University students can pursue lawsuits on campus shutdown

WYATT PATTERSON
Managing News Editor

On Friday, Aug. 20, a fed-eral lawsuit was filed that university students may pursue against the state, that the school breached contractual obligations and negligently enriched itself by halting in-person classes for the fall during the COVID-19 pandemic. Judge Stephenos Bi-bas said the plaintiffs have plausibly claimed that the school promised them in-person classes, activities and events — and that they did not follow through on that commitment. Even if the university was justifi-cally breaking any promise because of COVID-19, Bibas said that it should not be "unjustly enriched" in doing so. In other words, any energy that was saved by the university in closing was due to be returned to the students.

The two separate lawsuits have already been filed, in which the plaintiffs plan to consolidate and pursue as a class action on behalf of all students who paid for the second year of their education. The students are seeking partial refunds for tuition and fees. The first lawsuit, filed in August, was brought by a group of three out-of-state students in their first year who claim that the de-mands are undergraduate and one of them is Jordan Mckinney. The second suit, filed in September, was brought by Michael Novick, a graduate student.

The plaintiffs claim that upon enrolling in courses for the Spring 2020 semester, they "un-derstood and believed that every course in which they enrolled was to be taught in-person based on the university course catalog's specification that these courses were to be "In Person" or "Online." The suit says the university "is unjustly enriched with the benefit of the contracts its students signed, and is required by law to compensate those who have been injured by the school's conduct." More than 25,000 students are enrolled at the university.

TARA LENNOn
Development Officer

A student filed a suit for the fall semester — pack-aging their shower caddies, glancing over their syllabi and, most crucially, getting their CO-VID-19 vaccines — and just like hundreds of others at the university, the students are eagerly awaiting a return to campus. For many, it feels like a return to normalcy. For others, it feels like a burden.

The university suspended restrictions on mask-wearing on June 24, freeing vaccinated people from wear-ing masks in or outdoors, the university reinstated mandated mandates as of Aug. 6. In a blog post, the university explained that while they were writing this in the Delta variant, how quickly that could spread, and (looked) at the data that at we were getting from, one of the methods was the Delta variant. The Delta variant is the newculate virus, and it's a bit of a medical marvel as well as the (Center for Disease Control). It was decided that probably the safest thing to do is to protect as many students as possible as well as our faculty and staff to require masks again," Tim Dowling, director of Student Health Services (SHS), said.

As for the pos-sibility that the mask mandate be lifted at any point this semester, Dowling said that "SHS is in business of protecting the health of the students, what is happening and looking at the number of positives that we're having here on campus as well as the surrounding areas." Looking at the CC-VID-19 data from other col-leges and universities is also essential in determining what steps to take to stay healthy. Dowling said the data from other colleges and universities that have begun their fall semester indicates that the unvaccinated people on cam-pus will be at a high likelihood of contracting COVID-19 "due to the necessary [from] their activi-ties on campus as well as outside activities. It's those interactions where you let your guard down that may allow you to get COVID." Dowling said. Dowling added that the university however, one of the major factors is the decision to vac-cine. This decision was based on guidance from other leading universities. Jennifer Hornby, found-er and director professor of the university's epidemiology program, said that other universities, particularly those not mandating to vac-cinate, were met with the university's presi-dent and quickly reached a consensus.

The university will also be following the model created by the University of Rich-mond for the data reporting on the COVID-19 dashboard, which displays the breakdown of vac-cination rates amongst students and employees. As of Aug. 25, the dashboard shows that 91% of students and 74% of employees are fully vaccinated. "The roadmap that our stu-dent body has done a great job, probably better than most student bodies at oth-er universities, in getting vaccinated," Dowling said. These percentages, will be updated weekly, and Dowling said that the first week of data will be "dynamic," but that the percentages may begin to stagnate at the beginning of October.

Through several other universities, such as American University and the University of Maryland, currently require em-ployees and students along with being a student to vaccinate. Hornby noted that several factors went into the deci-sion to not mandate the vacc ination for university employees. "The students, par-ticularly the ones that live on cam-pus, are living in really close

Families or not, RSO leaders anticipate a return to normalcy

ADVITH SARKONDA
Staff Reporter

Many students who were both tought to be in the initial stages of the CO-VID-19 pandemic, are under-graduates, as well as seniors. Conversely, many who were in the home as their high school days are now entering their second year of the uni-versity, already a quarter of the way through their college experience.

Regardless of their fa-milism, they all want the university campus and in-person activ-ities, however, those in the gradu-ate and remove those students are undergraduates and one of them is Jordan Mckinney. The second suit, filed in September, was brought by Michael Novick, a graduate student.

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Even amid the pandemic, many students have continued to pursue their education, with some even finishing their degrees.

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Private gathering restrictions possible as Newark's COVID-19 numbers

PATTY CALLAN
Senior Reporter

Newark's private gathering restrictions could re-stricts on gatherings are coming into effect as the city is currently under Level 2 red, and is subject to increasing restrictions. The city has put in place a number of measures to control the spread of COVID-19, including restrictions on social gatherings, which are currently limited to a maximum of four people.

The restrictions also apply to private gatherings, which are currently limited to a maximum of four people, and include a ban on gatherings of more than 10 people being held in public places, such as parks or beaches.

Neshaminy School District officials have also announced that all school-related events will be held virtually, with the exception of outdoor athletic events, which will be limited to 25% capacity.

The city has also introduced a "stay at home" advisory, which recommends residents to stay home as much as possible, and to practice social distancing.

These measures have been put in place to try to control the spread of COVID-19 in the city, and to prevent the virus from spreading to more vulnerable populations.
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**Home to the Delaware Chapter of the Society of Catholic Scientists**

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<th>UD Students</th>
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<td>• Daily Mass [M-F] 12:30PM</td>
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<td>• Rosary In-person • 6:00PM</td>
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<td>• Vespers • 8:00PM</td>
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<td>• Eucharistic Adoration • 5:00PM</td>
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University students can pursue lawsuits over campus shutdown

The plaintiffs claim that their intentional selection of in-person courses indicates that they would not have paid as much, if anything at all, for tuition and fees had they known that online classes would be delivered. The plaintiffs noted that their majors, marketing and applied molecular biology and biotechnology, respectively, rely “extensively on in-person instruction, peer collaboration and access to 100% facilities.”

The second lawsuit, filed in November 2020 by a group of 14 represents junior marketing and management majors from New Jersey. Similar to the plaintiffs of the first lawsuit, Russos and colleagues state that they understand the university markets online classes separately and at a different cost than in-person classes, there may be no inherent difference.

Russos’ lawsuit states that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the university “only offered certain degrees through its own online program, suggesting that...

A behind-the-scenes look at the university’s COVID-19 protocols

Private gathering restrictions possibly in effect as New York’s COVID-19 numbers creep towards reinstatement

Simone Inzaghi said students would be “eager and entry” to engage with social communities like the FSA following more than a year of online college experience. Prior to the pandemic, Inguito said that FSA members would occasionally visit the nearby Millburn Orchards, for example, or even at time of each other’s homes for special FSA holidays and celebrations.

Rosales, who joined the Photography Club last year and had no point of reference for its pre-pandemic operations, said he had to sift through previous messages from the club’s official email account to gauge how exactly “normal” operations worked. According to Rosales, previous leaders of the Photography Club invited guest speakers and arranged workshops to help members improve their photography skills.

