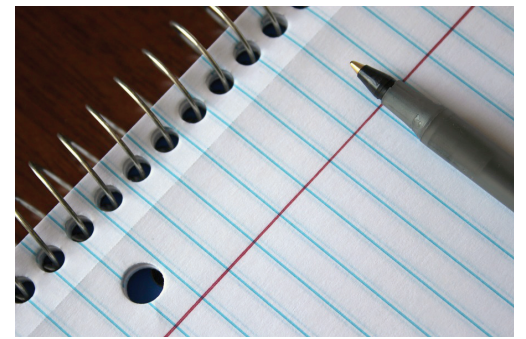




ASP

ALBANY STUDENT PRESS

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019 ISSUE 3 ALBANYSTUDENTPRESS.NET

A WOMEN'S LEADER

Women's March organizer and activist Carmen Perez talks new job, upbringing ahead of speaking at UAlbany April 2nd



Source: Flickr

Carmen Perez co-chaired the first Women's March on Washington 2017.

By **KATY DARA**

In January of 2017, the Women's March set records as a worldwide protest with over 5 billion participants, becoming an annual event for feminists and activists. Carmen Perez was one of the national co-chairs for the first march, but her career as an activist goes beyond that.

Perez will visit campus on April 2nd at a Writer's Institute event. She sat down with the ASP last week to talk about her legacy.

"My work started 20 years prior," Perez said. "I feel that the work that I've done in different communities from Little Rock, AR, to Columbus OH, to New York City, and the state of California really prepared me to create an environment where we created entry points for people to get involved, and really try to create an intersectional platform in asking experts in their own issue areas to look at how their

issues intersected through a gender lens."

The 2017 Women's March, largely regarded as the largest single-day protest in history (although the exact numbers are still hard to find), was no small feat. The turnout certainly did not surprise Perez.

"So as we were being intentional, grounding this march in the ideology of Dr. King, which is part of the organization that I work for, I did feel that we would get the numbers that turned out on Jan. 21, 2017. I also think that the reason that happened was because, not only were there four national co-chairs, there were 70 national organizers working day-in and day-out for 10 weeks.

"There were 400 state coordinators and there were global 90 coordinators, and so everyone coming together and keeping their eyes on the prize. I think is what led to people



PEREZ

feeling like they were a part of something bigger than themselves. That's what really led to the numbers."

For many, the significance of the march is that it was the day after Donald Trump's inauguration as President of the United States. For Perez, it was so much more than that. Jan. 21 is her birthday. More importantly, on that date in 1994, Perez was turning 17 and burying her 19-year-old sister. It is for that reason that she felt inspired to fight for causes she believed in.

"What I feel inspires me to keep going is that as I was burying and a life ended, I had six eyes that were looking at me, and those were my nephews and my niece... At the time, when I was 17, they became my why. I woke up inspired to always want to be a positive role model for them. So that they could know that they could accomplish anything regardless of what life had handed them. And I feel like now in the present moment it's been the younger

Please see **PEREZ** page 3

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

University Survey Seeks to Understand Dropouts

By **NATHANIEL DEPAUL**

Survey results presented to Student Association on Wednesday detailed student retention rates, sparking dialogue about Alumni Quad and a potential new "Dean of Students" position.

Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Michael Christakis came to the senate meeting to present the survey, taken by incoming Freshman roughly six weeks into the fall semester.

This twenty-nine question survey was conducted over four years. In 2015 it had over one hundred questions.

Completion rates for the survey have risen every year it has been conducted.

The main goal of the questionnaire is to determine the reasons students leave the university before graduating, whether they be homesickness, loneliness or the like. Christakis said that the retention rates of students has increased since the surveys began.

The full report and results compiled by

the survey's conductors was not immediately available, but the ASP has requested it from the Office of Student Affairs.

The Vice President's presentation led to dialogue about various other problems around campus, including the condition of Alumni Quad.

Alumni Quad has around 800 vacancies this semester, which several Senators attributed to the poor transportation from the Quad to campus, as well as the antiquated infrastructure.

Dr. Christakis reassured the Senators that their worries had not fallen on deaf ears. The University has plans to invest in physical improvements to Alumni Quad over the next five years, according to Christakis.

The university also plans to implement policy changes such as requiring residents to purchase meal plans and scaling back the number of staff, making the living arrangements similar to apartments around campus.

Another concern of the Senators was

Please see **RETENTION** page 2



Chad Arnold / ASP

VP of Student Affairs Michael Christakis, at an SA meeting in September

RETENTION

Continued from Page 1

By **NATHANIEL DEPAUL**

that there were not enough faculty mentors/advisors available to students. Christakis said that a report by an external agency, commissioned by the University, found the same issue, and recommended the position of a “Dean of Students” be added.

This position would take on some responsibilities of the often overburdened Student Affairs office, and is a job title that exists at many other Universities already.

Finally, several resolutions changing the policies of the Senate Appropriations committee were voted on and passed unanimously, with a few members abstaining. These included allowing the Committee to charge groups a ten percent fee on their requested appropriations amount if said group applied less than two weeks before the event.

Senate voted unanimously on two large Appropriations requests with few abstaining, one for an NAACP speaker event in the amount of roughly \$8,000, and another for the Haitian Student Association’s annual charity even in the amount of \$15,000.



DALIA YAN / ASP

An independent report found that there was a lack of faculty advisors on campus.

FEATURE

BORN ON THE COURT

How Coach Browns Long Career Brought Him to Albany



Bob Mayberger / UAlbany Sports

Long Island native Coach Will Brown has been coach of the Danes for 18 years.

By **JEREMY RABBANI**

University at Albany Men’s Basketball head coach Will Brown, who is entering his 18th year at the helm for the Great Danes, has much to be proud of.

In his time at the University, Brown has led the team to five America East Championships and trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Hailing from Long Island, Coach Brown spent much of his early life on the hardwood and his roots in the game run deep.

“I’m a son of a coach, my father was a longtime varsity basketball coach on Long Island for over 30 years, so I grew up in a gym,” Brown recalls.

Before his days on the sidelines, Brown was a three-year starter at Dowling College on Long Island and by the time he graduated, was the school’s all-time leader in assists, three-pointers made and free-throw percentage. He is also the only player in school history to score 1,000 points and dish out 500 assists.

