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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017 ISSUE 5 ALBANYSTUDENTPRESS.NET

New Development Aids in Ebola Detection

By **ELISE COOMBS**

Detecting Ebola with the naked eye is now possible due to a method developed by a University at Albany research team.

The new method means a cost-effective, quick, and easy way to detect Ebola. With the method, detection results occur within an hour or two and could cost just \$1 per person, according to Mehmet Yigit, the chemistry professor leading the research team at the RNA Institute.

Yigit aims to produce a kit that would allow screening for a big population more effectively than current methods, which can take weeks or months and cost thousands of dollars.

In developing the method, Yigit used urine samples instead of blood because they are more easily accessible. The team

placed substances that indicate disease—biomarkers—into the urine to mimic a real-life Ebola scenario.

Then, a small particle called a gold nanoparticle, binds to these biomarkers until they grow bigger and change color. If the color is red, that indicates the Ebola virus is present. If it is purple, there is no infection.

The team's method included nanotechnology—manipulating small particles.

Even with this developed method, producing the kit would require partnering with a commercial service.

However, because the team used nanotechnology in the health arena instead of in technology such as cell phones and computers, the stakes are higher.

"There is life at the end of the product," Yigit said.

That means that it could take years before the kit is commercialized.

The company would first need to see that the research has a patent before they do multiple rounds of testing. The testing would involve mimicked samples of Ebola, and if this is successful they would then test it with real samples of Ebola, which would require more advanced resources.

For testing at UAlbany, Yigit joked, "They would probably prison me if I bring in an Ebola sample here."

If the tests are

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Elise Coombs / Albany Student Press

ADMIN

Budget Details for Presidential Search

By **TYLER MCNEIL**

Up to \$245,000 could come out of university coffers in the hunt for potential picks to head the University at Albany.

Russell Reynolds Associates, an international search firm, was recently tapped to lead in the University Senate's presidential search under a \$200,000 contract with an extra \$45,000 cap on additional expenses.

Through Freedom of Information Law, the Albany Student Press requested the full contract last week. The contract is expected to be released by Mar. 21.

On Friday, the presidential search committee first met with the firm. Planning to send three to four recommendations to the SUNY board of trustees by June, the presidential search committee expects to interview potential candidates within the months ahead.

Michael Castellana, chair of the University Council, has not mentioned a backup plan should the SUNY board of trustees not accept

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GRADUATION

Unease Amid New Changes to Commencement Schedule

By **LINDSEY RIBACK**

Recent changes to University at Albany's May Commencement Weekend received a mixed reaction from graduates, despite the administration's promise of creating a unified experience for all.

In the past the May ceremony has featured 30 ceremonies in roughly 12 venues, and now the weekend, May 19 through 21, will be condensed into 11 events in four venues, according to university spokesman Karl Luntta. Four specific changes have been made: there are now undergraduate ceremonies by school or college as opposed to per department, Friday is now designated solely for graduate students, ceremonies for each graduate department have been eliminated, and now the university will only have a May commencement weekend.

Traditionally, undergraduates and graduate students would graduate from their specific department together. However, this year Friday is reserved for graduate students, Saturday for undergraduate college or school-specific graduations and



Source: Ualbanyphotos.com

Sunday as the university-wide graduation.

"We wanted to create a unified signature weekend for all

students and families," Luntta said.

He went on to explain that with so many events and

individual departments in the past, the university was "in a sense competing against

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SEXUALITY MONTH

Speaker Sheds Light on Nonbinary Myths



Milo Votava / Albany Student Press

By **MILO VOTAVA**

Over 75 people gathered for a talk about spreading nonbinary awareness on Wednesday at the Campus Center.

Kaleb Dornheim hosted the talk, Nonbinary Myths and Realities, as part of Sexuality Month at the University at Albany.

UAlbany students taking sociology classes and members of Alpha Phi Omega — a co-ed community service fraternity — attended the talk. The fraternity asked its members to go to one of the Sexuality Month talks.

Dornheim, a graduate student and president of Sexuality Intersectionality Gender Hangout, began the discussion with a brief overview of what being "nonbinary" means.

Individuals who are nonbinary do not identify as one of the binary genders: male or female. There are different gender identities that fall under the umbrella of "nonbinary," such as genderqueer, which Dornheim explained as a person that identifies with having a gender that is queer and non-normative, or agender, which is when a person identifies not having a gender.

While nonbinary can be used as an umbrella term, and people who are agender or genderqueer can identify as nonbinary, not everyone that identifies as being nonbinary is genderqueer or agender.

Dornheim also introduced the idea of using different pronouns. While there are many different pronouns that

are used for nonbinary people, the most common is "they." However, some nonbinary people still use typically gendered pronouns such as "he" or "she" due to any number of personal reasons, while still being nonbinary and knowing that the gendered pronoun does not refer to their own gender.

As part of the talk, Dornheim had people get up and choose a color to represent their gender, and write it on a poster that was hanging in the front of the room. Many people, regardless of how they identified, chose colors besides blue and pink; and the purpose of the exercise was to show how personal a concept gender is, and that having to constrain people to two rigid

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STUDENT SENATE

Gender Neutral Housing Proposed to SA

By TYLER MCNEIL

Student Association senators showered praise for a call to make gender neutral housing available on all University at Albany living areas on Wednesday.

But Residential Life has yet to embrace the resolution. Carol Perrin, director of Residential Life, denied any need to expand the housing program across campus under current demand.

"Right now, based on our numbers and the demand, we can't accommodate that request," Perrin said.

What's more, such requests could be stalled by structural setbacks. Some living areas such as Alumni Quad and Dutch Quad lack the space provided for gender neutral housing, which is limited to apartment clusters and suite sections.

"That becomes a little bit dicey there, but I don't think we wouldn't be averse to looking at



Tyler Mcneil / Albany Student Press
Rachel Eager and Nadia Naoum present a gender inclusive housing expansion resolution in front of the SA senate.

it," Michael Christakis, vice president of Student Affairs, said.

Resolution sponsors, Rachel Eager and Nadia Naoum, were also critical of university policy. They criticized the Residential Life's current section-limited model, advocating for students in high academic standing to select gender neutral housing beyond specific areas.

Housing fluctuates yearly based on availability. This year, Residential Life received backlash over the distance between gender neutral housing clusters on Empire Commons and the Podium, a roughly seven-minute walk.

While applying for gender neutral housing, Naoum became upset by her choices on Empire Commons. Unsatisfied with Residential Life's response, she decided to draft the current resolution, later co-sponsored by the senate body.

"So I believe that everybody who fills out the application should be able to live wherever

you want, not because there's one person of the opposite sex," said Naoum. "Males and females live right across the hall from one another so I don't understand why they can't live together on any living area."

Gender inclusive housing options have been available since 2012 after being recommended to the university by the LGBTQI concerns advisory committee two years prior. The move was one of several suggestions made by the committee which included establishing gender-neutral restrooms and changing rooms.

