



# ASAP

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## New College Gets New Dean

By ELISE COOMBS

The University at Albany's College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity will welcome its new dean on July 1.

Robert Griffin, who has spent 25 years working in local and federal government management, seeks to expand

experiential learning as he joins the UAlbany community this summer.

In terms of experiential learning, students can practice using data analytics as a tool in emergency management operations. On using data analytics, Griffin said, "There is a science to this, but there's also an art."

That art involves the instinct that experienced

emergency managers have. To instill good judgment like this in students and give them practice in emergency management, Griffin plans to build on the traditional teaching of data analytics by bringing in more opportunities for experiential learning.

Moving with the future of emergency management, he hopes to bring in industry

for students to gain experience in putting to use many technological developments. The appointed dean also plans on bringing in traditional first responders like police officers and firefighters to the college.

Industry also involves the advancement of technology, such as sensors, which can be

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### CAMPUS

## Sexual Assault Reports Increase

By TYLER MCNEIL

Roughly 50 more cases of sexual violence were reported last year than in 2015 at the University at Albany. Once finalized, these numbers are expected to be higher.

So far, current figures from the Title IX office indicate a steadier climb from the previous year when the number of reports had risen dramatically.

Chantelle Cleary, Title IX Director, remains hopeful that the number of reported cases will continue to rise this year. She believes that more students are willing to report sexual violence as a result of greater university efforts to assist victims within the last two years.

"I think the university is doing a better job of letting students know that we're here to support them," Cleary said. "So, if [students] have an experience that involves sexual violence, they can come to the university to get more support and resources."

In 2015, Cleary was the first full-time Title IX coordinator hired at a SUNY school, a position filled as

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### JUSTICE

## MLK Talk: A Tale of Redemption



By SEAN STONE & MEGHAN MAHAR

The University at Albany hosted their 38th annual celebration for Martin Luther King Jr. this year by bringing Shaka Senghor to the university on Wednesday, an ex-prisoner who turned his life around through writing.

The event kicked off with the black national anthem, and a few words from the university president before being turned over to Senghor for his lecture titled "Your Worst Deeds Do Not Define You."

Senghor began by telling the story of his childhood. On the

outside looking in, he seemed like he was part of a normal, middle-class, African-American family. What outsiders did not see however, was the abuse he suffered at the hands of his mother. "I was broken, battered, and beaten," Senghor said.

At age 13, Senghor said he could no longer endure the abuse and ran away from home. This ultimately led him to a life of drug dealing. At the age of seventeen, Senghor was shot twice during a drive by shooting on March 8, 1990. He said this event is what led him to getting a gun for his own protection. "If there is ever an argument, I will shoot first," he said.

A short time later, at nineteen years old, a drug deal gone wrong led Senghor to fatally shooting a man and being sentenced to 17-40 years in prison of which he served nineteen years, 4 and a half of those years being served consecutively in solitary confinement. "Solitary confinement is one of the most inhumane and barbaric things that can be done to a human being," Senghor said.

During his prison sentence, he began to read books by Malcom X and Martin Luther King Jr., and slowly began to forgive himself.

Leaving prison, Senghor took

his writing skills from his time there and wrote a book titled "Writing my Wrongs". His work has also led to him becoming an MIT Media Lab fellow, and a professor at the University of Michigan, among other awards.

He has also become a prominent figure for prison activist groups, one being #Cut50, which wanted to cut the prison population, a goal that Senghor thinks may be more difficult with the new administration. He stated that one major disadvantage is being black and not having support from policy makers. Furthermore, Senghor believes

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Noah Beadle / Albany Student Press

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

## Immigration Ban Sends Ripples to UAlbany

By STEFAN LEMBO-STOLBA

An executive order signed recently by President Donald Trump temporarily halted immigration into the U.S. for people from seven Muslim-majority nations.

And for nearly two weeks, the nation has erupted in protests that sharply oppose what many are calling a "muslim ban."

Among other things, Trump's order restricted people from Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Somalia and Libya from entering the country — even prohibiting entry of those with existing legal permission to live in the U.S.

On the long list of people affected by the ban are international students, many of whom have visas to live in the country while attending school.

At the University at Albany, 35 international students as well as several visiting scholars and faculty members are being urged not to leave the U.S. In a

statement sent to the community, Interim President James Stellar voiced his concern over the ban and the implications the restrictions could have on UAlbany's international community.

While there are no enrolled international students at UAlbany unable to re-enter the U.S. as a direct result of this order, a visiting scholar at the university who was abroad when the ban was instated is now having trouble getting back into the country.

Although the identity of the researcher was not released, Michael Elliott, the director of the International Student and Scholar Services, explained that the administration is working on the scholar's behalf to aid in the re-entry process.

The identities of the 35 international students from affected nations were withheld as several of the students indicated they feel unsafe. A private meeting was held for the students last Thursday, allowing those affected an opportunity to voice their

concerns to local immigration experts.

While only 35 international students are from the seven banned nations, UAlbany is home to various scholars and professors native to these countries.

Iranian immigrants, Arash and Kamiar Alaei, who direct UAlbany's Global Institute for Health and Human Rights, are among the community's numerous representatives of the seven banned countries.

In an interview with the Albany Student Press, Arash spoke about the challenges the community now must face in light of the new travel prohibitions. Vouching for the success of several Iranian Ph.D students, Arash explained that banning travel for people from these certain nations is antithetical to mainstream efforts of globalization and integration and ultimately will be a undue burden for students from affected countries



Jasmine Millner / Albany Student Press

GLOBAL

# Albany Celebrates Chinese New Year

By ZOE HICKS

In the lobby of the Egg on Saturday afternoon, eager voices could be heard inquiring if tickets were still available to the sold-out Amazing China event that marked the height of Chinese New Year festivities in the Capital Region.

The two-hour event co-sponsored by the Confucius Institute at the University at Albany and the Chinese Community Center of Capital District of New York, featured a program packed with displays of Chinese culture, ranging from flute solos to martial arts displays, from local kids and Chinese performers alike. The enthusiasm in the air was tangible, as parents and grandparents shepherded young children into the auditorium and groups clamored to buy bubble tea and red bean buns from the stalls lining the entrance hall.

The fireworks and party hats of the Gregorian Jan. 1 New Year's festivities are no match for the ceremonies of the Lunar New Year. Even midnight kisses and champagne fail to compare to a celebration that spans 15 days, that began this year on Jan. 2, and will continue until its culmination



Zoe Hicks / Albany Student Press

In China, Chinese New Year is one of the most important economic and social holidays.

with the Lantern Festival on Feb. 11.

"It's like Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Year's combined," explained Youqin Huang, director of the Confucius Institute, in her opening address.

Acts originating from the Chinese Community Center that co-sponsored the event, book-ended the program. They opened on an adorable note, with the first grade students from the Chinese School at the CCC performing a

dance number entitled "Hold Your Hand" with their parents.

The CCC also provided the Chorus that performed the closing numbers, with the acts in between coming from the Confucius Institute and other community organization, all uniting to usher in the Year of the Rooster, the zodiac animal that is celebrated as representing this 4715 lunar year.

Throughout the showcase of performances that ensued, the audience was welcomed into the traditions demonstrated. Though most of the audience were immigrants or of Chinese descent, no knowledge of Chinese culture or heritage was assumed. Instead context and education were offered warmly, uniting those of every background to join in cherishing and appreciating its richness.

The vibrant dress donned by visiting performers from Binghamton University took center stage in their presentation of Beijing Opera. But as English and Chinese subtitles both bounced behind them, the audience, able to follow along, found themselves just as enraptured by the drama between the costumed characters.

