of 2014

According to the survey results, 33 percent of respondents disliked or strongly disliked the idea.

“Definitely, people don’t like being told they have to do anything,” Jossi said.

But in coordinating with Assistant Director of New Student Orientation and Community Programs Lacey Filkins, Rodrigue and Jossi said they believe a deal could be struck to increase the annual $1,000 budget for community service effort, which gives students more days of service similar to the Martin Luther King Jr. day of service two weeks ago.

Rodrigue asked Council members for input on holding a required service day for orientation, an idea he said President Sean Decatur is “pretty excited about.” Some members pointed out that a lot of community service completed on campus is done through student clubs and organizations.

“There are subsets of students and student organizations that already have philanthropic goals and traditions, so it’s happening in a lot of different ways,” Dean of Students Hank Toutain said. But, he added, “I think you can do both. … The point is to try to establish long-term ongoing relationships with agencies so that it’s easier to plug people in.”

“In the idea of having something during New Student Orientation, to make sure that people who are just entering the community know that this exists and that there are opportunities, is a terrific one,” Toutain added.

“Here’s the takeaway — there’s a lot of cool stuff happening on campus, but a lot of it is very diffuse,” Rodrigue said. “There’s not a central place that you can go and see a complete list of all the opportunities that are available.”

In an email, Rodrigue added, “That’s our proposal: fund the community service office, so they can introduce a new major orientation day of service, and expand these opportunities for the rest of us, too. It would cost almost nothing. We think it would do a lot of good.”

Student Council President Kevin Pan ’15 recommended the two contracts Senate to further discuss the plan.

Council approves two more clubs

GRAHAM REID
STAFF WRITER

Student Council approved two new clubs this week: Tabletop and Kenyon Musicians Society (KMS). Tabletop is a club centered on games, including the card, board, and role-playing varieties. KMS grew out of a tradition of jam sessions and informal meetings and hopes to expand to larger events.

Founder Jason Cerf ’15 sees KMS as “a non-exclusive environment for musicians on campus, a place for them to come and play music, to just hang out and appreciate music.”

The group began their informal session at the start of the fall semester and has since performed several times at the Village Inn. Cerf hopes “to perform in more places, in a lot more different styles.”

KMS will emphasize a low-pressure atmosphere; Cerf stressed that “by definition KMS is not a band,” and thus avoids the responsibilities and pressures of one. KMS meets Wednesdays and Fridays in Waite Rehearsal Hall in Storer Hall.

Tabletop Co-President Dakota Curry ’16 described the club’s goal as bringing the enjoyment of various games “to the campus as a whole.”

The group, advised by President Dean Decatur, will try to expand beyond small groups of players to larger events. The club’s organizers plan to “reach more people that we don’t personally know,” according to Co-President Colton Flick ’16.

The group plans to play mostly card and board games, though their schedule will be “dictated by who shows up and what they want to do.”

Tabletop’s first meeting will be this Friday at 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Gund Commons.
Inside the Tower

Now vacant, Peirce’s iconic tower has a long and storied history as everything from dorm rooms to an art studio.

CORA MARKOWITZ
PHOTO EDITOR

Few Kenyon students have ever heard of the Philander Chase Memorial Tower. Every day, students walk under the engraved title spanning the stone arch of the staircase, but maybe students miss it as they step around the forbidden seal. Today it goes by a much more familiar name: Peirce Tower. Though mostly empty and out-of-use now, the Tower once served a variety of purposes.

In the 1950s, it was used as an art studio before the school offered an art major. It was the office for the Collegian until 2006, and it currently houses broadcasting equipment for Kenyon’s student-run radio station, WKCO. As you ascend the spiral staircase, you find one room after another, four in total, each in a greater state of disarray than the last. At the very top, a small observation room looks out over all of Kenyon — an immense view that is locked away. The Chase Tower rooms were not supposed to serve a purpose for the College; heating and plumbing were never installed and the rooms have spent many of their years in existence gathering dust. College Historian and Keeper of Kenyoniana Thomas Stamp said construction on Peirce and the Chase Tower was completed in 1929, seemingly as one building. Like the library, with its combination of Olin and Clalmers, the tower had a separate donor from Peirce. Together, the Philander Chase Memorial Tower and Peirce cost a whopping $400,000 to construct. On Aug. 19, 1928, the Cleveland Plain Dealer wrote, “the Tower, to be a distinguishing feature of the commons building, is the gift of communicants of the Episcopal diocese of Ohio, and commemorates the memory of the college’s first founder, who also was the first Episcopal bishop of Ohio.”

That founder, of course, was Philander Chase, whose story is imprinted on stained glass illustrations on the lower levels below the Tower, designed by Charles J. Connick, the same man who designed the equally decadent stained glass windows in the Great Hall, whose windows pictorially recount scenes from famous novels.

Compared to the Tower’s external beauty, the rooms inside leave much to be desired. Because they had no intended use, they sit empty and unadorned, with traces of grafitti and pieces of trash strewn around the dusty floors. The spiral staircase that goes all the way to the top of the Tower is from the original construction, rusting away since 1929.

The Tower’s view, undoubtedly its best feature, takes in all of Kenyon, as well as the fields and rooftops that surround the College, giving a unique perspective of the campus that possibly only Caples Residence Hall could rival. The Collegian has a longstanding connection to the Tower. Though it’s been rumored the editors-in-chief had rooms in the Tower, the Tower only housed the paper’s offices, much to students’ dismay. However, Peirce did have rooms for the heads of student publications, including the Collegian, as well as the head of Student Council.