In principle, photography clubs are planning on holding similar workshshops, trips to landmarks and events, and visits to film and video production sets.

In conclusion, students have naturally hoped to hold a large gathering and date night, Inguito works with each member selecting a specific photography theme, whether it is black-and-white photos, portrait of senior representatives, or pets.

Although both Rosales and Inguito were looking forward to holding in-person events, they noted that they will retain certain elements of Zoom going forward.

As an example, Inguito mentioned a New Year’s Eve gala themed event organized by the FSA that showcased various ethnic performances from multicultural organizations to celebrate diversity. Although Inguito said he would have preferred for the event to be held in-person last year, he added that the virtual version assembled a great variety of guests and club alumni through Zoom, who may not otherwise have been able to attend the event in-person. As a result, Inguito said he would likely rely on Zoom as a means of reaching out to alumni who may not live nearby.

Rosales also said he will hold a hybrid of in-person and virtual meetings in order to accommodate students who are either taking online classes or who may not feel comfortable meeting in-person.

In conclusion, the university has not yet allowed them to meet potential members in an in-person setting, though.

The university held virtual meetings from 16 to 20, several days in advance of the campus. “We only had a few people connect,” Inguito said in reference to turnout for the virtual event due to an unhappy number of attendees. In conclusion, Inguito was excited about the anticipated online following and interest in his club virtually.

“If you’re going to a Zoom meeting in person, you’ve got to be very interested in the topic,” said Rosales. “You can see the passion already.”

Rosales appreciated those who attended the virtual meeting, informing them about the low turnout actually allowed him to interact with potential members in a more personal way.

Every person that came in, I talked to them for at least ten minutes and got to know them,” Rosales said.

The university is still requiring all students to wear masks indoors, which is a decision that did not surprise either Inguito or Rosales. “I expected that [decision],” Rosales said.

However, with this restriction, Rosales said he is confident that his final year in the FSA will just as enjoyable as it would be in any other “pre-COVID-19” year. “I can’t wait to get through this,” Inguito said. “This will be fun.”

Despite the current situation, Councilwoman Dwendo lyn Christopher and Councilman John Suchaneck both spoke in favor of following the initial guidelines and reinstating gathering limits if the numbers do eventually go up.

“If I think that we have the numbers to have to reintroduce gathering activity, the discussion over gathering limits as comes students discard on the university to move into dorms and begin the fall semester. As of Aug. 23, the university reported that 91% of its students were fully vaccinated, with 95% of student vaccinations documented. Students were required to be fully vaccinated by Aug. 15 with limited exceptions for religious or medical reasons.

While university employees are not required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, they are required to undergo weekly testing. The vaccination rate of university employees currently sits at 74%.

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University dorms: welcome students back for staggered move-in process

Continued from front page

NEW STUDENTS WILL NEED TO ACCOMMODATE TO CAMPUSES, WHICH MEANS STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO ADJUST TO THE REALITIES OF COVID-19 COLLEGE LIFE. "You can't really avoid big gatherings so much at college," Mosierman said. "I just hope everyone tries to stay as safe as possible. I don't want to get shut down again."

Foreign Affairs Column: The Ethiopian Civil War

On June 28, the Ethiopian government declared an immediate ceasefire in the Tigrayan conflict. However, the Tigrians did not accept the terms. "We are not party to and will not be part of such a joke," Getachew Reda, a spokesperson for the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front, told The Review. "We reject this proposal, and we are ready to negotiate with the government's proposal." The Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) continued to fight, and in the past few days, the fighting has spread out of Tigray and into the neighboring Amhara region.

While Ethiopia was never directly colonized by any European power, the country's borders were defined by surrounding European powers. This created an uneasy situation in which multiple ethnic groups were forced to coexist and compete for power within Ethiopia. The TPLF, led to a brutal civil war between Ethiopia and the now-independent Eritrea from 1991, from which the Ethiopian government lost the International Military Support Council in Ethiopia (EMPROF) emerged victorious. The TPLF reemerged largely by Tigrayans, and despite the fact that they represent only 6% of Ethiopia's population, Ti- grayans quickly came to dominate the government and military. The Tigrayan wing of the EMPROF was removed from power in 2018 by current Prime Minis- ter Abiy Ahmed, who was sup- ported by a coalition of Oromo and Amhara political parties.

Daniel Tull, a junior landscape and architecture major, de- scribed the module as "insightful." "I feel like there's always going to be haters and supporters for things, especially pro- grams where you have to base your life on your life," Tull said. "I think it could be a little more casual with the examples and take resolutions more realistically, but I can tell you a lot of hard work and research into this." The module included multiple points in which students are encouraged to stop and reflect on the aid of prompts and questions. Tull said, "It was given at the beginning and end of the module to assess what students have learned. However, as women's and gender stud- ies major John Fischer pointed out, no section of the module is required. In fact, many students have no obligation to complete the module." Tull said, "I thought it was wrong that [the module was] not required but also found the questions the most difficult."

Catherine Hogan Senior Reporter

Toward the ends of the spring semester, University introduced an interac- tive equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) training module. A mixed response from students, however, indicates that the module may not have achieved its intended goal of creating a more inclusive campus.

The online module is administered through the site Ever- fit, the same program used by the university for mandatory sexual misconduct training. According to Fatimah Conley, the university's interim chief diversity officer, the module is intended to "provide a better understanding of basic concepts and actions necessary for more inclusive environment." Some students, such as Senior Communications Maj- or Gabriel Wilson, described the module as "performative," "There is nothing of substance for students who need the module and [is] a waste for students that are already familiar with the topic and working to make campus more inclusive," Wilson said.

The module, titled "Diversity, Inclusion and Be- longing: Three Introductions," contains three subsections, in addition to the introduction and conclu- sion, that focus on different top- ics: "Your Identities," "Your In- fluence" and "Your Community." The "Your Identity" portion of the module focuses on defining different types of identi- ties and exploring the concept of intersectionality. Intersectionality refers to the idea that each per- son has multiple identities (such as race, gender and sexual orien- tation) and that these identities overlap and cannot be viewed separately, as each contributes to an individual's overall experience.

The "Your Influence" portion of the module focuses on power dynamics, as well as the concepts of privilege and op- pression. The module defines privilege as "unearned advan- tages" received due to belong- ing to a particular identity. In- versely, oppression is defined as "unearned disadvantages" as a result of a particular identity. The "Your Community" portion of the module focuses on what students can do to cre- ate a culture of respect on cam- pus. This requires taking into account the experiences and perspectives of others when in- teracting to create a safe en- vironment for those present.

University Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Module prompts mixed response from students

Catherine Hogan Senior Reporter

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Simon Glinser The Review

For many lower-class students, the marks the first time they have been on the university campus since starting college.

KIAA CRONIN Staff Reporter

One of the stories dominating local news in recent months has been the burgeoning civil war in Ethi- opia between government forces, led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, and the Tigray People's Liberation Front. Tigray is a region in the north of Ethiopia, where people speak a different language than the rest of the country. The area is made up primarily of the Oro- mo and Amhara ethnic groups.

The conflict in Tigray began in 2020 and quickly escalated to become a major protracted conflict in the Horn of Africa. The conflict has been marked by allegations of war crimes and human rights abuses, and there have been reports of the ethnic cleansing of Tigrayans by Ethiopian forces. Ethiopian forces are "de- liberately and efficiently render- ing Western Tigray ethnically homogenized through the or- ganized use of force and in- timidation," an interim United States government reported.

