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Campus has increase in COVID cases

4 out of 6 recovered, 39 more in quarantine

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Elizabethtown College has recently experienced an increase in COVID-19 cases on campus, prompting the College to cancel all in-person activities and events outside of classes Tuesday, Oct. 27.

At the time, there were four active student cases, and 35 students quarantining (15 on-campus, 20 off-campus). Since then, there have been two more active cases, although four students have recovered.

The announcement about the increase of cases came just a week after the College sent an email about the low Daily Digital Health Report (DDHR) compliance rates. Although students, staff and faculty are all required to complete the DDHR each day prior to their arrival on campus, Etown found that only 25.7 percent of students were completing the DDHR 100 percent of the time. Staff and faculty rates were much better, with 84.4 percent of staff and 80.7 percent of faculty filling out the questionnaire 100 percent of the time.

A more recent email from the College said that the percentage of students who fill out the DDHR four out of seven days (or 50 percent of the time) is much higher, at 70 percent.

In order to ensure that the campus community is filling out the DDHR survey reliably, Etown is offering a daily text reminder that people can opt to receive by texting "Join DDHR" to "66893."

In addition, Etown is sending emails to students when they fail to respond to the survey before going on campus. Repeated noncompliance with the College's COVID-19 policies will result in progressive disciplinary measures.

Beyond the DDHR, Etown is hoping to slow and track the spread of the virus through contact tracing. Director of Campus Security Andrew Powell explained the College's process in a press release.

"When an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the College initiates the contact tracing process by speaking with that person over the phone," Powell wrote. "The main purpose of the conversation is to identify any of their contacts."

The College's COVID Task Force defines a contact as anyone the person has been within six feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.

They track contacts from two days prior to a person experiencing symptoms, or in the two days prior to when the testing sample was collected if the person is asymptomatic. The time period of two days was arrived at because of research indicating that people are contagious for two days before symptoms appear.

SEE COVID-19 PAGE 2

Presidential election results not finalized

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Millions of Americans went to the polls to vote in the 2020 presidential election Tuesday, Nov. 3. Millions more, however, voted by mail-in ballots or participated in early in-person voting. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how many people planned to vote and prompted many states to make early voting and mail-in voting easier. According to CNN, approximately 46 million Americans voted in the 2016 presidential election. In 2020, that number soared to over 100 million.

Many people are concerned about mail-in votes not being counted for their chosen candidate. However, the winner of the presidential election does not need to be declared on election night. In 2000, Democratic nominee Al Gore was against Republican nominee George W. Bush for president, and the winner was not announced for several weeks due to the results in Florida being too close to call decidedly. There were multiple recounts, legal challenges and even a Supreme Court case. Bush was declared the winner of Florida's 25 electoral votes and therefore the next U.S. president Nov. 26, 2000.

States including Florida, Ohio, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Nevada are known as "swing states" because they could be feasibly won by the

Democratic or Republican presidential nominee by a swing of the votes. Candidates heavily campaign in these states because the decisions of voters heavily influence the election results.

When current president Donald Trump or Democratic nominee Joe Biden wins a state, he wins that state's electoral votes. Winning a state means that at least 50 percent of voters voted for one of the candidates. The popular vote,

or the votes of all qualified voters, does not actually directly decide the winner of the presidential election. Instead, the Electoral College formally decides the result of the election when the electors cast their votes for the nominee that won their state's popular vote.

SEE ELECTION PAGE 3



Photo: Matthew Smith | Staff Writer

As part of the Flock to the Polls initiative, Elizabethtown College provided free shuttles to and from the polls to make voting easier for students without transportation.

Return to campus plan for 2021 finalized

by **Ashlee Reick**
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Oct. 29, Elizabethtown College released a plan for the upcoming spring semester. It followed speculation amongst students, faculty and staff, as

they were waiting in anticipation for the release of the plans.

Prior to the email, the College addressed the concerns of students in the most recent Student Senate meeting. Within the meeting, students raised questions about the upcoming spring semester.

The plans for the spring semester will be based on recommendations from

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as higher education and regional partners. The plan will also be based on the climate at the College, in addition to state and federal guidelines.

"As a campus community, we have worked together this semester to offer in-person class instruction and remote options for our students at a level of excellence that is expected at Elizabethtown College," said the College in the email.

The College also noted how students, faculty and staff have been committed to the COVID-19 guidelines set forth. They also emphasized how the fall semester has been a learning experience; as such, the College can prepare more for the spring semester.