After his playing career ended, Brown acknowledged that he wasn’t ready to give up the game and decided to follow in his father’s footsteps, but at a higher level.

“As I got older and was finishing up college, I wanted the game to be apart of me. I wasn’t ready to give it up and I knew coaching was the best avenue to stay involved.”

Before Brown got started at UAlbany, he began his coaching career right down the road at the College of Saint Rose as an assistant coach under Brian Beaury, one of the most respected and influential coaches at the Division II level.

From there, Brown became as assistant Athletic Director and head coach at Sullivan County Community College. In his third and final year at Sullivan, he accepted the job as

the Director of Basketball Operations at the University at Pittsburgh under head coach Ben Howland.

To celebrate, Brown and his wife decided to go on vacation. After not checking his phone the entire vacation, at the end, Brown was greeted by several messages by then-head coach of the Great Danes, Scott Beeten, whom Brown had developed a relationship with after one of Brown’s players at Sullivan signed at Albany.

Beeten was adamant about Brown joining Albany’s staff over Pittsburgh’s. Brown knew joining Albany was a no-brainer. At Pittsburgh, Brown would be behind three others, but with the Danes he would be the top assistant, with a high chance of potentially becoming the head-coach of a Division-1 program in the coming years.

“I knew if I came here and did a good job and had success, that if Beeten did leave here, maybe I would have a chance to get the job.” It was a vision that went according to plan, and a decision that Brown surely does not regret.

During Brown’s first season as an assistant, the Great Danes began the season with a sluggish 0-8 record. Beeten was fired, and Brown was named the interim head coach for the remainder of the 2001-2002 season. At the time, at 30 years old, Brown was the second youngest head coach at the D-I level in the country.

Brown remembers then Athletic Director Lee McElroy telling him, “We will support you, just coach the team, we will evaluate you, see how it goes, and we determine your fate at the end of the year.”

He was told to “hold the fort down” for the rest of the season as the school scoured the country for head coaching options.

However, Albany did not have to search farther than their own campus, naming Brown the official head coach after that season, where he has been successful for nearly

two decades.

“They decided to give me an opportunity, and I’ve been here ever since,” Brown said.

His success can be captured in two of his favorite memories as coach. One such memory is winning the America East championship in 2005 for the first time, clinching the program’s first NCAA Tournament berth, where the energy in SEFCU Arena was electric.

“We had thousands of students camping out for tickets. I remember my former player Lucius Jordan hit a three to start the game off and you would’ve thought the roof was about to blow off. The energy was incredible.”

Yet, above all, his favorite and proudest moment of his career was guard Peter Hooley’s game winning three pointer in the 2015 America East Championship against Stony Brook. Hooley, who had recently lost his mother, sunk a trey in the final seconds to send Albany to the Big Dance.

“That was the greatest moment, especially given everything that he had been through prior.”

Off the court, Brown’s program has also had the most players (24) named to the America East’s all-academic team.

With Brown leading the way for the Purple and Gold, the future is bright.

ASP OPPORTUNITIES

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NEWS NIGHTS

WEDNESDAYS AT 7 P.M.
CAMPUS CENTER 326

ASP OPPORTUNITIES

THIS
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YOUR
ARTICLE!

JOIN OUR
NEWS NIGHTS

WEDNESDAYS
AT 7 P.M.

CAMPUS
CENTER
326

DOWNTOWN

Dining halls roll out new breakfast burritos; nutrition info not online

By JEREMY TU

On Jan. 28, State and Indian Quad dining halls rolled out their new Breakfast Burrito program, which is served every Monday from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

It is one of the latest additions for on-campus dining by Sodexo and University Auxiliary Services to try to appeal to the student body this semester. Previous changes to on-campus dining include Wednesday's All-Day breakfast, the Campus Center West and East additions, and Food for Finals Week.

The Breakfast Burrito offers students several options for their morning wrap. By telling an assistant what they would like in their burrito, students are able to cater to their own tastes.

So far, the nutrition information has only been displayed in-person at the burrito bar. The information can't be found on other platforms, including UAlbany Dining's website and their nutrition app (BITE).

Lauren Mancuso, Director of Marketing and Communications at Campus Services for UAlbany, said because it's a "special," nutrition information is not currently online, but they are "working to accomplish this in the future."

As of writing, the nutrition



JEREMY TU / ASP

information is still not up on either online platform.

The burrito bar is another alternative to the other daily breakfast options already available in the dining halls.

The biggest concern in planning for the Resident Dining team, however, was the program's student appeal and

accessibility.

"Our team brainstormed about new breakfast concepts that would have high student appeal," said Mancuso. "Menu customization is appreciated by our students, so a breakfast burrito bar, with a variety of tasty options, checked all the right boxes."

The Breakfast Burrito bar opens every Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in State and Indian dining halls.

Many of the ingredients at the bar are sourced from upstate, like sausage and chorizo from Georgetown, NY and eggs from Newburgh.

PEREZ

Continued from Page 1

By KATY DARA

1994, Perez was turning 17 and burying her 19-year-old sister. It is for that reason that she felt inspired to fight for causes she believed in.

"What I feel inspires me to keep going is that as I was burying and a life ended, I had six eyes that were looking at me, and those were my nephews and my niece... At the time, when I was 17, they became my why. I woke up inspired to always want to be a positive role model for them. So that they could know that they could accomplish anything regardless of what life had handed them. And I feel like now in the present moment it's been the younger generation."

Currently, Perez serves as the Executive Director of The Gathering of Justice, a social

justice organization founded by Harry Belafonte which advocates against wrongful incarceration. Working with The Gathering for Justice is now Perez's main work.

"I get to work with somebody like Harry Belafonte, and I get to wake up doing what I love," Perez said. "And, it gets tiring... you can't lose hope when there's so much coming at you. But I feel that all that I've been through has really prepared me to stand in my power."

Despite the endless variety of issues to fight for in this world, Perez uses challenges as a motivation instead of a setback.

"Whether it's a small act of kindness or it's organizing the largest single-day protest, I feel

that people automatically have gifts. They also have things that have happened to them that aren't so fortunate. I was also given the opportunity to transform my pain into gifts, and to not keep them for myself but to share with the world... As I get tired, I know that I'm creating these pathways for young people to lead, one day I will be able to rest."

To continue progress towards social justice, Perez emphasized the importance of younger generations such as college students becoming active in their own communities.