In its earliest days, Peirce used to house bachelor professors. However, Chase Tower’s lack of heat made it difficult to deal with the winter weather, so the Tower itself never had inhabitants. The Collegian took up offices in the Tower soon after its construction, remaining there from around 1929 until 2006, when the restoration of Peirce began. The Tower also once housed the Art Department, with its art studio in one of the Tower’s now-abandoned rooms. Though the sweeping vistas of Kenyon and Gambier may have once inspired Kenyon students to create beautiful art, the room was never meant to be a studio space, only serving as one for about 20 or 30 years, beginning in 1937.

The Chase Tower still has one function: holding WKCO’s broadcasting equipment, in use to this day. It can be seen as a Harry Potter-like Room of Requirement; if Kenyon needs a place for something, it may as well go there. But for now, it’s locked up and inaccessible. Stamp said the College keeps it locked away “for insurance purposes. It’s just not safe to allow people to go up and down at will.” The decaying, dizzying staircase attests to Stamp’s statement, but the view does look excellent from the top.
New student club inks the quill for intellectual adventures

IAN ROUND STAFF WRITER

Declaring John Green ‘00’s novels “poorly written” in the midst of the author’s hotly anticipated arrival to campus would almost certainly be a daring move in the face of Green’s fan base at Kenyon. But this is exactly the kind of discourse Matthew Eley ’15, who is also a Collegian contributor, hoped for when he founded the new club, the Quills — “a philosophic and adventurous society,” according to the organization’s advertising materials.

This statement was uttered during the first 15 minutes of a meeting in Peirce’s Old Side on Feb. 1.

While the Quills discussed Green’s fame and Ayn Rand’s ideological platform, Drew Hogan ’15 took the lead in the discussion and made the above assertion, while Nick Martin ’17 mostly listened.

The group has only had three weekly meetings, most of which have taken place at the Village Inn. Eley recently decided to convene in Peirce because membership started to increase.

“The Quills started out of a desire to have a group of people who would meet and have interesting conversations,” Eley said. He said most clubs on campus are adventurous, but they have specific goals, “so it is interesting to have a group whose goal itself was to have adventures.” Specifically, he meant intellectual adventures, “Your social life and your academic life should not be separate.”

He said productive disagreement is important to him, because “it requires that calm self-control … I think [members] will be good at that.”

He recruited many friends to the club, including Hogan. “I joined the Quills because Matt is a good friend of mine and I wanted to help him get his Quills off the ground,” Hogan wrote in an email.

“Eley was inspired by the older British intellectual gatherings,” specifically the Inklings, whose main members included J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis when they were professors at Oxford. “I love the whimsical nature of the Inklings,” he said.

Eley, who transferred to Kenyon this past fall after two years at the University of Richmond, tried to encourage his fellow members not to make exclamatory blanket statements in favor of more thoughtful analysis since the club is still young and will evolve.

The College does not yet recognize the club. Eley said he might pursue recognition next semester.

“The Quills is in its inception, and thus the conversation is rough and introductory. I do not expect the beginning to look anything like the denouement. Since I convened the group, I think of my role as a facilitator, but I foresee that becoming less and less the case as time goes on.”

Matthew Eley ’15

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Matthew Eley ’15

But despite his eager anticipation of the group’s future, Eley does not want to control it. “That would be counter-productive. … This is hardly my organization,” he said.

Eley acknowledged the group might not succeed. “It could dwindle off, it could be poorly attended, [but] we all have these ideas, and it’s a shame if we don’t pursue them.”
Before class: the nine lives of Kenyon professors

EMMA WELSH-HUGGINS
STAFF WRITER

Believe it or not, there is more to your professor than his or her knowledge of Euclid or Marx, a leather briefcase and a suit jacket. They just might also be the type to jump out of airplanes into flames, hang out with Henry Kissinger or interview Hillary and Bill Clinton.

The year after he graduated from high school, Associate Professor of Biology Bob Mauck was not showing in exams; rather, he was swimming off the coast of Saint Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, teaching scuba diving during his gap year. “People call it, ‘I’m going to take a year off’, — they should call it, ‘I wanna take a year off’,” Mauck said. On indeed: “I spent everyday out on the blue water in the coral reefs — and it was amazing.”

Mauck eventually ended up at Ohio Wesleyan University, where he spent his summers fighting forest fires in Alaska. He began a job as a smoke-jumper, parachuting directly into forest fires. He spent the next eight or nine years working in Alaska and all over the Western United States. During the four months of the year that he wasn’t fighting fires, he kept himself busy by covering sports for the Anchorage Daily News as well as coaching football in Italy. Eventually he found his way into field biology and then to Kenyon, because, as he said, “I don’t think there’s any rule that says you have to do one thing for the rest of your life.”

Professor Mauck is not the only professor familiar with many variable experiences leading up to a entering higher education. “My husband says I’m like a cat, and that I have nine lives and that this is like my seventh,” Associate Professor of English Ivonne García said.

Originally from Puerto Rico, she attended Harvard University for her bachelor’s degree before beginning law school at Georgetown University with the hope of a career in administrative education. However, she ended up dropping out, saying, “It was the 1980s, it was the Reagan era and issues of justice and minorities and social justice … were not of any interest in law school — everybody was really just prepping to be a corporate lawyer.”

From there, García went back to Puerto Rico, she attended Harvard University for her bachelor’s degree before beginning law school at Georgetown University with the hope of a career in administrative education. However, she ended up dropping out, saying, “It was the 1980s, it was the Reagan era and issues of justice and minorities and social justice … were not of any interest in law school — everybody was really just prepping to be a corporate lawyer.”