This was the second time SA passed gender-neutrality legislation. Last year, the senate passed a resolution that called for gender-neutral bathrooms.

The resolution was passed on the same day as President Donald Trump rolled back federal guidelines which allowed transgender students to use any bathroom that matches their gender identity.

HEALTH

Campus Events to Promote Body Positivity

By LINDSEY RIBACK

In conjunction with National Eating Disorder Awareness Week, the University at Albany will be hosting "Celebrate Every Body Week," a series of programs to promote body positivity.

During the week of Feb. 27, UAlbany's Counseling and Psychological Services will be hosting three nights of events along with Middle Earth, Nutritional Services, and Campus Recreation. Each program will feature giveaways and those who attend will have a chance to enter a raffle for a Fitbit.

"We have shifted the messaging away from eating disorders and towards promoting healthy ways to approach body image, nutrition, and fitness, as these are more universal to our student body," Vivian Hwang, a staff psychologist at CAPS, said.

According to a Feb. 2013 survey conducted by the National Eating Disorders Association, roughly 20 percent of college students have or have had an eating disorder. However, only 6 percent of college students who have disordered eating were seen by a health professional.

Although disordered eating is not talked about as often as eating disorders, Hwang explained that body image issues and disordered eating are much more common on college campuses than their more talked about counterparts.

According to the psychologist, disordered eating may be a symptom of an eating disorder such as a pattern of abnormal eating behaviors like bingeing and purging, but may not necessarily indicate that the individual has a diagnosable eating disorder.

"Disordered eating is more common than eating disorders, and has a varied presentation in which individuals may have a not-so-healthy relationship with eating and food," she said. "Issues with body image are likewise sometimes part of the symptom presentation of an eating

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EBOLA

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If the tests are successful, the company and the research team would work to establish a design for the kit.

"We showed the potential," Yigit said about the application to Ebola.

The researcher said it's now up to other scientists and companies to take an interest in testing and commercializing the kit.

"If they are really interested they will find me and then we can partner with them," he said.

During experimentation, Yigit and the team purchased biomarkers and human urine, and placed the biomarkers into the urine to create a scenario of Ebola infection.

The largest outbreak of Ebola

occurred in West Africa from March 2014 to March 2016, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In total, 11,325 people died in the outbreak and there were 28,652 suspected, probable, and confirmed cases.

There are five types of Ebola virus, but four of them cause disease in humans, according to the CDC.

Yigit's favorite part of his work is developing a method that can control one particle for different types of diseases and purposes.

The color-detecting method that Yigit and his team developed determines which type of Ebola there is in a sample. Then they can better pinpoint how to move forward with treatment.

"I like the fact that I can control a substance for different types of

diseases," Yigit said.

His team included graduate students Mustafa Balcioglu and Muhit Rana. They developed the method over the course of two years, and then it took one year to apply it to the Ebola scenario.

Their findings were published in the online issue of *Advanced Healthcare Materials* on Jan. 25.

According to Yigit, the method could also potentially apply to Zika. "I can easily translate it," he said.

Because the method allows disease detection based on color, researchers can detect disease with the naked eye instead of heavy equipment.

Yigit said the next step may be looking into federal funding to research and experiment in a Zika virus scenario.

PRES

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any of the candidates provided. The contract is set to extend to 2018.

"I don't ever want to deal with hypotheticals," said Castellana. "I have every intention of this being a successful search."

Groundwork for the presidential search committee began in September after James Stellar was picked by the SUNY board of trustees to replace Robert Jones as UAlbany interim president. Stellar made clear no intention of taking the post.

The 18-member committee set a list of priorities in the fall, some of which were fueled under Jones. Stellar told the Albany Student Press that he expects the next president to continue Jones' enrollment goal of 20,000 students by 2020, announced in 2015.

During Russell Reynolds

Associates' first public forum last Friday, faculty and staff fanned out their concerns about UAlbany's unsteady line of presidents. Starting with UAlbany President Karen Hitchcock resigning from her post in 2004, the university has gone through a run of seven leaders within the last 13 years.

"I think that if we are going to move forward that the new person is open to understanding what the systems are and how to create bridges and roadmaps to get to that next level success," said Tanisey Hernandez, assistant director of employer relations in the career and professional development office. "It think that's going to be beneficial not only for staff that have been weathered through a lack of continuity."

Prior to Jones, while UAlbany faced financial woes spun out of the Great Recession, the university's endowment grew 26 percent. At the time, UAlbany President George Phillip gained national attention

after gutting arts and humanities programs.

The trust and morale between faculty affected by the 2010 cuts and administration has not entirely faded after Phillip, said Paul Stasi, vice president for academics at United University Professions Albany chapter. "It's good to expand, but we can't lose sight of the core academic mission."

Outside of faculty involvement, four undergraduate students, one of which, Madeeha Khan, serves a representative for the committee, attended the forum.

Some efforts to bring students to the event foundered. Khan, also Student Association director of intercultural engagement, invited SA members to attend the public forum at last week's senate meeting. No SA members were present.

CRIME BLOTTER

DISOBEY MANDATE

2/17/2017
Empire Commons G Cluster
Report of a male student violating an order of protection.

PUBLIC LEWDNESS

2/17/2017
Main Library- Podium
Report of an unknown male subject exposing himself in the library.

POSSESSION FORGED INSTRUMENT

2/17/2017
Dutch Quad- Ryckman Hall
Report of two male students

in possession of marijuana, marijuana paraphernalia and forged IDs. Referrals were made.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

2/18/2017
Alumni Quad- Alden Hall
Report of a male student with an open container. Referral was made.

DWI PREVIOUS CONVICTION

2/19/2017 4:42 AM
Western Avenue
Report of a male subject driving while intoxicated, and with an expired inspection

sticker and suspended license. An arrest was made and vehicle was towed.

MEDICAL INCIDENT

2/19/2017
State Quad- Eastman Tower
Report of a female having an allergic reaction to her hamster.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

Washington Avenue
2/19/2017
Roadways
Report of a female subject going through red light and in possession of marijuana.

POSSESSION FORGED INSTRUMENT

2/20/2017
Indian Quad- Mohawk Tower
Report of a male student in possession of marijuana, marijuana paraphernalia and a forged ID. An arrest was made.

CRIMINAL POSSESSION WEAPON

2/20/2017
Indian Quad- Mahican Hall
Report of a female student in possession of marijuana, a forged ID and a stun gun. An arrest was made.

DISPLAY FORGED CERTIFICATE

2/20/2017

Indian-Dutch Roadway
Report of a male student driving with an expired inspection sticker and in possession of marijuana. A referral was made.

DRUG COMPLAINT

2/21/2017
Liberty Terrace- LT North
Report of odor of marijuana. Nothing found.

