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College motion to dismiss Zingarelli counts is denied

Kenyon’s attorneys sought to dismiss charges against former SMA.

San Colt
Senior News Editor

Judge Otho Eyster, who is presiding over former student Stephen Zingarelli’s civil suit against the College and another former student, Ellen Kaufman ‘13, has denied a motion to dismiss two counts of Zingarelli’s suit that relate to Kenyon’s alleged criminal negligence.

Zingarelli filed his suit in December 2013. His attorneys allege that, although he was acquitted of sexual assault, Zingarelli was subjected to defamation, emotional distress and negligence by the College, Kaufman and his accuser.

The order handed down on Wednesday suggests that Kaufman — who is also represent— by the College’s lawyers at Columbus-based law firm Bricker & Eckler LLP — may bear some responsibility for her actions as a Sexual Misconduct Adviser (SMA) while at Kenyon. She declined to comment for this article.

According to the lawsuit, Zingarelli’s attorneys allege that Kaufman encouraged another former student to bring sexual assault charges against Zingarelli “when she knew or should have known those allegations were false.”

The suit also alleges that Zingarelli’s accuser — aided by Kaufman — “willfully destroyed text messages that demonstrated the voluntary and consensual nature of the sexual relations between them.” The Collegian does not name individuals who identify as victims of sexual assault.

Amidst a volley of filings two months ago, Kenyon’s lawyers said Kaufman had resumed her post.

How accessible is Middle Path?

Emily Sako
ARTS EDITOR

A decade-long discussion about the accessibility of Middle Path came into focus again at a faculty meeting on Monday — challenges ranging from everything from wheelchairs to baby strollers.

Erin Salva, director of student accessibility and support services, has been grappling with the issue for years, and has presented it to the Board of Trustees before. Salva’s interest in the topic was spurred by a campus tour she took with a prospective student in a wheelchair.

“It happened to be a power chair, and he chose not to come to Kenyon because we were not accessible for him,” Salva said. “This past week I toured campus with an admitted student in a chair, and she faced with a very difficult decision of whether or not she can come to Kenyon because of the inaccessibility of Middle Path.”

President Sean Decatur dismissed what Professor of Anthropology Pat Urban referred to as the “cult of Middle Path” — alumni who have threatened to cease contributions to the College if it paves Middle Path.

“I’ve heard the comment, ‘Never Middle Path,’” Decatur said. “To the contrary, I think...”

Orgs Ask for Less

The amount of money requested by student organizations from the Business and Finance Committee (BFC) dramatically dipped from last semester’s budget submissions, leaving the BFC with a surplus of $12,000.

The Business and Finance Committee (BFC) received requests for a total of $160,531.95 from student organizations, down from last semester’s $234,000. Of those requests, the BFC granted $137,076.75, as opposed to the $160,000 they granted last semester.

The BFC is funded through the $150-per-semester “Student Activities Fee,” students pay as part of tuition. In addition to funding student groups, the BFC pays for services like the Mount Vernon shuttle and The New York Times copies available in Peirce Hall.

The BFC normally receives fewer requests during the fall budget hearing than the spring one — making this year’s decrease in budget requests a surprise. However, when groups submit their budgets for the fall of the upcoming year, many student groups make leadership transitions and have trouble making plans in advance.

BFC Co-Chair Eleanor Ritchie ’14 thought requests this year followed the usual trend, but said she noticed an even steeper decline than she expected. “The requested number seems very low,” she said. The BFC normally sets aside $150,000 for its semester budget hearings, and despite meeting almost all requests in accordance with BFC bylaws, the committee had over $12,000 left.

According to Ritchie, most of the roughly...
President Sean Decatur on the first-year experience:

“I think there is a larger sense of how do we build on the first year as a nice platform for students’ success moving throughout the curriculum. I think all of these things actually converge quite nicely in a conversation of thinking about housing because it means that we could actually really think about first-, second-year housing not just in terms of how to make Mather and McBride [Residence Halls] not quite so gross but how do we think about what types of spaces would be best to optimize the experience for first years.”

Trustees to discuss master plan, 2020

The Board of Trustees’ annual spring meeting will be held today through Saturday, April 26. Chairman Barry Schwartz ’70 noted there are two major items on the agenda: “An update in Kenyon 2020 conversations” with discussions being led by President Sean Decatur and “an update on the campus master plan.” The rest of the meeting, according to Schwartz, will be the “ordinary business” of the Board.

Decatur said there will be a general discussion about budget planning for the future as well. “We’ve approved the budget for this year,” he said, “but are beginning to take a picture of where we think priorities are going for the next few years and kind of pre-prepare the groundwork for thinking about next year’s budget.”

At this meeting, Decatur said there will be a presentation about the broader national landscape of Title IX and sexual misconduct, which is intended “to bring trustees up to speed [and be] primarily informational,” he said.

At the Board’s fall meeting, members began to discuss students’ concerns that the amount of aid that goes toward housing does not cover the cost of apartment rooms on campus; students on financial aid cannot afford living in a campus apartment.

This week, “the regular committee [the Board] will meet and the primary session will be on Saturday morning,” Schwartz said. While there are no specific plans or policies set to be voted on, Schwartz said, “there may be some discussion about [housing prices] by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, but we made pretty good progress [during the fall meeting].”

As far as issues regarding the availability of housing for students for the 2014-15 academic year, Schwartz emphasized the fairness of Kenyon’s current lottery system and said, “It all seems to sort out on the usual course.”

Village Record

April 17 – April 23


April 19, 1:04 p.m. — Fire alarm set off by cooking in Wiggan Street Coffee. No fire. Alarm reset.

April 19, 3:57 p.m. — Village visitor injured ankle stepping on uneven ground. Transported to Knox Community Hospital (KCH) for further evaluation.

April 18, 5:24 p.m. — Graffiti on brake/stone at Hanna Residence Hall.

April 19, 12:01 a.m. — During fire alarm in Caples Residence Hall, student residence found to have illegal substance and paraphernalia. Signs of improper use of prescription drug.

April 19, 1:23 p.m. — Student communitying in McBride Residence Hall. Episode subsided. Student admitted to undergraduate consumption. Transported to KCH for further evaluation.

April 19, 2:07 p.m. — Student boasted of pulling fire alarm in Caples but denied actual act.

April 20, 7:06 a.m. — Student found to be in unauthorized area at the Kenyon Athletic Center.

April 20, 11:30 p.m. — Fire alarm set off by cooking in Taft Apartment. No fire. Alarm reset.

April 22, 10:17 p.m. — Student residence smelled heavily of illegal substance in Hanna Residence Hall. Student(s) denied use.

Student Council

Monday, April 21

• Campus Senate told Council about their most recent meeting, at which Senate members talked with President Sean Decatur about their role going forward.

• The First Year Class Committee discussed their ongoing b Omega sale and plans to hold an event where ice cream will be served on the First-Year Quad.

• The Sophomore Class Committee canceled their planned bonfire due to lack of time.

• The Junior Class Committee reported they are accepting applications for the Senior Class Committee.

• The Senior Class Committee reported their planned gazebo has been approved by the College and that they are attempting to gain Village approval. The gazebo will stand in the North Campus Apartment new area.

• The Buildings and Grounds Committee told Council about continued plans for new trash cans installation and the installation of in-C Card readers on academic buildings, which will go live by next fall. Council emphasized the need for clear email communication on the schedule for the readers to go live.

• Council heard about a plan to place cup-return bins in apartment housing areas in North Campus from the Housing and Dining Committee. The College also discussed a complaint they heard from a student about the lack of South Campus non-division housing for men.

• Council approved the Business and Finance Committee’s (BFC) recommendations for fall 2014 semester allocations. In total, the BFC received requests for $660,000 from student groups, about $188,000 of which were granted. Funds were awarded in accordance with BFC bylaws; the BFC covered only two-thirds of all lodging expenses, no food expenses and limited publicity expenses. Council approved the BFC’s recommendations unanimously, except when Council members abstained due to club affiliation.

Briefs

New trash cans debut on Middle Path

This week, the Maintenance Department installed the first of Kenyon’s new trash cans along Middle Path and near Peirce Hall. These units are the first of 16 planned trash cans, which will replace the red wooden receptacles.

Each can costs $1,336, with a bulk discount. However, including the cost of the concrete pad and manual labor needed to put them in place, the total cost will be over $1,600 per can. The College hopes the new powdered-metal cans will age better than the wooden units.

The project is currently on track to meet the goal of being installed before final

Building in the spring of 2014. Each trash can takes two workers approximately two hours to install. The project will not drain a larger portion of Maintenance’s personnel resources, but it has required a steady investment of time from the grounds staff.

The installation process has been smooth, but Widener noted that some students have been touching the wet concrete of the pads. “The top surface [of one pad] looked like a wet ball, it had so many dimples from fingerprints — every one was different,” he said. “[The workers installing the pad] got a kick out of that.”

Highlights from Hill coming to your inbox

In the world of college events — specifically the college events calendar — there really can be too much of a good thing. That’s why this past Monday, Kenyon’s Office of Public Affairs introduced “Highlights on the Hill,” an email newsletter designed to guide Kenyon and Gambier residents toward the Hill’s most exciting offerings.

“We’re trying to cut through the noise and help people find opportunities for their entertainment,” News Director Mark Ellis said.

The first newsletter indicated that Highlights on the Hill would come out twice a week — on Mondays and Thursdays — to advise readers both during the week and on weekends:

“People sometimes struggle to identify events,” Ellis said. “We have an online calendar, we want people to use it, but there’s a sense that it’s not fully exploited. ... Part of ‘Highlights’ is to encourage use of the calendar.”

The first newsletter highlighted three talks and a sporting event, suggesting the College’s view that some of the speakers it brings to campus go unnoticed.

“We’ve been relying on [Sports Information Director] Marty Fuller to tell us, ‘This is important,’ or, ‘This is a grudge match,’” Ellis said about encouraging community members to check out local sporting events.