From there, García went back to Puerto Rico and began working at an English-language newspaper. Her talent and fluency in English led her to rise in the ranks until she became its city editor. One particular interview was especially memorable: while at a cocktail party, her editor told her, “Henry Kissinger is in the hotel, I need you to go find him and ask him about the status of Puerto Rico. His wife, Nancy, is going to hate you, but you have to go find him.”

Her storied career also included interviewing Mikhail Gorbachev and winning two journalism awards from the Overseas Press Club of America. Years after successfully finding Kissinger in that hotel, she felt burnt out from the around-the-clock hours that journalism required, and found herself at The Ohio State University (OSU) — gamely pursing a PhD and knowing only that she was meant to teach college students. García originally fell in love with the idea of teaching English after taking two Shakespeare classes at OSU, and she began a completely new career path that would eventually lead her to Kenyon.

Associate Professor of History Glenn McNair also found his way to teaching after many long, surprising and varied careers. After dropping out of Savannah State University as an undergraduate, he worked in construction. He soon switched to police work — he had originally been interested in firefighting, but changed his mind after he observed the huge discrepancy in pay grades between the two jobs.

Halfway through the police academy, he began to worry about the amount of violence he would encounter. “My first day was every bit the nightmare that I anticipated it being, from my first real fight to being locked in a packed room in the hospital with this Vietnam veteran who’s having flashbacks to his days of being the executioner,” he said, laughing.

After a few years, McNair went back to school as a criminal justice major. Like García, he also started and then left law school, but returned to a law enforcement career. He was eventually hired by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. “Most of it was about the War on Drugs, so I spent most of my time investigating crack gangs and meth labs and that kind of stuff,” he said.

But in 1992, he traveled across America serving with the Secret Service. “I hung out with Hillary Clinton, Bill Clinton, Al Gore,” he said, but the excitement eventually wore off. After a few more career transitions — including a stint on talk radio — he found his calling as a professor at Kenyon.

As a professor, McNair encounters dozens of anxiety-ridden seniors panicking about their lives after Kenyon. But if there is one thing his unexpected and winding journey has taught him, it’s this: “You don’t have to figure it out at [age] 22. It seems like you have to have your life figured out, but trust me, you won’t, and you can’t and it’d probably be weird if you did — but you just have to listen to your heart about where you are in the moment.”
Pick a Side: the war between Old and New

DEREK DASHIELL
CONTRIBUTOR

“When I went to the Kenyon Review Young Writers Workshop, we are on Old Side of Prince. It is, after all, prominently featured on Kenyon's website. My mom came and said, “It’s the Harry Potter room.” I knew it as the room where a girl once told me (joked?) that my eyes looked great underneath stained glass. Naturally, I liked Old Side.

As a freshman here, I sat in Old Side (or Lower Prince which I include in New Side) just because that’s where my friends were. It wasn’t until some friends started pledging that I noticed a divide. They would dine with their fraternity group. “Opinions columnist” is not part of my public identity the way “basketball player” would be. New Side is basically everyone else.

In a recent discussion on the “rules of love” at Kenyon (it’s a weird class), someone said Old Siders and New Siders shouldn’t date. When asked why, she argued they just come from too different worlds, and they wouldn’t see each other enough.

Old Side, populated as it is by sports teams and Greek societies, is the entrenched side, for those who are, to some extent, their group. “Opinions columnist” is not part of my public identity the way “basketball player” would be. New Side is basically “everyone else.”

But it’s absolutely reasonable that teams and Greeks prefer to keep Old Side to themselves. Group meals are good bonding time and teams, fraternities and sororities capitalize on this. It would be hard to arrange seating for a large group if anyone sat anywhere. Try fitting 15 friends at one New Side table, or even two tables pushed together. No one imagines doing that for every sport and Greek organization on campus.

A pre-ordained area with bench tables is much simpler. And it’s nice to be surrounded by people who also pledged much of their time to a group. On a campus that constantly brings up how a cappella concerts have greater turnout than sporting events, and that undesirably has students who have no interest in and even harbor animosity towards Greek life, this kinship makes sense. If I’d joined a team or rushed, I might’ve argued explicitly for the insularity of Old Side.

I’m an idealist. New Side is attractive with an incredible view, but sometimes I wish I could regularly sit in Old Side with friends from Young Writers and reminisce. Ultimately, though, I don’t mind the divide. It’s probably the most practical way of going about things, so I don’t feel alienated, just uninformed—which I am. As long as we avoid that weird elitism which naturally accompanies an “us vs. them” mentality, I’m of the mind to live and let live.

But if I pop in Old Side for the memories sometimes... if you prefer I run track, I won’t tell anyone I saw you skipping team dinner to hit on someone in Prince Pub.

Derek Dashiel ’16 is an English major from Lakewood, Ohio. You can contact him at dashielld@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 writer. Columns and letters to the editor do not reflect the opinions of the Kenyon Collegian staff. All members of the community are welcome to express opinions through letters 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 250 words or less. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. To 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 submissions at their discretion. Articles and letters may be submitted to danny@kenyon.edu or dunlaveya@kenyon.edu.

STAFF EDITORIAL
Course evals need narrative question

It’s time for an evaluation of our evaluations. No, we aren’t talking about tests or exams—but the end-of-semester course evaluations that about 90 percent of students fill out every semester. Professors are only required to ask some standard quantitative questions on their evaluations, which yield hard data the College can use to understand the success or failure of a course. But faculty members can also elect to ask narrative questions that allow students to write about everything from the quality of a course to more general comments or concerns.