MEDICAL INCIDENT

Indian Quad- Mohawk Tower
Report of a female student feeling light headed and dehydrated. Transported to hospital

by 5 Quad.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

2/22/2017
Mail Center
Report of a marijuana joint in package sent to mailroom.

WELFARE CHECK

2/22/2017
Indian Quad Grounds
Report of a missing person which has been found safe.

CRIMINAL NUISANCE

2/23/2017
State Quad- Eastman Tower
Report of two male student in possession of

marijuana, marijuana paraphernalia and forged IDs.

AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION

2/23/2017
Downtown Campus- Phillip Schuyler
Report of a male subject blocking a handicap ramp and driving with a suspended license.

ANIMAL REPORT

2/23/2017
Indian Pond
Report of a dead rabbit on campus.

FIRE ALARM

2/23/2017
State Quad- Eastman Tower
Caused by hookah

HEALTH

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disorder, but someone with negative body image doesn't automatically have an eating disorder."

Due to its prevalence, CAPS focuses its attention more on raising awareness for body dysmorphia and disordered eating, in hopes that students will seek out psychological and/or medical support before they develop a diagnosable eating disorder.

On Tuesday, CAPS and Campus Rec are co-hosting

three group exercise classes: Yoga at 4:30 p.m., Zumba at 5:45 p.m., and Salsa at 7:00 p.m.

The following day, Sodexo's Executive Chef, Gerald Oriol, will be joined by campus dietitian, Donna Duffy, for a cooking and mindful eating demo. The demo, which will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Patroon Room, will educate students on how to fuel their body with food that is not only healthy, but tastes good as well. Those who attend can expect refreshments.

The following night,

Thursday, CAPS will be hosting a body-positive painting session where students will be encouraged to paint the best part of themselves.

In the past, CAPS has hosted Celebrate Every BODY Week in March, following National Eating Disorder Awareness Week. Previous events have included a body-celebrating burlesque workshop with a local burlesque performer, a hula hoop class, a movie screening, and a panel of campus experts to talk about body image issues, according to Hwang.

SPEAKER

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also discussed the difficulties that nonbinary people face in the healthcare system. Since many doctors don't recognize nonbinary genders as legitimate, people that are nonbinary have harder access to hormones and gender-reaffirming surgeries.

"Many have to invalidate themselves to be able to access validating healthcare," Dornheim said.

Dornheim explained that some nonbinary people tell their doctors that they are trans to be able to have access to hormone replacement therapy.

The speaker's goal for this talk was to bring awareness to more students on the

boxes isn't comprehensive enough for many people.

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The speaker's goal for this talk was to bring awareness to more students on the

UAlbany campus about nonbinary people. The hope was to give more students a one-on-one conversation with nonbinary students.

They said that there were "definitely more nonbinary students on campus than many people realize," and hoped that this talk would let more people realize this, as well as the specific difficulties that nonbinary students faced, such as the issue of using public bathrooms, and how to talk to them in a way that was accepting and more inclusive.

Dornheim also runs a program at the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center in Campus Center 329 called, INTERSECTIONS, that talks about the different issues that many students may face such as sexism, racism, and classism, and how these problems can relate to each other. INTERSECTIONS will begin soon, and does not have a confirmed schedule as of yet.

PROFILE

Jacob Wasserman: The Willy Wonka of Comedy

By ILENE ROTHMAN

Ambitious University at Albany student Jacob Wasserman is about to turn 21, graduate a year early from college, and pursue a career in comedy.

Last year Wasserman, who spends his time studying finance at UAlbany, reached a turning point in his life. He had always expressed a lifelong dream to be on Saturday Night Live and realized that at age 19 there was nothing stopping him from pursuing his passion.

"I would rather know and fail then die and not know at all," expressed the young comedian.

Over his spring break from college in 2016, Wasserman decided to start devoting his time to securing a comedic internship in the New York City area.

Wasserman found a home as a comedy-writing intern at the legendary Gotham Comedy Club in New York City. That summer Wasserman took a comedy course offered by Gotham's talent coordinator, Andrew Engel, and it culminated in Wasserman's first comedic set on stage in front of an audience.

Wasserman's material is sourced directly from his experiences of growing up on Long Island. His mom, dad, and older brother Zachary are all extremely supportive of his venture into the comedic world. His parents come to all of his shows at Gotham and often bring dozens of their friends in tow.

Wasserman's comedic routine mirrors his personality. It is clean, lighthearted, good-natured, and funny.

"I don't put on a show. I don't put on any characters. I'm not vulgar. I just talk about my childhood and my relationship with my parents and my brother. There's humor in everything, it's just the way you see the world," he said.

Wasserman gained inspiration from classic comedians such as Jerry Seinfeld and Larry David. He also enjoys John Mulaney, Andy Samberg, Nick Kroll, Sebastian Mancuso, and even comedy-rapper Lil Dicky.

As far as his comedic career, Wasserman is dreaming big. Ultimately he could see himself doing something similar to Jimmy Fallon one day.

Despite Wasserman's venture into the comedic world, he remains a traditional procrastinating college student. Although he tries to write comedic material daily, the bulk of his material is written the night before a performance.

"If I don't sweat, I'm not writing," Wasserman shared.

In terms of knowing if his material is funny, the comedian just tries to make himself or his mom laugh.

Through his growth as a comedian this year, Wasserman has discovered the artistry that goes into comedy writing.

"When I watch comedy specials I don't even laugh anymore," he said. "I think about how hard that guy worked at getting the perfect amount of words, in the perfect amount of time. And how he uses his body to deliver his comedy in a way that other comedians necessarily can't."

Currently, Wasserman still performs in the city during breaks from school.



Ilene Rothman / Albany Student Press

The Long Island native hopes to inspire fellow UAlbany students to pursue their dreams and to not put them off. He feels that in 2017, there are so many outlets for one to achieve success.

At UAlbany, Wasserman is heavily involved in the school's alumni network as a Purple and Gold Student Ambassador. Ready to graduate, Wasserman has been eagerly applying to various comedic opportunities, as well as financial positions.

GRAD

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ourselves."

Those in smaller schools, such as the School of Public Health, welcomed the changes.

"The ceremony now feels more personal for those of us that are public health majors, though from what I have heard it seems like that is the opposite for a lot of students," September Johnson said.

Michelle Leung, also a public health major, welcomes the changes, but for different reasons.

"It doesn't really affect the public health program [from past years], but I think it seems less chaotic than from previous years," she said.

In the past she would have to run from one friend's graduation to another because they were in different departments and the ceremonies were scheduled around the same time. In some cases Leung would have to choose whose ceremony to attend.

Although hosting ceremonies by department simplifies attending graduations for family and friends, it can also lead to a less personalized experience for those in larger schools such as the

College of Arts and Sciences which has over 20 departments ranging from African Studies to Chemistry to Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

"It disregards all your hard work because you put in all that work and you don't get recognized," Samantha Villamor said. "They're generalizing us into our schools and not recognizing the importance of individual majors."

