



# STAFF SENTINEL *MONTHLY*

Newsletter of the Allegheny College Staff Advisory Committee

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## A bit of continuity in turbulent times

In these strange days of distancing and disruption in our normal patterns of life, it's a particularly good time to listen to our recently retired colleague Audrey Onspaugh talk about her 55 years at Allegheny College. She provides some welcome perspective on adapting to change and the value of being able to proceed with good humor even as things (like plants) appear to be falling down around you.

- Reese Campbell, Editor

## Monthly Meeting Memo ~ March 5, 2020

- The committee welcomed new Director of Public Safety, Jim Basinger, to the March meeting.
- Professional Development: President Link has approved a brief training session for administration and staff provided by Gary Svetz Consulting Services on the topic of *Leading Effective Meetings*. Date to be announced.

**Welcome our *NEWEST STAFF MEMBER!***

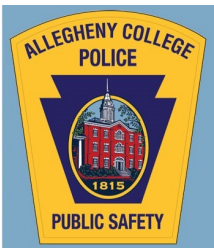
*(Jan. 2020 through Feb. 2020)*

**Allison Hartle**

*Program Coordinator (P/T), Gateway*

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## A friendly interrogation of new Director of Public Safety, Jim Basinger



**Q: What should we do if we do not recognize someone who is in our building?**

- ♦ Do not confront the person in question.
- ♦ Be a good witness (observe & note details).
- ♦ Call Public Safety and let them address the stranger.

**Q: Who decides what issues get reported and how they get reported to the Campus community?**

- ♦ Dean of Students, April Thompson, and Vice President for College Relations, Susan Salton.
- ♦ All incidents are reported on the Crime Log located in the Public Safety website within 24 hours.
- ♦ There are templates in place to determine what incidents get reported to e2campus Alert System.

**Q: When will extra security on Campus be removed?**

- ♦ Increased patrol will continue this year.
  - ♦ Consulting company addressing security is currently evaluating Campus security and will recommend their findings in the near future.
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# Audrey Onspaugh reminisces...



## Quartering acts

Starting about 1946 when the service men returned to college, Allegheny had no place to house married men with families so they purchased old army barracks and put them where Doane Hall of Science now stands. About 1950-51 these were removed as most of the men had graduated. About this time some of the barracks were moved over to Henry St. Eventually these were torn down - Physical Plant was moved to Loomis St. and tennis courts were constructed there. Some of you probably remember the red barn that sat behind the red house adjacent to Arter Hall and was the costume shop for Arter Playhouse. This was the last of the barracks and President Cook really disliked that building.

## Campus changes

There have been so many physical changes to the campus - Carr Hall, Walker Annex, Quigley Hall, purchase of Odd Fellows Home, Vukovich Center, Crawford Hall, Campus Center and its addition, Wise Center, Cochran renovation, Baldwin Hall, Murray Hall, removal of the on campus football field, the basketball addition to the back of Montgomery and then its demolition, Pelletier Library, new Physical Plant, North Village, College Court dorms, and now Bentley's restoration. Prospect St. went through to Park Ave. - it had a dog leg in it identical to Allegheny St. When they were designing Carr Hall and Walker Annex they made a request to the city to close this section of Prospect St. The drive down from Lord Gates turned at the drinking fountain and went down in front of Bentley -- there were no parking spaces in that area at all. There was a nice walk along side of the drive - a great place to roller skate! Cochran Hall had a grill in the basement along with a bowling alley. Montgomery had a swimming pool in the basement which had only a narrow rim around the pool. There were only coaches and judges at the meets - not even room for an ant, it was so small.



Cochran Hall grill & bookstore, 1963  
(Unattributed/Merrick Archive)



Dr. Harold State demonstrates lab equipment  
(Reed McCaskey/Merrick Archive)

## "The mind can absorb what the seat can endure"

I have been most fortunate to work for and with some wonderful people - way too many to mention. I do remember a letter I wrote for Dr. State (Chemistry Dept.). We were on the trimester at that time and a Colorado school wanted to know what he thought of the trimester. He listed all the good points - only 9 weeks, and if you did not like the class it was soon over; school did not start until about September 18; not much of a fall break but term was over by Thanksgiving and the students could get holiday jobs; no spring break, but a week off between 2nd and 3rd session. The downside was the length of classes -- all classes were 1 1/2 hours long and he said, "The mind can absorb what the seat can endure." Classes met Mon., Wed. & Fri. or Tues., Thurs. & Sat. and commencement was about mid-June.

## Singing the Honor Pledge & watering the chalk

When I started all typewriters were manual - think I had one of the first electric typewriters with different element balls to change the type, say a chemistry or math symbol -- a real pain. We also typed all tests on purple masters and then had to run them off on a copy machine. At the end of the test we always typed "sign the honor pledge" -- I made a typo and wrote "*sing* the honor pledge." They got a charge out of that one.



There were no student assistants -- you had to do everything. Dr. [Frederick] Steen was going on leave to Switzerland and asked if I would water his wife's house plants if he brought them in. I said I would be happy to. There were quite a few, some on top of a 5 drawer cabinet, some on the floor, etc. Since I am a bit short I was careful to get the ones on top of the cabinet and had been doing this for quite some time when one of the plants fell to the floor. I was horrified and then I burst out loud laughing. The plant on the floor was a long trailing vine that wound up the cabinet and attached. I had been watering a box filled with excelsior and chalk!



Academic procession, 1967  
(Unattributed/Merrick Archive)

## Commencement style

We really did not have a dress code - it was assumed females would show up in a suit or dress, nylons and high heels, and the men were mostly in a suit, dress shirt and tie. My first major job for Commencement was written instructions by [college librarian] Mr. [Philip] Benjamin to those in robes that would be in the procession - under their robe men would wear a white shirt, black tie, black trousers and black shoes and the women could mostly wear what dress they wanted, but they had to wear black Cuban heel shoes, no jewelry except wedding rings, and pearl earrings if they had them - no other jewelry. I must say the procession when Mr. Benjamin was in charge was very, very beautiful.

The Staff Advisory Committee (SAC) represents the interests, opinions, and concerns of the non-exempt staff by communicating these concerns to the Allegheny Executive Committee (AEC). For more information on the purpose of this committee, please refer to BYLAWS, Section 1 on the SAC website.

Visit the SAC website :



[sites.allegheny.edu/sac](https://sites.allegheny.edu/sac)

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