Students hoping to see their event make “Highlights” should submit details to calendar@kenyon.edu.

Zetas race to raise money for DVT

In the spring of 2010, Anna Frutiger ’09 was attending classes at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and training for a marathon. One morning she collapsed, was rushed to the hospital and died hours later of a pulmonary embolism caused by deep vein thrombosis (DVT). To remember her sorority sister and raise money to fight the condition that took her life, the sisters of Zeta Alpha Pi (Zetas) hold a 5K run each spring at the Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC).

At this year’s race, held last Saturday, April 20, 29 runners ran a 5K on the BFEC’s trails and afterward enjoyed an outdoor brunch on the BFEC’s picnic tables. Proceeds from a tank top sale, race registrations and donations exceed $2,700 and will go directly to the National Blood Clot Association.

While DVT is commonly associated with people who are overweight or elderly, DVT affects younger people as well. Frutiger’s doctors believe that her DVT may have been caused by her birth control, and most birth-control medications in fact list DVT as a potential side effect.

Maggie Hudson ’16, a Zeta and the coordinator for the event, said, “[Frutiger] was a tennis player at Kenyon, she was really athletic, she was training for a marathon — it took everyone by surprise that someone that young and fit could have a pulmonary embolism.”

The Zetas are still accepting donations for this year’s 5K and plan to hold another 5K next year.
Rideshares to make getting off the Hill more convenient

PROBEA CARTER
STAFF WRITER

While life on the Hill offers its own secluded charm, desires to get off campus — ranging from the light-hearted wish to spend the day in Columbus to more serious necessities like getting to Urgent Care can be hard to satisfy.

But starting this week, two new student-run initiatives are looking to improve the availability of transportation options for students on weekends. The Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) is piloting a free shuttle service to Mount Vernon Urgent Care starting Sunday, and Kenyon Rideshare, a website designed by senior Environmental Studies students, will be running in time for students to find rides home for the summer.

Members of SHAC saw the need for an urgent health care option that would provide transport and care to students when they needed it. After multiple attempts to expand their shuttle service, according to co-president Daniel Akuma ’14, “Some students said they didn’t see why this service would be necessary,” Akuma said. “But more than half of us at Kenyon don’t have cars and don’t want to have to call a cab.”

To start, the service will run from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, but SHAC hopes to expand their weekend hours in the future. They also want to offer weekday services, since the Health Center closes at 4:00 p.m., and other health-care related transportation services such as to doctor’s appointments or pharmacies. A limiting factor, however, is the number of volunteer drivers and vehicles available. In order to be covered by the College, groups are required to use Kenyon vehicles. “Out of the goodness of his heart… [Manager of Business Services] Fred Linger gave us the mail van,” Akuma said. Linger recognized the Office of Campus Safety to refill the tank before the weekend if necessary.

Akuma hopes that next year, when the College sees the importance of the service, the group will have access to more vehicles than the one-passenger mail van. He also hopes more students will take interest in the project and volunteer as drivers.

Despite interest in improving transportation options for the Kenyon community are Lena Shefelman ’14, Catherine Dwyer ’14 and Regan Finn ’14. As a part of their Environmental Studies senior seminar final project, the three students developed the idea of Kenyon Rideshare, a website on which members of the Kenyon community can find and offer rides.

“It’s basically a place to consolidate people who want to go places,” Dwyer said. For students looking for a ride to the airport or wanting to split gas money for a late-night burrito run, the website offers a place to post listings offering and seeking rides to and from Gambier.

“I think that the biggest hurdle the group now faces is getting the word out. When introduced to the idea, however, most students gave a positive response. “I think it’s a very cool concept,” Claire Tomassi ’17 said. “A lot of people are already sort of doing that on the Kenyon Class of 2017 [Facebook] page, so I think it is a good way of organizing something that’s already happening.”

Beta brothers bring the beach to South Quad

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of years past, which spanned both Friday and Saturday. Last year, the Saturday [event] wasn’t really anything,” Gasbarro said. “It’s a void we’re trying to fill… We’re really hoping it works out.”

The Betas have made it clear that they do not see their hosting Saturday’s activities as asserting dominance over other Greek societies. “It’s kind of a good deal for everybody,” Gasbarro said. “They’re drinking beer on our tab and they get to do the exact same thing we’re going to do… I don’t really see any downside for anybody.”

January agreed — “I don’t want to give away the surprises,” he said. “… It’s going to be better than what your average night at the Cove.”

BFC requests for next semester plummet, surprising committee

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$25,000 the BFC did not award for the fall 2014 semester was requested for things forbidden by BFC bylaws. The BFC does not pay for food and only covers two-thirds of hotel expenses.

The associate dean of students Tacci Smith, who has taken over former Director of Student Activi
ties Christina Haas’ role as BFC advisor during the College’s search for a new director, does not think this year’s requests are out of the ordinary. “It feels different because the full-to-spring [difference] is so big,” Smith said.

Ritchie cited unfulfilled leadership requirements or incomplete end-of-semester evaluations, both of which must be completed for BFC funding eligibility, to explain the low numbers. “I was surprised by the amount of groups that were ineligible [for BFC funds],” she said. “A lot of it was in leadership requirements.”

Additionally, Ritchie attributed some of the ineligible groups to confusion in the Student Activities Office (SAO) after Haas’ departure, saying, “Obviously everything’s a little chaotic right now as the search continues for a new director.”

When applying for funds, groups submitting budgets of more than $1,000 are required to present their BFC funding eligibility, to explain the low numbers. “I was surprised by the amount of groups that were ineligible [for BFC funds],” she said. “A lot of it was in leadership requirements.”

Ritchie also mentioned confusion with problems with the Orig


Smith was surprised by the groups that didn’t show up. “A couple of them were groups that have been more consistent in the past and have asked for a somewhat significant amount of money,” she said.

Even so, the SAO will try to accommodate groups who missed their appointments or did not submit budgets at all. “There’s been talk about moving the first supplemental [budget hearing earlier in the year],” Filkins said. Such a move would provide another opportunity for groups that wanted to secure BFC funding at last week-end’s hearing, but did not receive it.

Before the first BFC supplemental hearing, groups can apply for Fun Funds, or in some cases, Gund Peacemaker or Gund Funds — which provide for non-alcoholic events in Gund Commons and Peacemaker Hall, respectively, or to finance food the BFC does not cover.

Despite these options and the SAO’s impending decisions, many groups may have trouble getting funding. Ritchie felt next year’s committee would “use more discre
tion” than normal in supplemental hearings. “It’s first-come, first-served,” she said.
Forum draws crowd in discussion of contentious wall

The Dean of Students Office sponsored an open forum to facilitate conversation about the art installation in Peirce.

HAHN GENDREAU | NEWS EDITOR

A public forum Tuesday discussing the wall Kenyon Students for Justice in Palestine (KSJP) erected last week in Peirce Hall was a rare moment of soul-searching for a campus with a track record of political apathy.

Ascensionary Philomathian Hall was packed as students, faculty and staff came to express their views on an installation piece that sought to bring attention to injustices resulting from the wall dividing Israel and Palestinian territories.

The conversation, sponsored by the Dean of Students Office, was led by Director of Counseling Services Patrick Gilligan, who began the event by having some members of KSJP explain the project.

“We wanted to do something that would force those who, we feel, have refused to negotiate with an issue — whether by denying that it’s happening or because they hold a different opinion — to do so,” KSJP member Sarah Gold ’15 said. “And we wanted to dramatize it in a way that it could not be ignored.”

The wall, which was met with praise, indifference and derision, galvanized the campus into a debate on the role and nature of political speech.

Forum attendee Adam Egelman ’16 said he took issue with the wall coming up during admitted students’ week. “If I were coming here as an admitted student, I would have definitely rethought this decision,” he said.

Professor of Political Science Fred Baumann blasted those in KSJP to the crowd of about 70. “If I were coming here as an admitted student, I would have definitely reconsidered this decision,” he said.

“Adam Bulmash ’14 and Jae June Lee ’17, who are in KSJP. ‘It’s already emotionally difficult in some ways when you feel existentially threatened and you must know that. That’s how liberal education gets killed. We’ve got lots of ways on this campus to debate these issues rationally.’”

Professor of Religious Studies Vernon Schubel said more diverse opinions that create a more varied community benefit the liberal arts.

“There’s a whole diversity of positions,” he said. “There’s a whole diversity of Jewish positions, there’s a whole diversity of Arab-American positions even on this campus, and unless we’re willing to hear all of them, then liberal education doesn’t mean anything.”

Director of Counseling Services Patrick Gilligan advised participants to be comfortable with being uncomfortable.

Dean of Students Hank Toutain said the decision to hold the forum stemmed from responses his office received from students and administrators calling for action.

An incident last November when two students decided to wear white sheets around campus prompted a student-led forum calling for action. An incident prompted a student-led forum calling for action.

“Out of that I think we identified a need for more discussion and for more diversity of opinion, and that led to this discussion.”

Toutain said the need to hold a forum prompted a student-led forum calling for action. An incident prompted a student-led forum calling for action.

Eyster: no need to recuse

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Kenyon College will defend the integrity of its rules of governance and student conduct in the matter of a lawsuit filed by former student Stephen Zingarelli.  
Kenyon College official statement

Eyster said because the civil suit is a jury trial — as opposed to a bench trial where the verdict is decided by the judge — he does not foresee a conflict of interest. “What I’ve decided in the past is not relevant,” he said.

The College’s chief attorney, Richard Lovering, declined to comment on whether or not Eyster should have recused himself or if the defense feared an anti-Kenyon bias from a Knox County judge, citing Zingarelli’s pending civil suit.