So, what is the role of the United States in this con- flict? While Ethiopia is one of the strongest African states in this region of Africa, the United States has imposed visa restrictions on certain Ethiopian officials over continuing violence in Tigray. "The United States condemns the human rights violations and abuses," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. "We are equally appalled by the destruction of civilian property including water sources, hospitals, and medical facilities, taking place in Tigray."

Are there any foreign policy issues you'll like to see discussed or explained? If so, feel free to drop me a line at k c r o n i n @ u d e l . e d u.
University raises tuition ahead of 2021–2022 academic year
Tuition—2019–2021

KELSI WAGNER

Since 1990, costs to attend the university have increased every year, and this year is no exception. In early July, the university announced an increase in undergraduate tuition for in-state students, it increased by $250 and came to $12,990, and for out-of-state students it increased by $660 to come to $34,840. The total cost of attendance, including tuition, fees, room, and board, is now $16,762 for in-state students and $36,622 for out-of-state students.

While the Wellnew fee and the Student Center fee remained unchanged from last year, the University announced that fees, which supports many student services, would increase by $120 per student.

During the 2020–2021 academic year, the university claimed to have frozen tuition, but data show that there was a 2.7% increase for in-state students and a 1.1% increase for out-of-state students. Though fees were lowered by $4 for students, the overall cost for tuition and fees was still higher. In a statement, Horta, a university computer science major, said, "I think we have been at least decreased," adding that tuition was too high even before the pandemic: "It definitely fundamentalizing the pandemic we weren’t really getting to take money out of our pocket," Horta said.

While inflation is partly to blame, tuition is not the only cause. In 1990, the university reported its first deficit on $9,716 for out-of-state students. Adjusted for inflation, these values today would be about $6,526 and $16,550—rates that mirror what tuition was between 2003 and 2005. The university's trend present at colleges and universities throughout the region. Between 2020 and 2021, the average four-year in-state university increased by $120. For the price increase by $250, there were 57% of students that don’t enroll at the University of Delaware, in 1990, the average in-state tuition for a public four-year university has increased from $3,800 to $12,990. That leaves students and $660 to come to $34,840.

The university's Sustainability, Greening, and Community Engagement initiatives are responsible for helping to reduce the carbon footprint of the university. Williams said, "We are focusing on reducing our carbon footprint by using renewable energy sources, such as solar power, and by reducing our use of single-use plastics and disposable products. We have also implemented a comprehensive recycling program and continue to educate students, faculty, and staff about the importance of environmental sustainability."

As the university continues to work towards these goals, there are still challenges to overcome. Williams noted, "We still have a long way to go in terms of reducing our carbon footprint and increasing our use of renewable energy. We are constantly looking for new ways to implement sustainable practices and make progress towards our sustainability goals."

COLLEEN FREEMAN

Staff Reporter

As the university's sustainability initiatives continue to drive progress, the campus community is encouraged to join efforts in reducing our environmental impact. By adopting environmentally friendly practices in our daily lives, we can make a significant difference and help create a sustainable future for ourselves and generations to come. Let's work together to make our campus a green and sustainable place to live and learn. Thank you.
Move with the currents: City locals and officials react to the flood of students into Newark

For nearly the past 17 months, Newark locals have had a love-hate relationship with the students of university students, resulting in less traffic and less was at their favorite restaurants on Main Street. The consistent流动 of the city's population makes it difficult for locals to form a mixture of emotions.

The university students adopt Newark and the city, adapting to the local culture and traditions. However, the arrival of students to Newark has also brought with it a string of new businesses to Main Street including The Little French Cafe, Rosalee's on Main and Hamilton's on Main. As students may bring this "vibrancy" and their wallets, locals and officials also feel some concern about how the large student body might impact the city's COVID-19 situation.

The fear is that you have students coming from every area of the nation and possibly quite a few areas of the world. Clifton said, "I think safe to say that I don't know that the university could reasonably do anything more than what they are doing to keep COVID and the variants from spreading, but it's really just going to be a matter of wait and seeing what's happening."

Russell Lervering, a lifelong resident of Newark and university alumjian, also feels an anxiousness about the student return that he did not feel just a couple of months ago. "It's a little nerve-racking to think about them coming back," he said.

For the Aug. 15 to 22 period, he reports that there were 68 positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people, an increase of 26.7% from the previous cases.

It is currently unclear whether the most recent city ordinance, which bars private gatherings of more than ten people indoors and 20 people outdoors, will automatically go into effect if the city reaches 1.25 cases per 100,000 people or if the city government will adjust or entirely eliminate the ordinance.

"I think what Newark did last year nearly helped stem the proliferation of COVID," Clifton said. "And if that's what we have to do again this year — it's the recipe that worked quickly for us to have to do that, but to keep people safe. I would do what we need to do and I hope the city would continue with it." He added that "it is a difficult call that has to be made quickly, which is why the city has established a COVID-19 response team.

As for right now, City Council President Fabello said she "feels' quite comfortable about the situation due to the mandates and protocols on campus, but the City Council should "stay by it as far as [the numbers] start to uptick."

"Move with the currents,"Creacy said. "If [they start] to put us on lockdown, then we can tighten up on our rules ... The rules can be rewritten, but they still need to be in place to protect you."

"Move with the currents: City locals and officials react to the flood of students into Newark

"We're as excited as you are: Professors share hopes and fears about an in-person fall

The university students adopt Newark and the city, adapting to the local culture and traditions. However, the arrival of students to Newark has also brought with it a string of new businesses to Main Street including The Little French Cafe, Rosalee's on Main and Hamilton's on Main. As students may bring this "vibrancy" and their wallets, locals and officials also feel some concern about how the large student body might impact the city's COVID-19 situation.

The fear is that you have students coming from every area of the nation and possibly quite a few areas of the world. Clifton said, "I think safe to say that I don't know that the university could reasonably do anything more than what they are doing to keep COVID and the variants from spreading, but it's really just going to be a matter of wait and seeing what's happening."

Russell Lervering, a lifelong resident of Newark and university alumjian, also feels an anxiousness about the student return that he did not feel just a couple of months ago. "It's a little nerve-racking to think about them coming back," he said.

For the Aug. 15 to 22 period, he reports that there were 68 positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people, an increase of 26.7% from the previous cases.

It is currently unclear whether the most recent city ordinance, which bars private gatherings of more than ten people indoors and 20 people outdoors, will automatically go into effect if the city reaches 1.25 cases per 100,000 people or if the city government will adjust or entirely eliminate the ordinance.

"I think what Newark did last year nearly helped stem the proliferation of COVID," Clifton said. "And if that's what we have to do again this year — it's the recipe that worked quickly for us to have to do that, but to keep people safe. I would do what we need to do and I hope the city would continue with it." He added that "it is a difficult call that has to be made quickly, which is why the city has established a COVID-19 response team.

As for right now, City Council President Fabello said she "feels' quite comfortable about the situation due to the mandates and protocols on campus, but the City Council should "stay by it as far as [the numbers] start to uptick."

"Move with the currents,"Creacy said. "If [they start] to put us on lockdown, then we can tighten up on our rules ... The rules can be rewritten, but they still need to be in place to protect you."