Though a battle scene, in "Defeating Jiao Zan" the leads

danced as much as they fought, and despite being an opera, they didn't sing at all. Nor were the later Opera selections any more akin to Western Operas, but there was no shortage of music in the successive acts.

A solitary figure in elegant sequins, Wenwen Chen took the stage next with her pipa, a traditional instrument. Though she was seated as she strummed the pear-shaped lute, she retained a captivating stage presence; head bowed and knees swayed, her whole body pulsed and moved back and forth to play the instrument.

Before breaking for intermission, the audience was treated to two more acts. First, the Kung Fu students of the Chinese Martial Arts Academy, who flipped and kicked across stage in colorful silk uniforms with impressive prowess for their young ages. The diversity of Chinese culture represented in the performances was then increased as the gallery was sent off into break by mezzo-soprano Hong Zhang singing two folk songs from China's vast reaches in Mongolia and Tibet.

Though it is often called the Chinese New Year, the Lunar Please see **NEW YEAR** page 3

ACTIVISM

# Java and Justice: Unpacking the Election Results

By AMANDA SWANSON

Talk of social justice filled the air last Wednesday as the Interfaith Center held its monthly meeting of "Java and Justice."

The conversation was centered around the outcome of the 2016 election, its effect on both the national and international level, and how to take further action.

A set of 18 chairs were placed around a large table to fill the seats of people who want to have their voices heard in the government. In these seats sat women and one man, of all ages, ranging from undergraduate students at the University at Albany to people in their mid-60s.

The students who just wanted to see what the meeting was about were joined by men and women from 20 different congregations in Albany. The meeting began with a prayer led by Rev. Sandy J. Damhof, who runs the monthly Java and Justice meetings.

Following the prayer, all the attendees introduced themselves and stated their reason for joining the meeting this month.

"I marched in NYC and wanted to take the next step... so here I am." Elaine Bird, an attendee, said.

Questions like "What do we do next?" and "How are we going to change this?" filled the air. But the meeting did not limit itself strictly to the presidential election, but other social injustices going on around



Amanda Swanson / Albany Student Press

the world. The work of social movements was also a topic heavily discussed and ways to work towards achieving their goals were stated; you must publicly endorse the movement you believe in, commit to your resources, get your organization to be supportive, and just to pay attention and show up.

Emily McNeill, the acting director of the Labor-Religion Coalition, directed the conversation at this month's meeting and began by comparing Martin Luther King's words to what is going on this day in age.

"The three evils are racism, materialism, and militarism," McNeill said. "We must tackle

these issues in order to beat them."

Throughout the meeting the conversation occasionally referred to the Civil War, the Women's Suffrage Movement, and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Another attendee said, "People need to become uncomfortable with how comfortable they currently are."

She went on to discuss that people believe that there is no way their voices can be heard so they are comfortable with just accepting what is going on. The audience all agreed with her.

The Java and Justice platform was built when Damhof

and McNeill were asking their students at Moral Mondays, also held at the Interfaith Center, to advocate for social issues.

Realizing that these students were not fully aware of all the social issues that were currently going on, Damhof and McNeill decided to start "Java and Justice," which meets the first Wednesday of each month to discuss social injustices going on in the world, and what they can do about it. Issues like Black Lives Matter, Fight for 15, and Mass Education Reform have been discussed at previous meetings.

ALBANY

# Student Death in Hit-and-Run

By TYLER MCNEIL

A University at Albany student, Rajine Martinez, 21, was killed in a hit-and-run crash early Saturday morning in Washington Park.

Martinez was hit around 4 a.m. near New Scotland Avenue on Washington Park Road by what witnesses described as an SUV.

When police arrived, she was found lying in the street and the driver had fled the scene.

She was later pronounced dead at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

Albany Police have reported a vehicle under suspicion, however, the incident is still under investigation.

Martinez was a psychology major. According to Karl Luntta, UAlbany director of media relations, she was most recently registered at the university last spring.

Over winter break last year, Keri Williams, a junior chemistry major, was first introduced to Martinez at a downtown residence hall. The two dorm neighbors, Williams, stuck on campus for a nearby internship, and Martinez, being close to her job at the time, bonded over "Grey's Anatomy."

"It's just that she was such a lovely person," Williams said. "We

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CRIME BLOTTER

**IDENTITY THEFT**  
1/27/2017

UPD  
Report of a forged student loan.

**UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA**  
1/28/2017

Indian Quad- Mohawk Tower  
Report of a male student in possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia. Also has an active warrant

out in NYC. An arrest was made.

**DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED**  
1/29/2017

SEFCU Turnaround  
Report of a male subject driving while intoxicated. An arrest was made and vehicle was towed.

**CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF WEAPON**  
1/30/2017

Indian Quad- Seneca

Hall  
Report of two male students in possession of marijuana, marijuana paraphernalia, forged IDs and weapons. An arrest was made and also referrals.

**PETIT LARCENY**  
1/30/2017

PE Complex SEFCU Arena  
Report of a stolen cell phone.

**UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA**  
1/31/2017

State Quad- Eastman Tower  
Report of a male student in possession of marijuana and a male student in possession of a forged ID. Referrals were made.

**ASSIST A PERSON**  
1/31/2017

PE Complex SEFCU Arena  
Report of stolen

toilet paper.

**DRUG COMPLAINT**  
1/31/2017

Indian Quad- Adirondack Hall  
Report of six male students in possession of marijuana paraphernalia. Referrals were made for all.

**DRUG COMPLAINT**  
2/1/2017

Indian Quad- Mohawk Tower  
Report of odor of marijuana. Nothing

found.

**DOMESTIC DISPUTE**  
2/1/2017

Parking Management  
Assisted subjects in a domestic dispute.

**DRUG COMPLAINT**  
2/2/2017

Alumni Quad- Alden Hall  
Report of odor of marijuana. All students referred.

**FIRE ALARM**  
2/2/2017

State Quad- Whitman Hall  
Caused by burnt cosmetic.

**DRUG COMPLAINT**  
2/2/2017

Empire Commons- EC G Cluster  
Report of odor of marijuana. Nothing found.

## REPORTS

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part of a string of efforts to improve the way the handled sexual assault on campus.

One year prior, another office opened with a similar goal: the Advocacy Center for Sexual Violence, a dim-lit space underneath Seneca Hall dorms on Indian Quad.

Approved under former UAlbany President Robert Jones, the center was a response to an expected demand for victim services following state and federal legislative reform targeting sexual assault on college campuses.

The center offers support for victims in the wake of sexual violence. Services are kept confidential unless otherwise directed by a victim.

Since the office opened doors, about seven times as many reports of sexual

violence have surfaced. With greater numbers and two staff members, staffing and space are likely challenges for the center in the future, said Carol Strenger, director of the Advocacy Center for Sexual Violence.

"As the cases increase, this is a small staff," Stenger said. "At some point that's just not going to be sufficient enough."

Strenger also remains concerned about the center's accessibility for victims at the Health Sciences campus in Rensselaer, some 10 miles from campus. She often tables at the campus to raise awareness for the uptown service.

With of all three campuses combined, over 2,000 students are likely to experience sexual assault. In contrast -- in the most recent campus security report, there were 11 counts of rape and seven counts of fondling in 2015 reported under the Cleary Act.

"The fact that more people are coming in

the door says to me that we are providing services that students want and that they feel like they'll benefit from is because we know it's happening," Stenger said. "Even if you don't accept the national statistics, why would we be any different than UC Berkeley?"