CORRECTION

In the article “CSAD furthers inequality debate” (April 17, 2014), the Collegian misquoted Scott Winship in a pull quote. The correct quotation is “We can think that mobility isn’t high enough — and I do — but it’s not the case that it’s worsened over time.” The Collegian regrets the error.
Lottery frenzy leaves students homeless until further notice

MAYA KAUFMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Imagine leaving campus without knowing where you’ll live next year. Two Saturdays ago, 27 first-year students left the housing lottery faced with this very difficult situation. These students will be summer housed, meaning they will not know where they are living — or with whom — until the summer.

The causes of housing shortages vary from year to year. Although the number of summer-housed students this year was due to a lower number of juniors studying abroad, this was found to be inaccurate as the number of students studying abroad actually marks an increase from fall 2013.

The academic quad on South campus, and is critical when — is notably one of the most traversed — which Middle Path runs through while landscape artists and college staff work on the path. This housing shortage comes as no surprise to some upper-classmen and administrators.

Almost every year, a number of students remain unhoused after the lottery and do not receive their assignments until midway through summer break. Once ResLife staff are certain of the number of transfer students, withdrawals and incoming first years, they are able to consolodate students who selected option housing and lack roommates.

“Last year, unhoused students had more options in per-class Mathey,” Train said. “The problem was last year we received a larger-than-expected first-year class, so we had to extend into upper-class [hall] Mather, and we ended up having to move some upperclassmen out. To avoid that this year, we blocked off more Mather rooms than we did last year, just in case we have another larger-than-expected first-year class.”

ResLife staff do not keep track of exact numbers of unhoused students from year to year, but they pointed out that one year marked close to 50 unhoused students.

Train emphasized the housing lottery shortaage is not due to a lack of housing. “We always have housing,” she said. “We always find housing over the summer. We’ve never [run] into a location where we have somebody where we just don’t have housing.”

Though students know they will find a place to live next year, the idea of summer housing came as a surprise to many first years — and the resulting uncertainty continues to cause frustration.

“I was really disappointed, because when you go to a school that guarantees housing, I just assumed you’d get somewhere to live,” Ellie Jorling ’17 said. She had hoped to live in a Caples Residence Hall double. “I’d never heard of being summer housed before. It was only after I experienced being summer housed did I hear of other people being summer housed in the past. Maybe they should have warned us at the outset, because it would have prepared us.”

Jorling and her roommate were fairly certain that their lottery number of 972 was good enough for a double in Caples, based on last year’s list of which numbers received which dorms. Abhiaya Tatavarti ’17, also summer housed, said she is maintaining a positive attitude about being assigned summer housing; she knew this was a possibility with her lottery number of 1013. Her major frustration was having to endure the long wait at the lottery itself, only to leave empty-handed.

“It was so frustrating; that, by the time we got to the front of the line, they said they didn’t have any rooms,” Tatavarti said. “I wish that there was a way we didn’t have to stay all four hours and then just get turned back. I wish something was different about that waitng process.”

Although Jorling knows that her housing situation will ultimately be resolved, the wait itself is discouraging. “I know that there’s not a lot that they can do and I understand that, but the one thing that I thought would be set for next year is my housing,” she said. “So I’m a little disappointed.”

Prolonged Path discussion resurfaces

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that to have the symbol of our school fundamentally rooted in inaccessibility and discrimination against people who have mobility challenges is problematic.”

Sean Decatur, President

“I think that folks increasingly understand that to have the symbol of our school fundamentally rooted in inaccessibility and discrimination against people who have mobility challenges is problematic.”

Sean Decatur, President

“The current master plan already has funds allocated to the approved project of attempting to find new alternatives to the gravel. Past test patches have failed, including one recently tested on a synthetic surface tested last year behind Old Kenyon Residence Hall. But, a patch tested this current academic year on the northeast corner of Middle Path near Bexley Hall fared decently in the winter season.

“I think it depends on if, in fact, that looks like a viable option — then there can really be work starting this summer,” Decatur said. “What Middle Path is really a gravel walk, but it is also the most travelled of the institution, and we need to figure out a way to make that work.”

Restoration of Middle Path has been underway for several years, while landscape artists and college employees attempt to find a solution. The academic quad on South campus — which Middle Path runs through — is notable for the most travelled areas on campus, and is critical when considering accessibility, according to Salva.

One of the proposed surface materials is an aggregate — essentially a layer of concrete embedded with rocks that closely resembles gravel. Fervor for the topic was renewed when faculty and students raised concerns at a recent faculty meeting about Middle Path being unsafe, especially in the winter months when ice coats the walkway and makes walking too class to a dangerous activity. Campus’s main artery took an especially hard hit this past winter, with conditions so bad one student with cerebral palsy brought up a that she fell at least half a dozen times each week.

But people with mobility handicaps aren’t the only ones falling victim to the perils of Middle Path. Salva also listed parents with baby strollers or IT employees with tech carts among those affected by Middle Path’s challenging surface.

At their most recent meeting, some faculty members called for more focus on the Middle Path restoration project. “It’s people who live in this community, who deal with Middle Path everyday, who understand the importance of making it universally accessible,” Salva said. “I’m an alum myself, but I see the day-to-day realities of sustaining it, of getting around.”

Jordi Alonso ’14 traverses campus on a Segway, but expressed a neutrality in comparison to the immediacy others expressed.

“I understand both sides of the argument,” Alonso said. “I feel like if it were paved, we’d lose a lot of the Kenyon ethos, so to speak. But at the same time, having spent four winters here, it’s really damn hard to get to class if you live South. [If] you have to get to Lentz House or something, you have to get on Middle Path at some point.

Instead of resurfacing Middle Path, Alonso suggested alternate routes. “It’s really difficult to navigate,” Alonso said. “It’s part of the accessibility thing, but I think that goes for everyone, no matter what one’s physical circumstances may be.”

Mather is usually the last choice at the housing lottery. This time around, students were lucky to even get a room.

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Summer internships: a tragic love story

ANNIE SHELSLOW

CONTRIBUTOR

It embarrasses me to admit how many times I have reimagined my life as a romantic comedy. I daydream about my media job in some well-lit, colorfully decorated office. I replace my actual character flaws with forgetfulness or passive aggression with cute imperfections that would prevent me from finding Mr. Right, such as the fact that I just care about all my friends so much that I never have time for romance.

Only recently, however, did I actually experience an authentic romcom feeling when I was stood up three times by internship phone interviews. Through my groveling, brown-nosing emails, I believed I had entered into a holy contract with my potential employers. I figured they were committed to calling me from their New York office at 4:00 p.m. one Friday. ‘Til death do us part! I put on a pencil skirt, my way into a position only to find the CDO is running out of big-name internships where application fees of over $100 are levied for someone polite enough to cancel my interview after four minutes. I replaced the sound of my phone articulating itself with the sweet smell of networking promises on the breeze. As the near bottom of the employment food chain, a little respect could go a long way. Having to sell your worth to potential employers with the zeal of the next OxfamCleaner spokesperson is awkward enough without having to fight for common courtesy.

Especially when applying to big-name internships where applications slide off the crowded desks of overworked assistants, I find the balancing act between humility and confidence nearly impossible. How do I boast myself into a most representative role, that is, sheepshadly remind employers they’ve forgotten about me? I know the cushy warmth of a Kenyon professor’s email is not representative of the harsh realities of the real world.

I understand that by applying for unpaid internships, I place myself at the mercy ofoffee- charged administrators looking for someone polite enough to stuff envelopes and take bunch orders. I realize I am a hungry alley cat of the job market following all the sweet sounds of my phone articulation, or praise of my impressive typing rate 77 words-per-minute.

All I ask is that internship coordinators give me the illusion that I am a valuable, paid member of their organization. Even though I know my importance as an intern will be a lie, I need to believe it — my poor, delicate heart just can’t take another trip down the aisle. Internmatch.com, I am weary of giving me away, and the CDO is running out of funds for the chocolate foun- tain at the reception. Someday, My Tonight Show internship will shine armor will rescue me from this horror and we will ride away on a white steed all the way to Studio 68. Until then, I guess I’ll be wishing on stars and sighing at hopeful Taylor Swift songs like the rest of us.

Annie Shelslow ’15 is an English major from Wilming- ton, Del. She can be reached at sheelslow@kenyon.edu.
On the big issues, it’s time to get out of our heads

The recent drop in participation in Student Council and Senate elections should serve as a wake-up call in regard to change.

DEREK FORET
CONTRIBUTOR

There’s something just extremely odd about going to the polls. Whether it’s the sense of responsibility, fulfillment of a civic duty or concern about importance of the outcome, there’s nothing quite like receiving that little sticker on Election Day that makes you want to grab a flag and a slice of apple pie (and a bald eagle if you can find one), break out in red, white and blue and parade down Main Street singing your best rendition of “America the Beautiful.”

(English please, no matter what certain soft drink companies aired during the Super Bowl. Communist pigs.)

Wait, sorry, are you guys not on the same page as me? Perhaps that’s why only a second group of us voted in Student Council and Senate elections this year.

Obnoxious patriotism aside, the fact that less than one quarter of students voted shows that there is an excusable gap between our student government and the body it’s supposed to serve.

Recently, contributor Jonathan Allon ’16 argued that this apathy was directly caused by the online nature of the polls and that our only hope would be to return to brick-and-mortar booth voting, as he didn’t “exactly feel the same surge of civic pride after clicking a few names and hitting submit” (“Online Campus Elections Hurt the Voter Turnout,” April 20).

While Allon, calling for a more active role from student government during elections, is certainly justified, the fact that he thinks the diagnosed “apathy” problem would be fixed with making the elections less accessible is quite troubling to me.

While there is certainly something to be said about student government’s physical presence on campus, the problem is much more pervasive than the difference between clicking or checking a box.

If we’re not voting online, why would we wait in an actual line to do so? I agree with Allon that if student government wants the election process to mean anything, it needs to build a meaningful culture around the electoral process. But trashing the online voting system for the sake of the public feeling a voting booth carries with it just isn’t the way to do so.