"I just want to remind young people that although we say to you 'you are the future,' you are also the present, and you are the greatest gift that we have. It is our responsibility to

cultivate you, and I hope you know it is your responsibility to reach out and ask for support and guidance. So to have this intergenerational relationship is something that I feel is important in both of our evolutions as activists. I just want to remind students that your voice is your power."

Carmen Perez will be visiting UAlbany on April 2, a rescheduled date due to last week's snow storm. More details on her visit are to come.

CRIME BLOTTER

CRIMINAL SEXUAL ACT 1ST: VICTIM PHYSICALLY HELPLESS

Reported 2/15/2019 Occurred: 1/28/2019-0030
UPD- Other
Status- DCJS

ARSON 5: INTENTIONALLY DAMAGE PROPERTY BY FIRE OR EXPLOSION

Reported 2/14/2019 Occurred: 2/10/2019-0000
State Quad-Anthony Hall
Report of burned paper by an unknown subject.

HARASSMENT 2ND- PHYSICAL CONTACT

2/16/2019
Roadways-Fuller Road

AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION MOTOR VEHICLE-3RD DEGREE

Roadways- Univ Dr West
2/13/2019
Report of a male student driving with a suspended license. Student was processed and released.

Check a Vehicle

2/13/2019
Roadways - LT Lot
Report of a vehicle blocking dumpsters. Ticket was issued.

Assist a Person

2/13/2019
Roadways- Northwest Lot
Report of ice from another vehicle damaging windshield. Albany PD took the report.

Maintenance Problem

2/13/2019
Alumni Quad - AQ Grounds
Request to salt walkways.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF Oneida Hall MARIHUANA

2/12/2019
Indian Quad - Report of a male student in possession of marihuana. A referral was made.

Assist a Person

2/12/2019
Freedom Quad FQ A-Truth Hall
Report of a package that had been delivered to Freedom Quad and then was stolen.

HARASSMENT 2ND

2/8/2019
Empire Commons EC G Cluster
Report of a female student being harassed by a male student. Male student agreed to stop contact.

TAKE INCAPACITATED PERSON FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT

2/9/2019
Podium- Campus Center
Report of an incoherent student. Transported to hospital by 5 Quad.

PETIT LARCENY

2/10/2019
Colonial Quad - Herkimer Hall
Report of stolen paper towels. A referral was made.

Maintenance Problem

2/8/2019

Liberty Terrace- LT South
Workers testing elevator blue lights.

Persons Annoying

2/8/2019
Podium Pod- Tunnels
Report of skateboarders in tunnels. Advised to leave.

Assist Res Life

2/9/2019 1
Liberty Terrace- LT North
Report of roommates arguing. One student to move out of apartment.

Assist Res Life

2/9/2019
State Quad Eastman Tower Report of a student disturbing the peace of other residences. Student was explained student code of conduct. Nothing further.

Medical Incident

2/10/2019
Freedom Quad FQ A-Truth Hall
Report of a student having a spider bite. Refused medical attention.

Maintenance Problem

2/10/2019
State Quad- Fulton Hall
Wifi router was falling off the wall. Power Plant notified.

Maintenance Problem

2/10/2019
Dutch Quad- DQ
Other Report of porta potties tipped over. Power Plant was notified.

UNIVERSITY

Who's Got My Money: UA President Rodriguez' Salary is too High

By M. FRANCIS MIRRO

Overall, I have enjoyed my years here at the University at Albany. It may seem like I don't at times but this was, and still is, my first choice school. However, if there's one thing our administration has me constantly scratching my head about, it's how we spend our money. This past week, a new concern was brought to my attention, one which affects us all: the salary of SUNY presidents, specifically UAlbany's President Havidan Rodriguez.

Judging by the reactions I've gotten, many of you are unaware that Rodriguez earns an annual salary of \$525,000, along with a number of other benefits adding up to over \$5,000 more a month, according to the Times Union. That, according to Upstate New York.com, is enough to make our president the fifth highest paid government official in all of

Upstate New York. Ahead of him, and immediately after him, are the likes of hospital administrators and the SUNY school system's chancellor. Rodriguez makes almost \$100,000 more than the next official of an individual SUNY college, SUNY Buffalo's Provost Charles F. Zukoski. Compare this to the median Albany Capital Region salary of \$55,000, \$4,000 less than the national medium. My biggest question here is simple: why?

Conversely, Deborah F. Stanley, president of SUNY Oswego, makes only around \$220,000 a year. I've been to Oswego, spent time in their dorms, their facilities, seen their classrooms and ate their food. In those regards, Oswego decimates UAlbany, and that would shock an Oswego student as much as it might you.

I lived my whole sophomore year in Colonial Quad's Delancey Hall. My room, along with every

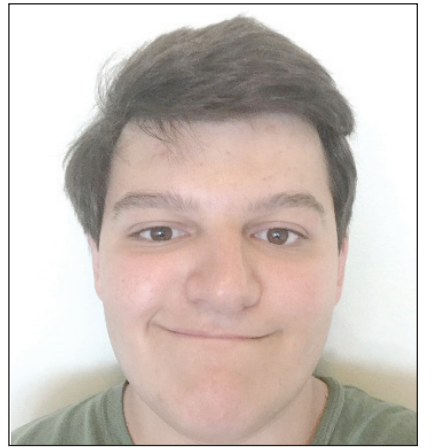
other room, didn't even have an overhead light. We had to bring lights or study by oil lamp, the latter somehow being more practical considering we couldn't bring extension cords and there was a distinct shortage of electrical outlets. As always, the school is slow to address student concerns, quick to hand out parking tickets.

If Rodriguez made the same salary as Stanley, could we not use that \$300,000 to install much needed amenities like lights or ATMs, proper air conditioning, more parking? Even if we cut \$200,000 from his half a million dollar check, would that not go a long way in supplying necessary benefits to the student body?

It costs UAlbany students around \$25,000 a year to attend, and live at, this school. That means it takes the entire combined yearly tuition and room and board of 21 UAlbany students just to pay the salary of the school's president. Imagine

that? Twenty-one individuals are currently taking out loans and going into eternal, crushing debt with the government, paying not for an education, but for the high salary of one other individual. That's 21 tuitions not going into the school as a whole, not improving our living situations, not improving our general education.