Years before the center opened up, efforts by the university to improve victim support began as early as 2006 with the launch of a task force on acquaintance rape in response to on-campus rape by two freshman football players.

Aran Mull, deputy chief of the University Police Department believes that the early steps contributed to the current numbers from the Title IX office.

"We knew that was happening, but we just weren't getting the information so that the institution could actually try to prevent it going forward," Mull said.

Despite measures, the university was under federal probe twice for mishandling

sexual assault cases in recent years. In 2013 and 2015, UAlbany, was put under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights for violating Title IX.

## DEAN

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anything from drones to devices embedded in the street to collect information locally. After sensors collect the information, subsystems carry information, which can then be analyzed and visualized.

The whole aspect of industry helps operationalize data, or put data analytics to use. This is important because it makes emergency operations run more smoothly, according to Griffin.

Currently, experiential learning in CEHC includes a research seminar, internship, capstone project, and 100 hours of non-credit training.

Griffin plans to further prepare his future students through applied learning with a focus on improving the safety and security of communities. While emergency and security issues may rise to the international level, "Every disaster, every emergency, starts as a local problem," he said.

The growth of emergency management is not only in the local, state, and federal levels, but also in the private sector leading to an endless amount of career choices for CEHC students who choose to pursue a career in the field.

For example, analysts are involved in big events such as NFL games, according to Griffin.

In addition to Griffin's upcoming arrival, CEHC is undergoing other changes as well. In November 2016, Mohawk Valley Community College signed an articulation agreement with UAlbany that allows MVCC students to transfer into the CEHC program.

In a similar fashion as this agreement, Griffin envisions UAlbany as a "hub" where many different universities and disciplines can come together. Collaboration will help expand the network of faculty and research, which Griffin believes will give students a competitive advantage in the growing area of security.

"We're stronger when we're working cooperatively with folks," he said.

Griffin has previously taught state and local governance classes at Georgetown University and looks to teach at UAlbany in addition to his role as dean. Teaching is important to him because he wants to build a college that is "student-centric." His goal is to fill in the gaps in the curriculum and teaching positions.

Although he is unsure of which particular classes he may teach, Griffin's interests range from classic emergency management to federalism to the development of homeland security. Other areas of Griffin's interest are international components of secure communities such as Smart Cities—places where technology and design provide high quality of jobs and life based on workable energy and healthy living conditions.

As CEHC is the first program of its kind, Griffin said, "There's opportunity for us to do something in Albany that hasn't been done."

The appointed dean believes that CEHC can become an "international leader" in pioneering new ways to think of emergency management.

## TECH

# Troy Startup Key Player in VR

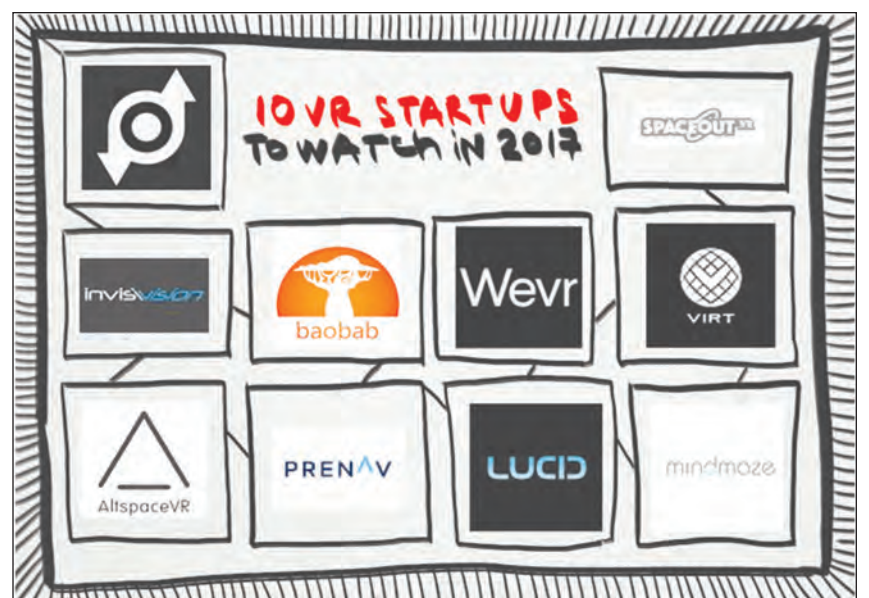
By YOSHI NEILSON

SpaceoutVR, Inc. was founded in 2015 by two former NYU college buddies, in affiliation with StartUpNY. StartUpNY is a government sponsored program, fostering partnerships between universities and startup businesses, partly designed to create internships for SUNY students. Three of the nine SpaceoutVR employees started as interns. Dennis, the Chief Operating Officer, projects SpaceoutVR, Inc. will hire at least ten interns in 2017.

Virtual Reality (VR) went mainstream in 2016, launching a new type of interface between computers and people: "spacial computing." Become more familiar with spacial computing, and spacial computing development skills, to make opportunities for joining teams who design and market mind-expanding VR. In neighboring Troy, NY, SpaceoutVR, Inc. is developing artificial intelligence for self-personalizing content, organization, analysis, entertainment, and distribution for their proprietary VR systems. In the global circus surrounding VR today, their concepts, art, and operations distinguish SpaceoutVR as an industry-leading beacon.

"SpaceoutVR is a hybrid of cognitive computing and spacial computing. The space is intelligent; the ability for a cognitive agent to follow a command is critical to the adoption of this medium," CEO, V. Owen Bush shares. Owen developed management skills while assembling multimedia production teams. "Our main question is: How do we improve communication?"

Spacial computing at the low-end is most popular because of its technical advantages over the high-end. It frees the user from cables and consoles, and it requires no devices beside a smartphone and simple VR goggles. To sample it, you can find inexpensive cardboard goggles, and free mobile apps like



Source: Zazmic, Inc

the Google Cardboard demo app, and the "automagical" social media app, SpaceoutVR. Even without goggles, you may get a sense of the interface and experience -- just install a VR app... then move your phone until the white dot points at what you want!

The largest potential market for VR is the Facebook-sized market (1.86 billion monthly active users.) Designing and building the first killer app for VR is among the hottest business targets in a decade. No one is sure exactly how the components of VR will fit together. Nonetheless, major players around the world placed big bets in 2016 on this high-tech industry, which is projected to generate \$25 Billion in annual revenues by 2020. For examples: Facebook bought high-end VR hardware company Oculus for two Billion dollars; and Swiss healthcare VR developer, MindMaze raised over \$100 million, which is more than the total of similar investments the prior five years. Computer-related consumer goods promoter and popular monthly magazine since 1983, PC World points out, "virtual reality has already inspired totally new

genres of computers, and wormed its way deep into Windows."

While "PlaystationVR" was the VR term most searched for VR, at number nine, "Virtual Reality" was the number one most-searched term among Chinese Tech News searches in 2016. High-end goggles are too expensive for most Chinese consumers, but VR arcades are popular. Shanghai has over 25.

"The person who is experiencing VR is having fun, but for the people observing it is even more entertaining," Lan Chunru, the founder of Chuyu VR Cafe told Asian high-tech industry fan site, TechNode.

Business skeptics at Venturebeat say it's "unclear whether developers will be able to produce high quality experiences, quickly, in order to satisfy the anticipated demand." There's a lot of work for liberal arts students: writers and musicians, as well as graphic artists. Each proprietary VR chatbot (automated, verbal, personal assistants, like Apple's Siri,) guides users with helpful comments. Each comment, especially localized references and jokes, means script-writing work for language majors.