I’ll be perfectly honest here: the only reason I logged on to vote was because of the urging of a friend who was running for a position.

While I was intending to just vote for him or her and skip the rest, especially when I came across lists of names I had never heard of, I realized that each candidate running had an accessible PDF of their letter of intent.

Now, Allon said that he “was hard-pressed to find a single substantive idea in any of those forms.” However, not only is that not the fault of student government, but of those running for positions and (perhaps an indicator that you shouldn’t vote for them), but even that amount of information is more than what voters would get at a polling place.

I’ve voted in a few local elections in my hometown of Washington, D.C., and honestly, it was interesting to find factual information about all the candidates here at Kenyon than about those running for D.C. City Council. Taking away the online aspect of the voting would make this information less accessible, which would only regress the state of our elections.

But getting rid of the online system does more than just make it harder to be an informed voter. Allon’s line of thinking points to a trend on campus of always trying to solve things in our heads. It’s perfectly manifested itself in the whole separation wall debate — while both sides have done a great job of sharing their ideas off through art installations and counter-essays, hardly any actual discussion has taken place.

And while I am a firm believer in the classic ideological defense of a Liberal Arts Education, nothing can get done in the physical world if we translate that line of thinking into politics.

All it does is make us think something productive while in reality either nothing is changed or something practical (such as online voting) was thought out of existence.

We can change our voting practices and try to instill political passion all we want, but if we want real change, we need to come face to face with real issues that we can affect.

If we want to care, we need to see how both student gov- ernment and the electoral process translate to tangible and noticeable action in our community. If we want to have a political impact in the world, then we need to get out of our heads.

DEREK Foret ’17 is a math major from Washington, D.C. He can be contacted at foret@kenyon.edu.

THE KENYON COLLEGIAN | THURSDAY, APRIL 24 | KENYONCOLLEGIANONLINE.COM

Alexandra Bradner
CONTRIBUTOR

We spend a lot of time pursuing our goals, getting and getting things we’re just about to lose. We’re delusional, solipsistic and self-cruel in that way.

Our unrealistic goals come from our aspirational culture and our parents, who misinform us in order to catterize their own losses. My parents told me I could be anything I wanted to be, as long as I worked hard and stayed away from crack.

I wanted to be a ballerina — secure enough to maintain her center in pirouette and strong enough to soar in grand jeté, but ultimately protected from injury by a series of men. Later, I wanted to be a playwright, and get paid for listening to music while I was writing. After that, I wanted to be a truck driver so I could find myself within the vastness of our more irrational and personal losses. My parents have done something to secure their jobs, houses or money; their partners will leave them; or one of their organs will cease to function.

Studies of the Knobe Effect build upon Toulmin’s ideas of natural order to find that we in fact look for responsible parties — we call for explanations — only when something goes wrong.

When things go right, we don’t point fingers. This now-famous asymmetry occurs because we believe things are supposed to go right for us: God or Nature has our back.

It’s a self-mediating metaphysical comfort. But it has also left us unprepared for the alternative reality that our knowledge and its associated miseries. We simply can’t handle post-Humean, post-Darwinian preconceptions.

But Kenyon’s seniors have done something to secure themselves against the vicissitudes of fate. Seniors, you’re about to earn a meaningful credential in the liberal arts.

You may lose your money, your health, your home and your lover, but you will always have your spectacular education, conveyed to you as a profound gift from your professors, whose skepticism about our collective future is contained only by their care for it. Thanks to them, you’re taking Kenyon with you.

What exactly did you get for your $235,560? A lot.

In fact, I hope you’ll try to double that amount in alumni giving over the course of your adult life. For us to learn that the sciences require imagination, the arts require problem-solving, the social sciences require head and hand and the humanities require data.

You learned what’s wrong with the world, this country, your community. You’ll try and yourself and what was right all along. You learned how to make, keep and lose a friend.

And you learned how to look complete strangers square in the eye and smile.

This isn’t propositional knowledge; it’s understanding. And you just can’t get it in a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).”

Look after John Stuart Mill’s “tender plant.” Help it grow and, most importantly, share its fruits with others who weren’t as lucky as you.”

ALEXANDRA BRADNER
CONTRIBUTOR

Seniors: before deciding on which path to take next, recognize the wealth of your four years spent here.

The first group might be looking to go right away the online aspect of the voting would make this information less accessible, which would only regress the state of our elections.

It was easier to find actual information about all the candidates here at Kenyon than about those running for D.C. City Council. Taking away the online aspect of the voting would make this information less accessible, which would only regress the state of our elections.

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“Look after John Stuart Mill’s ‘tender plant.’ Help it grow and, most importantly, share its fruits with others who weren’t as lucky as you.”

Don’t worry too much about looking forward (one of our more irrational and personally destructive commodities) and getting changed or something that we need to come face to face with real issues that we can affect.

Alexandra Bradner is a visiting assistant professor of English from Lexington, Ky. She can be contacted at alexandrabradner@gmail.com.

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“My wonderful year as Kenyon’s faculty-in-residence is coming to a close. The seniors are leaving too, finishing up their last few assignments, visiting their favorite places and dropping on their friends, some of whom they’ll see, from now on, only digitally.

Many of the seniors have plans — plane tickets to China, graduate school acceptance letters, devoted romantic partners and high-paying jobs — but most have no idea what’s coming next.

I was in that latter group when I graduated and have since floated through a succession of uncertain spaces. The first group might acclaim betterment. And while I long to rock their world: they’ll lose their jobs, houses or mon-
Quick Complaints

“There are too many libertarians on this campus.”
- Drew Hogan ’15

“People keep trying to hit me with their bicycle.”
- Aislinn McKeown ’15

“I got a suboptimal score on my stats test.”
- Liam Hackett ’17

“These plates are too small.”
- Claire Tomasi ’17

“The loans are too damn high.”
- Conrad Jacober ’15

“Mortality.”
- Claire Berman ’16

“The tiny clock is wrong.”
- Sarah Adrianowyce ’16

“Middle Path still isn’t accessible.”
- Madeline Thompson ’16

“I miss apples.”
- Meli Taylor ’17

“I got the damm stomach flu two weeks after ‘I got a suboptimal score on my stats test.’”
- Liam Hackett ’17

“I miss apples.”
- Dolly Luo ’17

“Laptop won’t charge. I have shit to be writing.”
- Ana Maricic ’14

“Passover ends tonight and Peirce isn’t serving pizza.”
- Anne Malkoff ’16

“I woke up at 6:30 to study for an incredibly easy midterm.”
- Cheyenne Cardell ’15

“I hate actors.”
- Christine Prevas ’15

“Spring fever.”
- Rachel Rhee ’15

“Dorms are getting muggy.”
- Charles Cutler ’17

“There’s not enough time left in the year!”
- Ally Dellheim ’17

“People who know each other — even vague acquaintances — need to say hello more often.”
- Lila Perrone ’17

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“The Wall” is a door to discussion

To the Editor:
Kenyon is a more diverse place now than it has ever been. Part of that diversity is that we have many more Arab, Arab-American, Muslim and Muslim-American students. Their presence on our campus has had a profound and positive impact. It is no longer possible to talk about issues that involve Arabs and Muslims as if they are some distant “Other.” In particular, the presence of Palestinian students on our campus has meant that discussions of the Israeli Occupation are no longer abstract. Their experiences put a human face on the harsh and humiliating realities of Palestinian existence.

All of this brings me to “the Wall” installation in Peirce Hall. The recent Collegian story about “the Wall” presents the debate over it as if it could be reduced to a simple binary. On the one hand were the voices of Hillel Director Marc Bragin and a handful of students who were outraged and insulted by “the Wall.” They accused its creators of being insensitive propagandists who failed to take into account the sensitivities of Jewish students. These voices were presented as if they somehow represented “the Jewish perspective.” On the other hand, there were the students of Kenyon Students for Justice in Palestine (KSJP) in Palestine who stealthily “came in the night”—although they actually had sought and received permission from the administration to construct a provocative installation that failed to take into account the fact that it was passed over or the recent horrific attack on a Jewish center by a white supremacist in Kansas. Like most binaries this one is deeply misleading.

First of all, there are a variety of positions on Israel and Palestine within Kenyon’s Jewish community. In fact, many of the students involved are themselves Jewish. I have spoken with some of these students since “the Wall” went up. For them, “the Wall” was not a comment on Jews or Jewish occupation. In fact, a close examination of “the Wall” reveals that it contains no attacks on the Jewish people or the Jewish religion. It doesn’t present Jews as a monolithic Other nor does it promote vile and inaccurate comparisons between Jews and Nazis. It simply and profoundly presents the humanity and legality of the actual Wall that Israel has built through the West Bank. I would suggest that many of the voices of the Wall community are perfectly comfortable with the presence of “the Wall” and the questions it raises.

There is a small but vocal minority on our campus that has decided to accuse KSJP of being insensitive bullies, implying that anyone critical of Israeli policy is in reality an anti-Semite. But as I read “the Wall” it speaks to the common humanity of Jews and Arabs in Palestine. The humanity of the Wall resonates with the vision of the Palestinian-American comedian Maysoun Zayid, who performed recently in Peirce Hall to a packed house—a major event that was strangely not covered in the pages of the Collegian. Near the end of her show Ms. Zayid was asked by a member of the audience about the map of Israel-Palestine displayed on her blouse. She replied that she understood Israel and Palestine to be one country, a country where in the not-so-distant past Jews, Muslims and Christians had lived side by side. She put forward the notion that Israel-Palestine should finally emerge as a single state where no one religion is privileged over another and everyone’s religious rights are protected. And she further argued that such a state was much more in line with American values of tolerance and secular democracy than a state defined by ethnic and religious nationalisms. She concluded by saying that as a Palestinian and an American, that was the state she wanted to see. At this, the packed house in Peirce Hall burst into applause.