I am not ridiculous enough to suggest Rodriguez make nothing for his services. If you do a job, you deserve to get paid for it. What I cannot understand is why Rodriguez makes so much more money than his contemporaries -- why he is among the highest paid officials in New York this side of Manhattan. Why are the only people making money comparable to Rodriguez the ones running hospitals where people's lives are at stake on a daily basis, and where, even there, a great number are able to pay for their



MIRRO

stay using insurance? We don't have insurance in college. We go into debt, we pay, we pay back or there goes our credit. The very least we should expect is that our money is being used in the right way.



Tyler A. McNeil / ASP
President Havidan Rodriguez addresses the faculty in this file photo from November 2017.

The Times Union reported that year that Rodriguez' salary would be \$525,000 a year.

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Joe Hoffman
Editor-in-Chief
theasp.eic@gmail.com
845-723-1409

Phillip Downes
Managing Editor
managing.asp@gmail.com

Phillip Downes
News Editor
theaspnews@gmail.com

Rob Lep
Sports Editor
sports.asp@gmail.com

Jacquelyn Orchard
Life & Entertainment Editor
lifeandent.asp@gmail.com

M. Francis Miro
Opinions Editor
opinions.asp@gmail.com

Dalia Yan
Photo Director
photodirector.asp@gmail.com

Lesley Rodriguez
Design Editor
layout.asp@gmail.com

Michelle Mullen
Social Media Manager
mrmullen@albany.edu

Gina Tan
Business Manager
asp.advertising@gmail.com

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Contact the ASP for information and publication schedules:
Newsroom: Campus Center 326
Email: theasp.eic@gmail.com
www.albanystudentpress.net

ELECTION REFORM

New NY Voting Legislation was Long Overdue

By LIAM JEFFRIES

For decades, New York had an archaic and embarrassing burden: it's voting laws were some of the oldest and most restrictive in the United States.

Options to vote were limited. If you wanted to vote in person, if you didn't send an application by a certain date, you would have been locked out of the process, New York being a state that didn't allow same-day voter registration. In addition, while 37 states and Washington D.C. would've allowed you to cast your ballot early, as a New York resident, you lived in one of just 13 states to not allow early voting, meaning brutally long lines at polling places as all eligible voters in the state who went out to vote tried to get into voting booths on the same day.

If you wanted to vote with an absentee ballot, you would have still faced issues. I can personally speak on this, being one of the dozens of students caught up in the great University at Albany Absentee Ballot Fiasco of 2018, when a number of absentee ballots failed to show up before election day (and in my case arrived the day AFTER the election was over) despite being applied for months before. This wasn't the first instance of an absentee mishap either, with another infamous mishap in New York City's 2017 mayoral elections resulting in 533 absentee votes not being counted due to a mail processing error.

With discouraging options and incidents like these, it shouldn't be a surprise that New York, the fourth largest state in the U.S. by population, and arguably one of the country's most liberal, had some of the worst voter turnout numbers in the nation. During the 2016 elections, just 57% of New York voters cast a ballot, a number that, while depressing, was actually an improvement over 2012, when just 54% of voters participated. In comparison, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont, neighboring states where voting information is available, all broke the 65% mark in 2016.

Because of these numbers, voting law reform had long been a priority for both activists and Democratic politicians alike, with various versions of voting reform routinely passing the Democratic State Assembly, but failing to advance past the Republican State Senate. This all changed with last year's midterm elections. The Democratic blue wave that hit Washington and countless state houses also hit Albany, creating, for the first time in many years, a unified government as Democrats, long the controller of the Assembly and the Governor's Mansion, took control of the Senate. With this unified government, a package of voting reform bills quickly made its way to Andrew Cuomo's desk, and on January 24th, Cuomo signed the bills into law.

It cannot be overstated just how much of a seismic shift the passage of these bills represents. Almost overnight, New York's voting laws were catapulted from being the some of the worst in the country to some of the best. Sixteen and 17-year olds can now pre-register so that they can vote immediately once they turn 18.

New York's system of separate primary dates for state and federal races, long a source of confusion for voters and commonly seen as a vote suppression has been combined into a single day.

Same-day voter registration, long a reality in a number of states, is now present in New York as well.

And, perhaps most excitingly of all, early voting and vote by mail in New York is now a reality, making situations like the absentee ballot incidents mentioned before less likely to happen as voters take advantage of these new options.

If you have ever had a negative experience at a New York polling place, then, these changes are welcome news. For the first time in modern memory, it won't be a chore to vote in New York elections, state or federal, and, with more voting reforms like automatic registration and an Election Day holiday potentially on the horizon, there's a good chance that our voting numbers will no longer be a source of embarrassment, but a source of pride.

After all, it's sort of a blow to our ego to be behind New Jersey in anything.

UALBANY RESPONSE

University Should Speak up for Detained Student Omar Helalat

By TIM CHIZZIK

After dropped charges in a domestic abuse case during the Spring 2018 school semester, University at Albany student Omar Helalat had his immigration status revoked and was detained by United States Immigration authorities before being subsequently ordered to be deported.

After a romantic relationship turned sour, he was accused of domestic abuse by his partner at the time and arrested in March 2018. According to Times Union, when his father got to Albany County Jail, he was informed that the government had revoked his Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status and that they would begin the deportation process.

After his ex sent a letter into the court in Helalat's defense, they were not able to proceed with the case without victim cooperation. But due to an executive order in January 2017, he remains in federal detention by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Helalat moved from Jordan to the United States when he was just 4 years old. Although his family overstayed their travel visas, Helalat was granted temporary relief under DACA allowing him to remain in the U.S. and receive a formal education.

His family originally moved to the United States two months before 9/11 and, due to the widespread islamophobic sentiment in the general population at that time, his family told Times Union they were afraid to seek legal immigration status.

Helalat was by all measures an exemplary student. At the time of his arrest, he had a 3.8 GPA, made the President's Honor List, and was a member of Tau Sigma Honors Society.

This past December, Helalat and his lawyer believed they would be able to reach an agreement to release him on bond. However, due to the recent government shutdown fueled by xenophobic rhetoric, he remains in federal detention.

In the face of such an event, the school's silence is

deafening; and furthermore, sadly not surprising.

UALbany has a "first of its kind" College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cyber Security. Upon its opening, with Governor Andrew Cuomo's legislative and financial blessing, the school is now training the next generation of ICE agents, while simultaneously claiming to be committed to diversity and creating a more just society.