## NEW YEAR

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New Year celebration is actually an essential holiday to many Asian cultures and communities beyond China, a far from culturally homogenous country itself, including those of South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Beyond the stretch of food and drink stalls and families taking proud photographs of their young performers, stood a booth for the Asian and Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association, further enhancing the theme of diversity present that day.

But it was Congressman Paul Tonko, the U.S. Representative for New York's 20th district, that drove home this theme.

"Our American Culture is a quilt. Everyone brings their tradition," he remarked when he took the stage in the second half of the festivities, "Knitted together, we are a power quilt. The envy of the world."

Rep. Tonko went on to describe the importance of immigrants to America's strength and culture, and to acknowledged his commitment to supporting refugees.

His final comments expressed that in 2017, "we need that Rooster spirit," addressing that the Rooster of the Zodiac signifies energy, intelligence and confidence.

Rep. Tonko is not the only politician to pay respect to the significance and importance of the Chinese

New Year to many Asian-Americans this year. Earlier this year, Governor Cuomo issued a proclamation naming Jan. 28, 2017 to be Lunar New Year Day within New York State, stating "it is fitting for all New Yorkers to join in spirit with our Asian and Pacific Islander communities as they celebrate and welcome Lunar New Year 4715."

## SHAKA

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that prisoners should be given the skills to go back into society after they leave to help rehabilitate them.

In light of Martin Luther King Day, Senghor felt it was important to share his story in hopes to give members of the black community, among others, inspiration to push past boundaries that may be in their way. "In tough times, our lights shine the brightest," Senghor said.

The event was hosted by the NYS Writers Institute and is one of the university's longest standing traditions.

## DEATH

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met on Alumni Quad and I remember it like it was yesterday."

In recent years, Martinez assisted children at two summer camps, Camp Scully, and more recently, Camp Wilton.

Mariah Hawsey knew Martinez from Camp Scully since 2007. Working beside her, she started growing closer with Martinez three years ago.

"She was a really sweet person," Hawsey said. "The kids really loved her, too. She was always positive and fun to be around."

Prior to attending UAlbany, Martinez attended Ravena-Coeymans High School. By the end of her high school career, she earned the Albany City Lodge No. 540 Knights of Pythias Achievement and had her artwork presented at a Columbia-Greene Community College show.

Tamas Beverly, a sophomore business major and Ravena-Coeymans alumnus, remembers Martinez

from his childhood. Back then, they both attended services at River-view Missionary Baptist Church in Coeymans.

"She had a very beautiful smile," he said.

SCIENCE

# Can the Dead Bring Life to Your Anatomy Program?

By SAM WEISS

Since the 16th century anatomy students have been learning on cadavers. But with the rapid growth of technology, undergraduate students are increasingly turning to advanced computer modeling instead of preserved dead humans, and some educators are questioning if the next generation of medical practitioners are being cheated of valuable early experience.

While in medical school, dissecting cadavers is mandatory for graduation – for good reason, no patient would want the doctor performing heart surgery for the first time to have never seen or felt a real human heart; in undergraduate anatomy studies there is no formal policy that requires students to learn on cadavers.

The point of undergraduate anatomy and physiology is to learn a general overview of the parts of the body and how they work, which is the basis for all forms of study on the human body. Students enrolled in undergraduate anatomy classes may go on to become medical doctors, nurses, physical therapists, chiropractors, forensic anthropologists, and biological anthropologists, just to name a few.

But human anatomy computer programs fail to consider the variability of the human race. Take a look at the person sitting next to you. Their hands don't look like yours, their legs aren't the same length, and hopefully their face isn't the same as yours. This is the product of sexual reproduction where genes are mixed at random.

According to Adam Gordon, a paleoanthropologist and the director of the human biology program at the University at Albany, variation within a population is important for students to see and learn.

"It's only having like a lab where you have multiple dissections going on at once that you see this variation as it presents itself. That could be really instructive," Gordon said.

Despite its importance, UAlbany does not use cadavers in its anatomy course.

UAlbany professor Cara Ocobock, who studies the human body in extreme environments, agreed that students are not always prepared for the real world.

Ocobock, who used to teach anatomy at Grand Valley State University where undergraduate students used cadavers, said when her former students moved from introductory anatomy courses that are based on books, power points, and online resources to a course using real dead bodies, "they say this looks nothing like the picture."

A huge part of the cadaver experience is actually feeling tissues and seeing the relationships between different body parts.

"We're visual and tactile creatures and we're 3D visual creatures," said Gordon. "It's hard to quantify but there are at least for myself, a qualitative difference, at least from my own work, in holding a bone, measuring a bone in person, versus I take 3D laser scans and occasionally take measurements off those scans. It's not the same."

A downside to using cadavers is the human tissues and muscles are of course real and they can get destroyed when students cut through multiple layers of the body to get at other structures they need to study. Once destroyed, these muscles and tissues can no longer be used for study. The computer models have an advantage because students can easily dive into the deepest parts of the human body without ruining the chance to go back and look at those structures closest to the skin.

When undergraduate anatomy programs do have cadaveric-based labs, most often there is a medical school attached to it. This allows the bodies already dissected and studied by the upper level graduate students to be passed down to the undergraduate students for study, dramatically reducing the cost to the undergraduate program.

But for a university without such labs, housing, preserving, and using dead bodies for undergraduate study, can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Charles Hilton, a UAlbany anatomy professor, estimates that the cost of a new lab

with all the associated facilities to be about \$500,000, and that's just the beginning. The school would also need to fund the staff to organize and keep track of bodies, a professor in charge of the lab, and janitors specially trained to clean up biohazards.

A lab would also have to meet the guidelines set out by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, which would mean constant monitoring and repairing of expensive machinery and tools used in the lab.

Liability and cost were two factors that may have nixed previous attempts to get a cadaveric-based lab at UAlbany.

According to David Strait, who started the UAlbany anatomy and physiology program, he had laid out a long-term plan for a lab but was denied the approval to apply for a Keck Foundation Grant that could have provided up to \$1 million. He then asked for help through university funds but was also denied.

The liabilities were too much for UAlbany to risk, according to Louise Burkhardt, chair of the anthropology department, which runs the anatomy and physiology course as well as many of the public health courses, which pre-medical students need to take.

Liability is certainly something worth worrying about. George Washington University recently discovered it had 50 unidentified cadavers after it had come under fire for mismanaging its cadaver lab. Several families related to the cadavers that had been sent to GW are suing the university and asking for \$10 million each in damages.

Other liabilities include student mental health. Working with the deceased can take a psychological toll on some students.

According to a study by New Zealand's Auckland Institute of Technology, based on the Impact of Event Scale, 30 percent of students exposed to cadavers exhibited post-traumatic stress and after 18 months, 7 percent of students still exhibited post-traumatic stress.

The Impact of Event Scale, according to Regis University, is a 15-item questionnaire, which attempts to "reflect the intensity of the post-traumatic phenomena."

Student health may be another factor. Formalin, a chemical used to preserve biological tissue in cadavers, readily breaks down into a much simpler form as the toxic gas formaldehyde, which can cause irritation to the eyes, nose, and throat. The CDC says that some people are more sensitive than others and while one person may be perfectly fine around the gas, others may end up "sick or uncomfortable."

The CDC also warns that prolonged exposure to formaldehyde will lead to cancer, although there is not enough research to determine at what levels of exposure that is.