The one-state solution proposed by Maysoun Zayid and reflected in “the Wall” is supported by many Jews, Christians, Muslims and persons of no faith at all. While a relatively new idea at Kenyon, it is not a particularly radical one, a simple binary. On the one hand, there are the students of Hillel who are outraged and in fact have sought and received permission from the administration to present as if they somehow represent the Jewish community. It is rather an idea that recognizes the common humanity of everyone who lives in Israel-Palestine. It deserves our consideration. I, for one, applaud the Kenyon Students for Justice in Palestine for providing our community with an opportunity for serious and challenging discussion.

Peace/Salam/Shaolom,
Vernon James Schubel
Professor of Religious Studies

Middle Path should be accessible for all students, present and future

To the Editor:
Middle Path is inaccessible to students with disabilities and to those limited temporarily by injury. A current student writes: “I have cerebral palsy, a disability that causes me to have poor balance and motor control. Structural barriers on campus prevent me from experiencing Kenyon to its fullest. Among these barriers, Middle Path remains the biggest problem. Its uneven surface compromises my balance even when I walk over it. Even during good weather conditions, I have lost my footing and fallen. Additionally, its gravel makes it unsuitable for the passage of wheelchairs, walkers, and other assistive devices. Middle Path became especially hazardous this winter when the gravel froze over. Many of my friends slipped and fell at least once, while I fell several times a week.”
The College now plans to address Middle Path with an improved surface. But this new plan needs to be tested by wheelchairs, by students with disabilities and by the disability coordinator.

Five years ago, in April 2009, the faculty debated the state of Middle Path. We considered a resolution signed by six editors of the Collegian published an editorial signed by six editors that read, “The College should choose to stand in solidarity with past and current future students with disabilities and make their experience definitively more welcoming by fully paving Middle Path.” This spring, an administration eagerly visited Kenyon only to find herself blocked by Middle Path. Middle Path remains inaccessible. It is long past time for the College to solve this problem.

Joan Slonczewski
Professor of Biology
This past weekend, six Kenyon student dancers, in conjunction with four alumni and five student musicians, brought the Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT) to life during their performance. The students performed with Double-Edge Dance, a contemporary dance and music company founded by Assistant Professor of Dance Kora Radella and Assistant Professor of Music Ross Feller in 1993.

“Getting to dance with live musicians consisting of past and present Kenyon students was incredibly special for all of us involved,” Hanna Beckerman ’14 said.

Beckerman, Megan Darnell ’14, Eden Deering ’14, Freeland Ellis ’17, Elizabeth Furman ’15 and Phoebe Rotter ’14 performed a piece called “Sing In Your Sleep,” which they choreographed in collaboration with Radella. The dance was set to “Existence Anonymous,” a piece of music by Michelle Birsky ’13 and performed live by Birsky, Klara Auerbach ’17, Eliza Blum ’15, Ali Goergen ’14, Zoe Lyon ’15, Nandi Plunkett ’12, Rhioghnach Robinson ’16 and Edek Sher ’13.

“Sing in Your Sleep’ is very special to all of us, and has gone through many stages since we first started working on it this past fall,” Furman said. “When it all came together it was amazing to unite all the elements.”

Rotter felt a similar emotional connection to the piece. “We performed it first in the Winter Dance Concert, but with a recording,” she said. “Performing it on CPT’s huge, beautiful, old stage with seven musicians playing right in front of us brought it to an entirely new level of performance and emotion.”

“Sing in Your Sleep” was one of four pieces choreographed by Radella that were shown that day. The other pieces involved both current Kenyon students and alumni. One of the dances was in conjunction with boomerang, another project of Radella’s formed with Adrian Galvin ’12 and Matty Davis ’12. Davis performed two pieces, “Oughta” and “How you shone through me,” both of which he assisted Radella in choreographing. “Oughta” samples music by Poor Remy, a band created by Galvin and other Kenyon alumni.

When she first began Double-Edge Dance, Rad ella wanted to keep her student work and professional work separate, but then decided to incorporate her students in the company whenever she could. Radella said the two student performances were “something that I really stand behind artistically,” and added that “they performed amazingly well.”

Those who couldn’t make it to the concert in Cleveland still have a chance to see part of the performance. The piece “Render/Each other/Whole,” which was danced by Beckerman and Deering and accompanied by cellist Lyon, will be performed in Kenyon’s upcoming Spring Dance Concert in the Bolton Theater from May 1-3 at 8 p.m.

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Dancing the Night Away

INDIA AMOS AND ANNA DUNLAVEY | COLLEGIAN STAFF

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB CHRISTY
Annual spring poetry celebration returns to campus

ELANA SPIVACK STAFF WRITER

"Is that a poem in your pocket, or are you just happy to see me?"

So reads one of The Kenyon Review’s buttons advertising its annual Poem In Your Pocket Day, a holiday that the prestigious magazine has formally celebrated since 2008. On Tuesday, April 22, the literary ninjas of The Kenyon Review — its student associates — rose at dawn and silently transformed Middle Path into a poetry oasis, pinning copies of poems, free for the taking, to lines of twine.

The holiday began in New York in 2002, and the Academy of American Poets instituted it as a national event in 2008. Every year since then, The Kenyon Review has blanketed campus with poetry and brought in a poet for a reading. This year, Martha Collins read at the prime spot of English classes, Cheever Room on Tuesday.

Erich Slimak ’15 the intern in charge of social events for The Kenyon Review and has largely coordinated the event this year by organizing associate meetings to prepare for the celebration. He was unable to be reached for comment.

For those unable to form a thesis about a Whitman poem or analyze T.S. Eliot, the Review’s Programs Director Anna Duke Reach assures those concerns. Poem In Your Pocket Day is “more about passion than purpose,” she said. “We want it to be about love of the word and sharing words, which is so much a part of [Kenyon’s] culture,” she said.

The Review’s Associate Director of Programs Tory Weber said, "I think it’s an amazing opportunity to get everyone involved in engaging in poetry in a really easy, fun way. I think … poetry is seen as something that’s intimidating, and you study it in your English class and you hope you’re thinking and saying smart things about a poem. On Poem In Your Pocket Day, it’s about … somebody seeing a poem flowing in the breeze and picking it up and sharing it with their friends.”

The Review’s hope for this literary holiday is to extend poetry to all students. “I think what we do well here at Kenyon is get everyone involved and try to drum up a lot of interest in all sorts of events and Poem In Your Pocket Day is no exception,” Weber added.

The day embraces the romantic side of literature, leaving the dry analysis to English classes. Public poetry allows for passing students on Middle Path to form meaningful, instant connections with literature.

“I love the spontaneity of it, that people just stop to read a poem and then grab one they feel like they can call their own and then read that to others,” Reach said. “I feel that I’ve gotten to know some people for the first time based on the poem they choose.”

The mentality of poetry in the classroom trends toward constant, deep analysis, whereas this day is specifically for making art accessible to the public. “There’s a national declaration … just to get poetry out there,” Reach said. “I think educators have been more test-oriented. … The essay has sort of taken over the prime spot of English classes and poetry … gets pushed to the sidelines.”

While the national holiday could be seen as taking a stance against traditionally-taught poetry, on the Kenyon campus it seems to do a world of good for students. During the end-of-year crunch, as everyone prepares for finals, the combination of poetry on paper and stunning weather can briefly jolt students from their stressful stupor.

Poem In Your Pocket Day also offers the opportunity to make connections beyond paper and lyric. While that crucial initial connection between the reader and the poet sets the celebration in motion, students may end up sharing their favorite newfound poems with each other.

With students rushing up and down Middle Path, they may not have sufficient time to savor each individual poem, but the prominent chance in scenery certainly provides stimulation. “There’s a lot of drama in walking down Middle Path and seeing hundreds of poems blowing in the breeze,” Weber said. This day celebrating poetry offers students dozens of poems. Reach said, “It’s just sort of a poetry holiday. It’s like going out and picking wildflowers in the woods.”

Kenyon students say ni hao to Chinese music in Brandi

INDIA AMOS STAFF WRITER

Kenyon was given a little taste of China on April 19 when the Chinese Music Ensemble demonstrated their skills on instruments such as the erhu, sheng, and pipa.

Under the direction of Visiting Assistant Professor of Asian Music and Culture Mei Han, 14 students performed a range of Chinese songs that personified emotions and nature through their use of serene music. Members of the ensemble took to the stage in authentic Chinese clothing and brought the audience for a little over half an hour.

Throughout the course, students learned how to play their respective instruments at an advanced level, and basic musicianship skills, as well as ensemble skills. Han, a music major, brings an authentic Chinese experience to her class, which has culminated with a public performance that showcases the students’ achievements and abilities.

Brandi Recital Hall swelled with the sounds of “Beeching with Joy,” a lively piece that traces its origins to Northern China. Followed by a classical piece that has captured the Chinese music scene for 80 years and a song infused with folk music, The Chinese Music Ensemble brought its audience to “Guan Shan Yue.” This traditional piece, which traces its roots to the Han Dynasty (206 BCE to 220 CE), was performed in conjunction with the poem “Moon Over the Mountain Path.” Students recited the poem first in Chinese and then in English, which appeared in a different aspect of the audience’s auditory senses.

History buffs would have appreciated the rendition too, because replications of authentic period instruments were used to add a unique tone to the music. The next song, titled “Tiger Snatching Teeth,” was a stunning piece for percussion performed by a reduced ensemble. By using drums and cymbals, students worked to personify Chinese forest tension. As the booming of the drums increased, representing a tiger awakening and beginning its prowl for food. The song increased in speed and intensity as the tiger hunted for its meal before, finally, ending in an explosion of emotion and sound, symbolizing the end of the hunt. The performance concluded with “HuluFunk,” a song arranged by Han herself. The piece was written by Randy Raine-Reusch. The composition included a myriad of beautiful sounds and syncopated rhythms, but the song ended with members of the ensemble emerging from the audience and playing their instruments down the steps of Brandi until finally reaching the stage. The audience was given to come out and enjoy the music.