"Move with the currents: City locals and officials react to the flood of students into Newark

"We're as excited as you are: Professors share hopes and fears about an in-person fall

"Move with the currents: City locals and officials react to the flood of students into Newark

"We're as excited as you are: Professors share hopes and fears about an in-person fall
Dear students, now is STILL NOT the time to party

THAT MATTER / THE REVIEW

Dear students, now is STILL NOT the time to party

About one year ago, The Review staff urged peers to refrain from indulging in traditions sacred to university students from our campus and across the country; partying. This is due to the fact that in September 2020, COVID-19 cases were rampant, many universities were condemned to virtual learning and mask-wearing was a prerequisite to being in public spaces. But with the new development of vaccines and student readiness to in-person learning, is “normal” partying on the horizon? Our answer: No. At least, not yet. Parties were once a staple for our student body. Without many students’ unwavering commitment to party culture, the university would not maintain its No. 2 ranking in the Princeton Review’s top party schools in the nation. Yet, as infections caused by the Delta variant—the predominant COVID-19 variant in the United States—pose a greater threat, we reason that the hours of attending large gatherings at this time heavily outweigh the benefits. According to updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Delta variant causes more infections and spreads faster than early forms of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Not only is the Delta variant more contagious than previous variants, the CDC reports that it can also cause more severe illnesses. As a result, unvaccinated people are at greater risk, and even vaccinated people can experience breakthrough infections and spread the virus. Despite the swiftness of the Delta wave, there is still a long road ahead in having a fully vaccinated campus. At the time of writing this, only 52% of the U.S. population is completely vaccinated (reported estimations). In the state of Delaware, that number is the same (51.9%) with more than one million doses having been administered. According to the Delaware Environmental Inequality Network. While the number of doses seems large, it has not stopped the community transmission rate, which remains high in all three Delaware counties, including New Castle County. On May 24, 2021, the city of Newark held its first in-person gathering ordinance at private residences to remove all gathering limits. Newark’s pre-pandemic law requiring a city permit for gatherings over 150 people continues to remain in place. As of July 13, Delaware is no longer in a state of emergency. As I have mentioned in our previous piece, the university and its students play a large role in the city of Newark. Off-campus parties do not just affect university students, but also Newark residents living nearby. Despite students being mostly vaccinated, surrounding communities were and continue to be impacted by COVID-19. The Review gives credit to the university and the city of Newark for following recommendations provided by the relevant state, federal and public health authorities throughout the pandemic. Backed by statistical data, however, we know that we cannot ignore the scientific evidence surrounding the Delta variant. It is now up to us— the student body—to flatten the new curve. By this past spring, more than 450 students had been re-directed to the Office of Student Conduct with varying levels of disciplinary action for gatherings exceeding Newark’s ordinance and other COVID-19 violations. As we return back to our normal lives this fall semester, we must remind ourselves that we can do better.

To clarify, this is not an anti-party appeal. As Newark and surrounding areas lift gathering restrictions, the demand for partying may be higher than in months past. The Review acknowledges that although partying may take place once again, there is urgent need to be smart and safe about it. First, if you choose to party, wear a mask indoors. While masks mandates were lifted in some locations of the country months ago, the CDC recently reversed its masking recommendations, even for the vaccinated. That is because face masks reduce the transmission of the Delta variant and other COVID-19 variants as well as they do for the original COVID-19 virus. Second, take your party outdoors. When you are outside, you are less likely to breathe in enough of the respiratory droplets containing the virus that causes COVID-19 to become infected. Plus, being outdoors has multiple physical and psychological health benefits. We do not doubt that much has changed in 365 days, let alone the very beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. The coronavirus vaccines allow for more freedom to physically return to life, yet give hope for the future that many of us have not known in a long time.

Letter from the Editors

KELSEY WAGNER
Senior Staff Writer
SIMON GLOVER
Executive Editor

Dear readers,

Here we are again, standing at the precipice of another semester. For some of you, it is your first semester on campus since more than a year ago (or ever). So, welcome back, or simply welcome! The Review has also returned to its cluttered office, which has stood empty for many months. It feels nice to be back, although it is strange to look at the newspapers from March 2020 that are lying about.

This issue is The Review’s first print issue since that fateful March. For many of us, it was hard to imagine a newspaper without the paper component, but we made it work. This year, we plan to bring you two printed editions every semester; between those issues we will have current news available on our website, udeview.com, and through weekly news letters delivered straight to your inboxes.

We have officially returned to campus and in-person learning, yet the destiny of this semester remains uncertain. As much as we hate to say it, the pandemic is not over. Although the pandemic is not as mysterious and isolating as it was a year ago, it is not time to forget what we went through, nor will it ever be. In a way, this experience will live with us forever, so instead of burying it, we may as well use the perspective we gained to better ourselves and our communities.
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Romance novels to refuel your reading addiction

MIA GALLO
Associate Mosaic Editor

Reading has always been a pastime that I have thoroughly enjoyed, however, in the past few years, my voracious appetite for literature has subsided. That was until I stumbled onto BookTok this summer. Unlike the New York Times Best Sellers list, BookTok has provided me with book recommendations curated by people I could relate to.

Book TikTokers, or BookTokers, offer a different perspective to reading that has rekindled my love. Their recommendations have resulted in my reading of more than 35 books this summer. Thus, I have been inspired to recommend my top five favorite romance reads that are perfect for submerging yourself into reading.

"Normal People" by Sally Rooney

This novel touched me in ways that I did not imagine any book could. The profound connection that the two protagonists, Marianne and Connell, share is something incredibly beautiful. Set in Ireland, the pair live in the same town yet never interact at school. However, Connell’s mother is Marianne’s housekeeper and the two share many conversations when he comes to pick up his mother. Marianne is lonely, combative and incredibly closed off while Connell is popular and the star of the school’s soccer team. They attend the same university in Dublin, where their relationship resumes flourishing after a break when Marianne finishes high school from home.

During their years in university, they dance around one another, yet are always drawn back together. Their chemistry is unmatched and it is an incredibly realistic read that addresses the complexity of first love and relationships.

There is a Hulu adaptation starring Daisy Edgar-Jones and Paul Mescal that is undeniable the best book to screen adaptation I have ever watched.

"The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" by Taylor Jenkins Reid

There are not enough positive things that I can say about this novel. Evelyn Hugo is a Hollywood movie star who finally is ready to tell the stories of her seven marriages and all of the experiences in between. She recruits an unknown reporter, Monique Grant, for the job, shocking everyone including Monique.

As the novel goes on, you learn that Monique herself is tangled in the web of Evelyn’s life in a truly unexpected way. During their interviews, Evelyn details her rise to stardom in the 1950s to her decision to leave the show business in the 1980s. This is an addicting story of love, loss, loss, family and friendship.

"People We Meet on Vacation" by Emily Henry

This book centers around college best friends, Poppy and Alex, who take a yearly summer vacation together. The novel takes us through the escapades of each of their vacations and the way in which their friendship flourishes into something deeper every time. The pair have very little in common, which makes their work so incredibly well together. Poppy is a free spirit with a distaste for routine while Alex is a hardworking type. Their story is light-hearted and makes you yearn for a summer vacay to lovers love story like theirs.