To solve the issue of students potentially not feeling recognized, specific departments at the undergraduate level will have the ability to schedule award and recognition ceremonies separate from the graduation ceremony itself, Luntta explained.

The changes were decided by the commencement committee, which is comprised of faculty from various departments across UAlbany. However, it seems as though many faculty members and the students themselves were not consulted on the changes.

Sheri Stevens, the director of Community Public Service Program, a division of UAlbany's graduate program in social work, was unaware of the changes before receiving the university-wide commencement email on Feb. 16 and believes the university should have sought more input from students and faculty.

The commencement schedule was first sent out on Feb. 16 via an email from Interim President James Stellar. Another major change mentioned in the email was the graduate-wide ceremony on Friday, which is set to replace their department-specific ceremonies.

Stevens fears the change could potentially prevent first generation families from attending the ceremony.

A similar concern was shared by Tania Martinez, a graduate social work student. She initially planned on only attending her departmental ceremony, but after learning that there will only be a graduate school-wide celebration on Friday she has decided to cancel all commencement plans.

The Friday commencement fails to align with family work schedules, Martinez said. She and her peers plan to have a meeting with campus administration to address their concerns with the hopes of bringing back the departmental ceremony, which she believes to be more intimate and informal than the larger commencement ceremony.

Another change is that beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year, all summer, fall and winter graduates will only have the option to participate in May ceremonies, rather than the traditional December graduation.

These changes are causing concern

specifically among graduate students who wonder what effect the changes will have on their transcript, as graduate students often complete their dissertation or master's thesis the summer or fall before the May graduation.

"To make them [graduate students] wait five to nine months to receive their degree is wrong," Katherine Slye, a doctoral candidate in the political science department, said. "If I finished my degree requirements by successfully defending my dissertation in the summer or fall, my transcript needs to reflect that with an August or December graduation date, not the date I walked across the stage months later."

Despite these changes and concerns, administration remains optimistic that Commencement Weekend will create a unified experience for graduates, and their families and friends.

"Rolling those ceremonies up to what I honestly consider fairly intimate, walking across the stage, is a very good use of university resources," Michael Christakis, vice president of Student Affairs, told the Albany Student Press at last Wednesday's Student Association meeting.

Additional reporting done by Tyler McNeil.

Know of something important the ASP should cover?

Send tips to: theaspnews@gmail.com

SPORTS

Why the Low Turnout For Women's Basketball?

By ILENE ROTHMAN

The University at Albany women's basketball team made it to the second round of the NCAA tournament during their 2015-2016 season before falling to Syracuse University. Despite their exemplary performance, their attendance numbers for 2016-2017 home games continue to be lower than that of their male counterparts.

The men's basketball team did not gain entry into the 2015-2016 NCAA tournament and yet their attendance numbers have continued to rival the women's team. During the annual Big Purple Growl, which is an annual spirit night at UAlbany for both basketball teams, the men's team filled SEFCU arena to full capacity. The women's attendance for the Big Purple Growl was 1,876 people while the men's attendance was 4,538 people.

UAlbany Senior guard Bailey Hixson is an optimist and is looking forward to the future of women's basketball. She feels that through hard work, female athletes can fill seats and overcome the negative stigma attached to women's sports.

"Us as women will have to pick up the competition level and make people want to attend," said Hixson.

The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship had 17.8 million viewers in 2016, while women's had only three million viewers. The same trend in viewership in seen at the professional level. Game seven of the 2016 NBA Finals attracted an estimated 31 million viewers while game five of the

2016 WNBA finals attracted 528,000 viewers.

It would be easy to argue that trying to increase the number of people who watch WNBA games would increase the viewership for NCAA games. For Dylan Mattson a sophomore accounting major and history minor at UAlbany, there is not a direct correlation between viewership for WNBA and college basketball games.

"They are not dependent on each other for viewership, the same way the NBA doesn't rely on men's basketball for views," said Mattson.

Troy Farkas a junior history major and the Albany Student Press sports editor, believes that viewership for NCAA games is dependent more on regional ties to specific teams. As for women's athletics in general Farkas believes that the WNBA needs one key player to transform the sport. The WNBA needs a Ronda Rousey.

"When Ronda Rousey came on to the scene she inspired a bunch of women to think that it's OK for women to fight. She made it cool," said Farkas.

Kristina Lounello, an event staff worker at the UAlbany athletic games does not know if it will ever be possible for the women's basketball team to receive the same attention as their male counterparts.

"Historically men's games have always had better attendance than women's because the athletes are generally faster, stronger, more athletic and therefore perceived as more exciting," expressed Lounello.

As far as successful wom-

en's basketball teams, the NCAA tournament has been led by the University of Connecticut Huskies. In 2016, UConn had the fifth highest home attendance record in NCAA women's basketball. As of Feb. 25, they are on a 103-game winning streak.

Mattson feels that UConn's success is holding other women's college basketball teams back since their team is able to attract the best recruits.

"This is definitely holding back other programs. Although they have the same opportunities to recruit, they often won't get top prospects," said Mattson.

Farkas disagrees, "I don't think UConn's success has an effect on attendance at the games of other schools. You go watch a game because you love your school."

As for supporting the Great Danes, Madison Wyman a junior physics and math major is a member of the Marching Great Danes, the university's pep band that plays at all men's and women's home basketball games.

"Personally, I enjoy our women's games more than our men's games. I do feel pride, and also a connection with the team, that I somewhat lack with the men's team," said Wyman.

Guard Hixson relayed that it can sometimes be distracting to play to an empty house.

"Sometimes when our gym is silent, because of a lack of fans we have to make all the noise. Constantly cheering takes away from the physical and mental aspect of the game."

Letter to the Editor

BY: ALEXANDER O'LEARY

My fellow Republicans on campus need to hear one crucial piece of advice that, incidentally, applies to all students: don't be discouraged. Recent actions by the White House have undoubtedly contributed not just to anti-Trump sentiment, but also to anti-Republican rhetoric all over our campus and nation. I'm not writing this to defend the president, although he seems like he could use every bit of assistance these days. Rather, I feel obligated to defend my party.

It has become apparent to me that it's viewed as a sinful act for a student to regard him or herself as a Republican on our UAlbany campus. Why is that? We're not racist misogynists who despise poor people, contrary to the stereotypes promoted by some liberal media outlets and pundits. We, just like Democrats, want what we believe is best for our country and the world. Of course, the difference is how we go about that.