For the Spring 2021 semester, students will move onto campus from Jan. 23 to Jan. 31. The first day of classes will be Jan. 25; however, classes will be remote until Feb. 1, when in-person instruction will be allowed. Move-in information will be released close to Jan. 23.

Spring break has been canceled and so classes will be in session; however, Easter break has been shortened to provide April 2 off, which is Good Friday, and classes will be in session April 5.



Photo courtesy of Elizabethtown College Flickr

The College hopes to improve upon their Fall 2020 COVID-19 operations in their Spring 2021 plans.

SEE SPRING PAGE 2

TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY

This weekly column will feature the latest topics and trends constantly emerging in a rapidly-growing technical world.

Each week we will focus on a specific technological subject, with topics covering a wide range of high-tech issues and the latest professional gadgets.

If there are any topics or products that you would like to see covered in this column, please email editor@etown.edu.

Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook unveiled the new iPhone 12 in a special event earlier this month. With the main iPhone, a cheaper iPhone 12 mini was announced alongside the more expensive Max and Pro Max phones. The main improvements to its predecessor are an improved screen, a faster chip and an ability to run on 5G next-generation cellular networks.

The new iPhone followed the trend of ever-increasing

smartphones by being 11 percent thinner, 15 percent smaller and 16 percent lighter than the iPhone 11. It will also come in two screen sizes: 5.4 inches and 6.1 inches, with the former being the iPhone Mini.

Unlike older iPhones, the iPhone 12 has smooth, flat aluminum edges instead of round corners. This change works well with the new all-screen design. Several tech reviewers have said that the iPhone 12 is specifically designed to be easier to hold and use one-handed.

The screen using organic light-emitting diode (OLED) technology has been touted as one of the biggest changes to previous models. The display is brighter and more colorful, with the higher pixel density making the display crisper. The screen is also protected by what Apple refers to as a "Ceramic Shield." This addition makes the iPhone 12 four times more immune to



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drop cracks than its predecessor.

The iPhone 12 uses the A14 Bionic processor, which has proven effective in the iPad Air. It is an extremely powerful chip that is capable of handling anything demanded from the phone, even graphically intensive gaming.

Another big aspect of the new

device is that it can connect to 5G networks. The iPhone 12 will be the first of Apple's smartphones to have this ability. Mr. Cook talked comprehensively about how this new feature will offer a "new level of performance for downloads and uploads." Chief Executive of Verizon Hans Vestberg was at the event to highlight the phone's peak speeds.

Battery life on the new phone is also impressive. The phone lasts about 40 hours between charges with the screen being used for well over six hours during that period. This is longer than most rival phones. It takes just 25 minutes to charge the battery to fifty percent, using Apple's new USB-C charger.

Environmentally-speaking, Apple took measures to ensure more sustainability. The iPhone 12 uses 100 percent recycled tin in the solder of its main board, 99 percent recycled tungsten, 98 percent recycled rare earth

elements and around 35 percent recycled plastic in its various components. Also, the iPhone box will no longer have power adapters or headphones. The iPhone will come with just the USB-C cable, in an effort to reduce the company's carbon footprint.

The iPhone 12's rear camera is a dual 12-megapixel, accompanied with a 12-megapixel front camera. The new camera lens allows for 27 percent more light for better low-light performance.

Prices range for the new phone from 900 USD for the iPhone 12 Mini and 1,450 USD for the Pro Max. It would be reasonable to ask if it is worth the purchase before going to the store and getting one. Well, it depends on your current phone. The new iPhone is definitely the best iPhone since the X. However, not many will see it's worth the switch if you own a newer iPhone.

COVID-19 PAGE 1

Pre-holiday COVID testing available

Once the tracers have identified a list of contacts, they call them to inform them they have been in contact with someone with the virus and to tell them the quarantine procedures to follow. Throughout this process, confidentiality is maintained.

The contact tracers consist of several members of Student Life and Campus Security who were trained and certified by Johns Hopkins University over the summer.

Despite the recent increase in cases on campus, the College does not currently plan on requiring students to have additional COVID-19 tests done.

"If the College starts to identify a trend in cases, sometimes referred to as a cluster, then we could initiate additional testing in order to identify additional cases and slow the spread of the virus," Powell wrote.

However, there is optional testing available. In a few short weeks, students will be leaving campus for Thanksgiving, and won't be coming back until January.

Etown recognized that students returning home may pose a risk to their families, and Thursday, Nov. 5, an email was sent to the campus community with a list of options for COVID-19 testing that can be done prior to students leaving for the holidays.