"The Score" by Elle Kennedy (of the "Off Campus" series)

The "Off Campus" series as a whole is incredible; however, the third installment, "The Score" is my personal favorite. Each book in the series focuses on a different couple in a friend group of hockey players at the fictional Ivy League school, Brier University. Written from a dual point of view, this novel centers around a lady’s man, Dean Elaurent, and a serial monogamist, Allie Hayes. Dean is used to getting what he wants, and Allie is the first person in a long time to not give it to him. Allie seems to be immune to his charm until they share a night together fueling their burning fire for each other. This is an incredibly vivacious and energetic read.

"The Hating Game" by Sally Thorne

This is the perfect read for those who love the enemies to lovers romance trope. Joshua Templeman and Lucy Hutton share a small office, the same job and a burning hatred for one another. Their interactions are a consistent one-upmanship that reaches a whole level when their promotion is up for the taking. However, with such intense feelings of hatred, feelings in opposition are bound to come to fruition. Their banter is also incredibly entertaining. Told from her point of view, Lucy begins to wonder if she really hates Joshua Templeman and if she misjudged him from the beginning. This novel is fast-paced, refreshing and a must-read.

These books are the perfect jumping off point for a spiral back into the infinite fictional worlds that await between the pages. I hope this feeling quite compares to cozying up with a good book at the end of the day and I implore you to try these quintessential romance novels to light a spark for reading in your soul.
"The Chair": Is the Netflix series a realistic snapshot of university departments?

ROBERT HAMPEL

This recent six-part Netflix series packs a lot into three hours. Timely topics include racism, sexism, ageism, student protests, interracial adoption and mid-life romance. But the series is titled "The Chair," and the story raises a very important question about academic life. Is Professor Kim, the new chair of the English department at "Pembroke University," the ally of her faculty or the administration?

Much of the drama stems from her back-and-forth on that question. She is uncomfortable when Dean Larson asks her to nudge into retirement three senior faculty with low enrollments and high salaries. She neither agrees nor disagrees with the dean. She is even more ambivalent about the administrators' eagerness to fire a tenured professor who made a Nazi salute during class. First she agrees, then she disagrees, blasting the termination hearing as a "kangaroo court."

Yet by that time she's lost the confidence of her department, and by a six to four vote she is out as chair. Kim expressed relief—"too many a--holes to manage . . . it's a s--- job" apart from the beautiful office—but she was still dismayed.

The message here? The difficulty of the diplomacy required of department chairs. Nearly all chairs view themselves as professors—they came from and will (with a few exceptions) return to the faculty. They continue to teach and advise students. They want to help their colleagues by lobbying on their behalf. On the other hand, chairs are administrators, and they are expected to work harmoniously with the administrators alongside and above them. They can disagree with deans and deputy provosts only so often. Most chairs pick and choose their battles, trying to win respect all around. What the Netflix series portrays well are the perils of that diplomacy.

In other respects, "The Chair" misleads viewers. The department looks like a vestige from the 1950s or even earlier. It is far smaller (12 faculty) than the typical English Department in a research university today. One faculty member rather than a committee drafts the tenure review of an assistant professor. An older professor never reads her student evaluations, which most instructors today must report on their annual appraisal. Faculty flirt with each other; a trusted decides who will give a prestigious guest lecture, and there are no adjunct instructors—three signs of a bygone era. It naively suggests that enrollments in the humanities fall when teachers are dull rather than dropping because 21st century students look for marketable majors and well-paid employment upon graduation.

Even so, undergraduates who watch "The Chair" will get realistic glimpses of the wide range of strong emotions and private quirks behind the masks we faculty often wear. Moreover, the acting is excellent, with memorable performances by Sandra Oh, Bob Balaban, and Jay Duplass. Moreover, the very young daughter of Prof. Kim is memorably mischievous, and even the ornery faculty are lovable, especially the Chaucer expert (played by the amazing Holland Taylor) who stalks a student in the library as he posts his comments on Ratemyprofessor.com.

The series brings to life aspects of the 21st century university that our students often do not see. If The Chair occasionally exaggerates and misrepresents, it is nevertheless a fun and insightful sketch of a crucial job in each and every department.

Robert L. Hampel is a professor and former director of the university's School of Education.
**PIECES**
The stars demand that you follow your instincts. It could be the difference between success and failure.

**CAPRICORN**
Make sure to be prepared this week. All will go well if you make sure to stay one step ahead of the curve.

**SCORPIO**
Show gratitude towards your loved ones this upcoming week. You might get a sweet surprise!

**AQUARIUS**
Go outside and walk around! A spring in your step might spark some motivation in you.

**SAGITTARIUS**
If you can’t find what you’re looking for, look somewhere else. Often, the things we want are hiding right in front of us!

**LIBRA**
Hate running into people from your past? I have some bad news for this upcoming week.

**ARIES**
Try to keep that silly, goofy mood in check — not everyone will appreciate it.

**GEMINI**
If you feel an urge to change your life drastically, this time of transition might be the perfect time to do so.

**LEO**
Do your best while also remembering your worth is not attached to what you accomplish.

**TAURUS**
Getting on the same page is hard, so make sure to be patient in your newer relationships.

**CANCER**
None of your exes have gotten over you, so remember to be confident and get what you want this week.

**VIRGO**
Focus on things in your control, like how much coffee you can consume in one day. After all, that’s the only thing that matters!
Letters from the Managing Arts and Culture Editor

NADYA ELLERHORST Managing Arts and Culture Editor

Greetings!

If you've been a particularly loyal reader of The Review, you may be wondering who I am and where this delightful little section came from. Fear not. We come in peace. Upon their ascent to the highest positions at our paper, Editor-in-Chief Kelsey Wagner and Executive Editor Simon Glover opted to whistle down our mountainous Mosaic section into a new-and-improved Mosaic and a brand-new Arts and Culture section.

You're probably asking yourself what the difference is, dear reader, we spent a good part of the summer coming up with an answer to that ourselves.

Arts and Culture will be responsible for reporting in the realms of Visual Arts; Music; Fashion; Theater and Dance; and Literature. Of course, these areas are subject to change as the semester progresses, and perhaps there'll be an occasional overlap or gray area between us and Mosaic. I say bring it on, and I certainly hope you'll stick with us for the ride.

Throughout the previous tumultuous year, within the volatile present, and looking towards a still-uncertain future, much of the arts (along with life itself) continues to be characterized by paradoxical restrictions. However, even through these constraints, many artistic organizations, groups and individuals have managed to persevere, finding novel ways of preserving long-standing traditions, methods and structures. The method of delivery in a variety of disciplines may have changed; the dedication, professionalism and talent have not.

We anticipate bringing you coverage of artistic and cultural happenings as things slowly but surely begin to open up while providing stories of how the arts continue to respond to current circumstances.

Since our founding at the end of last semester, Arts and Culture has been able to cover a variety of topics, including expenses associated with senior recitals at the university, E-52 Student Theatre's production of its very first audio production, and a Delaware History Museum exhibit commemorating LGBTQ history in the state of Delaware. We hope that this is just the beginning.

Although this is just one of four print issues The Review will be publishing this academic year, you can continue to read Arts and Culture articles on udreview.com. Go ahead and check out other sections while you're at it; they've got plenty of outstanding content waiting for you too.

If you have knowledge of something potentially relevant to our section that you think deserves to be covered, I invite you to - nay, encourage you - to email it to artsandculture@udreview.com. The Arts and Culture universe is filled with galaxies of stories, and while we'll try our best to cover as wide a breadth of these as possible, we appreciate any sense of direction you can provide us.