Hilton, who's been teaching anatomy since 1989, said in recent years there's been a considerable shift away from gross anatomy, which is anatomy at the macroscopic level, toward biochemical anatomy, or microscopic level. So, students are spending less time learning about the muscles as a whole, and are spending more time under microscopes looking at the tissues up close and how different chemicals react with the cells.

In a joint study between Stanford, Michigan State University, and University of Central Michigan in 2014, it was concluded that cadaveric learning is better than learning with computer models.

"Our findings indicate that educational technology can enhance anatomy instruction but is unlikely to fully replace cadavers," said Cary Roseth, a co-author of the study.

Students learning on the cadaver were 16 percent better at identifying body parts than those on the multimedia system, and 11 percent better at explaining physiology.

But whether students catch up once they come face-to-face with a cadaver is another piece of the puzzle and only raises more questions. But that's science, right?

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IN THE NEWS

# MORALS OF A CAB SERVICE: UBER AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH TRUMP

By DANIEL PINZON

Uber came under fire when its CEO, Travis Kalanick, joined Donald Trump's economic advisory council. Yet what really tipped the people of the United States was when Uber continued its business during the protest against immigration ban. They not only continued business, but made their price cheaper even though a cab ride from John F. Kennedy International Airport is not cheap.

The protest at JFK consisted of taxi cab drivers who stood in solidarity, coming together in order to go against the ban of Syrian refugees, and stopped any people entering from seven countries in the middle east. The seven countries consisting of: Iran, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Libya, and Sudan. Refugees are being blocked from the U.S. for 120 days, where as people from the seven countries are blocked for 90 days. These countries have the majority as people who follow Islam, so the ban intentionally targets Muslim people. Countries such as Libya have 97 percent of their population as Muslim and Sudan has approximately 97 percent as well, according to muslimsinfrica.wordpress.com.

The New York Taxi Workers Alliance consist of 19,000 drivers, in which "60 to 70 percent of our member are Muslim," said co-founder Javaid Tariq. With this in

mind, it's clear that the NYTWA would take offense to the recent ban. In their response they used their lack of business to show how not okay they are with the ban: sacrificing their services as well as doing that in a cab intensive location in order to portray an impactful message. NYTWA said in their twitter, "NO PICKUPS @ JFK Airport 6 PM to 7 PM today. Drivers stand in solidarity with thousands protesting inhumane & unconstitutional #MuslimBan."

Although making life a little harder for people at the airport for one hour, humanity can endure that little hiccup in their day. And of course, no one is obligated to stand with the NYTWA. No one was obligated to stop their business. Nevertheless, seeing that other companies are taking advantage of the NYTWA's halt in business, it's not complementing the case, especially if the business is adjusting their prices for the occasion.

Uber NYC took to twitter during the protest, "Surge pricing has been turned off at #JFK Airport. This may result in longer wait times. Please be patient," surge pricing being a raise in prices due to peak hours. As said before, no business was obligated or should feel obligated to stop doing their business, however, it's clear that Uber was taking advantage of the protest. Uber was making profit off the protest, and it would

have been okay; it would have been a regular business day for Uber, yet they made special circumstances due to NYTWA stopping their service.

It doesn't help Uber's case that the CEO, Kalanick, is on the economic advisory council. With Uber's action during the protest, Kalanick's position toward Trump was brought up. These two things were connected and it didn't make for a good conclusion. With Uber's business decision during the protest, which is a protest that is not in favor for Trump's recent ban, in addition to Uber's CEO being closely associated with the president, it didn't make for a good representation of the company. It's not a good connection; it's made out to seem that Uber as a whole is supporting the recent ban, which isn't the case. Kalanick is for Trump; that doesn't mean Uber in its entirety supports Trump. Each worker doesn't support Trump. In fact, most Uber drivers are minorities, Muslim even. Nevertheless, the company, being owned by Kalanick, is associated with Trump; there can be no separation unfortunately, especially since he is in the economic advisory council.

Or at least he was. Kalanick said, "There are many ways we will continue to advocate for just change on immigration, but staying on the council was going to get in the way of that," in his e-mail

to employees that The New York Times obtained. Kalanick has realized his error, or more or less realized his business has been affected in a severe way. #DeleteUber was a prominent trend and was effective, yet not using Uber didn't solely affect Kalanick. It affected its workers.

But it doesn't change that these actions were progressive. Protesting at the airport sends out the message that banning certain people from the U.S. is unethical. Also, simply by not using a service can show that service to be mindful in what they do. Morals do matter, and people should consider the circumstances before they act. Making prices cheaper for their service at the airport doesn't come off as a regular business decision. That decision was made with the idea that taxi cabs are protesting, therefore more clients for Uber to use, completely disregarding the intentions of the protest.

No one is obligated to use a service and in order for that service to have a wide audience, they not only have to have a good service, they have to have good ethics. Money shouldn't deter a person's ethics. And if people make decisions that are based on money, that decision is on them. Nevertheless, people will react to your decision and that's something that's a given, and the reaction is foreseeable.

ACTIVISM

## Discriminating Against the Disabled

*Are the fundamentals of ableism being overlooked?*

By ASHLEY JONES

Ableism, according to Merriam-Webster, is discrimination or prejudice against those who have disabilities. However, this definition, while true, coddles most of us who don't label ourselves as bad people, going around screaming offensive language to those who are disabled. The words discrimination and prejudice to the modern millennial mind predates to very specific times in the world's history. We hear these words used in association with slavery, the Holocaust, and perhaps in modern hate crimes. We, students of the 21st century, are above the mindset of the bigots we shame, right?

I urge you to re-evaluate previous assumptions and measure yourself against a more applicable definition of ableism; Ableism: discrimination in favor of able-bodied people. This definition more accurately describes the everyday offensive nature of common language, action and activism, which often lead to stereotyping and the erasure of disabled individuals.

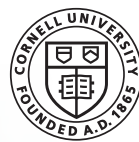
Not only is ableism rarely a topic in the social justice conversation, some products of activism are ableist in themselves. Often, people interchangeably use the terms "social media activism" and "fake activism." The so-called social media activist describes those who share their ideas and opinions concerning social justice through the medium of social media. All online, some feel that this type of activism isn't "real" because it uses a platform in which nothing is immediately at risk. It does not mirror the iconic images of people swarming the streets in solidarity during The Civil Rights Movement or the Women's Movement, therefore it isn't valid. Social media activists often get a bad rep for being lazy, taking the easy way out by sitting behind their phones

and computer screens.

This argument favors the able-bodied population. Attending protests isn't realistic for many. It puts on a pedestal the actions of those who are young enough and healthy enough to stand outside for hours on end in an environment organized without the disabled in mind. Often, protests take place in cramped places that lack way of evacuating in case of an emergency as well as the necessary tools for the disabled to participate in outdoor protest.

For people like Felisa Simpson, a freshman at the University at Albany who is deaf in the left ear and has no directional hearing in the right, being an active protester can prove to be difficult. Simpson, who uses they/them pronouns, explained, "It's pretty loud, and that means it can be confusing for me to communicate. A lot of times in big groups everyone will get a message to do something and I'm left out because I didn't hear. My brain can't make sense of the chaos of sound." They go on to suggest possibly having a buddy system in which a friend or volunteer would stay close to let them know what's happening.

Simpson is just one voice in the population of disabled people who we do not make room for in our organization of protest. Not for a second should using one's social media platform be shamed. Especially since for once in history, disabled persons finally have the same platform as the able-bodied population to participate in activism. In this day and age, everything is on social media, and so many can be reached and influenced concerning social justice that way. While those who are able to go out and march are important, we can't all march. The way of doing things changes over time and as everything else, the face of activism should also keep up with our way of life.