I can easily admit that I do not think the Republican Party is being represented well right now. Interestingly enough, I gather that many Democrats can express a similar sentiment. Was the Democratic Party fortunate to have Hillary as its candidate? You who are reading this may feel happy that Hillary was put up against Donald. You might even cite her victory over him in the popular vote. If that's the case, I ask you to consider one of the most telling facts to emerge from the 2016 election: she would have been the most disliked presidential candidate in the history of the United States if it were not for Donald Trump. That statement was thrown around on nearly every American media source throughout the election cycle. The reason I mention this is simple: we're both unhappy, Democrats and Republicans alike! It's worth noting that the UAlbany College Republicans, of which I am a proud member, refrained from endorsing Trump during the election cycle. I think that fact demonstrates a larger theme: we conservatives are not all happy with our former nominee and current president!

Now, of course I don't speak for all Republicans on campus. I know there are some who are happy with the Trump Administration and its actions thus far. I respect those students due to their ability to withstand

immense anti-Trump language and writing, in the same way that I respect the groups of people targeted by Trump himself, and their ability to withstand it all. Trump-bashing seems to be a new pastime these days, and I'm quite fine with that. I think the man deserves it.

I look at the intense divisions in our country today, the countless protests nationwide, along with the contentiousness here on campus, and I'm disheartened. As a senator in the UAlbany Student Association, I can tell you firsthand that even our student government has fallen victim to political division! What this shows is something you already knew: our country is not in a great place right now. Despite all that, I'm still an optimist and if you're not, I recommend heading my next bit of advice.

To Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, Independents and those who say they "don't care," understand one thing. Our UAlbany community of nearly 18,000 strong has never been stronger. Whether our political passions come from opposition or support, defiance or acceptance, rebellion or complacency, some things remain the same-our goals. We want to improve the lives of all people.

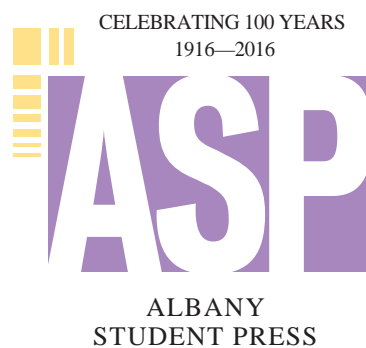
We want to provide security and peace to our country and the world. We want to heal the divisions in our nation. A new era is on the horizon in the realm of American politics, and our president will have a large role to play in determining what kind of era it is. For the sake of all Americans and indeed all people of all nations, I hope the 45th president of the United States gets his act together- and fast.

On a local level pertaining to our community here at UAlbany, I want to make clear what we Republicans really want. We want all students, from all nations, of all races and orientations to feel accepted. I could never say with a straight face that President Trump has promoted that kind of environment, but all Republicans are not like him. In fact, I can say with confidence that most of us are nothing like that man. A new generation of conservatives is rising, and we hope to learn from the mistakes and flawed measures enacted by Democrats and Republicans alike in order to improve the lives of as many people as possible.

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STUDENT LIFE

College Life Today: A Productive Balance Eliminates Future Failure

By DANIEL PINZON

Modern day college students have to be outstanding and amazing in order to progress in life. A college student would have to have their day packed with responsibilities in order to be acknowledged in the real world. As opposed to in the past, where students didn't have to push themselves as much, nowadays if a student doesn't have at least a handful of titles under their belt, they won't be considered in their career force.

It's a given that students shouldn't just pursue higher education. Even though college courses are more challenging than high school classes, and they are more demanding, college courses do not consume a student's life. There is room to do other things. There is room to be build your experience and be productive. Grades are important, but if a person has nothing else to back up their grade point average, there is not much value from that person. Student's should know, and most do know, that they have to be preoccupied with other things in addition to their school work.

With that being said, a student shouldn't put too much on their plate. Expectations have risen for college students and so has the competition for whichever work force. But, there are times where the expectations may seem too high that they aren't even realistic or they are beyond draining.

A productive student, in modern day

society, would be someone who not only is enrolled in college classes but they also are active on campus, they are in extracurricular activities, they need to have a job and an internship, as well as hold a position in the executive board of an organization, in addition to networking with everyone and fit in time for studying in order to obtain these pristine grades. If a student isn't doing all these things and more, they are going to be overlooked.

As Max Hsu, a senior at the University at Albany in his last semester said, "It's a combination of I want to be productive and I kinda have to be productive. Of course I'm not going to do nothing, but I have to do a lot. A lot more than I want to do. But in the end, it has to pay off, and I feel more secure in more future for doing so much."

And no one is obligated to do these things, but if a student wants to stand out, they have to be doing a lot.

But managing all these responsibilities comes off to be more damaging to the student. Not only does a student have to do all these things, they have to make sure each activity is done with their best effort. Quality speaks, but as we progress, a student would need quality and quantity.

Notice how I haven't mentioned a social life in the long list of responsibilities. Society expects college students to maintain this productive agenda, as well as squeeze in a

social life, eating and sleeping. Yet, at the end of they day, its hard to balance all these things.

And of course, society acknowledges that this is a tad too much, and reminds us that we are human. It's okay to take a break. One shouldn't overwhelm themselves. Nevertheless, its hard to not be busy. It's hard to take some me time, when the competition is constantly finding ways to look better. As one person takes some time for themselves, another person is doing more, thus standing out more.

And its interesting to note that people in the past didn't have to do as much to be successful. In fact, most people didn't have to pursue a higher education to be stable in their life. Things do change, and the world is only going to get more people. In order to secure a stable life, a person has to do a lot to stand out, and nothing is even guaranteed.

This amount of responsibility doesn't even compare to those who are optionally productive and those who have to be productive. Some students need to work a full time job in order to afford this higher education. A job doesn't hurt, as no one can complain about a little extra money, nonetheless, there are students who don't have a choice. If they want to obtain this better chance of being successful and obtain this higher education, they have to work in addition to everything else.

Tiffany Torres, a junior with two jobs

attending UAlbany, said, "College is expensive, even though people say to disregard the cost and go forth in the college you like, you can't help but consider the cost. The cost is important. And financial aid and my family can do so much, but sometimes its not enough. Grants and scholarships do help, but I have other needs that aren't school based. I have to eat and I'm more things than just a student."

They aren't enough hours in the day to sustain the productivity society wants. My advice, speaking as a student who sees the high expectations, trying to achieve them and is doing more than enough work wise, is perform with one's best effort. A little stress isn't bad. If a student can squeeze a handful of other responsibilities, they should definitely challenge themselves and take them on. Nonetheless, a student should be aware of their limits. Some people can handle a little more than others and that shouldn't discourage others.

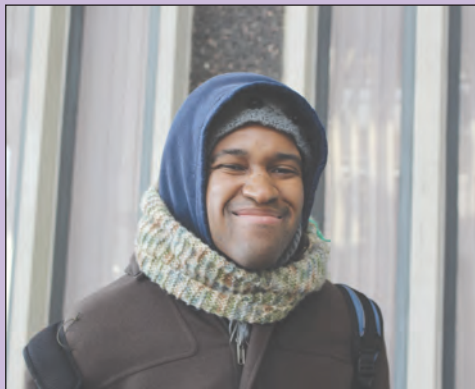
Let the experience speak for itself, each student should do their best to define themselves with their actions. A student should be confident in what they have done, and not feel pressured to take on more. Even though society is stuffing these demands down our throat, and subtly hinting at us that if we don't do all the above we will fail, as long as a person is productive in their own way, failure won't be an option.