Whatever these next months have in store for our section, The Review and Arts and Culture will be responsible for you coverage of the university, student chapter of the Society of Composers Inc., Division of the Arts - the top of the arts and surrounding communities' creative realms.

Let's do this,

Nadya Ellerhorst '24
Managing Arts and Culture Editor

SOPHIA JOHNSON Staff Reporter

Dr. Jennifer Barker, professor in the School of Music at the University of Delaware, is the chair of New Music Delaware and is the Delaware recipient for the student chapter of the Society of Composers Inc. Barker recently received the Master's Fellowship for the Delaware Division of the Arts. The top award you can receive in the state.

However, there is more to Barker's love of composition than winning awards. With piano lessons starting at age five and picking up violin and percussion instruments in later years, Barker has always been surrounded by musical instruments.

"I was also very interested in design and sewing and art," Barker said. "So, music and art really went together very well and continued on early on. I wanted to be a musician full-time.

In her later years, she decided to leave her homeland of Scotland and pursue a career in the classical music field as a pianist in the United States. Barker went on to get a masters degree in piano performance and then a PhD in composition. Afterwards, she became a professor at the university, where she currently teaches music composition and theory. Barker currently composes contemporary classical music, the type of music in which she has been composing for years.

"What I love about contemporary classical music is that there's a freedom to it now in the 21st century," Barker says. "You can bring in everything that you've been influenced by from classical operations of classical music... but you can also bring in jazz elements and you can also bring in contemporary elements in terms of popular music.

Now, after several years of composing and teaching in Delaware, Barker has earned the Master's Fellowship to create this title. She explained that each title must first receive an Established Professional Fellowship and retain the title for 10 years. Additionally, since the Master's Fellowship is only awarded to one person in the Delaware Division of the Arts switch the category every year from categories like music to dance to sculpture in order for each type of artist to have their chance. After earning her Established Professional Fellowship in 2007, Barker was finally eligible this year to earn the Master's Fellowship and was chosen to receive it for her compositional work. Along with the recognition, the Master's Fellowship comes with a $10,000 dollar grant.

While Barker is always excited by the prospect of writing more music, her commitments as a professor and a pianist make it difficult to focus on her own compositions. However, she is always working on new projects such as applying for grants or sharing more of her compositions through performances or CDs.

"I've had performances of my music on six continents now and I've recorded about ten CDs with my compositions on them, and I've got three more coming up in the next few years," Barker says. "As composers, we're just always really excited to get our music performed. When people purchase my scores, or when they commission me for a new work, that's always exciting."

In the near future, Barker is most excited to work with her colleagues on projects where they can collaborate and bring music to the community. Barker is currently recording CDs and organizing concert tours with a group called Transcendental. The ensemble is made up of members of the university faculty as well as guest musicians from Delaware and Pennsylvania. Although their most recent concert tour was postponed twice due to COVID-19, they are hoping to finally play again as an ensemble this November in Colorado.

Barker expressed that while some students may feel as though there are not many opportunities or careers for composers, it is simply not true.

"A lot of people when they get in aren't really quite sure...what careers there are out there for composers...they actually end up in all of the fields," Barker says. Barker mentioned academia, film, video games, recording, arts management, theatre, radio and performance as career paths that her former students have pursued.

"It's a very creative field and it's a field where you can really make your own life, you know you can make your own career," Barker says. "You can just make it the way that you want it to be."

Barker's love for music, composition and expression through the arts continue to inspire her to be both an encouraging professor and a motivated musician.
Welcoming jazz and improvisation and game studies and esports majors to the university

TESS WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

A s the 2021 fall semester begins, the university is welcoming six new majors including game studies and esports and jazz and improvisation. These majors have just been finalized but both have been in the works for years.

The idea for a jazz major started out over two decades ago when the jazz minor was created in 1990. Although it took many years, the jazz and improvisation major started to take shape in the fall of 2010. Tom Palmer, assistant professor of jazz and percussion says Miles Brown, an adjunct professor of jazz, credits the push for a jazz and improvisation major to “growing cultural and racial awareness” that developed during the pandemic and the lack of representation for music outside of white, European classical music. I think partly due to the death of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and the many other people who were unjustly killed," Brown says. "It brought this awareness to peoples' minds that black culture and also Black music and Black art was important and was missing from a lot of academic programming."

The major will stray away from the European ‘classical’ model of music and focus on jazz and improvisation across a wide range of various cultures and timelines.

“Our program is unique to US. It's different from other schools in that we are trying to be a little bit more broad focused rather than just specifically focused on jazz improvis,” Brown says. "Many other schools tend to be focused on a style of music called bebop, which only really happened between 1945 and 1955, so it's very narrow focused."

The program will follow a typical eight semester catalog and offers students the chance to customize their classes to suit them best. The goal of the courses are to prepare students to think on their feet and master the art of improvisation.

There are various paths to enter into after receiving a degree in jazz and improvisation as well, including doctorates in jazz studies or work as musicians.

"You get a jazz degree, and you can go and try to be a performing jazz musician," Brown says. “Some people go to New York; some people go to Los Angeles to play in movies. A lot of people go on cruise ships and play on cruise ships for a while."

The game studies and esports major took a similar route in its development. Cofounders of the major Philip Penx-Tadsen, associate professor of Spanish literature and cultures, and Rachel Hutchinson, associate professor of Japanese studies, spent a little over a decade creating major.

Penx-Tadsen and Hutchinson proposed their first research study in video games just over eleven years ago, and their research eventually led to the creation of the game studies minor in 2015. After another four years, they began to collaborate with faculty to create the game studies and esports major in early 2019. The major will feature six core classes: Intro to Art and Design for games, Intro to Programming in Games, second computer science, Intro to Game Development, Intro to Game Studies, which was developed and taught by Penx-Tadsen, Intro to esports Management and Intro to Writing for Games. These six courses, as well as an internship and capstone, are all newly created aspects of the program.

The major will also have three focus areas: Game Design and Development, which will prepare students to code and develop their own games; Games Culture and Society, which analyzes video games from different cultural perspectives and will include classes like Sex, Violence and the Media, Game Industry and Esports Management, which focuses on the economic side of esports while simultaneously preparing students to be professional esports players.

"We love having students look critically at video games, think critically about something they might take for granted as just entertainment and think about other ways that video games can be used for political activism or could be used to train surrogons or could be used to preserve indigenous languages," Penx-Tadsen says. "The major is unique due to its interconnections between different colleges and its ability to be customized to students’ professional goals.

“We've got nine different programs and three different colleges. We've got the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and Learning Business College," Penx-Tadsen says. "This is very rare actually because there's very few majors that are so interdisciplinary in nature that it makes sense to bring together all those things."

The impacts of these two unique majors on the university community remain to be seen.
Collaborative artists’ original paintings on view in newly-renovated Morris Library

SOPHIA JOHNSON
Staff Reporter

The newly renovated Morris Library now features six original paintings by artists Kenzie Raulin and Ruth Lozner. The collection includes paintings that focus on books as the main subject, celebrating the significance of literature. However, the subject matter is not the only striking part of these works, as Lozner and Raulin collaborate together in their paintings — two artists, one canvas.

Lozner studied art throughout college, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master of Fine Arts degree from American University. Although retired, she maintains the title of Professor Emerita of Art and Graphic Design from the University of Maryland and still teaches painting privately. Raulin studied design in college and graduated from University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science degree in advertising design. Raulin continues to do design work with over 30 years of experience under her belt.