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FILM REVIEWS

# ‘THE SPACE BETWEEN US’ NEVER LEAVES THE GROUND



Source: allbestmovies.ru

By DIEGO CAGARA

Houston, we have a problem. Despite its overall good-hearted nature and its teen romance which is bound to attract all kinds of hopeless romantics, this film fails to launch.

In the vein of recent romantic tragedy films, like the immensely successful “The Fault in Our Stars” (2014) and the somewhat heartwarming “Me Before You” (2016), “The Space Between Us” certainly tries to get the audience to feel sympathy for the quite literally star-crossed lovers. The couple consists of Gardner Elliot (played by Asa Butterfield) and Tulsa (played by Britt Robertson) whose romance seems quite doomed, courtesy of melodramatic interplanetary conditions.

The film begins in around 2018 where a bunch of astronauts travel to Mars to set up the first human colonization there, presented as an example of brilliant human achievement although it’s basically just an escape route from how we humans are trashing Earth. The lead astronaut, however, discovers that she’s pregnant and eventually gives birth to a son, Elliot, but she dies moments later, leaving the

first Martian motherless. The film jerks immediately forward to 16 years later where Elliot has begun to wonder about his father’s identity, how it feels to be on Earth and he also frequently messages Tulsa who’s a high school student back in the United States.

Director Peter Chelsom seems content with spending quite a lot of time to introduce all of these pre-requisite circumstances first, making “The Space Between Us” feel a bit choppy and awkward as it obviously just wants to skyrocket straight to the film’s romance aspect. Eventually, Elliot is allowed to travel to Earth but the melodrama persists as it’s discovered his organs literally cannot handle Earth’s gravity which interferes with his romance with Tulsa.

Despite how cheesy the film is, there are moments of genuine emotions as Carla Gugino plays Kendra Wyndham, another astronaut who travels to Earth with Elliot, who acts like a mother figure to him. Meanwhile, actor Gary Oldman tries to flex his thespian muscles as affluent mogul Nathaniel Shephard to save the film but to no avail. There is also a major plot twist at the end which can throw viewers off in a

good way, being one of the few high points of this film.

The film presents numerous plot holes and awkward moments like how it’s never quite clear how Elliot was originally able to directly message Tulsa and their online relationship is almost like an episode of MTV’s “Catfish”. The most dramatic scene I found implausible was how he could successfully flee from the security-saturated NASA Kennedy Space Center since he is still struggling to adjust to Earth’s gravity yet fit employees just can’t seem to catch up to him. Furthermore, as Tulsa was initially depicted as someone who has her walls up, she seems to suddenly support and believe Gardner after he explains his life story.

Production-wise, a ton of money was evidently invested into the special effects to animate Mars and the interplanetary travel sequences, another rare treasure of this film. On Earth, however, while Tulsa and Elliot steal cars and drive across the U.S. in search of his father, the camera presents their journey like stereotypical car commercials as they drive across gorgeous terrains. The way they steal strangers’ money, cars and the occasional Wi-Fi also

feels too convenient as they always get to them the moment people turn their backs on their possessions, clear proof that people are still dense in the year 2034.

However, in spite of all of these toxic ingredients scattered throughout, “The Space Between Us” does have a sweet side as Tulsa and Elliot’s relationship blossoms fairly quickly, becoming a textbook example of how even the most literally extreme long-distance relationship could work, given how the film’s conclusion was left open-ended. Viewers—at least those who remain in their seats and must have forgiven all the film’s erroneous aspects at this point—should be over the moon as they cheer the couple on. The film’s most comedic moment was when Gardner is horrified when a creature he’s never seen before contentedly passes him and Tulsa by: a mere horse.

As Valentine’s Day nears, “The Space Between Us” is an adequate attempt to entertain lovers and hopeless romantics alike. But if you don’t belong to either of those two categories, like the film’s title suggests, you ought to maintain space between you and the film.

# ‘Resident Evil: The Final Chapter’ The over-extended film franchise is finally over.

By TYLER CALLAHAN

“Resident Evil: The Final Chapter” is the final film of the Resident Evil franchise that has been around for over 15 years if you could believe it. After numerous films left fans and critics not wanting more, “The Final Chapter” delivers more of the same as

its sendoff. Following the events of the last movie “Resident Evil: Retribution”, Alice (Milla Jovovich) is in Washington DC and receives a message from the Red Queen about the end of humanity. If Alice does not go back to Raccoon City and get the antivirus and release it into the air, all the humans

that are left will die.

What proceeds is just over 90 minutes of action—if you can follow along—and a plot that has way too many holes. The biggest problem with the film is the cinematography or simply the way the film was shot. For the most part the camera never stops moving, even if people are just talking and it gets really bad when the action starts. The best example of the kind of action in this movie are the Taken movies where there are a lot of jump cuts around the action, making it really hard to follow along. There was this one scene of two characters walking on a bridge that comes out of the water and it was the best shot in the movie because it was still and had a nice pan view of the bridge. The movie has an issue if the best shot in it is because the camera can actually stay still for more than five seconds.

The overall plot of the movie itself is also a mess with some things happening without explanation, and by the end of the movie you might be left confused by how things went. Acting-wise it’s the usual over-the-top acting that is a staple of the franchise, with the exception of Milla Jovovich who was the best in the film. For the most part there are actually a lot of new characters

that were added, but since they are severely underdeveloped and only say a few lines each, they do not leave much of an impact. There are however some returning characters such as Claire Redfield (Ali Larter) and Albert Wesker (Shawn Roberts) even if they are not used well.

“Resident Evil: The Final Chapter” is overall not just a bad movie, but a disappointing one as well. When watching the movie there are pieces of it that if put together right, would have made for a good sendoff for the series. The action for example could have been enjoyable to watch if the camera wasn’t jumping around. However, that did not happen and what was released is simply a bad movie and does not buck the trend of the past few Resident Evil movies.

So really, who should see this movie? If you have been a fan of the movies for years, go see it as you owe it to yourself to see this through, but otherwise everyone else should stay away. People that want to watch a good movie will not find it here and if you are in a Resident Evil mood because of “Resident Evil 7” just came out, stick to the games as the movie will just leave you disappointed.



Source: filmtopp.se

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# WEEKLY EVENTS

## Around UAlbany and the Capital Region

**TUES**  
February 7

### Albany Devils

7:00 p.m.  
The Albany Devils face the Providence Bruins at the Times Union Center.

**WED**  
February 8

### The Deadbeats

10:00 p.m.  
The Deadbeats are playing at The Low Beat - 335 Central Ave.

**THRS**  
February 9

### Thomas Freidman

8:00 p.m.  
New York Times columnist Thomas L. Freidman will be speaking at Proctors in Schenectady.

**FRI**  
February 10

### Big Mean Sound Machine

8:00 p.m.  
Big Mean Sound Machine live at the Hollow. Tickets: \$12

**SAT**  
February 11

### Maker's Market

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

**SUN**  
February 12

### Less Than Jake

6:00 p.m.  
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FOOTBALL

# Danes Ink 16 on National Signing Day

By JOHN C. LONGTON III

On Wednesday, high school seniors across the country signed their letters of intent, committing their blood, sweat and tears to the football program of their choice for the next four years. The University at Albany will likely never compete for any of ESPN's top-100 rated players, but head coach Greg Gattuso has himself another strong recruiting class, even bringing in a player that was on the field in this year's Rose Bowl.