They are by far the best way for students to provide meaningful and substantive feedback on their courses. And professors — it’s a pity that administrators never see them. There is validity to the idea that professors should be able to ask questions about their courses without worrying their superiors will hold the answers against them. But the College is missing out on an opportunity to see feedback that distinguishes amazing hires from mediocre ones.

We also value the narrative responses — which are anonymous — as a place where students can give feedback to the College that won’t be traced to their courses and professors. It is a pity that administrators never see them. There is validity to the idea that professors should be able to ask questions about their courses without worrying their superiors will hold the answers against them. But the College is missing out on an opportunity to see feedback that distinguishes amazing hires from mediocre ones.

We offer this idea with a caveat. Administrators should have the evidence needed to allow the administration to look for trends in general narrative responses.

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Cups are a privilege, not a right, for Kenyon students

JONAH ALLON
CONTRIBUTOR

Let’s begin with the uncontroversial: the loss of 2,350 plastic cups last semester was avoidable. The controversial question that follows is what to do about it? The Collegian staff weighed in on this debate in its Nov. 21, 2013 editorial “Stop Stealing Cups,” with uncharacteristic invective:

“Does a student body that claims to care about the environment truly believe that such resources are unlimited, that we can unthinkingly take and never give back?”

The sentiment is noble, but misguided. Last semester’s fiasco indicates a clear need for change, but it’s impractical to expect students and out-of-state student body guests in one. In order to pursue responsible solutions, we need to acknowledge that dining services administration bears share responsibility for this failure.

The idea in play here should be familiar: self-interest governs the actions of an individual. It is the bedrock of modern political philosophy and economic theory. Applied to the issue at hand, the solution is head-spinningly obvious: Peirce should implement a plastic cup policy. Peirce should hold students accountable for their individual consumption of plastic cups. Weighing in on this debate are senior faculty members here who understand that a culture of environmental responsibility attaches to well-worn places. I am so stunningly attractive that almost everyone wants to steal my kisses. That way, I can have the entire College share, meaning that a culture of environmental responsibility attaches to well-worn places.

First, standardize a more efficient collection system around campus, making return duty a source of student employment.

Second, create a takeout policy in Peirce whereby students can check out and dine-outs for a definite period before incurring a fine.

Third, implement a policy whereby Community Advisors can issue individual fines to their residents based on the number of disposable materials found in their room.

This is hardly an exhaustible list, and I’d urge people to debate these solutions and come up with better ideas.

To that end, I propose three different solutions, with varying degrees of feasibility:

- First, standardize a more efficient collection system around campus, making return duty a source of student employment.
- Second, create a takeout system in Peirce whereby students can check out and dine-out for a definite period before incurring a fine.
- Third, implement a policy whereby Community Advisors can issue individual fines to their residents based on the number of disposable materials found in their room.

Cups are a privilege, not a right, for Kenyon students.

THE KENYON COLLEGIAN | THURSDAY, FEB. 6 | KENYONCOLLEGIAN.COM
**Woodwind Quintet blows Rosse Hall away**

**ECANA SPIVAK**

Staff Writer

On Saturday night, Feb. 1, classical music lovers and fellow woodwind players sat in Rosse Hall, eagerly awaiting the New York Woodwind Quintet, an ensemble-in-residence at the Juliard School. Once the five stately performers took their places, the evening launched into a magnificent display of technique, collaboration, and artistry.

The evening’s program featured an eclectic set of mostly modern, ranging from classical giants to avant-garde works. As a treat, the five added a Meno-cello and MacLeod’s performance was brilliant. They both embraced their roles with poignancy and dedicated honesty. Their scene together was electric. MacLeod and Viclello have palpable, raw talent that they have cultivated through years of experience. One of the show’s greatest strengths, however, became one of its biggest weaknesses — Viclello and MacLeod’s performances outshone many of the other actors in the show, including Yukevich as Nina. Her Nina was delicate and determined, but could not muster the same intensity of Viclello’s Trigorin, making their relationship somewhat one-sided.

Also missing the mark was the use of Amish-style clothing for the majority of the actors, save for Trigorin and Irina, who wore white clothes common to Chekhov’s Russia. The use of Amish-style clothing — long, plain dresses for women and pants and suspenders for the men — seemed like an unnecessary way to label the other characters as “simple.” The contrast could have been made without drawing upon modern stereotypes.

**Chekhov’s The Seagull** hit the Bolton last weekend, featuring powerful performances from professors and striking costumes.

**Family Day wows Gallery**

Last Saturday, the Gund Gallery was bustling with people, from newcomers to octogenarians, eager to experience art and wildlife at Family Day. The Gallery collaborated with the Brown Family Environmental Center to host a day of arts and crafts, gallery tours and a live animal program featuring flying squirrels and other common-to-Ohio species.

This semester’s Family Day drew inspiration from the Gallery’s current exhibition, “Color: Theories and Structures.” In the lobby, kids and parents alike cocked to craft tables to make prints and get their hands messy. In the Community Foundation, families could learn about Ohio’s wildlife and how humans have affected it throughout history. Maron Van Schoyck of Ohio Nature Education, who introduced herself as “Mrs. Van,” gave a dynamic presentation combining the state’s political and natural history — Ohio’s early residents could pay their taxes in squirrel pelts as a part of their relationship somewhat determined, but could not perceive color.

“When we go out and teach, we are hoping to plant seeds in your hearts to be better students of the earth,” Van Schoyck told young audience. The highlight for much of the audience, young and old alike, was the animals that accompanied Mrs. Van in her teaching, including Marsi the opossum and Falco the kestrel.