Lozner and Raulin began working together about four years ago while Raulin was taking painting lessons with Lozner. “One day we were in the studio, and I think I said, ‘Wouldn’t it be cool to paint together?’” Lozner says. "And bringing it to life on a canvas at the same time, talking and exchanging thoughts about the piece. For this Morris Library-specific collection, their ideas were centered around books.

Lozner and Raulin work together to paint collaboratively by coming up with an idea and then we went ‘Yeah, let’s try it’ right then, and we just pulled the canvas out and started to paint together, and we have been doing it ever since.” Lozner and Raulin work together to paint collaboratively by coming up with an idea and the meaning behind the covers, so to speak,” Lozner says. “What kind of wisdom you get from opening the book and those kinds of discussions is what we went through when we paint.”

The university acquired these paintings as a part of the recent renovations to Morris Library. Back in February of 2020, Lozner and Raulin had the pieces featured at an art show of theirs in New York City. Shelly McCoy, associate university librarian for Communication & Space Planning, had seen their works at the show and reached out to them later to purchase the paintings for Morris Library.

Lozner and Raulin are very excited for students to be able to view their works this upcoming semester and are very grateful for the university supporting them as independent artists.

“Showing artwork is a public activity and the more people that see it, the better,” Lozner says. “It’s very nice to have a connection with viewers, even if you don’t know them. That they’re going to respond to your work, knowing that that happens is very satisfying. So it’s a particularly wonderful opportunity for us at the university that many, many students, faculty and staff will interact somehow with that work.”

The paintings are available for in-person viewing on the third floor of Morris Library. More information about Lozner and Raulin is available on their website, lrcollaborate.com.
From a canceled nations meet to an Olympic Trials appearance: Michaela Meyer's road to glory

The beginning of 2020 marked a special dedication of Blue Hen track and field history. Michaela Meyer, a Blue Henn at the time, ran 2:03.40 in the 800-meter run at the NCAA Last Chance Qualifier. The time broke the previous indoor school record and marked new heights for the Blue Hens. It also mirrored the uncertainties surrounding what was next for Meyer.

Was her collegiate career to be a stepping stone for running career as a whole over? Meyer and Associate Head Coach Brian Waite went on a five-mile run along the Rio Grande River to talk about what she had just achieved.

"We talked about it because it would be right for her to look at going somewhere else for graduate school," Waite said. "She’s really everything on the table and said ‘what’s the best for you?’" Meyer eventually decided she wanted to go to graduate school. In addition to running, she also dreamed of becoming a nurse. The University of Virginia stood out, since the program allowed her to continue running in Power Five conference, while also allowing her to pursue a master’s degree in nursing.

"The nursing program really supported my academic aspirations, which is something that Meyer said. "I just felt that that would be the best spot for me," Waite said in an interview with the NCAA.

At Delaware, Meyer entered a hosting field season cross country races, but never a full season. Her breakthrough came when she became a Calderon. She raced in all four of Virginia’s cross country meets and set personal bests in 17:42 in the 5,000-meter race and 21:13.4 in the 6,000-meter race.

"My coach (Vic Lannana) was very passionate about me running cross country and he thought it would be beneficial in my 800 and I trusted him," Meyer said.

She won her first 800-meter race in March at the UVA Opener with a time of 2:02.20. Not even a week later at the Relay Rheys, Meyer won the 800-meters in a time of 2:02.20 and qualified for the NCAA Women’s Indoor Track and Field Championships. By May, her personal best stood at 2:01.82.

"I knew I was fit and knew I had big goals to accomplish, so the regular season was just focused on maintaining my speed and fitness level," Meyer stated.

She was able to learn race strategy and figure out how to run the 800 in many different ways.

Meyer began her championship season strong at the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Championships, winning the 1500-meter run in comeback fashion and double-back to third place without being on the podium. She also set personal bests of 2:00.40 at the USA Track and Field Olympic Trials on a collision course with a nationals meet she entered a year earlier.

Meyer entered the outdoor championships in Eugene, Oregon as the top seed for the 248-800-meter runners. Through most of the meet, Meyer stayed in the middle of the pack, but saw her 200 meters left in the race, Meyer made a move to pass three competitors and finished in third place with a final 100 meters of the race. She finished with a time of 2:00.25.

"After having that opportunity and knowing from me in Albuquerque, I was hungry to compete and I trusted my coaches and trained my training," Meyer said. "At NCAA’s I knew that I was in the mix and I knew it was within potential I could win, but I was not thinking about anything beyond that. I was just focused on taking it one race at a time."

Meyer stayed in Oregon to compete in the Olympic Trials. In the first round of the preliminaries, Meyer finished third in her heat. Then, she competed in the second round of preliminaries and ultimately qualified for the finals with a time of 2:01.06. At the finals, Meyer again finished third. Her time of 2:00.80 of four runners in the final 200-meters to place fourth in the final.

"Meyer ran the 800 meters in 2:00.80, putting her on the cusp of making the Olympic team," Meyer said. "I was happy with how everything went and it would be the experience of a lifetime." Meyer also marked the first time she would break two minutes in the 800 meters.

For Meyer, she left no doubts or what’s on the track that day.

"I knew I knew I was going to make the team," Meyer said. "It was the first time I had with 100 meters to go I didn’t want any regrets and I was feeling confident."

When she counted myself out, I knew I would be a longshot to make the team, but I knew I could do it with 100 meters, I was two of four runners in the final 200-meters to place fourth in the final.

"I was happy with how everything went and it would be the experience of a lifetime."

Meyer also added that it was the happiest fourth place finisher.

Commentary: Women’s basketball in prime position to advance to 2020 season

The 2020-2021 women’s basketball season was nothing short of remarkable, as the Blue Hens went from being shunned and individual accolades handed out left and right. In the end however, the Blue Hens felt one step short with their crushing loss to Drexel in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Tournament final.

Head Coach Natasha Adair continued to lead her team remarkably, as they reached the semifinals of the Women’s National Invitation Tournament (WNT) thanks to three impressive wins.

The team was not where the players and coaching staff wanted to be—though especially not after a 19-3 regular season record and a 16-2 CAA mark. When the team could not close out the conference tournament last March, the dream of playing in the NCAA Tournament was shattered.

But with a new season comes a new cast of returning players making the Blue Hens primed for repeated success in the 2021-2022 season.

Coach Adair returns for her fifth season with the Delaware program, and her outstanding returning group of players having put Delaware back on the map in the college basketball landscape.

Most notably on the roster, the reigning CAA Player of the Year, senior Jasmina Dickey, returns from a head injury with a profound score with 22.6 points and 9.1 rebounds per game. Fellow First Team All-CAA selection Ty Battles, a senior forward, also comes back for another crack at a conference championship. She was named the Blue Hen of the Year as a sophomore and led Delaware to be the top offensive rebounding percentage in the nation with an average of 20.3 offensive rebounds per game.

Fellow sophomore guard Olivia Alinye is back for her second year after being a graduate student at Delaware. She was a full-time starter last year and put up 11.8 points and 6.9 rebounds per game. A bevy of other returners are returning along with these three. Point guard Paris McBride will be one of the team’s leaders on and off the court, as she heads the senior program. Guards Tee Johnson and Jewel Smalls are also both returning members for the Blue Hens, with Johnson’s tenacious defense and Smalls’ three point specialty being crucial components to Delaware’s success.

