

# Student Affairs and Athletics Updates for 2024 Welcome Back Letter

## **Campus Recreation and Student Engagement**

There are some new upgraded spaces for students to find community spaces and “hang out.” Beginning with the addition of two Hammock Gardens on campus, one in the North Lodges and one near Maple Hall. Students are able to link up and configure hammocks in these unique spaces. Additionally, these hammock gardens can double as a space for students to slack line.

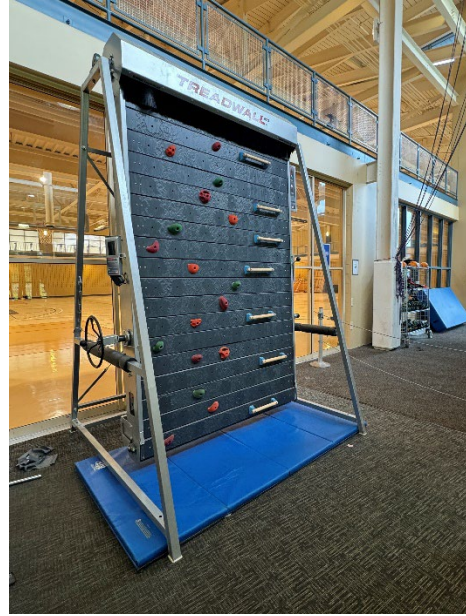
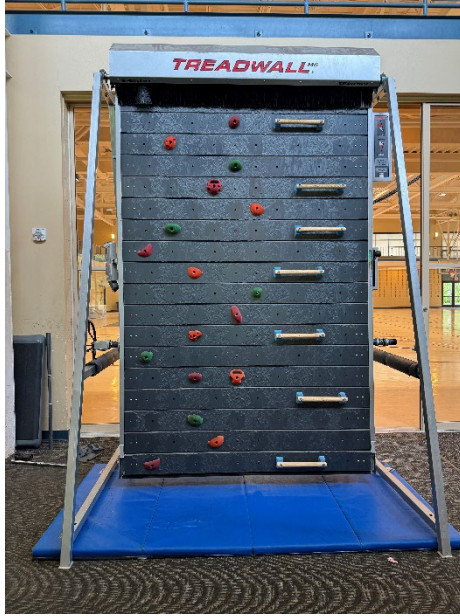


This particular group of students said, “this was the best addition to campus and it was [their] happy place and favorite hang out spot on campus.”

The outdoor basketball courts located by Maple and Student Union are in the process of not only a refresh, but will also serve as a space to play pickleball outdoors as well. Each residence hall is equipped with pickleball paddles for students to check out to use in these spaces. The courts will receive new basketball hoops, pickleball nets and newly surfaced and painted courts. Students will find new places to sit in these locations as well.

The wellness center boasts of new unique piece of equipment that not only supports overall fitness, but helps to support the niche group of Rock Climbing. The Treadwall boasts of a variety of training techniques, from varying speeds to varying handgrips. Additionally, the Treadwall offers varying tilts to change the workouts; lower to the full -12 degree angle and work all the muscles in your arms shoulders

and core at once. Change the angle to +12 degree and get your hips, legs, core, and balance!



Lastly, a new semi-permanent volleyball court is coming to University Square this fall. The volleyball court will have boundary lines and provide for a competitive grass playing surface but also has the ability to be removed for events that may need that space.

In addition to some campus upgrades, the students can expect to see a large uptick in intramural offerings and opportunities as well as club sport support with the addition of Kelly Devett as the Director of Campus Recreation and Student Athlete Success. Students should expect to see intramural seasons that include the additions of flag football, powder puff football, basketball, volleyball, cornhole, and pickleball. Currently Intramurals boasts 110 participants for the first round of activities



Our Mountain Cat Identity is getting a refresh with a new mascot logo that will be unveiled at homecoming during the coronation!! In addition to this brand refresh, the Student Union is set to have some branding elements added to refresh the spirit of the Mountain Cat!



### **Residence Life**



Residence Life is seeing some new, but very familiar faces. Brandon Rager serves as the new Director of Residence Life. He comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience in this area along with a passion for student life. Abbey Schauff has also transitioned to this area as the Assistant Director of Residence Life and brings a great deal of experience and new ideas.

### **Campus Activities**

The Student Government Association office got a facelift over the summer to help continue to foster an environment that supports our student leaders.

The Health and Wellness Services are in the process of creating an art therapy room for students to find a place of solitude and have a creative space. Art therapy is a type of psychotherapy that uses art-making and creative processes to help people cope with mental health challenges.

Clubs and organizations will find a new face to manage their purchasing; Marcie Brown has joined our wonderful team. She brings a wealth of experience and energy for our students!

Students will find a new designated spot to entertain registered parties. The Sunset lodge has been identified as a location where student organizations will be able to register for a date and host parties.

### **Athletics**





Athletics has seen the addition of two new dynamic head coaches for Women's Soccer and Women's Basketball. Shackleford-Vickroy, a Big-10 All-Star Team selection a two-time Best Defensive Player Award Winner at The Ohio State University, was named Pitt-Johnstown's fifth head women's basketball coach on August 1. Shackleford-Vickroy, a member of the top recruiting class in the nation to enter Ohio State, was a four-year letter winner in basketball and one year letter-winner in volleyball as a Buckeye from 1999-2004. On August 1, O'Donoghue became the fifth Pitt-Johnstown head women's soccer coach since the program began in 2005. O'Donoghue was a three-year starter at the University of Pittsburgh, before transferring to the University of South Florida for her senior season where she played in the 2021 NCAA Women's Soccer Tournament.



Athletics also acquired a new Assistant Track and Strength and Conditioning Coach, Kyrsten Joseph would will begin October 7th.

Mike Drahos former Women's Basketball Head Coach has assumed the role of Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Student Athlete Services. Drahos will help enforce NCAA compliance roles as well as manage game day operation duties.

As mentioned previously, Kelly Devett the Director of Campus Recreation and Student Athlete Services will have a role in athletics where she helps student athletes in advising academics and serve as an academic support person. She will serve this role for both our NCAA athletes and club sport athletes.

Head Baseball Coach of 27 years, Todd Williams is set to retire at the end of October, and Assistant Coach George Roberts has been named Interim Head Coach. George, a former D1 Kent State Baseball Hall of Famer, has assisted Todd the past 8 years. Athletics will open an official search in May.



With the passing of beloved Athletic Director and Head Wrestling Coach, Pat Pecora, the Athletic Director duties have been assigned to Abby Gearhart and the Assistant Wrestling Coach, Tyler Reinhart has been named Interim Head Coach. Tyler is a former National



Champion and wrestler and 7 year assistant coach for Pat Pecora. Athletics will open an official search in May.