The performance provided its audience with a pleasant experience on a windy Saturday afternoon, but the performers themselves also appeared to be entertained by their activities. While some performers at this particular concert had prior experience with their instruments, the majority of students were newcomers. It was evident by the expressions on their faces that they enjoyed learning about the history and culture of the music they were playing. Considering how many students were new to their instruments, it was surprising to see how much progress the students had made in only a semester.

Chinese Music Ensemble will be offered next semester and is recruiting new students. Experience in Chinese instruments or musical instruments is not necessary. Chinese Music Ensemble meets Tuesday 7:00 p.m. and Thursday 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. and is taught under Han’s instruction. All students interested in Chinese culture — whether music, history or traditions — are welcome to become a part of the Fall 2014 Chinese Music Ensemble.
Biava to feature
Beethoven in concert

JANE SIMONTON
ASSOCIATE MUSIC EDITOR

String together a series of compliments now, because this Monday's string ensemble spring concert looks like it will be a hit.

Conducted by Juilliard-educated Adjunct Instructor of Cello Luis Biava, who is also the musical director of the New Albany Symphony Orchestra and principal cellist of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, the group will perform Felix Mendelssohn's String Quartet No. 2, the catura from Ludwig van Beethoven's String Quartet No. 13 and Lugu Boccherini's Quartet III, Op. 37. Biava's deep love for Beethoven was part of the reason for the catura's inclusion in the program.

"I've always loved Beethoven," Biava said. "[The piece is] such a beautiful and slow movement and I love Beethoven. Beethoven is the best one there.

Sarah Chapman '16, a member of the ensemble — along with Devon Donaldson, Melissa Hoyt and Therese Locke — is also the Collegian's chief copy editor. Dylan Ogden '16, Yingyi Li '16 and India Amos '17, who is also a staff writer for the Collegian — echoed this enthusiasm.

"I'm most looking forward to playing the catura," Chapman wrote in an email. "The piece is absolutely beautiful. I read [that] it was the only thing Beethoven ever composed that made him cry. It's also a very different style from what I'm used to playing, and I've enjoyed branching out to music on which I don't usually get a chance to work."

One of the most special parts about this particular concert is the variety present within the pieces and how those differences work together to form a cohesive flow.

"[You can expect] beautiful music traveling through the style of each composer based on what was happening in that culture at that time," Biava said. "Mendelssohn will be a light [piece], but with Beethoven, you get deep into his soul.

An interesting element of this performance is that, despite being an ensemble, each member has a solo at some point, according to Biava. Weaving these parts together to make them work has been challenging, Chapman said, but she expects it will be worthwhile.

"I think the biggest challenge has been striking a balance between everyone in the group and their respective parts," Chapman said. "The main thing we're performing provides a lot of opportunities to showcase individual players, both as soloists and within the group. We've been working to make sure these moments shine from a collective performance.

"To see just how well the ensemble's hard work pays off, attend the concert Monday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in Brandi Recital Hall.

Quartet gives concert of farewells
ALEX PIANOWSKI
STAFF WRITER

The concert given on Sunday, April 20 by the Chase Quartet, Kenyon's resident virtuosic string players, concluded a memorable year-long run in a farewell performance that was itself full of goodbyes.

The foursome includes Andrew Stewart '15 on first violin, Alayne Wegner '17 on second violin; David Hoyt '14, who is also the Collegian's chief copy editor, on viola; and Jeremy Fuller '14 on cello. As usual, they took the stage in Brandi Recital Hall with poise and dignity, bedecked in conservative black and white dress clothes. However, when they presented works by two great composers, they spared no intensity.

The evening's program led off with the String Quartet No. 1 in G minor, Op. 27, by the preeminent 19th-century Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg, predominantly known for his Piano Concerto in A minor, some of his "Lyric Pieces" for piano and, of course, those stal pades of advertising culture, "In the Hall of the Mountain King" and "Morning Mood" from his Peer Gynt suite. Grieg's venture into chamber music was a surprising and impressive foray of both Grieg's musicianship and those interpreting his handwriting.

Stewart and Wegner set a strong example from the beginning with a confident yet gentle interpretation of the somewhat mournful main melody. Though the Grieg quartet alternates between many styles — including an Italian dance — and time signatures — the members played each movement with remarkable consistency.

"Though the Grieg quartet alternates between many styles, including an Italian dance — and time signatures — the members played each movement with remarkable consistency."

The second of the two pieces was the String Quartet No. 8, Op. 110 of the 20th-century Soviet composer Dmitri Shostakovich. This work, dedicated "To the Victims of Fascism and the War," was bound to be thematically turbulent. Besides memorializing World War II victims, one of Shostakovich's close friends once suggested that the quartet was intended to be the composer's suicide note, although he died of lung cancer 15 years after it premiered.

The quartet's rendition of the piece was of such singular quality that it transformed my conception of its composer — although I previously listed Shostakovich as among my least favorite musicians, I became more receptive to his music after hearing this quartet. I was especially struck by the dark and introspective melodies interpreted by Hoyt on the viola and Fuller on the cello, which demonstrated the complexity of Shostakovich's music and the all-around musical talent of the group.

"Whenever we play through [the Shostakovich] piece, it's emotionally draining," Stewart said. "Whenever we [play it], we're in a heightened emotional state.

Which was the case. The last note had died away, Hoyt announced the group would play an encore piece. A handful of plucked notes sounded before the quartet began playing a version of 'Kokosing Farewell,' arranged by Professor of Music Ben Locke. The quartet executed this bonus piece just as well as their main program.

"I thought, especially because the Shostakovich ends so sadly, it was nice to have something after that," Hoyt said. Stewart added that "[Kokosing Farewell] is so intimately tied to Kenyon, and also especially significant because of [Hoyt] and [Fuller] graduating. One thing I want to make clear, though, is that sadness was not the key emotion."

Stewart said the quartet may perform once or twice more before the year ends, although such performances would be "certainly, nothing on the level of the concert we just had. But it's a wonderful, wonderful opportunity is a impromptu concert in Peirce Hall Tower. If one should happen to hear the dulcet strains of string music echoing in Peirce during fr

"The Crowd You're in With..."
Open Barn provides community with the ride of its life

Originally called “Spring Riot,” Summer Sendoff celebrates in the ‘Bier with restrictions.

EMMA WELSH-MUGGINS
FEATURES ASSISTANT

With finals just around the corner and classes wrapping up, it’s time for Kenyon students to send off Summer Sendoff.

This annually anticipated and perpetually controversial event brings with it a history of administrative strife that began when students first thought to convene on the South Quad one spring evening long ago. Even before Sendoff was an official event, an affair known as “Spring Riot” was referenced in a 1980 op-ed piece in the Collegian.

An apparently more violent affair, the author was criticized for an incivility involving paper airplanes and fireworks that were thrown into a crowd on South Quad. This event, originally held “on the first warm Thursday night of the year,” would transform into today’s delight of the student body, and prickling source of consternation for the administration.

“It was just fun,” William Taylor ’85 said. “It’s fun to be out in the music and celebrating spring.”

In the 34 years since the first official Summer Sendoff in 1980, the face of traditional debauchery in the late spring sunshine has changed. The year-end celebration began with refreshments of beer held on a Saturday in late April each year, with musical acts that ranged from the relatively unknown to the fairly popular. Professors and other community members would bring their children to sit upon picnic blankets, hoping to enjoy the day as a family-friendly event. The administration, responding to complaints by these parents — one such objection was published in the Collegian — of student drunkenness and misbehavior continued to increase limits on the event. In 1995, students lost the ability to bring their own cups or containers to the concert, with closer scrutiny by Campus Safety officers. As Heath Binder commented in the Collegian in 1997, these new policies took away from the spirit of Sendoff. “I used to think illegal substances made Summer Sendoff fun. Now I think they make it bearable.”

This somewhat-forced theme of community participation has continued into the 2000s, as the administration made clear their intentions with such quotes as “keep campus busy with events that are non-alcoholic and hopefully have interaction with the Village,” in 2002. The final straw for many students was the 2012 decision to change the official day of Sendoff from Saturday to Friday, since Social Board claimed better bands could be booked for a Friday performance rather than a Saturday performance.

Experiences, criticisms and expectations for Sendoff vary broadly across the community and it is unlikely that there will ever come a day when the administration and the student body agree on the best day for the event. But even as the tradition develops, its essence of chaotic happiness will continue to run deep.

Despite undergoing changes, Summer Sendoff has been a quintessential part of the Kenyon experience for years. Originally called “Spring Riot,” Summer Sendoff celebrates in the ‘Bier with restrictions.

VIC NUGAVSKY
PHOTO EDITOR

A loud, excited crowd fills the indoor track as Morgan Greer ’14 and her pony, Lyrical, prepare for their next jump. This is Lyrical’s first Open Barn. “She’s a little bit distrac-te,” announced an equestrian Phoebe Rose ’16, who is also the Collegian’s news assistant, calls to an avid audience. “She’s observing the atmosphere.”

Both horse and rider begin trotting around the track, slowly at first but gaining speed until Lyrical’s hooves are in the air and their bodies soar over the tall bar. The pair are greeted with thunderous applause and cheers from the audience of excited children.

Led by team captains Greer, Helen Rogers ’15 and Dianne Thoensen ’14, the Kenyon College Equestrian Club hosted their annual fundraiser, Open Barn, last Saturday. The event took place at Hickory Hill Farm, about 12 miles away from Kenyon, and featured numerous activities. This year’s occasion drew a crowd of about 120 — by far the largest number of people since the event’s inception four years ago.

“We have had a lot of pony teams all day!” Eliza- beth Abrash ’17 said. “We also had a lot of arena ac-

Tightest rules accompany evolution of Summer Sendoff

Starting with finals just around the corner and classes wrapping up, it’s time for Kenyon students to send off Summer Sendoff.