Ironically, the mainstream narrative about Cuomo is that he is a bastion of immigrant rights, with some on the far-right even claiming that he supports the dissolution of ICE and borders as a whole. His actions and inactions regarding this case and his support for the School of Homeland Security fly in the face of these claims and further demonstrate his and establishment liberals at large's dedication to upholding norms and "coming to a reasonable middle ground" over ideologically consistent legislation.

The egregiousness of this case has little to do with the nature of Helalat's charges and all to do with legal precedent. Deporting a student for criminal charges prior to a verdict sets that precedent for all immigrants both documented and undocumented.

It is also important to note in brief the horrific nature of the detention centers Helalat and other immigrants are held in. These civil detention facilities are intended to be non-punitive, but the well-documented dehumanizing treatment of detainees by (often private) guards and the frequency of both deaths and suicide attempts proves this to be false. Furthermore, many of the people held in these centers have entered through legal ports of entry or, much like Helalat, were documented immigrants prior to their detainment.

It is time for the school administration to live up to its promises. To say no to xenophobia, and give more than lip service and cosmetic commitments to diversity and inclusion. To understand that it can not support immigrant students while simultaneously raising their future detainers. And most importantly, to make a public stand against the deportation of Omar Helalat.



Source: InmateAid.com

ASP OPPORTUNITIES

START FLOODING OUR INBOX WITH IDEAS

SEND US SUGGESTIONS:

INSIDE SA

A Conversation with SA During Budget Season

By **FATIMA SYED**

Nicholas Pepe, Student Association Vice-President, and Subha Tasnim, Chair of Finance, are working hard with budget season in full-swing at UAlbany.

Through their hard work and collaboration, they feel that budget season can be a time of motivation and togetherness, instead of dread and disconnection.

What is budget season? Budget season is a time where the Board of Finance gathers to formulate a budget for the following year. This also includes an internal budget, which allows for the funding for different internal departments at UAlbany.

This is a critical time of the year because it allows for different clubs and organizations to receive their necessary funding so that they can continue their work and, subsequently, incoming and current UAlbany students can take advantage of these activities during their time here.

Vice-President Nicholas Pepe is a Public Policy and Management senior at UAlbany. Nick says his role as Vice-President is the most rewarding part of his professional career. He emphasizes how interconnected student groups can become during the season, as each team puts great effort into collaborating with the Student Association to make sure their paperwork goes through and the process runs smoothly. Nick explains how the intensity and overall environment is during budget season:

“Luckily, there is a very limited amount of people putting together the budget that will be presented to Senate. For those in meetings, after a long day and a long week it can definitely be hectic, but we love what we do so it is all worth it.”

Chair of Finance, Subha Tasnim, is a Homeland Security and Criminal Justice senior at UAlbany. Subha is a 4-time elected senator and is currently serving her second year on the Board of Finance.

Subha feels the atmosphere is very busy but very productive as well, as there are a lot of tasks delegated to the Board of Finance during budget season.

When asked about her specific responsibilities during budget season, Subha explains, “It is my responsibility to



Fatima Syed / ASP

call a meeting of the Board, and to reach out to my respective groups and assist them in submitting their budget. I, along with the rest of the board, then deliberate and make judgements on the budgets to then present to senate.”

Nick and Subha expressed sentiments of feeling both challenged and rewarded during budget season, and both emphasized the importance of learning how to work collaboratively towards group efforts such as these.

ROMANCE

Someone Loves You: You Just Don't Know It

By **JACQUELYN ORCHARD**



Desiree Shepherd / ASP

Amidst the light fall of snowflakes and brisk winter wind, the door to the Mathematics building opens and two girls slowly walk out, backwards, still talking to someone inside.

“Ok cool, yea, totally, for sure. Yea.” The girl with dark hair says.

“Alright sweet, see ya.” A tall boy inside says.

The door swings shut. The high-pitched screaming begins.

“Oh my God, oh my God, oh my God!” Each oh my God is louder than the last. She shoves her head into her friend’s armpit and buries her face. “He’s so cute!”

“I told you!” her friend answers. “Just talk to him! See?” She pulls her friends hood up and they walk off.

Peering in, the boy is long gone. Completely oblivious to the mini freak-out which just took place in his wake.

Later, in the Social Sciences hallway, a freckled boy stares, just a little too long, at a girl trying to find her headphones. She looks up and says, “Oh hey,” but he immediately looks away. She continues looking deep in her bag.

Moving through this campus are thousands of delicate strings, just barely connecting people into pairs, just waiting to be tied. But no one seems to see them.

Consider this a friendly reminder from a quiet observer: The potential for meaningful relationships is all around you.

It’s in the girl in your class you haven’t thought twice about, who freaks about you to her friend. It’s in the guy watching you dig for your headphones. It’s yours for the taking.

The next time you’re sitting alone, watching Netflix, kept warm by your own self-pity, consider this: Someone loves you. You just don’t know it.