Danes Say What

How do you feel about the future of higher education now that Betsy DeVos is the secretary of education?



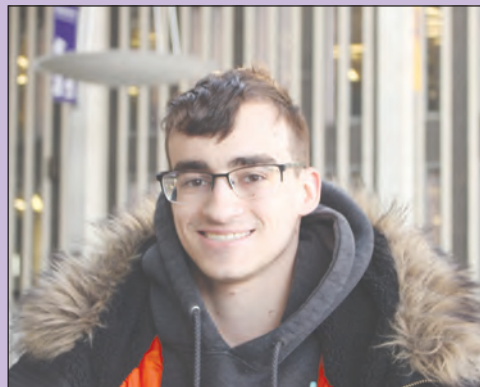
Colin Luenzty-
22- Well, I certainly don't feel good. Hopefully she will try to follow the best interests of the country.



Jonah Richards-
50- Oh my, I'm honestly nervous. She has no background in public schools.



Janet Ramirez-
21- She has never filled out a FAFSA, no one in her family has received financial aid, she has no plan.



Robert Kesiki-
21- I'm neutral, but I'm optimistic. I'm looking forward to seeing what she has coming for us.



Nia Symonne-
19- I'm very hopeful but scared. She's not very qualified having never gone to public schools.



Griffin Church-
20- I hope she's not able to make changes through her term, but there might be a bunch of damage.

CINEMA

JORDAN PEELE'S 'GET OUT' IS A THRILLING DIRECTORIAL DEBUT



Source: trbing.com

By DANIEL RUSSELL

Hitting theaters this past weekend is "Get Out", a horror/thriller written and directed by Jordan Peele. Known for his comedic presence on "Key and Peele", he steps behind the camera here for the first time, and shifts toward darker territory rather than the usual light-hearted comedy he's known for. The film revolves around a young black man named Chris (Daniel Kaluuya) visiting his white girlfriend's (Allison Williams) family. Upon arrival, Chris notices that what's occurring at the family's house may be more than what meets eye, and is determined to figure out what's really going on there.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the film is how it handles its tone. Peele shifts fluidly from moments of terror to laugh out loud comedy, without either of them feeling intrusive upon each other. Peele sometimes hits the nail on the head

a little too hard in certain scenes regarding the behavior of the workers at the family's home, but other than that Peele really nails the film's presentation here, seamlessly weaving between tension and comic relief.

Also brilliantly done here is the both satirical and tense depictions of race relations. Without digging into spoilers, Peele presents these depictions both subtly and unsubtly, hoping that viewers will begin to analyze what is presented to them. Peele wisely strays from having these depictions merely present for the purpose of shock value, instead opting to have them present during major events in the film's story. The result is a film that uses its obvious racial conflicts for both laughs and tension, helping to create the aforementioned idiosyncratic tone.

One aspect of the film that both shines and falters here is the pacing. The first two acts of the film are well-paced, with just enough time spent in every scene,

with hints constantly being dropped towards what is really going on at the family's house. A good amount of time is spent by the viewer attempting to put the pieces together, being given just enough information to make an educated guess regarding the true nature of the family's house. The final act however seems to be in a rush to get to the end of the film, with the pace picking up tremendously in the final 20 minutes. It's important to note however this change in pace may work for some viewers; those looking for more action will enjoy the final act, while those more concerned with the nature of the family and the long-awaited explanation (like me) probably won't enjoy it as much. Regardless, there's enough rich material in the first two acts to make up for the third act's slight issue, albeit a minor one.

Most of the performances here are passable, but the real standouts here are Bradley Whitford and Catherine Keener

as the parents of Chris's girlfriend. Both of them evoke a dual feeling of creepiness and wholesomeness that constantly go back and forth, and it becomes difficult (and entertaining) to determine which energy they're channeling towards Chris. Also great here is Lil Rel Howery as Rod, one of Chris's friends, and serves as the main comic relief of the film. His many humorous conversations with Chris regarding the nature of the family's house serve as a nice balance to Chris's mainly serious attitude, complementing each other nicely.

In only his first directorial effort, Jordan Peele has made a well-crafted film that can make you laugh, and even scare the hell out of you on occasion. "Get Out" is an above average genre film that benefits from a unique angle on the premise, as well as its adept handling of tone and depictions of race. Get out, and see "Get Out".

FIGHT NIGHT

UFC opponents Woodley and Thompson verbally spar prior to anticipated rematch

By NICHOLAS RINALDI

A majority draw is an uncommon occurrence. An erroneously read split decision, later corrected to a majority draw, is even more rare.

Such unusual incidences lead us to the highly coveted rematch for the Welterweight championship between Tyron Woodley, and Stephen "Wonderboy" Thompson, set to take place Saturday, March 4, from the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. At UFC 205, Woodley and "Wonderboy" put on a five-round war, later nominated for fight of the year. Five months later, they prepare to go at it again.

In the weeks leading up to the rematch, Woodley and Thompson have vocally scuffled following the emotionally fueled indecision. One instance in particular took place during an ESPN interview with both the champion and challenger. Champion Woodley believed the fight had a couple of instances where it could have been stopped.

"Any person—the three blind mice could have watched that fight—many referees would have stopped that contest when I dropped [Thompson] for the third time," Woodley said.

Thompson is under the impression that Woodley is making excuses, and has questioned his credentials as champion due to his initial reluctance to accept a rematch. "If you're the champion – if I was the champion – you run it back." Thompson said. "How can you be OK with a draw?"

After we drew he's already looking for fighters. Run it back, man."

In the rematch, the key for Woodley will be to utilize his wrestling and accentuate his ground game to its fullest potential. Woodley evidently won round one of the initial fight due to his ability to take down Thompson and control him at will, where he out struck Thompson on the ground 51-1.

However, this was the only takedown to occur throughout the entire fight. The key for Woodley will be to focus on taking down Thompson promptly and efficiently, especially if the fight drifts into the championship rounds.

Woodley trusts in that powerful right hand of his, the one that knocked out previous welterweight champion, Robbie Lawler. Woodley connected twice with his right hand during the fourth round of the previous fight, knocking Thompson down twice, however Thompson's chin prevailed. Woodley was unable to capitalize on these knockdowns, even after locking in a minute long held guillotine choke.