Further, sophomore guard Ty Skinner is back after an injury-depleted season and depth and rotations, and this team is prepared to play.

The team is not only returning six proven scorers, but also adding new faces with players to the roster via the transfer portal.

Graduate transfer and forward Maddie Sims comes to Delaware from the University of Massachusetts, where she averaged 7.5 points per game and 4.5 rebounds per game and 4.5 rebounds per game and 4.5 rebounds per game. She played for Siena from 2016-2019, averaging 8.8 points and 5.7 rebounds per game.

The second off-season recruiting story of the year is Mackayla Pippen, a guard transfer from Kansas State. Pippen only played 19 minutes with the Mustangs in her one season at Central Arizona is named one of the top 10 players to score at a high rate. She transferred from the Vagrancy, Pippen put in 18.6 points and 8.9 rebounds per game. While both Sims and Pippen are transferring into a new program, Adair has succeeded with past transfers in Smalls and Johnson, among others.

Further, the scoring prowess of Sims and Pippen has given the Blue Hens a shot at the offensive side that struggled the slightest bit on offense during the regular season last year. The Blue Hens were 12th nationally in rebounds per game and 11th in CAA in points allowed last season, but did not put up many points of their own on offense.

A team that Adair stated 38.4% from the field while their opponents shot 39%. From three-point range, the Blue Hens were at 28.5% compared to 36.3% for their opponents. The team’s shooting woes proved costly in the loss versus Drexel in the CAA Tournament where they couldn’t finish 29.3% from the field and scored 63 points.

While their offensive struggles were something they had to overcome, the Blue Hens have never been afraid to take a chance to their year-long success, it became a crutch to a team that could not be efficient on the offensive end. The addition of Pippen to the team this off-season could be the offense’s improvements during last season’s WNT, bode well for Delaware’s team chemistry this season.

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Two years have passed since Delaware's last conventional season opened in 2019, where the Blue Hens defeated in-state rival Delaware State 31-13.

Since then, the coronavirus pandemic put a halt to college athletics in 2020 and greatly limited the university's athletics plans for the spring of 2021. Amidst the pandemic, a never-before-seen spring football season, head coach Rocco Donneis still found a way to return the Delaware football program to national prominence.

Closing out a 5-7 record in 2019, Rocco led the Blue Hens to an undefeated regular season and a Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Championship. Highlights of the regular season included a season-opening defensive shutout over Maine and the team’s first victory versus Villanova in ten years.

The win against the Wildcats sealed the conference championship and earned Delaware an automatic berth in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) Playoffs this past spring, where expectations continued to be surpassed.

In the first round of the playoffs, Delaware hosted Sacred Heart at Delaware Stadium and earned their first playoff victory since 2010. In the second round, Rocco's team traveled down to Jacksonville State and advanced once again.

The playoff run came to an end in the FCS semifinals versus the eventual runner-up, South Dakota State. In the game, Blue Hens quarterback Nolan Henderson dealt with injuries, and the defense had no answer for the Jackrabbits, leading to a 33-3 loss that ended a perfect season in its tracks.

Heading into a fall season with a short offseason, Henderson refocused the team's starting quarterback. According to Rocco, the progress Henderson made in the spring — his first full year as the starter — allowed his impact to the team to be better than ever.

"He made great strides in understanding how to protect himself better," Rocco said during CAA Media Day earlier this month. "He understands things on the scramble and he was more aware this past spring than the year before.

However, in the season-ending loss to South Dakota State, Henderson was sacked seven times, unable to complete a pass over 20 yards and forced out of the game temporarily for an injury after a sack.

"We have to sure up our protection," Rocco said. "As last season went on, we had a couple injuries in the offensive line, which affected our offensive abilities to be effective in the run game and protect our quarterback."

On the left side of the line, first-team All-CAA tackle David Kroll and guard Steven Brown return as starters. Center Mickey Henry returns for his redshirt senior season, while right tackle Ben Trent is back for his second season with the Blue Hens after transferring from Virginia the year prior.

The returners on the offensive line will play a major role in the running game, as Rocco noted. In the spring of 2021, the Blue Hens rushing attack opened strong, but struggled down the stretch.

Graduate student Dejuan Lee will return to spearhead the offensive line after being named the 2021 CAA Offensive Player of the Year, amassing 364 yards and six touchdowns on the ground. During the offseason, there has been an emphasis from Rocco and offensive coordinator Jared Ambrose on having a deep backfield beyond Lee.

On the defensive side of the ball, all eleven starters return, including a secondary that was a two first-team All-CAA selections — safety Kedrick Whitehead and cornerback Niyuel Milli. In Manny Ronjas' first season as defensive coordinator, the team was third nationally in scoring defense and fourth nationally in total defense.

"Last year's eight games were our first eight games learning [coach Ronjas] new defensive philosophy," Whitehead said. "Having an understanding of what the defense coming into a full season makes the defense play a lot more easier and way faster.

The excitement for the Delaware defense extends past the eleven returning starters, as linebacker Colby Reeder aims to play a full season for the first time since 2018. In his return midway through the spring, Reeder totaled 17 tackles, three tackles for loss and two sacks.

All over the field, there are positives to this fall's Blue Hens football roster. But after a shortened offseason and an unorthodox spring season that extended into the FCS semifinals, coach Rocco decided it was best to take a few weeks off before jumping back into the offseason program.

"In today's game, college football players train seven rounds, so I wanted to create a little more space between our last game of the season and the next week we started talking about football," Rocco said.

Further, Rocco and CAA Commissioner Joe D'Alessandro emphasized COVID-19 protocols as imperative to continue following into the fall season.

"As a conference, not much has changed in terms of how we will approach things during the year," D'Alessandro said of the CAA's regulations this season. "We will continue to work extremely closely with our physicians and athletic directors to develop protocols that allow [our] student-athletes to compete in a safe environment.

Following a break-leading schedule amongst COVID-19 protocols, coach Rocco and the Blue Hens will once again look to navigate a football season during a pandemic while setting more records and making another national championship push.

The season opens up this Thursday on the road against conference foe Maine University at 7 p.m.

Women's soccer drops third

A late goal by Seton Hall's Emma Ramsay in the 70th minute on Sunday sent Delaware home with its second loss in a 1-0 defeat.

The Ramsay goal came on an afternoon where the Blue Hens outperformed Seton Hall in the shots on goal catego-

Delaware tallied a total of eleven shots by the end of the match, with six coming in the first half. Seton Hall finished with seven shots.

"This is the second goal in a row where we've played Seton Hall and we've lost the game," Delaware head coach Mike Barroquero said.

Barroquero said his team focused on creating more "dangerous" plays in the offensive game after not doing so in their 2-1 loss against Monmouth. Those chances however were kept at bay by Seton Hall goalkeeper Grace Gordon, who finished with six saves. Delaware's Lauren Rini-

The loss leaves the Blue Hens with a record of 1-3 on the season and at the bottom of the Colonial Athletic Asso-

COURTESY OF PAT LAPORTE

Delaware women's soccer fell to 1-3 after a late goal by Seton Hall's Emma Ramsay propelled the Pirates to a 1-0 victory.

COURTESY OF PAT LAPORTE

Delaware's next two matches are on the road at the Uni-

Despite the large number of freshmen and inexperience among sophomores due to last