Gattuso's main point of focus was to try to shore up his defensive front and he believes that he accomplished that goal.

"We're really pleased with where we're at," Gattuso said in an interview on the Levack and Goz show on 104.5 The Team. "We signed really five guys that can play on the defensive line and rush the passer."

One of those D-linemen is Antoine White, a Penn State transfer who played in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 2. The 6'2" and 290 lb. New Jersey native brings depth to a line that was tied for 55th in sacks last year. Because he is transferring to a Division I-AA school, White is not required to sit out a year.

Also booked for next season is Mazon Walker, a defensive lineman who recorded 72 tackles, 6 sacks and 3 fumble recoveries as a senior while receiving Third Team All-State honors in Ohio. Standing 5'10" he is considered undersized, but Gattuso described him as aggressive and physical. "I'm not afraid of the 5'10", 5'11" defensive lineman. He was overlooked because of his height. He's very powerful and explosive," Gattuso said, per UAlbanySports.com

The Danes also locked up a pair of siblings, one who plays on offense and the other on defense. Hunter and Zack Verdi (Cheshire Academy, CT). Both are expected to fight in the trenches for the Danes next season.

Because of his 6'4" stature, Hunter draws comparisons to another steady lineman for the Danes, Matt Champion, according to Gattuso. "We really like Hunter. We're impressed with his versatility because he can play center, guard or tackle." Gattuso described Zack as a "hard-nosed kid" and a "good run-stopper," per UAlbanySports.com

Gattuso and his staff appear to want the team to play an old-school style, one predicated on strong play in the trenches on each side of the ball. Last year the Danes averaged 167 yards rushing per game and

their sophomore running back, Elijah Ibitokun-Hanks, finished 7th in the nation, running for just under 1,400 yards on the season.

Ibitokun-Hanks tore his ACL in the last game of the season and the timetable for his return is uncertain. Because the rehab is so demanding and some players don't return quite the same from it, UAlbany decided to search for another running back to add depth to the backfield.

Karl Mofaor of Laurel, Mo. rushed for 1,991 yards and 21 touchdowns as a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt H.S. He brings versatility and can be a good second option behind Ibitokun-Hanks.

"We think Karl has a lot of attributes. Big, physical kid," Gattuso said. "We must find a way to take the burden off Elijah Ibitokun-Hanks."

Other notables to join the 2017 UAlbany football team are Damon Burton and Danny Damico, two linebackers from central N.Y. who finished their high school careers with gaudy statistics.

"I'm excited about the class in general," Gattuso said in his interview with Levack and Goz. He also joked with the guys, "I'm excited about it being over. It's a long process."

SPRING SPORTS

# UAlbany Men's Lax Out for Orange Blood in 2017

By TROY FARKAS

Despite the thermometer reading 20 degrees at points last week, it doesn't mean the men's lacrosse team will stop practicing. The Great Danes are out for redemption and no amount of frost on the field will change that.

The University at Albany's men's lacrosse team (No. 13 in the preseason polls), who is predicted to win the conference for the 5th year in a row, will play its first game in less than two weeks. Even though it's the first game of a long season, it may be the most important one the Danes play until the postseason. On Feb. 18 UAlbany will travel to Syracuse, the team that ended its 2016 season in the first round of the NCAA tournament. Syracuse won 11-9 and also beat the Danes in the season opener last year. Each game was played at the vaunted Carrier Dome. The Danes return the majority of their key players and head coach Scott Marr (18th season) knows his guys haven't forgotten the losses.

"We ended our season there last year," Marr said. "I thought we were right there and I thought we could have won that game if we played a little bit better in the 4th quarter."

"It certainly gives our guys something to be motivated for going into the preseason," Marr added.

Even though UAlbany returns a lot of players with big-game experience, the Danes will miss a few key guys lost to graduation and early departure. Former midfielder John Maloney and All-American goalkeeper Blaze Riorden were selected in 2016 Major League Lacrosse (MLL) Draft. Seth Oakes, the leading scorer for the Danes a season ago, sacrificed his final year of eligibility to enter the National Lacrosse League (NLL). He was taken at No. 8 overall by the New England Black Wolves.

The vacancy left by Riorden, who skipped out on the MLL and decided to sign with the Buffalo Bandits of the NLL, will be the most difficult to fill. The reigning America East Defensive Player of the Year in 2016, Riorden was the most crucial piece of an improved UAlbany defense. It is now up to his heir, J.D. Colarusso, who patiently waited behind Riorden for three seasons. Marr says it's Colarusso's job to lose.

"Our competition there is wonderful. Nate [Siekierski] is putting pressure on J.D. but J.D. has responded," Marr said. "He always wanted to be a Great Dane and he is gonna get his opportunity to shine."

With leaders like Maloney, Riorden and Oakes off in their professional careers, it's now up to veterans like Connor Fields and Stone Sims to lead the team and help the younger players get accustomed to the fast UAlbany style of lacrosse. Fields knows UAlbany will miss the guys who showed him the ropes, but he also knows it's now his time to return the favor.

"Seth, Blaze, and Maloney--they're all huge holes to fill," Fields said. "But I think we're ready and I think we can fill those holes. No one individual can fill all those holes but I think as a team we can do it."

"I've just got to give the young guys confidence. They're all great players. They all came here for a reason. We're confident in them with the ball and on defense," Fields added.

With the additions to the team and one more year of experience under the belts of the returning players, the Great Danes' roster appears to be deeper than it has in recent years. Armed with a number of strong midfielders and defensemen, UAlbany looks poised to be able to sustain its aggressively style of play, a huge plus for a team looking to win an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament after failing to do so last year after an overtime loss to Hartford in the America East championship game. Despite the loss UAlbany earned its first at-large berth in program history before falling to Syracuse. UAlbany has gone undefeated in the conference four years in a row and the guys want to do it again.

"We've been a powerhouse in our conference for as long as I can remember," said junior midfielder Kyle McClancy. "We take our conferences games really seriously. That's our No. 1 goal coming in to the year--winning the conference."



Source: Bob Mayberger Ualbanysports.com

UAlbany has the firepower to win the conference again, but to advance further in the postseason it will need to give 110 percent at all times. "We didn't end up last year how we wanted to. I feel like after we started to get up in games and go higher in the rankings, we slowed down our mentality. We can't do that," Fields said.

"We have to keep our foot on the gas. I think we're just as good of a team this year, if not better. We have high hopes."

The quest for redemption started on Saturday with a scrimmage against Colgate. They have one final tune-up against Princeton before the first official game of the season against Syracuse. Then, it's go-time.

"We are all pumped and ready. Syracuse is like a rival to us," Fields said. "We know what Syracuse has and we're just ready to go."

If UAlbany can channel that energy and excitement, then the Great Danes have a strong chance of beating the Orange in the Carrier Dome. But if Marr's team reaches new heights like it hopes to, Syracuse, as well as nonconference opponents Maryland and Yale, won't be the only high-ranking teams the Danes face this season.

## The Editor's Take:

By: Troy Farkas

Even though UAlbany couldn't get it done on Saturday night against Stony Brook, I have to say I was really proud of the student body for filling up the seats. But I'm begging you all, please keep coming to the games. Our teams need your support. Students don't come to these games enough on a regular basis. Do you realize we have a team that contends for championships every single season? Yes, we don't go to a Big Ten or ACC school like some of your friends do and I know you're jealous, but it's what we've got. And I think we're pretty lucky to have what we have. Both teams--the men and women--want to see all of the students AND faculty wearing purple and gold at SEFCU Arena over the next few weeks. We have two incredible teams here who need your help. A loud and hostile environment can make all the difference.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Danes Fall to Seawolves, 72-65



Max May / Albany Student Press

Sophomore guard David Nichols drives to the basket in the Danes rivalry game loss.