Stephen Thompson, who holds a record of 13-1-1, has only lost once in the UFC, and has never been finished. Thompson's ability to keep the fight standing will undoubtedly be the key for him. His unorthodox kickboxing style flustered Woodley in the second and third rounds; the rounds Thompson undoubtedly won, including a controversial fifth round, where Thompson landed 7% more strikes than Woodley. Thompson must be unpredictable with his



Source: theatlantic.com

Defending champion Tyron Woodley, left, and Stephen Thompson will face off Saturday in Vegas.

striking as he was in the initial bout, by landing sharp jabs, leg, and body kicks, in order to keep Woodley guessing.

During training for the rematch, Thompson has packed on eight pounds, with the intention of going into the rematch stronger and faster. "Last time I was walking around at about 182 [pounds]. I'm up to 190 and I'm trying to stay about right there." Thompson told BJPenn.com. In most situations where a fighter bulks up during training, there's concern that a severe weight cut could affect fight performance. Thompson believes he can pull it off fine however. "It is still a dramatic cut. But, I

have done it before."

Thompson said he's focused on fighting more patiently this fight compared to his previous bouts. "In the past I have actually got out there and looked for the knockout and just found that I wear myself out trying." Thompson said. "If the knockout happens then it happens. If not, I am ready to go five, five-minute rounds of war."

Regardless of pre-fight banter, the MMA community will relish in the glory of the rematch, and either the champion, or the challenger will leave Las Vegas as the UFC Welterweight Champion this Saturday night.

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WEEKLY EVENTS

Around UAlbany and the Capital Region

TUES
February 28

Film: Selma

7:00 p.m.
Showing of Selma at
th Palace Theatre on
Deleware Ave.

FRI
March 3

Disco Funk

4:00 p.m.
Disco Funk at the Low
Beat on Central Ave.

WED
March 1

The Other Mozart

7:30-10:00 p.m
UAlbany Performing
Arts Center tells the
story of Amadeus
Mozart's sister,
Nannerl.

SAT
March 4

Maker's Market

9:00 a.m.
Market of local craft
vendors in the Troy
Atrium.

THRS
March 2

Slothrust

9:00 p.m.
Slothrust plays live at
the Hollow. Tickets:
\$12

SUN
March 5

Live Music

7:00 p.m.
The Band Ice Cream
and The Rechorduroys
at the Low Beat on
Central Ave.



The Metropolitan Museum of Art has been digitizing over 300,000 works of art and has recently put them in the public domain. From time to time this semester we will beautify our pages with our favorite pieces from their collection.
Title: I Saw the Figure 5 in Gold **Artist:** Charles Demuth (1883-1935)

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Danes Dominate on Senior Night

By **OMAR NOUJOUR**

When the college basketball calendar turns to March, momentum matters. The University at Albany men's basketball team picked up some of it Saturday night with a dominant 80-62 win over Hartford on Saturday night.

Forwards Dallas Ennema and Mike Rowley, UAlbany's two seniors, were honored before the opening tip-off in the annual Senior Night ceremony. Once the ceremony concluded, Ennema went to work. Hartford didn't seem aware of what he could do from three-point range, and he made them pay for it.

"I got some clean looks," Ennema said after the game. "I hit that first jump shot and it kind of gave me a little confidence. Then I hit the next one, and the next two were maybe a little questionable, but they went in."

For Rowley, he closes out his final regular season as the latest in a successful group of Danes hailing from Australia. Like Ennema, Rowley also saw significant action on the court in each of his four seasons. "It's always nice to be honored, especially with Dallas, who I've been here for four years with," Rowley said. "It was nice, I got to meet his family and that was cool." The 6'8" Sydney native, who spent his first two seasons on the same team playing with his older brother Sam, finished with six points on the night.

The Danes came out of the gates slowly, knocking down just one of their first seven shots. To end the early slump,

they turned to their leading scorer, David Nichols. He answered the bell, getting to the basket at will and pulling off multiple acrobatic lay-ups. Nichols finished with 21 points and tacked on five rebounds.

"David is wired to score. He's aggressive. Believe it or not, he's absolutely explosive," head coach Will Brown said of Nichols. "But I'm going to ban him from dunking moving forward," Brown joked. Nichols showcased that explosive ability all night long in getting to the hoop, but he couldn't throw down a wide-open dunk late in the second half with the Danes up big.

As the game went on, it was guard Joe Cremo that took matters into his own hands. The sophomore blended solid scoring with slick passing, finishing with 25 points (18 in the second half) and five assists. Cremo's dominance wasn't limited to the offensive end. He wreaked havoc on defense, collecting three steals and a block.

Together, the three-headed monster of Cremo, Nichols, and Ennema accounted for 57 of the Danes 80 points on Saturday. "On offense, [we were] moving the ball and sharing it with each other. Luckily, some of my shots were falling today," Cremo said of his dazzling offensive performance Saturday.

The Danes made life very difficult for Hartford on offense, holding them to 36.1 percent from the field. Hartford star Jalen Ross, who entered Saturday night as the conference leader in points per game (20.2), could not get going. He finished with just nine points on 4 of 15 shooting.

Things got testy in the second half, as Hartford's Hassan Attia got into it with UAlbany's Travis Charles when the Danes held a 20-point lead. Attia invaded Charles' space and Charles didn't back down. Attia's teammate, Jack Hobbs, stepped in and pushed Charles, prompting both benches to run on to the court. The skirmish was broken up by the coaching staffs and officiating crew. After further review by the officials, Attia and Charles were slapped with technical fouls.

Despite the loss, Hartford head coach John Gallagher remained confident that his team could exact revenge in the first round of the America East playoffs. UAlbany is set to host Hartford again on Wednesday night in the quarterfinals.

"We're going to be the most excited team coming in here Wednesday night," Gallagher said. "We're a team that has vastly improved since January. We have to string together 40 minutes--that's going to be the key".

Last March, it was Hartford that came to SEFCU Arena and shocked the Danes in the quarterfinals, dashing their hopes for a conference title. It's a loss that Brown says "bothers [him] to this day."

When asked how he would prepare the Danes for the playoffs, Brown said, "It's the conference tournament. It's March. Everybody's going to be excited to play. You know what? I hope his team's excited to play, and I'll relay that message to my team."

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Sarah Martin Makes History, Breaks Program Record With 10 Goals in 13-11 Win Over Yale

By **ROBERT LEPELSTAT**

When discussing UAlbany lacrosse, the first name that comes to mind is Thompson. Brothers Lyle and Miles, along with cousin Ty, brought the UAlbany lacrosse program to new heights within the last five years. It's the trophies, remarkable goals, the passes that will make your jaw drop, and the records broken that fans across the country will always remember. Lyle, the youngest member of the trio, holds the Division I record for career points and assists while becoming the first back-to-back winner of the Tewaarton Trophy, the award given to the best player in college lacrosse. Miles Thompson finished his collegiate career as UAlbany's all-time leading goal scorer. But from now on when UAlbany lacrosse comes to mind, there will have to be room for another name at the top of the list: Sarah Martin.