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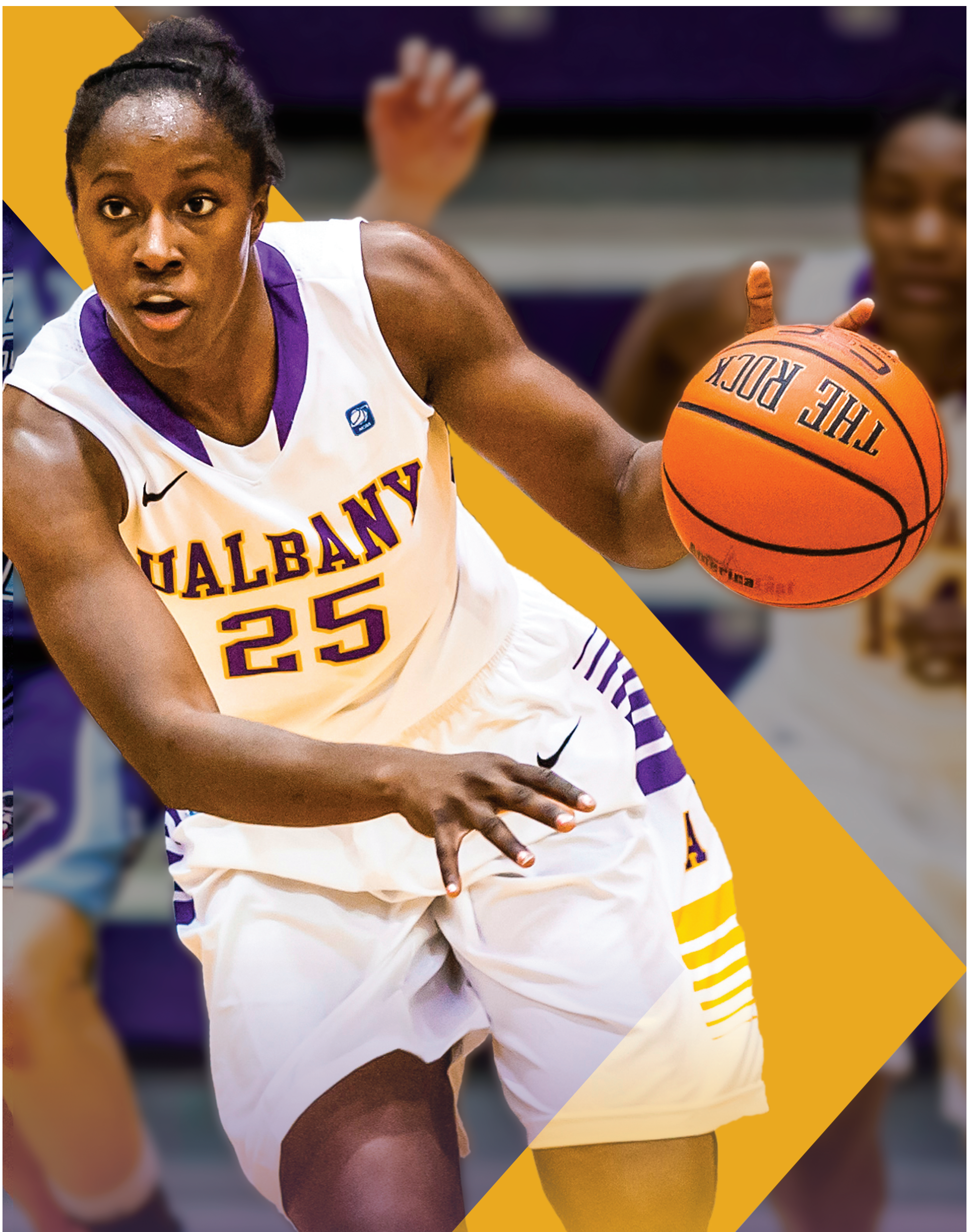
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**UNLEASH
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TEACHING ASSISTANTS

13 Things Your TA Wishes You Knew

By JACQUELYN ORCHARD

Teaching Assistants and Graduate Assistants are an enigma because they are not yet professors, but definitely not students. They are a half-in, half-out sort of entity with a unique perspective on the goings-on in our classrooms. I sat down with five of our UAlbany TAs to ask them, "What do you wish students knew?" Here is what they had to say:

1. Come to lecture. And if you don't come to lecture, "don't ask me to re-teach you the whole lecture. We are here to supplement, not re-teach. Out of 20 students, 4 or 5 regularly skip lecture." Christian Ruth – 2.5 years as a TA – History 100, 101, 120

2. Raise your hand and try. "Try not to be shy. If you aren't great at it the first time that's ok. Don't feel bad about yourself. People are afraid of looking stupid if they give the wrong answer and that deters people from even trying. You should know we aren't judging you. As a teacher I think it's cool if someone offers up an answer even if it's not right. Thank you for at least trying. That's a good thing." Even if you're wrong, you get more kudos than you would remaining silent. Alea Wittig – 1st semester as a TA – Pre-calculus



Source: UAlbany Photos

3. Dead Fish Eye Stare. "I can deal with lateness, just, when I ask you a question, at least try to grapple with the answer. Don't just give me the dead fish eye. Then I gotta start picking on people." He added, "Come to section ready to learn. Ready to talk." Marvin Corrielus – 3rd semester as a TA – American political and social history



Corrielus

4. Lateness: "As you move forward in life, developing a good habit of being punctual all the time now will benefit you so much when you enter the workforce. Be the person who gets there ten minutes early and gets the first crack at things. TAs notice that. Professors notice that. Your boss will absolutely notice that. Start now." "In lecture, Showing up ten, fifteen minutes late you're just being disruptive at that point. Are you really going to pay attention anyway?" Nick Truax – 2nd semester as a TA – History 101



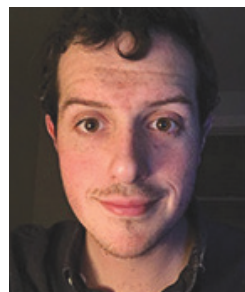
Truax

5. Come to office hours. "We are there 3 or 4 hours a week. No one comes. Then they act surprised when they do poorly on the exam. Student ask when the hours are, act like they're going to show up, then they don't. We like helping." Christian Ruth – 2.5 years as a TA – History 100, 101, 120

6. Your emails are way too casual. TAs are professors for you. If you wouldn't say it to your professor, don't say it to your TA. "People send me emails that start with 'hey bro-.'" "Don't use emojis in your emails." "There is a boundary, if you're too approachable, students try to cross that boundary." Christian Ruth – 2.5 years as a TA – History 100, 101, 120

7. I'm not here to give you the answer. "I think a lot of students want to have their questions, especially with math, answered completely for them instead of bringing their own ideas and getting help. Even if your idea is wrong, it's better to have some work you've put into the question before you ask." Alea Wittig – 1st semester as a TA – Pre-calculus

8. Don't try to date me. "A student gave me her number on the back of a quiz once. It's very inappropriate. I reported the student. I was like you can't do this. She cried. Don't do it." Christian Ruth – 2.5 years as a TA – History 100, 101, 120



Ruth

9. Distractions: "I'm not gonna play the phone police, we are going to be moving at a quick pace. If you're buried in your phone on snap chat, watching movies, playing games on your phone, my question is why are you here? Today almost the entire row in front of me was distracted by their phone or doing work for another class." Tyson Luneau – 2nd semester as a TA – American political and social history

10. We are busy. "Our lives don't entirely

revolve around teaching you. The majority of what we do is our own work. If you email us at 7pm, we are under no obligation to respond to you. At all. Students will get snippy if I don't respond the night they emailed me. Then first thing in the morning they ask, 'did you get my email?' It's 9:30 in the morning. That is kind of frustrating." Christian Ruth – 2.5 years as a TA – History 100, 101, 120