— Phoebe Carter
The show must go on: Stage Femmes elects interim head

INDIA AMOS
STAFF WRITER

When Emma Miller ’15 and Julia Greer ’15 took off for a semester abroad this year, they left behind their presidential roles in the recently re-founded Stage Femmes. Rather than letting their departure stall the forward momentum of the group, Stage Femmes took a rather unconventional approach: they elected an interim head.

The entire board explained the strong history of going against the conventions that govern the Kenyon theatre world, and the innovative group now shifts into its third semester under the leadership of Co-Presidents Miller and Greer.

While the two are studying off-campus, the troupe decided against replacing their forward-thinking managers and instead opted to elect Casey Griffin ’14, a senior English and drama major, as the acting manager of the group.

“Casey’s on her game,” Anna Yukevich ’16 said. “She knows what’s up. She was the obvious leader.” Yukevich is a drama major and a Stage Femmes board member.

The entire board echoed Yukevich’s sentiment, and with the excitement already circulating from their latest production, Boy Gets Girl, Griffin easily made the transition from literary agent to acting president.

When asked why they chose to shift this management style for their organization, Griffin indicated that the arrangement was not permanent. “[Miller and Greer] will come back and continue being co-presidents next year,” Griffin explained.

Stage Femmes is Kenyon’s premier organization for the advocacy of women’s involvement in theatre and their respect for each other is refreshing. Yukevich described her support for the organization and for her fellow Stage Femmes, saying they “all love each other very much.”

Stage Femmes was brought back to life last fall based on the convic- tion that women should have a stronger presence in dramatic productions on campus — be that in the form of writing, directing or acting.

“I think it’s important to expose the voices of women in theatre because there are so many good parts for men out there,” Yukevich said. Since its revival, Stage Femmes has had an excellent record of meeting its goals. Their spring season looks promising, with the premier of Boy Gets Girl and The Crowd You’re in With, both plays written by Rebecca Gilman, a professor at Northwestern University. Griffin said she has adopted Gilman’s work since she was exposed to it in a film class at Kenyon, and has been waiting for the opportunity to work with some of the playwright’s material.

Griffin could barely contain her enthusiasm when discussing Gilman and her work. “[Gilman’s] solidified in her career and [is] a good female playwright at this time,” Griffin said. “Gilman is a contemporary woman playwright, which is important,” Yukevich added.

Griffin confirmed Gilman will be at Kenyon for the opening weekend of The Crowd You’re in With and will be available to talk about her work.

While Stage Femmes’ main objective is promoting women’s roles in the field of drama, both the organization does not close its doors to males. In the past, plays have been written and directed by men, and male Kenyon students are often enlisted to act in the productions.

Despite facing changing times to the drama troupe, Stage Femmes is looking towards their new opportunities with eagerness and positive expectations for the coming semester.

“We’re coming off a really good place,” Griffin said. “Now our amazing presidents, Emma and Julia, are abroad, and I’m hoping this semester will still be good.”

Doctorow ’52 explores psyche, memory with new novel

JULIA WALDOW
ARTS ASSISTANT

E.L. Doctorow ’52, an award-winning author, was inspired to write his new novel, Andrew’s Brain, when he had a vision of sorts.

“The book began not as an idea but as an image in my mind: A man holding a swallow. I was immediately struck with the strength of this image and its power to stir the reader to question the relationship between the mind and the brain as well as reality and illusion.”


The novel’s nontraditional structure, as well as Andrew’s jumbled memories, prompts the reader to question the relationships between the mind and the brain as well as reality and illusion.

The nature of consciousness is mysterious,” Doctorow wrote. “If it is created by what [poet Walt] Whitman calls ‘the body electric,’ then the Cartesian idea of the soul is fanciful. But how does the material brain produce our thoughts, feelings, desires, longings, joys, fears, etcetera? As yet, nobody has figured that out.”

According to Assistant Professor of Psychology Andrew Engell, the ways in which humans process and retrieve information is subjective, making it difficult to truly discern what is real.

“Andrew’s Brain not only provides a window into the mind,” Doctorow wrote. “It provides a window into the nature of consciousness.”

Doctorow urges writers at Kenyon to dedicate themselves to their craft and to read others’ works to expand their literary worlds.

“A philosophy major, Doctorow urges writers at Kenyon to dedicate themselves to their craft and to read others’ works to expand their literary worlds.”

Award-winning author E.L. Doctorow ’52 has released Andrew’s Brain.

The KENYON COLLEGIAN | THURSDAY, FEB. 6 | KENYONCOLLEGIAN.COM
Women's swimming closes out regular season on top  

Alex Pijanowski  
Staff Writer  

The Kenyon Ladies swimming and diving teams closed the door on their regular season this past weekend, taking on conference competition in two meets. On Friday, Jan. 31, they defeated Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) 135-85, and the following day took down Wittenberg University (WU) 145-84.

Rachel Flinn '14 said that the ladies were poignantly aware that they represented the last time this year's seniors will swim in a dual meet at their home pool.

"It was bittersweet that it was our last home meet, but it was very joyful, and all of our parents were here, so I enjoyed it," Flinn said. "Stepping up on the blocks for our last relay — we did a [senior] class relay — was a nice way to end it."

Flinn made certain her final competition at home would be memorable by winning the 200-yard individual medley and 200-yard freestyle against OWU, and contributing to an unscored 400-yard freestyle relay team alongside Jenner McLeod '17, Kelsey McCarthy '14 and Laura Duncan '17.

