

# ESS Newsletter

## December, 2023



### Eric Pallant Retirement

Esteemed professor Eric Pallant will be retiring this spring after his long career at Allegheny of 37 years. Eric has seen around 1,200 ESS majors through their college years and made a special impact on each one! During his time here, Eric has served as the department chair for 20 years, wrote *Sourdough Culture*, taught many iterations of Soil to Plate, Soil Sciences, Geography of Consumption, and Water Quality courses, as well as various Junior Seminars that have completed all sorts of projects throughout the Meadville community. He still intends to be active at Allegheny but will be focusing more time into “Loaf,” his upcoming book. Eric says “he is proud to be part of the best ESS Department in the country with great people” and we are grateful for all that he has done for our students!

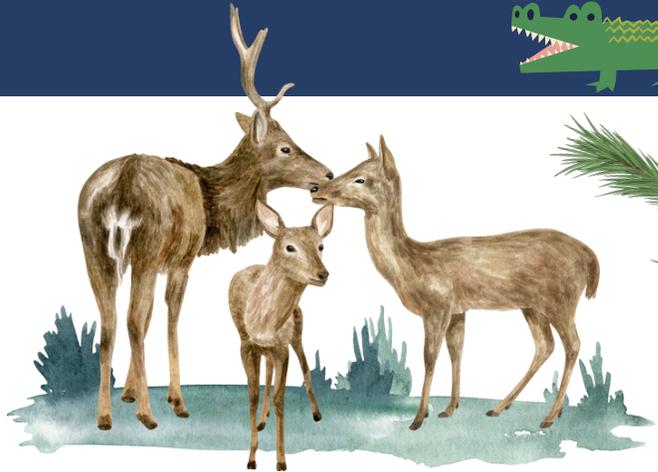
We wish him a wonderful retirement!

### ESS 50 years Website

Congratulations to 50 years of the Environmental Science/ Sustainability at Allegheny College! To celebrate this milestone and to showcase some of the hands-on education in the ESS Department, a website has been launched on Allegheny’s main home page. Fourteen ongoing research projects and topics are featured on the front page along with pictures and descriptions to educate prospective, current, and past students on some of the bigger projects. There is also an alumni feature section where over 20 stories about success during and after Allegheny are shared. One of the main goals of the website is to display to prospective students some of the amazing projects, research, and internship opportunities Allegheny’s ESS department provides.



Homepage of ESS 50 Years Website.



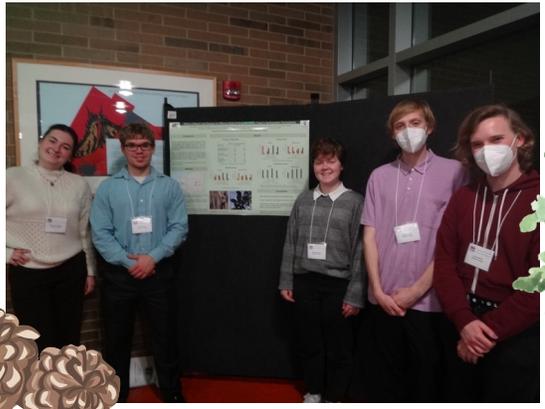
### Science Consortium Research Symposium

On November 8th, ten Allegheny students accompanied Professor Rich Bowden to the first night of the 18th Annual Regional Science Consortium Research Symposium! The three groups from Allegheny presented on various topics concerning forestry. The event consisted of 39 oral presentations and 53 poster presentations. Students not only get the chance to present their work to a professional panel of judges but also make connections with other colleagues in their respective fields! Overall, the event was a great experience for everyone who attended, especially because it was many students' first time attending a professional research conference. Congratulations to everyone for all their hard work!