11. You're not as hidden as you think: In a lecture with 100 people, students think they can hide. "You can't really fade into the background." Tyson Luneau – 2nd semester as a TA – American political and social history



Luneau

12. Value the experience. "I would encourage students to value their education and get the most out of it. A bachelor's degree is not a guarantee to a job anymore and you're setting yourself up for bad habits by falling into these behaviors." Tyson Luneau – 2nd semester as a TA – American political and social history

13. Understanding is more important than grades. "It's better to focus on understanding the material than just getting a good grade. That's how you also find out whether you enjoy the subject. Just by practicing it and not just trying to get an answer to put into your homework. Your goal should be, 'I want to understand this material, why is it important? How can I use it in my life for my major?'" Alea Wittig – 1st semester as a TA – Pre-calculus

HEALTH

Hugs: A Free and Healthy Activity

By CHRISTOPHER PAYNE

Eight hugs a day keeps the doctor away! A recent study shows that eight hugs a day can lead to personal fulfillment and a healthier lifestyle. According to family therapist, Virginia Satir, "we need eight hugs a day for maintenance."

Hugs can lead to maintaining healthy habits and friendships. According to Erica Cirino, a writer for Healthline.com, eight hugs a day can lead to healthier relationships and social interactions.

"I agree with that," says Dean Stringfellow, a journalism student at UAlbany. "Because it will psychologically make things better- personal contact and happiness."

Eight hugs a day may help us stay happy, but in order for hugs to be happy for everyone, there needs to be consent from both individuals. The person receiving the hug must be okay with the person giving the hug. Otherwise, it is unwanted touching and may be considered sexual harassment.

Did you know, for example, that John Lasseter, the former head of Pixar, was accused of sexual harassment by giving unwanted hugs and kisses to co-workers?

"It's the uncertainty of what's going to happen next," said Stringfellow. "They [the people receiving the hugs] must be accepting or else they would call me a creep."

During the MeToo Movement, hugging

was considered wrongful and those accused of unwanted hugging either resigned from their position or was fired by the company or organization.

People criticized unwanted hugging shortly after the Harvey Weinstein scandal. Associated Press reported that some men questioned whether they could give a woman a hug without the hug being sexual in nature.

"This is an issue of consent," said Bailey Cummings, who is a documentary studies student at UAlbany. "Make sure people are comfortable hugging or touching them."

"If they [the hug receiver] asks for a hug: give them one after a hard day," said Stringfellow.

"When the other person asks for one [a hug], it creates a mutual understanding for a hug," said Cummings.

Eight hugs can reduce the risk of heart failure and other severe diseases, according to Cirino of Healthline.com.

Hugs can also help people with their fears and anxiety. According to Cirino, even hugging a stuffed animal can help reduce fear.

"I would have to read more about it [the research], but hugs do make people happier," said Cummings.

This year, ask for consent and then hug your way to fulfillment. Hugging will help you, your friend, your spouse, or your family member become happier and healthier in the long run.



Source: Leon Schweer, Flickr

PROFILE

Patience Continues to Pay Off for Cam Healy

By TOM CASTRO

“He just got in the zone,” University at Albany men’s basketball coach Will Brown said when describing his freshman guard Cameron Healy’s 31-point performance versus Binghamton on February 2.

“When shooters get in the zone, the basket looks bigger and bigger and they think every shot’s going to go in.”

Healy was born in Australia and came over at a young age to pursue a high school prep and eventually college basketball career in the United States. Growing up he always looked at his two older brothers, and his father Mike for inspiration in life.

Growing up, he saw some of the NBA’s greatest stars like Steve Nash, Lebron James, and Steph Curry as role models growing up.

Cam attended Montverde Academy in Florida, spending most of his junior and senior seasons on the bench. Healy did not get much recognition from colleges, until he started playing AAU ball. It was just prior to his senior year of high school, playing AAU out in Milwaukee when he received a scholarship offer from UAlbany head coach Will Brown and the Great Danes.

“There was a lot of hard work there. But, I obviously didn’t play a lot too so, I learned to change my game and become more of a shooter,” Healy says.

Healy was redshirted last season and spent most of his time watching and learning from the older guys that were already apart of the program. After watching for almost a full season, his role changed drastically in 2019.

“There’s a lot more weight on my shoulders now, than last year being a redshirt. You know, it’s just a lot more responsibility but, as the season goes on... you’ve just got to pick it up on the fly,” Healy says. And that is just what he did.

This past Saturday, in a conference matchup with Binghamton, Healy scored 31 points in a Great Danes victory while also tying a school record with nine three pointers in the contest. There is no hiding the fact that Healy can shoot with the best of them, but it is has been his play in all aspects of the game that has gotten people’s attention.



KAYLIN CONNORS / ASP

Guard Cameron Healy at the Feb. 13 game against UMass Lowell.

“He has really evolved as a player these past couple of months,” Brown said. “He went from being a shooter when we first got him, to more of a scorer that can put the ball on the floor.”

Healy’s production on the court has helped UAlbany win 3 of their last 4 games but, it is also his character that attributes to the success of the team.

“He’s really a free spirit, fun to be around, and fun to coach,” Brown says. This kind of attitude and behavior is contagious on a young team.

Not only has he been scoring the ball impressively, Cam has improved as a defender and rebounder as well, also hauling in 10 rebounds in the win over Binghamton. Cameron will continue to stay humble and play his game.

When asked about when we will see TEN threes in a game, Cam replied with a laugh, “I think hopefully we’ll see ten, I think I’ve got like a hundred games left or something. So fingers crossed.”

MEN’S LACROSSE

UAlbany Drops Season Opener in Carrier Dome

By WILL GAITINGS

Syracuse, N.Y. – Following its first-ever Final Four appearance, the University at Albany men’s lacrosse team (0-1) opened its new campaign with a 13-5 loss to the Syracuse Orange (1-1) at the Carrier Dome Saturday.

Sophomore attackman Tehoka Nanticoke and senior midfielder Noah Taylor each scored twice as UAlbany netted its fewest goals in a game since it was shutout by Stony Brook in 2010. Senior midfielder Sean Eccles added the remaining tally.

“I just thought we struggled offensively,” UAlbany head coach Scott Marr said. “We didn’t take good quality shots and missed on some opportunities we did have. Give

credit to Syracuse. I knew they were going to be hungry.”