This annually anticipated and perpetually controversial event brings with it a history of administrative strife that began when students first thought to convene on the South Quad one spring evening long ago. Even before Sendoff was an official event, an affair known as “Spring Riot” was referenced in a 1980 op-ed piece in the Collegian.

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“Theres so many aspects of this sport. You can never really be a master of horseback riding because there’s just so much to learn.”

Anya Schulman ’17, Equestrian Club Member

Club leases their horses from owners at Hickory Hill Farm. The team relies on funds raised from Open Barn and other fundraisers to continue running.

“Theres a really, really amazing sport,” Anya Schulman ’17 said. “Theres so many aspects of this sport. You can never really be a master of horseback riding because there’s just so much to learn.”

The skilled riders had the opportunity to show off their fantastic talents during the jump demonstrations when the horses would leap over bars as high as three feet above the ground. “A beginner on a horse might jump [1 foot]. But a competition could be two to three times this height in lessons in competition,” Schulman said. The team pulled out all the stops for the incoming visitors. The track was adorned with fake flowers, which recalls horseback riding history as a country sport among the upper classes of England.

The favorite event, by far, was the pony rides. “I wanted to give the kids an opportunity to grow up and see what the Equestrian team, visitors had the chance to paint a beautiful white horse named Skye. And as another year draws to a close, the Equestrian Club is looking to next year’s Open Barn.

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Walking backwards: tour guides confess standout moments

You might think being a tour guide is the most boring job on campus because it involves repeating the same routine over and over. Think again. The Collegian goes behind the scenes of Kenyon’s most mobile job.

When Bennett Stephens ’15, after giving tours for four semesters and one full summer, a misstep was bound to happen literally.

“I’ve always been decent at walking backwards,” Stephens said. “Over the summer [of 2013] when I was a tour guide, I got to a point where I got really good at walking backwards on the stairs — it was just her motherly instincts. Then, at the next set of stairs, I fell when walking backwards,” Stephens said. “A mom yelled at me for walking backwards on the steps” One time, Stephens went down the steps of Olin walking backwards on a tour. “A mom yelled at me for walking backwards,” Stephens said. “I was telling people how Kenyon is a walking campus and vehicles stop at crossings, when I nearly got hit by a truck. The people were worried about me for a second and then we all laughed.”

“Blunders and all, tour guides are largely responsible for first impressions of Kenyon for prospective students. Tour guide Cait Coates ’16 said she notices what people are most surprised about when they step foot on Kenyon soil. “I think people are most amazed by the small class sizes and that your freshman year advisory group is only four to five students,” she said.

That first impression must go on, rain or shine. “The tours always go unless there’s a tornado or lightning,” Stephens said. “I have given tours in the rain and the Admissions Office has plenty of umbrellas. If there’s rain you just have to yell over the rain hitting the umbrellas.”

Ben Jacoby ’14 leads a group of prospective students and their parents on a tour of campus.

STAFF WRITER
MANJUL BHUSAL SHARMA

“I’ve been able to walk backwards since I was a little kid,” Henry Burbank ’16 said. Burbank put his skills to use when he became a tour guide in the fall of 2013. “I’ve been training to be a tour guide my whole life.”

“I became a tour guide because I really love Kenyon,” Burbank said. “I’m enthusiastic about it, and I know that my college search experience was very hectic and stressful and I wanted to help make it less stressful for others.”

The ability to walk backwards and a love for Kenyon are not the only traits a tour guide needs. For Bennett Stephens ’15, after giving tours for four semesters and one full summer, a misstep was bound to happen literally.

“I’ve always been decent at walking backwards,” Stephens said. “Over the summer [of 2013] when I was a tour guide, I got to a point where I got really good at walking backwards on the stairs — it was just her motherly instincts. Then, at the next set of stairs, I fell when walking forwards rather than backwards.”

And it is exactly those sort of “motherly instincts” that lead to difficult questions for tour guides. Stephens recalled, “The most blunt a parent has ever been [was when] a mom asked once, ‘I know this is college; don’t bullshit me about drinking and drugs. This is college — I know people drink. I just want to know where kids get alcohol because you are in the middle of nowhere. Where do you get the alcohol?’” When Stephens replied, “Rite Aid,” he noted she was satisfied with the answer since she said, “It does matter where you get your alcohol.”

Surprisingly, for Stephens, this question was not the hardest one he has had on a tour. “A mother over the summer who was really worried about graduate school … asked why Kenyon students go to graduate school,” Stephens said. “Unsatisfied with the answer, the parent asked why a Kenyon education wasn’t enough” and the conversation continued for a long time.

Amidst tough questions, being a tour guide involves a lot of accidental slapstick comedy too.

In her third year as a tour guide, Kelsey Dillon ’14 said, “I was telling people how Kenyon is a walking campus and vehicles stop at crossings, when I nearly got hit by a truck. The people were worried about me for a second and then we all laughed.”

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Men’s tennis gears up for conference tournament

Despite losing seven games this week, the Lords tennis team walks with confidence. All seven losses were against nationally-ranked opponents.

After dispatching North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) for Allegheny College, 7-2 last Thursday and losing to ninth-ranked Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) on Saturday, the No. 11 Lords are 3-0 in conference heading into the NCAC tournament. Kenyon also boasts 3-0 in conference heading into the NCAC tournament. Kenyon also boasts 3-0 in conference heading into the NCAC tournament.

Garrett Haas ’15. Heerboth paired with Haas in his doubles and singles match. "We have a good team," Haas said. "We know we can beat a team with them." Coach Scott Thieke said. "They played a better match than us. I don't feel like there is anything specific that we need to do differently."

The Lords will now take on Ohio Wesleyan University to kick off the NCAC tournament. They are expecting a challenge from some good teams along the way, but are confident in their ability as they've won the conference tournament the last seven years in a row.

One of the reasons the program has done as well as it has is that we always play the toughest competition that we can.

Unranked Allegheny presented more of a test than in previous years. "We know all of their players, they are a good team," Colin Haas ’15, who won his singles and doubles matches, said. Three Lords players won their singles and doubles matches, including Haas, Nick Fiaschetti ’17 and Wade Heerboth ’15. The Gators kept all matches close, yet the Lords were able to finish the day with a 7-2 win.

But the tables turned on Saturday. This time, the Lords were able to put the No. 9 Tartans under dog.

"We have a bit of a rivalry with them," Haas said. "We knew it would be a tough match."

Haas once again won both doubles and singles matches. Heerboth paired with Haas on the doubles win. Thieke praised Haas’s play.

"He’s really beginning to stand out for us as one of our strong players we can depend on, so that was a real positive," Thieke said.

CMU, however, won every match except Haas’s match. "We just got outplayed," he said.

Ladies tennis shut out at CMU

"We’ve had someone either injured or sick ever since the 20th of March," Head Coach Scott Thieke said of the Kenyon women’s tennis team’s recent recipe for mediocrity.

On March 29, Kenyon beat Oberlin College, 7-2, and then to No. 8 Carnegie Mellon University, 9-0, relegating the Ladies to a number two seed on the east side of the conference tournament bracket. With the victory, Oberlin claimed the top spot for the upcoming tournament.

"Our hope is that we will be at full strength for the conference tournament; it will help us to have everyone healthy," Thieke said.

"But the match was re- regarded as preparation for the conference tournament, the Ladies nevertheless played well." The Tartans outclosed the day 9-0, but many matches were close, including Murphy’s single’s loss that finished 6-2, 6-4.

Now, the Ladies hope that they can hang with both of the premier teams nationally.

"It was very good experience to play against a team of that caliber," Murphy said. "After playing Carnegie Mel- lon, the ladies are still optimistic that they are no going to be as good as."

The Ladies will kick off the NCAC tournament on Friday against Allegheny College, against whom they have played several close matches.

"Allergy is a very good team," Thieke said. "They have played us very close as well as that we often get to the conference tournament, we have seen the best that we pos- sibly could have seen," Thieke said.

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Despite determined play, Ladies fall short

Reed Dickerson
StAFF WRITER

In spite of a powerful opening drive and a formidable lead, the Kenyon women's lacrosse team couldn't see their way to another conference victory this past weekend against the College of Wooster. The Ladies lost to the Fighting Scots 17-9.

"I know that they played their best, they did all season against us, and being the 2013 champions, you expect people to come out and gun for you," Head Coach Meredith Buzzi said.

The game opened up well for the Ladies, who scored three goals in the first two-and-a-half minutes. Co-Captain Kate Lang '14 scored the first goal, assisted by fellow captain Alex Bair '14. Lara McMahan '15 added a second, an unassisted strike, and Lang launched another goal, this time unassisted.

Wooster responded with four goals in a row, but picked up a yellow-card penalty with seven minutes left in the first half, giving the Ladies a play advantage. Bair scored and tied the score at 4-4. However, the Wooster offense came back hard, and despite another Kenyon goal, scored by Carolline Sherman '15 off an Amy Morgan '14 assist, the first half ended with Wooster up 9-4.

Baseball's losing streak now at seven

Noah Gurzenski
StAFF WRITER

Kenyon baseball's dismal season continued its downward slide last weekend when Allegheny College proved to be too much for the Lords, sweeping them in a four-game series. Though Kenyon fell to 10-20 overall and 1-11 in North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) play, Co-Captain Nate Lotze '14 had a record-breaking weekend, surpassing Matt Marcinczyk '06 to take first place on the Lords' all-time RBIs list.

"If I've got a little bit of credit to the people hitting in front of me the past few years," Lotze said about breaking Kenyon's all-time RBIs record. "It's not really an individual record, it has to do with other people being on base, so Jake Dunn and Kyle [Hardacker] and some of the other guys helped me out with it for sure.