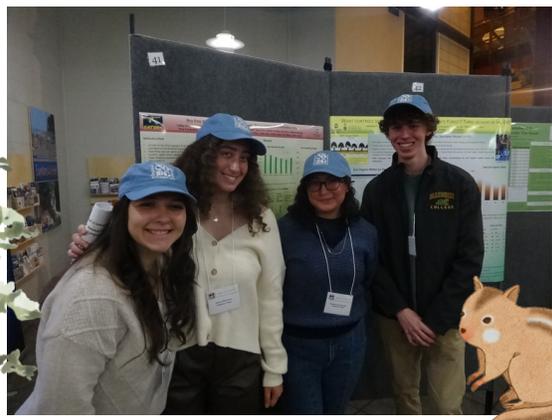
### Gator Clubs Sustainability

Bianca Sanchez and Julia Sonen, both class of '24, have spent the semester working to revitalize the college's campaign for sustainability, particularly within student organizations. Sanchez, the ASG Director of Sustainability & Environmental Affairs, and Sonen, the Sustainability Office Assistant, view Allegheny as a place that critically shapes students' learning and habits – and sustainability is no exception. Both were inspired to create long-lasting change at Allegheny to increase sustainability efforts and make them more attainable. The pair met with dozens of student organizations to discuss sustainability efforts that the organizations were already doing or were interested in starting.

Both Sanchez and Sonen were pleased to learn that many organizations were already implementing sustainable initiatives like reusing and thrifting materials or planning low-impact events. Clubs were interested in increasing sustainable practices, such as composting waste and switching to sustainable decor. The pair would like to see organizations collaborating more and encouraging each other to become more sustainable, as well as using the existing sustainability resources on campus. Ultimately, they would like to see sustainability addressed in the ASG constitution.



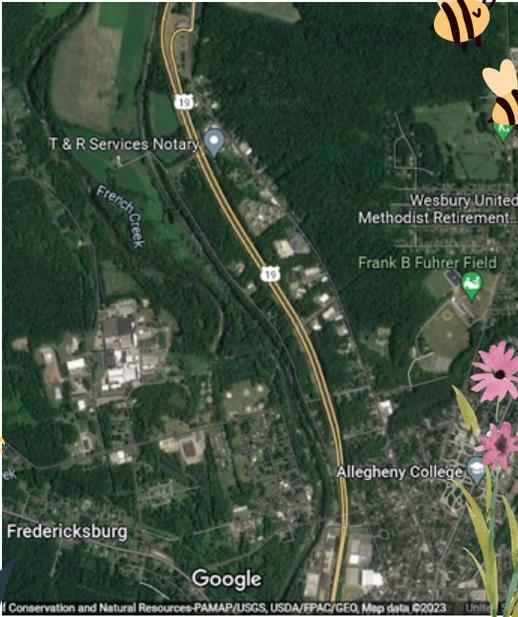
R to L: Elizabeth Readshaw, Ethan Scott, Anna Westbrook, Willow Vowler, Luna Hammer.



R to L: Libby Babcock, Jackie Digiaco, Nathalie Paz Saucedo, Tommy Johnson.



Map of Route 19 where the pollinator path is being planned.



### Route 19 Pollinator Path

Starting next year, Route 19's northbound lane is set to be removed and replaced by a multipurpose trail. This semester, Professor Casey Bradshaw-Wilson's Junior Seminar worked in collaboration with the Crawford County Planning Agency, Allegheny's Gateway Program, and PennDOT to propose a design for the green space surrounding it. The class has worked to decide what plants will surround the trail and other infrastructure that will be incorporated along the trail. It was decided that the trail will mostly be an aesthetically pleasing pollinator path with several small rain gardens to help mitigate storm water runoff. Other infrastructure will include bat boxes, lighting, and educational signage focused on explaining the function of rain gardens, pollinator paths, and bat boxes. It will still be several years before all of this is implemented, but the trail will be open to everyone to bike, hike, and enjoy!



#### Contributions by:

Lindsey Kutz  
Rachel Ditzenberger  
Luna Hammer  
Ava Loch  
Willow Hammer

#### Edited by:

Lindsey Kutz

#### Faculty Advisor:

Rich Bowden

#### Interested in writing for the ESS Newsletter?

Contact our (new!) editor at:  
[hammer01@allegheny.edu](mailto:hammer01@allegheny.edu)

#### A note from the editor...

Winter may stick around for a few more months but unfortunately I cannot! This will be the last newsletter I edit, but I am happy to say that we have a new editor, Luna Hammer, who will do a wonderful job in the year to come. Thank you to all of the writers and readers that have made the past year and a half so special!

- Lindsey Kutz '24