By JOHN C LONGTON III

The men's basketball team fell 72-65 to archrival Stony Brook in the 2017 Big Purple Growl in front of a sold out crowd at SEFCU Arena on Saturday night.

In the first half it seemed as if it were anyone's ball-game. The lead changed 11 times, with the Danes holding a 30-29 advantage heading into halftime. After intermission the tide changed, and the Seawolves ripped off a 12-4 run and. The Danes could not recover and would not reclaim a lead for the rest of the game.

"I thought Stony Brook did a good job at not allowing us to get into any offensive rhythm," said University at Albany's head coach Will Brown after the game.

Stony Brook's defense limited the Danes to shooting 36 percent from the floor in the second half. It didn't help that the team's leading scorer, David Nichols, and leading rebounder, Greig Stire fouled out while their teammates tried to make a comeback.

"I think sometime I just get a little over-aggressive maybe," said Stire, who often fights foul trouble. "I think that's something that I need to work on—keeping myself out of foul trouble." Despite the early exit, Stire managed to lead the Danes in scoring for the first time this season

(15 points).

Nichols fouled out only one other time this year, and it was in the Stony Brook game down on Long Island in early January. In that game, the point guard fouled out, leaving the Danes frantically searching for a steady ballhandler. They failed to find it, resulting in Stony Brook's magical 21-0 run to come back and stun the Danes. In Saturday's meeting the Danes sparked a 9-3 run of their own to close the game, but it wasn't enough. UAlbany cut the deficit to four points via a pair of Dallas Ennema threes with 46 seconds left. The Seawolves then made a free throw to extend the lead to five. Cremo, the primary ballhandler with Nichols on the bench, failed to convert on a drive to the basket, effectively ending UAlbany's comeback hopes.

Despite having four different players (Joe Cremo, Devonte Campbell, Nichols and Stire) in double-figures, UAlbany failed to make plays when they needed them most. Cremo and Nichols (14 and 10 points, respectively) couldn't get their games going all night, a credit to staunch on-the-ball defense by the Stony Brook guards.

Like most rivalry games, it was a chippy battle between two teams who dislike each other. A few questionable calls/no-calls—especially involving Stire and Nichols—created a hostile environment of over 4,000 unhappy fans. It

was the most heavily attended game at SEFCU this season besides the November Albany Cup battle with Siena.

"What a great college atmosphere for a basketball game," said Jeff Boals, head coach of the Seawolves, who is now in his first season after Steve Pikiell left for a new job at Rutgers. "We don't play in front of many crowds like that this year."

Boals, a former assistant on Thad Matta's staff at Ohio State, coached in front of huge Big Ten crowds before, so it didn't appear as if the hostile environment fazed him.

"We knew it would be a tough environment with the Big Purple Growl," Boals said. It didn't seem to get to Stony Brook's leading scorer either. Lucas Woodhouse poured in 23 to lead all scorers.

After graduating three all-conference players in Peter Hooley, Evan Singletary and Ray Sanders, UAlbany's youth and lack of experience has shown at times throughout the season. They rely heavily on Cremo and Nichols—both 19-year old sophomores, for much of their scoring production. UAlbany hopes to work through them by the end of the season, but Coach Brown knows growing pains come with the situation.

"I didn't expect us to start the season 0-3, but where we're at right now, whether anyone likes it or not, I'm not

## INVESTIGATION

## Feds Launch Title IX Investigation into UAlbany's Athletic Program

By TROY FARKAS

On Nov. 14, 2016 former women's tennis head coach Gordon Graham filed an official complaint to the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) stating his belief the University at Albany's athletic department failed to comply with Title IX demands when the school shut down the women's tennis program last year.

The OCR replied to Gordon on Jan. 11, informing the former coach of the defunct women's tennis team, that the department would open an investigation into UAlbany's handling of the situation.

"I believe that UA's elimination of the women's tennis team violated Title IX, because UA does not now and has never complied with Title IX's requirements for equity in athletic participation," Graham wrote in his initial complaint.

In April 2016, UAlbany announced it would discontinue the women's tennis program in response to the decision of two other America East schools to drop their own—Hartford and UMBC. The New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) also announced its intent to exit the conference, leaving the America East with only three schools. With just three schools, there could be no postseason conference tournament, meaning an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament was off the table. UAlbany was left with a decision to make—find a different conference or terminate the program. The school chose the latter, leaving Graham and his players—many of whom came to UAlbany on athletic scholarships—out to dry. It should be noted the other two remaining schools—Binghamton and Stony Brook—did not terminate their women's tennis programs. Binghamton is now independent and Stony Brook joined the Missouri Valley Conference.

The OCR's investigation will seek to discover if the athletic department failed to meet Title IX demands. The 1972

law, often applied to collegiate athletics, reads, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

The OCR will be conducting its investigation based on the following three-pronged test. In order to comply with Title IX, only one of the qualifications must be met. The school must:

Provide athletic participation opportunities that are substantially proportionate to the undergraduate enrollment. (if school is 50 percent men and 50 percent women, the same must be said for the athletic programs)

Demonstrate a continual expansion of athletic opportunities for the underrepresented sex.

Fully accommodate the interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex.

UAlbany's athletic program fails to meet the demands of the first test, according to a press release sent to the Albany Student Press. Despite UAlbany's 49 percent female population, approximately 40 percent of the athletes on campus are women. Over the past 12 years, the gap between male and female athletes has ranged anywhere from 64 to 109 student-athletes in any given year, per release.

With UAlbany's failure to adhere to the first test, the OCR must determine if UAlbany has demonstrated its efforts to expand athletic opportunities for, as well as fully accommodated the interests of its female athletes. Should the OCR determine UAlbany has failed to comply, the school risks losing federal funding for its athletic programs.

Bob Lewis, who coached the men's tennis team from 1972-95, helped guide Graham in the right direction for how to approach the situation. Like Graham, Lewis believes UAlbany is in violation. "They're not accommodating the interests of women like prong no. 3 says," Lewis

said.

"They're depriving them of the opportunity to play. What would football do if they didn't have a conference?" Lewis said.

In his filed complaint, Graham delves into more than the numbers to prove his allegation that UAlbany discriminates against female athletes. "We believe that eliminating any women's team amounted to sex discrimination, because UA did not eliminate any men's team and because UA does not provide, and never has provided, enough women's athletic participation opportunities, given the undergraduate female enrollment. But still, UA eliminated the women's tennis team."

Lewis feels UAlbany can make the situation disappear if the school simply agrees to reinstate the women's tennis program. Instead of cutting a men's athletic program to make the numbers proportional, Lewis thinks UAlbany should do its best to get Graham and his players back on the courts representing the purple-and-gold. But according to UAlbany's Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs, Charlie Voelker, it's easier said than done.

"It's not that easy. We can't re-allocate and take away funds," Voelker said. When the team disbanded, UAlbany dispersed the tennis team's funds to hire and promote coaches in other sports, according to Voelker. In other words, UAlbany can't take the money away from those programs to give back to the tennis team.

Voelker added that UAlbany is in full compliance with the OCR's investigation. "We are providing the OCR all of the information they want—there is nothing for us to hide," Voelker said.

Athletic Director Mark Benson was not available for comment.

There is no timetable for the results of the OCR's investigation. The Albany Student Press will provide more information as soon as it becomes available.