Excellent performances also came from Mariah Williamson '16, who won the 200-yard butterfly on Friday night and the 1,000-yard freestyle on Saturday. Katie Kaestner '16 earned first place finishes in several relays, including the 400-yard freestyle relay alongside Megan Morris '16, Hailey Townsend '16 and Hillary Yarosh '14, and in the 200-yard medley relay with Townsend, Natalie Parker '16 and Morris. Individually, Kaestner won the 50-yard freestyle against OWU and the 100-yard butterfly against WU, neither of which are her main events. Celia Oberholzer '15 also won the 100-yard backstroke — an event for which she already holds the school record — in the WU meet.

On the diving board, Maria Zarka '16 continued to excel at the pace she set throughout the season long — her three-meter diving score against WU (267.23) was more than double that of the next-closest competitor. Zarka swept diving by winning the one-meter and three-meter event in both competitions. Teammate Megan Remillard '16 was second in one-meter and three-meter diving against OWU.

With the regular season behind them, the team now must prepare for the final portion of the season, which has been the ultimate goal of training for several months.

"This is the fun part of the season," Head Coach Josse Book '01 said. "One of the unique aspects of our sport is that we spend so much of our season under a heavy level of fatigue that we're unable to do our absolute best. This allows us to bring our best to the table — we can do that, so that's why it's fun."

Flinn, now that she has three years of postseason swimming experience under her belt, said she would advise her younger teammates to "just to take it day by day, and not to get wrapped up in the whole process."

The North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) championships will be held Feb. 12 to 15 in Granville, Ohio, hosted by perennial rival Denison University. The Ladies lost to Denison in their dual meet in November, but Head Coach Josse Book '01 said, "We're all really excited about that."

Men's basketball heats up, wins two conference games  

Ben Payne  
Staff Writer  

The Lords returned to action this weekend and picked up two quality conference road wins against Allegheny College (61-53 in overtime) and Hiram College (84-75). Last time, the Lords lost to No. 11 Wooster 56-86.

The Allegheny win proved to be a defensive struggle, with both teams shooting low percentages. The Lords managed to build an eight-point lead with four minutes left in the first half, though Allegheny closed the gap to one going into the half.

Both teams struggled offensively in the second half, and Co-Captain Kenna Nwadibia '14's layup with 2:03 left to tie the game at 51 proved to be the last points of regulation. Despite the close score, the Lords seemed to be in control most of the game.

"It was strange, we weren't pulling away as I had never had a doubt that we would win," Co-Captain Julian Pavlin '14 said.

Pavlin's confidence proved prescient in the overtime session as the Lords outscored the Gators 10-2. The difference in overtime was the Lords' ability to get to the charity stripe, and especially critical were Co-Captain Brian Lebowitz '14's contributions.

He scored eight of his game-high 16 points in OT, including six clutch points from the free throw line. He also brought down 12 rebounds, eight offensive, en route to his sixth double-double of the season. Nwadibia chipped in a double-double himself with 15 points and 10 boards. Also continuing his hot play was Tim Connolly '16, who had 10 points and six boards in 29 productive minutes off the bench.

The Lords couldn't celebrate the win for long — the next day they squared off against Hiram. Hiram came out on fire and the Lords trailed by as many as 11 in the first half. There were times where it seemed as if everything Hiram threw at the basket went in, as they converted eight three-pointers in the first half.

But, the second half was a completely different story. The Lords got hot from the field, shooting 56.7 percent while Hiram only converted 40 percent of its field goals in the second half.

This game could mark a turning point for the Lords as much of their strong play in the second half came from sophomores Connolly and Brian Comey '16. Comey matched Will Connolly's 19 points, while also pulling down a career high 10 rebounds en route to his first career double-double.

Stay tuned for more updates on both teams, as well as more updates on the other Kenyon teams, including Swimming and Diving.

The Kenyon Collegian | Thursday, Feb. 6 | KenyonCollegian.com
Lord alum on Israel’s roster for world championship

NINA ZIMMERMAN SPORTS EDITOR

When lacrosse players representing 38 different nations descend on Denver for the Federa-
tion of International Lacrosse’s 2014 World Championship, a former Lord will be among them. Aaron Tracy ’07, a four-year member of the Lords’ tennis team, earned a spot on the Israel national lacrosse team.

“Once the first meeting and ‘show-and-tell’ occurred, I got the feeling just snowballed from there,” Tracy said. “Shoot-arounds became practices, which turned into scrimmages, which turned into games, which basically puts us [the Israeli national lacrosse team] to where we are now — on an international scale.”

Adjusted to life in Israel presented a series of challenges, from the language barrier to coping with life in one of the globe’s hotspots. “It took some time, but it was a long and painful process to get the comfort scale,” Tracy said. “What really hit home and made things difficult was the rockets that were fired at Tel Aviv by Hamas last November. Hearing the rocket sirens and having to run to a bomb shelter was a frightening experience the first time I heard them.”

The experience instilled in Tracy a new understanding of Israel. “That’s when I knew I was amongst a nation of strong people who deal with this all the time, and I want to represent [them] on an international level,” he said.

REED DICKERSON STAFF WRITER

This past Saturday, the Kenyon Ladies tennis team began their spring season with a match-up against the University of Northwestern Ohio, losing to the Racers 3-6. This was the first time the Ladies returned to the court since their fall season wrapped up at the Intercol-
legiate Tennis Association (ITA) National Qualifier in September.

The Ladies started this season ranked No. 8 in the Central region by the ITA. But despite a strong start in doubles, the Ladies couldn’t clinch a victory and ended up losing to the Racers. In the opening doubles, Kenyon’s Claire Cohen ’16 and Elise Abscheider ’16 won the first match of the tour-
ament with a quick 8-3 win over the Racers’ Rachel Marques and Shabagh McL-
cintoch. But the Racers beat the pairings of Abigail Younger ’15 and Samantha Murphy ’16 and Taylor Diff-
ley ‘16 and Jenna Murray ’17 in the remaining doubles matches, with final scores of 8-6 and 8-4, respectively.