All testing is optional, as the cost of the testing is a personal expense, although some options may be covered by an individual's health insurance. Testing options include Vault Health At-Home Testing, Quest Lab Testing and CVS testing for asymptomatic testing. For symptomatic tests, students can go to LGH Norlanco Urgent Care (after being screened over the phone by LGH staff), or go to Med Express in Hershey.

As always, be sure to wash your hands, stay at least six feet apart from other people, and wear a mask. If you have a fever, experience shortness of breath or any other respiratory symptoms: stay at home, self-quarantine and contact both Student Health and your healthcare provider.



Photo: Ruth Jacob | Staff Photographer

Students identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive for the virus must quarantine for 14 days either on or off campus.

SPRING PAGE 1

Tentative plans for commencement

From the email, three days were allotted for study breaks and no classes will be held on these days, which are as follows: Feb. 24, March 8 and May 7. The last day of classes will be May 6, followed by finals week May 8 through May 12.

A contracted Senior Week will be held May 13 and May 14. The commencement ceremony for the Class of 2021 will be held May 15, followed by the commencement ceremony for the Class of 2020 graduates May 16. Details are forthcoming regarding commencement ceremonies.

Students who plan to live off-campus and/or learn remotely will have to submit an Exception Form to update their living arrangements from Jan. 4

to Jan. 8. Instructions will be released prior to the form's release. Students who plan to attend classes in-person will not be required to complete the Exception Form.

While students were mostly tested on campus for COVID-19 this semester, students and employees will be tested at home prior to their arrival on campus in the spring. Such details will be released later.

The plans may evolve based on the status of the pandemic. Ultimately, the plans are subject to change.

Further announcements will be released via email. Students are recommended to check their email daily for COVID-19 updates.

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Peace Fellow Lecture on ethics, climate change

by **Zoe Williams**
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On Wednesday, Oct. 28 Elizabethtown College welcomed Professor of Sustainability Ethics and Law from Widener University Law School Dr. Donald A. Brown to speak as the College's 2020 Peace Fellow. Each year, the Elizabethtown College Alumni Peace Fellowship selects its annual Peace Fellow with assistance from the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking (CGUP.)

The Peace Fellow is an expert scholar or activist whose work is related to peace-building and social justice. While on campus the Fellow will speak in different classes and be available for conversation. The fellow's stay on campus then culminates in the annual Peace Fellowship Lecture. While Brown may not have been on campus this year, he engaged with various classes via Zoom and was able to give his presentation in a webinar format.

President of the Peace Fellowship John Hayden emphasized the importance of bringing experts to campus, "The kinds of people that we would tend to bring to campus are not necessarily what you would see or hear everyday," he said.

Giving voice to nuanced perspectives that may not be typically highlighted in a classroom setting is one of the many benefits of bringing the fellow to campus, giving them the time to engage with students and faculty. Brown is an expert scholar and advocate for environmental justice, emphasizing the importance of applying ethics to conversations surrounding climate change. While on campus, he spoke in various classes across multiple disciplines, including political science, religious studies and biology.

Brown's lecture was focused on the importance

of changing the ways in which climate change is conceptualized and discussed both by policy makers and within popular culture. The main way that Brown hopes to change the conversation is to shift the focus from science and economic to ethics and community responsibility.

"Not only do we have a duty to understand what [climate change] will do to other countries, what happens in other countries will hurt us too."

~ Dr. Donald A. Brown, Professor of Sustainability Ethics and Law from Widener University Law School

"For 35 years, the public debate [has] call[ed] upon people trained in science and economics to respond...that's a big mistake," Brown said, emphasizing the importance of applying ethics to concerns of science and public policy. "The ethics applied to science [are] indispensable."

The discourse present in the United States, according to Brown, fails to take that ethical perspective into account.

"Most of the conversations in the United States are about harms and benefits to us alone," he said. "Not only do we have a duty to understand what [climate change] will do to other countries, what happens in other countries will hurt us too."

SEE PEACE FELLOW PAGE 4

ELECTION PAGE 1

Race narrowing in Pa., Ga., Nev., N.C.

The number of electors, and therefore Electoral College votes, for each state depends on the state's population.

Typically, the elected president wins the popular vote and the electoral vote, with recent exceptions being in 2000 and 2016, when presidents George W. Bush and Donald Trump respectively did not win the popular vote.