Martin, the UAlbany women's lacrosse senior midfielder, made history on Feb. 18 at John Fallon Field when she broke a program record by scoring 10 goals for the Great Danes in a 13-11 victory over Yale.

Down by six goals with just over 14 minutes remaining in the game, the Great Danes rallied back with an unprecedented 8-0 run started by midfielder Sam Tortora with 14:03 remaining. Martin scored five of the remaining seven goals to seal the win.

"We struggled overall in the first half. Then in the second half was what really led to most of my success," Martin said. "Everyone on defense was causing turnovers. Erin was making saves in the cage. We were getting ball control but once we got in on offense, I was able to see the net really well and score some goals."

After the game Martin was completely unaware of the history she had just made.

"I was just so focused on getting the win that when people told me after, people were like 'You broke the record' and I didn't know, I had no idea." Martin said. "We don't really talk about that type of stuff ever so it was definitely interesting to find out afterwards I had broken a record."

"But it was a really special win," Martin added. Martin's 10 goal performance against Yale breaks the UAlbany women's record of eight, which was

shared by Jess Antelmi (2013) and Melanie Sosnowski (2010). With 11 total points on in the game, Martin's tied the program record set by Maureen Kiggins in 2015 and Rachael Burek in 2013.

With her performance on Saturday, Martin is in very special company. Lyle Thompson, who set Division I records for career points (400) and assists (225) with the Great Danes and is highly regarded as one of the best collegiate lacrosse players of all-time, never scored 10 goals in a game. His highest single game total reached nine goals in a 21-18 win over Harvard on March 25, 2015. In that same game, Thompson also tallied 12 total points, finishing the day with nine goals and three assists in the win.

Lyle's brother Miles owns the all-time single game points record in UAlbany history when he finished with 14 points (five goals and nine assists) in a 21-12 win over rival Stony Brook on April 27, 2013.

Despite the tremendous legacy the Thompson family left on UAlbany, not one member of the trio ever put the ball in the back of the net 10 times in a single game like Martin did. It's a moment she will surely remember for a very long time.

"It was definitely one of my favorite wins here at UAlbany and it made it so much better coming back from the deficit and bringing it home in the end," Martin said.

The Great Danes suffered a heartbreaking loss in the semifinals of the 2016 America East Tournament,



Source: Ualbanysports.com

losing 10-9 on a last-second goal by Kasey Mitchell to put an end to UAlbany's 2016 season. It's a game that Martin now uses as extra motivation coming into her 2017 senior season.

"That was definitely one of the hardest losses that I've ever had as a player so I think about it a lot," Martin said. "It definitely gives us that extra motivation. Especially it being my last season here as well as other seniors--we definitely have that pain in our heart that we feel and we don't want to experience that again."

If Martin were to continue at this ridiculous pace and continue to lead and inspire her teammates, the Great Danes could have a different outcome in 2017. With Martin leading the way, one thing is for sure: come May, the Great Danes will be focused and hard to beat. They won't let the ghosts of the past haunt them this season.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Meet UAlbany's Secret Weapon

By **JOHN C LONGTON III**

The America East named sophomore Devonte Campbell Co-Player of the Week on Feb. 20 after he recorded a double-double in three straight University at Albany wins. The win streak cemented UAlbany's finish in the top half of the conference standings, which means the Great Danes will play at least one game in front of their home fans for the conference tournament this upcoming week.

"It was a great honor," Campbell said. "It just shows you can get an award halfway through the year and that hard work is paying off."

Campbell didn't receive much playing time in the beginning of the season. But UAlbany's 0-3 start in conference play forced head coach Will Brown to make a change. Campbell entered the starting lineup and replaced Mar-queese Grayson, who has seen a significant reduction in minutes since the change. Brown's team needed a shot in the arm and Campbell's size and physicality offered something Grayson couldn't provide.

Before the change UAlbany had a 9-9 record and a defense that allowed too many threes. During those 18 games, Campbell didn't see the floor in half of them. But since the switch, Campbell has started every game and averaged more than 31 minutes per game.

Last week Campbell became the third player on the roster to receive conference Player of the Week honors this season. He, David Nichols and Joe Cremonese have also earned the accolades despite none of the trio starting any games for UAlbany last year. UAlbany needed Campbell to fill a void, something UAlbany wasn't sure he would be able to do at this time last year.

Campbell, a JUCO transfer, has unexpectedly made a seamless tradition in his first year in Albany. In the 2015-16 season, Campbell averaged over 14 points a game while shooting over 50 percent from the floor for Missouri State-West Plains. He hasn't posted those numbers for the Danes, but he has reached double digits in seven games, including a 25-point performance over UMBC on Feb. 15. He's been the catalyst of the Danes' late run.

Why? Because he was very close to deciding against playing for UAlbany.

UAlbany wasn't the only school to offer Campbell a scholarship. The highly coveted JUCO transfer had other Division I offers on the table, but he chose to be a Great Dane.

Campbell, an Ontario, Canada native, mainly chose to play for UAlbany because of the proximity to his family and where he's from.

"For me being from out of the country when you can stay close to home, at least for me, that's a huge perk," Campbell said.

Another motivating factor in Campbell's decision was UAlbany's recent success, especially its trips to the NCAA tournament.

"Going to March Madness was something I looked at for every school and this school has a history of doing that," he said.

Since 2006 the Danes have appeared on the national stage in the Big Dance five times, including three appearances from 2013-15.

Campbell has played basketball since the age of nine and realized that he was good enough to play at the next level when he was 14 years old.

"My high school coach put me on a club team and told me that I could play at the next level, but I just have to



John C. Longton III / Albany Student Press

work hard," he said.

Since that moment Campbell has spent countless hours in the gym perfecting his craft, trying to elevate those around him in the process.

The Danes will host an America East semifinal game Wednesday at 7 p.m. at SEFCU Arena where Campbell and company will begin their quest for another NCAA Tournament berth. It won't be an easy road as the America East now runs through Vermont, who finished the regular season with an unblemished conference record.

UALBANY SCOREBOARD

Men's basketball		
02/25	UALBANY	80
	HARTFORD	62
Women's basketball		
02/26	UALBANY	58
	HARTFORD	52
Softball		
02/26	HARVARD	8
	UALBANY	4
Baseball		
02/25	UALBANY	13
	LONGWOOD	6



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Softball		
02/24	UALBANY	5
	COLUMBIA	4
Men's Lacrosse		
02/25	UALBANY	19
	DREXEL	8

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS:

- 3/1: M Basketball - Hartford
- 3/1: M Lacrosse - Mass
- 3/19: W Lacrosse - Drexel

LIKE OUR COVERAGE? WANT LIVE UPDATES DURING GAMES?

FOLLOW @ALBSTUDENTPRESS ON TWITTER FOR DETAILS ABOUT WHEN WE WILL BE LIVE TWEETING.