After three Lords crossed the plate in the first inning of game one, Kenyon looked strong enough to pull even with five two-and-a-half less innings of pitching with Thomas Morrin '17 on the mound. However, Allegheny's bats came alive in the third inning, scoring three runs to take the lead. Allegheny added three more runs in the fourth inning, and after Morris gave up another run in the fifth, Spencer Byers '16 came in for relief. Kenyon and Allegheny traded runs in each of the final three innings of the game, with Lotze contributing three RBIs in the 9-5 loss.

In game two of the series, Allegheny jumped on the Kenyon pitching staff from the start, going 10 runs in the first two innings. After giving up another run in the third inning, Kenyon starting pitcher Paul Henshaw '16 joined Lotze in the loss after giving up 10 runs in 3.1 innings. Kenyon ended the day's prominent performance belonged to Ben Steiner '14 after Leach gave up two runs, and Allegheny added three more in the fourth inning to secure the 5-1 victory. Josh Jacobe '15 fanned three batters and gave up five runs through three-and-two-thirds innings in the loss, and Tim Krahn '15 tossed three and one-three scoreless innings in relief.

Hoping to come come back with a win from the series, Kenyon found itself down 6-0 in the final game before John Nahra '16 put Kenyon on the board with an RBI single to center. Down 9-2 in the seventh inning, Lotze lofted a sacrifice fly to center field, allowing Jono Chafe '17 to score from third for Lotze's record-breaking 122nd career RBI in the 9-3 loss.

With his pair of base hits in the fourth game, Lotze is near the college's record. "Lotze has a lot of experience and confidence headed into the conference championship," Wallace said.

The day's prominent performance belonged to Ben Payner '15. Payner shot his collegiate low with a round of 81. "With the win, Kenyon finished the regular season with a 9-6 overall record, 4-3 in conference, and clinched a No. 3 seed in the four-team North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) tournament.

Alek Loper '17 led the charge with five goals and one assist, while Nicky Lenard '15 chipped in three goals and one assist. The Lords led 8-4 at halftime, and used a six-goal third quarter to put the game out of reach of the Tigers.

Yesterday evening, the Lords traveled to Ohio Wesleyan University for the first round of the NCAC tournament, and fell to the No. 2-seeded Battling Bishops 13-4. Kenyon was eliminated from the tournament with the loss.

Golf

Head Coach Grant Wallace sat three of his top golfers in an effort to "give them a rest and get some of our other guys experience" for the Mount Vernon Nazarene University Cougar Spring Classic.

The teams continued their strong play and improvement over the one-day, 36-hole event. Mason McCool '17 paced the Lords with rounds of 76 and 75. Zander Nethercutt '16 also played well, shooting rounds of 79 and 78.

"I wanted to get [McCool and Nethercutt] a little more experience and confidence headed into the conference championships," Wallace said.

The team's continued strong play and improvement over the one-day, 36-hole event has them looking forward to the conference championship tournament, Wallace said.

The day's prominent performance belonged to Ben Payner '15. Payner shot his collegiate low with a round of 81. "He's come a long way, and I'm happy about that," Wallace said.

Regarding the conference championships, the Lords will look to improve as a team by giving each individual more experience with chipping and putting in hopes of steering some strokes.

The Lords will travel to DePauw University next weekend for the first part of the two-weekend-long conference championship followed by a trip to Wabash College the following weekend for the tournament's conclusion.

Wallace said he is confident in his team's ability these next two weekends.

"We have experience playing at both courses and we've played well there," he said.

— John Bray

Track and Field

Sierra DeLeon '14 broke two more Kenyon records and won her third race on April 19 at the Kenyon Invitational. The women's team placed sixth out of 12 teams and the men's team placed ninth out of 14 teams.

"Sierra has been a lot of fun to work with," Head Coach Dzuane Gomez said. "She really has been enjoying herself. She has battled through some injury issues over her athletic career, yet she has never given up and thrown in the towel."

DeLeon won the women's 100-meter hurdles in 14.85-seconds and set Kenyon records in the 100-meter dash (12.34 seconds) and the 200-meter dash (24.99 seconds).

"She has seemed to break a record every time she runs," Gomez said. "Have we expected it? No. Has it surprised us? Probably no to that too."

Kerry Strader '14 won the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase in 12:30.38, Claire Naughton '17 placed third and Gwendolyn Lloyd '16 placed sixth.

Kye Duren '16 placed third in the men's 200-meter dash and sixth in the 100-meter dash. Gomez said Duren "had an awesome day in the 100 and 200 and continues to improve in leaps and bounds."

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Men's Lacrosse

Last Saturday, the Kenyon's lacrosse team desperately needed a win. In dominating fashion, the Lords beat DePauw University 16-6 on the Tigers' turf.

With the win, Kenyon finished the regular season with a 9-6 overall record, 4-3 in conference, and clinched a No. 3 seed for the four-team North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) tournament.

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The teams run Friday at the Denison University Last Chance Meet. Gomez said many runners will be resting for the North Coast Atlantic Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championship, scheduled for Oberlin College the following weekend. The NCAC Multi-Event Championship will be held at Kenyon Sunday and Monday.

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Zarka stands before a new frontier

"Being around her is special, because she does bring people together in a way which is very magnetic."

Megan Remillard '16

Reconnecting with her heritage, Maria Zarka '16 will dive for Tonga at the Commonwealth Games.

As her sophomore year comes to a close, Kenyon’s diving stand- out Maria Zarka ’16 has already met most standards for individu- al success in the sport. Now, the two-time national champion is preparing to enter into a new and exciting level of competition: she’s going international.

A month ago, Zarka placed first in the one-meter diving event and second in the three-meter diving at the NCAA Division III championships. On top of that, she was named the Female Diver of the Year after the meet. This all came just a year after she was the national one-meter diving cham- pion, and her scores as a first-year set new Kenyon records.

In light of this recent flurry of success, Zarka is taking advan- tage of the opportunity to partici- pate in the 2014 Commonwealth Games as a member of the diving delegation of Tonga, an island na- tion located in the South Pacific. The Games, which bring to- gether teams mostly from nations formerly in the British Empire, will be based in Glasgow, Scot- land, from late July to early Au- gust, with the diving competition taking place in the capital city of Edinburgh.

Zarka lives in Kaneohe, Ha- waii, and her mother was born in Tonga. She said that she used to joke with her family about her “pipe dream” of someday diving for Tonga, a dream which is rap- idly becoming a reality. The magnitude of Zarka’s ac- complishments suggests an enor- mous amount of talent, as well as many years of training beginning in early childhood.

There is nothing illusory about the talent, but some observers may be surprised to find out that Zarka is still a relative newcomer to competitive diving, and that she originally came by way of another aquatic sport.

Her father had been a swim- mer, and encouraged her to par- ticipate in competitive swimming. But Zarka quickly formulated oth- er ideas.

“I started diving in eighth grade, and I didn’t really become serious about it until 10th grade,” Zarka recalled.

“I kept looking over at the div- ing board, decided to try [diving] one day and stuck with it,” she said.

Zarka credits a large share of success to a strong foundation pro- vided by her high school coaches, Mike Brown and Anita Rossing.

“[Rossing] taught me — the basic mechanics for diving, really well,” she said. “A lot of places have coaches who just want to get you to be able to do the hardest dives as soon as possible, without nec- essarily being ready to execute it in the correct way. She really set me up with good mechanics and good basics, which are carried out through every level of diving.”

Kenyon’s diving coach, Andy Scott, will also serve as diving coach for the Tongan national team, and will travel with Zarka to Scotland. Scott was honored as the best Women’s Diving Coach in NCAA Division III in each of the past two years. According to Scott, he e-mailed the Tongan Olympic Committee after Zarka won the one-meter title last year, and their response to his query was deci- edly enthusiastic.

“The committee members were very interested in moving forward with this,” Scott said. “They seem to me to be a nation that is very interested in promot- ing the country in any way that they can, and this is an amazing opportunity for them to gain rec- ognition internationally. Even if she doesn’t win medals, the fact that Tonga has athletes competing there is a great promotion for the country.”

Scott said he relishes the op- portunity to serve as the coach of a national team, which will be a completely new experience.

“It’s not something that I ever imagined I would have the op- portunity to do,” he explained. “Sometimes in life, doors like this are only open a few times. You’ve got to take advantage of every op- portunity you’re given, and I feel like that’s what we’re doing here.”

Scott expects this international event, coming at the midpoint of Zarka’s collegiate career, to con- tribute to her continued success at Kenyon.

“In the spring, the training is typically relaxed,” Scott said. “Her training and competing over the summer in a meet like this will give her a head start coming back into the fall [season].”

In addition to the opportunity for athletic improvement, Zarka may also have the chance to ex- plore her Tongan roots.

“I visited once when I was very young,” Zarka added. “I can only understand the [Tongan] words that my mom says when she’s yelling at me.”

Fellow diver Megan Remillard ’16 praised Zarka as an athlete and as a teammate.

“She is really supportive of her competition, as well as her team- mates, and she’s always the loud- est one cheering for the girl who’s chasing her down for first place,” Remillard said. “She’s always will- ing to go the extra mile for us — she’ll stay after practice if we feel like diving more, and watch. Be- ing around her is special, because she does bring people together in a way which is very magnetic.”

In preparation for the Games, Zarka plans to spend a significant portion of the summer training at Rutgers University in New Jersey. For some of that time, Zarka will train with Fred Woodruff, head diving coach at Rutgers and the 2008 Big East Women’s Diving Coach of the Year.

Zarka chose Rutgers over train- ing in Hawaii for several reasons, chief among them a lack of viable diving facilities at home. Scott said that she received special permis- sion from the NCAA to continue training throughout the spring and summer; NCAA rules gener- ally do not permit Division III ath- letes to travel this far beyond their season.

The field of competition will certainly be more difficult than Zarka has experienced at the col- lege level, but there is still very good reason for optimism.

“We’ll be going up against folks that could potentially be in the fi- nals at the Olympics,” Scott said. “She’s got a ways to go before she’s at that level, but I also am com- pletely confident that she will rep- resent Tonga and Kenyon well.”