At the time of writing this article, Biden has 264 electoral votes, and Trump has 214. A candidate needs 270 to win the election. A winner in Nevada, Alaska, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Georgia has not yet been declared. For these states, excluding Alaska, it is still too close to call. According to Politico, Trump is projected to win Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Alaska, and Biden is projected to win Nevada. However, Trump's lead in Georgia and Pennsylvania is shrinking, with the margin between the two candidates at less than 0.1 percent in Georgia and at one percent in Pennsylvania.

For this election's swing states, Trump has won Florida, Texas, Ohio and Iowa, and Biden has won Colorado, Virginia, New Hampshire, Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. Biden winning Michigan and Wisconsin is especially significant because Trump had won both of those states in 2016.

Biden has also won the popular vote, securing it at 50.5 percent.

Early Wednesday morning, Trump spoke from the White House and falsely declared victories in North Carolina and Pennsylvania as well as falsely declaring that he won the election. He also threatened legal action by going to the U.S. Supreme Court due to the lack of a declared winner Tuesday night.

Contrastingly, Biden urged his supporters to be patient as the votes are counted, though he remains confident in his victory.

Election officials are not surprised that a winner has not yet been declared due to the record number of mail-in ballots, but both campaigns were hoping that enough

votes could be counted before the night was over.

Biden's lack of a decisive victory at the point of writing this article shows that his substantial lead in polls leading up to Election Day was misleading, but his ability to swing two states indicates a significant loss of support for Trump.

With the threats of legal action to the Supreme Court over when to stop counting votes as well as demands for recounts in battleground states, the 2020 presidential election could be the most contentious election since 2000. All that the American public can do now is wait.



Photo courtesy of The Associated Press

Pennsylvania and Georgia continue to count absentee ballots after judges dismiss the Trump campaign's legal challenges attempting to halt the counting of mail-in ballots in those states.

Student Senate

by **Jessica Freels**
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Student Senate met Thursday, Oct. 29 over Zoom for their weekly meeting. It began with Vice President for Student Life Dr. Celestino Limas' report.

He began by telling senators the current plan for the spring semester, just before it was sent out to the student body. He then took time to answer questions. However, many revolved around move-in and testing procedures, to which the College isn't ready to speak.

Students did provide some feedback. Senior Quinn Waldrup commented that the days off in the spring should be stressed as days off, with faculty not assigning work so students have a break.

Sophomore Brooke Charria asked if the College anticipates a full move out at the end of this semester. Limas answered that it's up to the students to decide how much to take. The College is planning to return in the spring, so they are not requiring an entire move out.

Limas finished his report by saying that the recent update to guidelines means what it says and nothing more. The College does not have plans to change any more guidelines, just a pause on in-person activities and athletics.

Director of Campus Security Andrew Powell gave the next report. He announced that the annual Food for Fines program will run from Monday, Nov. 9 to Friday, Nov. 20. 12 Twelve non-perishable food items forgive a \$20 fine and 12 paper towel rolls forgive a \$50 fine.

Director of Counseling and Health Needs Bruce Lynch said Counseling Services will be doing some extra activities during election week. Director of Title IX/Compliance Programs and Intercultural Affairs Nichole Gonzalez echoed that the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Title IX will be holding extra hours in the office and over Zoom to support students during the election.

The Center for Student Success could not send a representative, but instead sent their report in via email. They wanted to remind students that Friday, Nov. 6 is the last day to withdraw from a class with a W.

During executive cabinet reports, junior Executive Treasurer Kyle Cappucci informed senators that the finance committee approved a budget request from Best Buddies.

Sophomore Clubs Chair Alex D'Amico said that he and Assistant Director of Community Living Carina Carpenter decided to end the request for in-person meeting form for the remainder of the semester.

Senior Publicity and Marketing Chair Gio Zapata announced the Senator of the Month, for September and October. Sophomore Andrew Furman won September's for his work with voter registration and senior Traditions Chair Mackenzie Kilby won October's for her work with Into the Streets.

New business consisted of two constitutional amendment proposals. One to change the censure process and the other to change the requirements for executive cabinet positions. Both were approved.

The meeting finished with class updates. First-year Class President Madison Holmberg announced the Class of 2024's American Sign Language education series on Instagram.

Senior Class President Rachel Freed said that the senior gift will be revealed before the 100 days countdown to graduation. She also reassured that the senior class will work to hold a version of senior week despite the new academic calendar.

Student Senate meets weekly Thursdays at 3:45 p.m. over Zoom.

Jessica Freels is the Class of 2022 President.