“One of our biggest doubles players, Madison Hoffman ’16, sprained her ankle last Thursday,” Head Coach Scott Thielke said. “She played number two doubles for us last year, so that hurt us in doubles a bit, and she might have played in singles as well. We’ve had a lot of players sick, so we’re trying to get everyone healthy and back together.”

In singles play, the Racers opened with three straight victories over the Ladies, beating Lauren Hoffman ’16, Murray and Diffley in a series of quick two-set games. The Ladies finally halted their run of wins when Murphy defeated the opposing McClintoch with scores of 7-5, 3-6 and 6-4. Samantha Betts ’14 won the closing match of the tour-
ament, defeating her opponent Lina Ramos in two sets with a score of 7-6, 6-4. “I think for the big take-away from the match is that we have to get much better at putting balls in play and being consistent point after point,” Thielke said. “We would play some really good points, and then we’d play poorly for a few points, and we didn’t really sustain anything. I think the big-
gest thing is that we’ve got to get more consistent playing point-by-point.”

Records fall for indoor track

TAN ROUND STAFF WRITER

Despite record-break-
ing performances and personal bests, both the men’s and women’s indoor track teams placed last out of five teams at the Fighting Scots Invi-
tional at the College of Wooster on Feb. 1. Indivi-
dual triumphs, however, included Sam Lagasse ’16’s win in his second race and second personal record of the indoor track season, and Sierra De-
Leon ’14, who won two races and placed second in another two.

“It was a good meet. I’m pretty happy with it,” Head Coach Duane Go-
mez said.

DeLeon broke her own school record in the women’s 60-meter hur-
dles with a time of 8.18 seconds. She broke anoth-
er Kenyon record with her second-place finish in the 60-meter dash at 8.03 seconds.

She also won the long jump and came in second in the 200-meter dash. For her performance this week, she was named North Coast Athletic Conference Athlete of the Week.

Other Ladies also put strong performances on the board. Jenna Wil-
lett ’14 placed second and Lizzie Halper ’15 placed fourth in the women’s 5,000-meter run. In the women’s mile run, Tory Bruch ’14, Aisha Simon ’15 and Kerry Strader ’14 came in third, fourth and fifth, respectively. Gomez said Bruch and Simon were both first and second until the last 60 yards, then got out-
kicked.” He added that there were other similar instances where runners faded in the last stretch. “We need to work on our kicks a little bit, but it shows that we’re more aggres-
sive,” he said. “I would rather see them go strong and get outkicked then hang back and fin-
ish in the same place.”

On the men’s side, La-

gase, who won the men’s 3,000-meter run and set a personal record at the Ohio Wesleyan Univer-
sity Triangular Meet Jan. 17, won the men’s 5,000-meter run and set another personal record at 15:23.18.

Lagasse said he was placed at the end of the starting line, and started fast, “to make sure that I wouldn’t get caught be-
hind the pack. When we came around to finish the first lap, I was leading by quite a bit… I wasn’t too concerned about having gone out hard.”

Gomez described La-
gasse’s lead in less mod-
est terms. “The first mile he had a hundred-yard lead. He was running by himself,” Gomez said. “He just went into a sprint, basically. The announcers are announcing the race, and they’re going, ‘that’s a re-
ally fast pace, that’s really fast.’”

Lagasse attributed his success in part to a “more positive mental attitude” attitude that arose during the fall cross country season. “To be honest, I’m thrilled with how my sea-
son’s going,” he said. “I’m happier and more confi-
dent in my running.”

Lagasse said earning a personal record is “like a small, unexpected affir-
mation of all the hard work you’re putting in.”

Other Lords with no-
table runs included Nat Fox ’16 and Peter Gran-
ville ’16, who came in third and fifth in the men’s mile run, respec-
tively. Utica also set a record in 16 and Willy Fried-
lander ’14 placed second and fifth in the men’s 800-meter run. Gomez said Noah Winters ’15 and Lucas Herweyer ’15 were sick and missed the meet, but based on their previous performance, they’re expected to be at prior meets could have earned Kenyon more points.

The teams will run at Denison University Feb. 8. It will be their last chance to qualify for the All-Ohio Championship.

Aaron Tracy ’07 played four years at midfield for the Lords before earning a spot on Israel’s national team roster.

"Although we lost that game which ended our season that year, it was an experience only few get to [have] during their lacrosse careers,” Tracy said. Tracy moved to Israel in August of 2011 to attend the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University. “My father really is a graduate of Sackler School of Medicine, so when I was applying to schools I figured I would send them an application,” Tracy said. “Turns out it was one of the few schools that I applied to that accepted me and after having a long talk with my father about the program and his experiences, I fig-
ured it would be the best one for me.”

Before relocating to the other side of the world for school, Tracy also tried to find somewhere to keep play-
ning lacrosse. He got in contact with Scott Neiss, who founded Israel La-
crosse in 2010. Neiss told Tracy to bring his equipment with him.

“Once the first meeting and ‘show-and-tell’ occurred, I got the feeling just snowballed from there,” Tracy said. “Shoot-arounds became practices, which turned into scrimmages, which turned into games, which ba-
ically puts us [the Israeli national lac-
crosse team] to where we are now — on an international scale.”

Aaron Tracy ’07 played four years at midfield for the Lords before earning a spot on Israel’s national team roster.