Junior goalkeeper Nate Siekierski made 16 saves in his first collegiate start but the Great Danes failed to keep pace with the Syracuse attack.

UAlbany scored two quick goals in the opening three minutes, taking what proved to be its only lead of the game.

Led by senior attackman Bradley Voigt, the Orange responded with five unanswered goals spanning the first and second quarters, pushing Syracuse ahead 8-4 at halftime.

Siekierski kept the Danes afloat with his goaltending, denying three quality scoring opportunities at the start of the third quarter. Both teams stood up defensively in the frame, with the lone score coming on an unassisted goal

by Voigt at 2:47.

Taylor opened the scoring in the fourth quarter, cutting the Syracuse lead to 9-5 with 13:25 remaining. That was as close as UAlbany would get in the second half. Sophomore midfielder Brendan Curry answered with two goals as the Orange took command of the game and road easily to victory.

Voigt finished with six goals and Curry added five to give Syracuse its first win of the season. The Danes were outshot 48-34 as they dropped their season opener for the third time in four years.

“We’ve been to the Tournament 10 times, and we’ve lost to Syracuse in this position before,” Marr said. “It’s not the end of our season. It’s one game.”

UAlbany looks to get in the win column Saturday Feb.



GREG WALL

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Maine Ends UAlbany's Winning Streak at Four Games

By BRIAN MINUTOLO

The University at Albany women's basketball team had its four-game winning streak snapped Saturday afternoon as the Maine Black Bears defeated the Great Danes 67-61.

"Maine played a completely different strategy against us than the last time we played," said UAlbany coach Colleen Mullen. "They did something no one else has done to us. They jammed our post players, they were physical."

The game was scoreless for the first 2:48 of action until Black Bears' senior guard Parise Rossignol drained a three-pointer. Maine lead UAlbany 32-21 at halftime behind 18 points from junior guard Blanca Millan. The Black Bears led by 17 points midway through the third quarter before the Danes surged to within five points, 54-49, with 5:06 remaining in the game. The effort fell short when Maine responded with four points and ultimately won by six.

"This is a really hard place to win," said Maine coach Amy Vachon. "There aren't many kids on our teams who have won here so I'm proud of them for getting the win."

Millan lead all scorers with her second-best season total of 31 points – adding three rebounds, two assists and four steals. She increased her America East-leading points-per-game to 17.7.

"She's an unbelievable player," UAlbany sophomore guard Kyara Frames said. "She's challenging me as a basketball player, which is all I can for if I want to get better."

Frames lead UAlbany with 23 points, shooting 5-10 from three-point territory. She entered the top-10 America East points-per-game leaderboard with 12.1. The outing is her fourth 20-point game of the season.

UAlbany senior forward Heather Forster finished with 13 points and nine rebounds. She is second in the conference with 7.2 rebounds-per-game.

"We had a different energy when we came out in the second half," Forster said. "At the end of the day it didn't go our way, but it just gives us more fire to get them back next time."

Maine defeated UAlbany 76-65 on Jan. 12, so if there is



Habib Affinnih / ASP

a next time, it will be in the playoffs.

The Great Danes shot 39.7 percent from the field and Maine shot 40 percent. The difference-makers were turnovers and free-throw percentage. Maine averages the least number of turnovers in the conference and committed only six this game. UAlbany, however, is third-worst and committed 15.

"They turned us over and capitalized on those turnovers," Mullen said. "It really presents a challenge when they take care of the ball and have such a positive turnover ratio."

Free-throw percentage is a major weakness for the Danes, as they average a conference-worst 59.8 percent. They shot 57.1 percent against Maine who shot 75 percent.

Maine remains atop the America East standings with a 12-1 conference record, holding a 1.5 game lead over

second place Hartford. Home court throughout the playoffs is key for Maine as the closest school is the University of New Hampshire, roughly three hours away.

"Traveling from Maine is tough," said Vachon. "We have three games left and have to take it one game at a time. But if we could stay home, we would really appreciate that."

Maine has a week-long break before a home game against Stony Brook on Feb. 24.

The loss is only their second in the past nine games. The Danes host the Seawolves on Wednesday.

"I'm really proud of our second half," said Mullen. "I think that is great momentum going into the game against Stony Brook."



Right: Habib Affinnih / ASP

Highlights from the women's basketball loss to the Maine Black Bears.

Left: Jay Bendlin / ASP

@jaybendlinphoto

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UMass River Hawks Beat Danes 86-54

By CAMERON CUPP

The University at Albany Great Danes men's basketball team (8-17, 3-7 AE) fell to the UMass Lowell River Hawks (14-12 6-5 AE) 86-54 Wednesday night at SEFCU Arena.

Freshman Adam Lulka led UAlbany with 16 points and six rebounds, and Ahmad Clark added 12 points and eight assists. UMass Lowell redshirt junior guard Christian Lutete pulled in a double-double, scoring 20 points and recording 11 rebounds. Redshirt senior forward Josh Gantz also added 16 points and six rebounds.

In their previous meeting, the Danes lost a seven point halftime lead, as the River Hawks mounted a comeback and pulled ahead for a comfortable 84-72 victory back in January.

UAlbany took a quick 4-2 lead, but UMass Lowell bounced back, going up 15-7. UAlbany freshman guard Cameron Healy ended the first half with a layup at the buzzer, ending an 0-for-8 shooting streak for the Danes.

UMass took a 42-25 lead into the locker room at the half. UAlbany was going through a terrible offensive dry spell, shooting just one for nine from the floor, and shooting 32 percent in the first 20

minutes.

The Danes came out firing on all cylinders, going on a nine point run to start the second half. Junior Ahmad Clark cut the lead to seven points before UMass Lowell scored eight unanswered points. UAlbany would never come close to tying the game.

"I don't think I've ever had a team, even when we played Kansas, Duke, (North) Carolina, that's gotten outrebounded by 22" head coach Will Brown said, who is in his 19th season at UAlbany.

"We played poorly, and UMass Lowell played well. It's something for our guys to learn from. You're not going to shoot 4-26 from three, 4-10 from the line..."

The 32-point loss is the worst UAlbany has suffered all since losing to Providence College 73-43 back in mid-December. In their previous meeting, the Danes lost a close road game, 66-62. The Danes will travel to Maine looking to rebound from their loss, and to turn their season around after recent losses.

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