"It’s all the same rules, same equip-
ment, same intensity and fun, just in a different part of the world,” Tracy said in an online message.

At Kenyon, Tracy’s four years of lacrosse came at a time of transition for the program, according to former Lords’ head coach Brendan McWil-
liam. "This season, which will be in two years, with a 10-19 combined rec-
ord but bounced back in 2006 and 2007, posting a combined record of 23-
25.”

"Aaron was kind of a part of the ‘niche-to-it-ness’ of the guys on the team at that time, that were willing to buy into what I was trying to do with things, which was to continue the success of the program,” McWil-
liam said.

The Lords made the NCAA tour-
nament in 2006, Tracy’s junior year, and had the rare opportunity to host their first-round game at McBride Field. Kenyon lost to Wittenberg Uni-
versity, but Tracy still counts the game as one of his collegiate highlights.

"When lacrosse players represent-
...
Men's swimming sweeps weekend home invites

ALEX PIJANOWSKI STAFF WRITER

Nearly four months after their season began at the Kenyon College Relays Meet, the Lords concluded regular-season competition with two home invites. On Friday, Jan. 31, they faced Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) and vanquished the Battling Bishops by a score of 143-87. The next day, they matched up against Wittenberg University (WU) and tamed the Tigers by a similarly lopsided score of 141-91.

In the meet against OWU, a Kenyon swimmer, diver or relay team claimed first place in every single event, and the team surrendered first-place finishes to WU in only two events.

Overall, the Kenyon men finished first in 22 out of 24 events. The efforts of Ian Reardon '17 in the 100-yard breaststroke nearly raised that figure to 23 — Reardon hit the wall at 59.79, just barely behind the 59.77 finish of WU's A.J. Burt. Against OWU, divers Derek Hoare '17 and A.J. Burt. Brandon Roman '16 earned the top two scores in a closely contested field:

Hoare's score was 277.80 to Roman's 274.80. Roman and Hoare placed second and third, respectively, in one-meter diving against WU, but Hoare battled back in three-meter diving to regain the top spot for the Lords. Arthur Conover '17 was one of the Lords' top performers in both contests; he won the 1,000-yard freestyle against OWU and the 500-yard freestyle against WU. Conover said he won the 1,000 against Case Western earlier in the season, but this was the first time Conover had ever won the 500 in his collegiate career.

"I was really happy with where I was this past weekend," Conover said. "It was really exciting to get my first 500 dual meet win."

Many other fine performances were also in full display. Trevor Manz '17, who recently won the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Swimmer of the Week award for his performance at the Kenyon Winter Invitational, won the 200-yard individual medley against WU. In the same meet, Oscar Anderson '17 won the 100-yard backstroke comfortably; his time of 51.35 beat the second-place swimmer by more than five seconds. Percy Gates '16 demonstrated his mastery of sprint freestyle events: he was first in the 50-yard freestyle against OWU and first in the 100-yard freestyle against WU. Gates also teamed up with Austin Caldwell '15, Joey Duronio '16 and Wes Manz '15 to win the 200-yard freestyle relay and 400-yard freestyle relay. Finally, although the 100-yard breaststroke had earlier eluded him, Reardon won the 100 butterfly in the WU meet.

For Conover and the many other first-year swimmers on the team, it will be helpful in the coming weeks to have the guidance of experienced coaches and athletes. Conover said his coach and older teammates "know what it's like to be in the meet, they know what happens, and will tell you to just, 'Keep inside your own head, and don't worry about what other people are doing, because you don't have any control over that.'"

Head Coach Jess Book '01 offered similar words in praise of calm and poise. "The mentality — the emotionality — that we need to have at this point is patience and tranquility, and low-grade excitement," Book said. "This is the time of the year not to be too up or down."

The team is now busy preparing for the NCAC championships, which will take place Feb. 12-15 in Granville, Ohio.

Women's basketball wins two vs. conference foes

NGAN GURZENSKI STAFF WRITER

Going into the home stretch of the regular season, the Kenyon women's basketball team picked up two critical road victories, beating Allegheny College 83-60 on Feb. 4. and Ohio Wesleyan University 89-81 last Saturday, Feb. 8.

The two wins put Kenyon on the doorstep, Sidney Cera '17 made a jump shot to keep the Gators at bay and extend Kenyon's lead back to seven. Cera closed out the game with 16 points, good enough for a career high.

Continuing to close in on Kenyon, Allegheny came as close as one point with just over two minutes left in regulation, but Kenyon's defense was up to the challenge. The Ladies held strong during the final minutes en route to the 89-81 victory, dashing Allegheny's comeback hopes. As a team, Kenyon notched its highest shooting percentage of the season, shooting 55.9 percent from the field; Kenyon is currently 6-1 when shooting over 50 percent in a game.

After taking care of Allegheny, Kenyon took on Hiram this past Tuesday night, hoping to sweep the season series. Tied with the Terriers at 12 with 1:57 left in the half, Kenyon started to pull away, scoring 12 of the next 14 points. Co-Captain Maggie Boelter '14, who led Kenyon with 19 points on the game, finished off the run with a layup in the paint to make it 24-14 in favor of Kenyon.

Kenyon continued to wear down Hiram's defense, leading at the half 41-29 after shooting 42.86 percent from the field and a staggering 60% from beyond the arc. The second half was more of the same for Kenyon, who led by as much as 29 points, 60-31.

Kenyon hopes to extend its three-game winning streak as they host Ohio Wesleyan University on Sunday, Feb. 8 at 1 p.m. The game will also serve as the Ladies' senior game.