



ASP

ALBANY STUDENT PRESS

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UALBANY SEARCHES FOR A NEW PROVOST



KELLEY FEI / ASP

Candidate Anette Karlsson, left, shakes the hand of search committee co-chair Lynn Warren.

By **KELLEY FEI**

Four academic leaders are touring campus to get a shot at the role of Provost and Senior Vice President for academic affairs, a position left open after James Steller officially stepped down in January.

President Havidan Rodriguez launched a search committee on November 5th, telling the ASP at the time that he was “building his team.”

Co-chairs Lynn Warren and David Holtgrave lead a committee of 21 members ranging from faculty and staff, undergraduate and graduate students, and other academic and senior leaders from all over the university.

The committee also worked directly with the firm Russell Reynolds and assisted the recruitment process.

With a pool of nearly 14 potential candidates, UAlbany’s search committee along with the SA Senate oversaw each candidate’s resumes.

Vice Chair Sam Salazar of the SA senate says his fellow team members “looked over resumes and gave student feedback.”

“The candidates are very well qualified and willing to work hard for the university and the committee members and co chairs are doing a great job,” said Salazar.

After a series of discussions, three candidates stood out among the rest: Charles Riordan, Anette Karlsson and Carol Hyung-

mie Kim.

Charles Riordan is currently the The Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Innovation at the University of Delaware.

“We need to increase our attention towards access as we are continuing to pivot towards issues around completion,” Riordan said during a public forum held on campus on March 4.

“I think there are a lot of opportunities for improving our educational infrastructure, our curricula and the way we deliver education.”

Riordan said being Provost means ensuring the disciplines at Albany perform at

the highest level, with improving student experiences being a top priority.

Anette Karlsson is the Dean of the Washkewicz College of Engineering at Cleveland State University.

Before, she worked as an Assistant professor at the University of Delaware where she was later promoted and held the position of Department Chairperson of Mechanical Engineering.

“We need to stay funded and relevant,” said Karlsson at her public forum on March 5.

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SA ELECTIONS

Carty Elected to Student Association Presidency

By **NATE DEPAUL**

Student Association chief of staff Desann Carty was elected Friday to replace the president she works under in an election that saw the lowest voter turnout in three years.

Carty and her running mate, Ariel Nuñez, staved off a presidential challenge from up-and-coming First-Year Senators Zak Constantine and Ivan Daquial.

Around 380 votes tipped the scales in favor of Carty. Her presidential ticket took 57.18% of the 2,298 votes cast, with the Constantine/Daquial ticket taking in 40.5% of the vote.

“We would just like to thank everyone who voted mandatory (on the activity fee), it’s important to keep our school going. Thank you for everyone who participated in it (the election). Congratulations to both Zak Constantine and to Ivan, and good luck, we look forward to working with you next year.”

The student activity fee was kept mandatory by an overwhelming margin, with around 71% of voters saying “yes.”

Keeping the activity fee mandatory was a central part of each candidate’s campaign.

Constantine said he was “extremely proud of the policy first campaign that we ran free of endorsements from large cultural organizations and fraternities,” and that “moving forward, I will continue to be an advocate for students seeking to improve

their campus experience.”

Carty’s “It’s T.I.M.E.” movement made gains in the Senate as well, although the results for all Senator-at-Large positions were withheld due to a “pending review,” with the SA elections committee promising to release them next week.

While Carty’s ticket won five of the 10 Senate seats announced, Constantine’s “Do More” ticket won four of these Academic Division Senate seats up for election.

The elections commission noted that this was the third consecutive year that over 2,000 students voted in the election. However, this was also the lowest voter turnout in those three years.

The final vote on the ballot was for a referendum to amend the SA constitution in order to add two seats to the Senate for international student, proposed by Senator Ivan Daquial.

This referendum passed with 75% of the vote, which was the most universally supported item on the ballot. Almost twenty percent of voters abstained from voting on the referendum.

from participating and feeling represented on campus,” which is why he wrote the amendment.

Daquial said there was “a cultural and linguistics barrier that keeps international students from participating and feeling represented on campus,” which is why he wrote the amendment.



Courtesy of the It’s T.I.M.E. campaign

PROVOST

Continued from Page 1

Before, she worked as an Assistant professor at the University of Delaware where she was later promoted and held the position of Department Chairperson of Mechanical Engineering.

“We need to stay funded and relevant,” said Karlsson at her public forum on March 5. Karlsson said she would be driven to recruit and retain faculty to change the outlook on higher education.

She also stressed the importance of faculty diversity and creating an environment for

them to succeed.

The third candidate, Carol Hyungmie Kim, is currently a professor in the department of molecular and biomedical sciences at the University of Maine, the Dean of Graduate School, and the Vice President for research.

Kim’s Public Forum is scheduled to be on March 11th, where she will discuss the challenges facing higher education and what she can offer to the UAlbany as Provost and Senior Vice President of academic affairs.

Auditors: Student Association has Improved Control of Finances

By **JOE HOFFMAN**

Auditing firm UHY LLP presented a draft financial statement to Student Association Wednesday, noting improvement from last year’s audit which identified several major problems with SA’s internal control.

The audit presented Wednesday was of the 2018 fiscal year, which ended in June.

“Last year, there were six material weaknesses. This year, you see one material weakness and one significant deficiency,” said Brian Kearns, auditor for UHY, to senate Wednesday.

“So there’s still room for improvement, but you’ve made significant progress.”

In the 2017 fiscal year, Student Association made multiple credit card purchases and expenditures without approving them properly.

Because so many records of how SA used their money could not be found, UHY had to issue a “disclaimer of opinion” on last year’s financial statement.

Since then, SA management has contracted with University Auxiliary Services to act as custodian, or fiscal agent. Patrick Carroll, SA comptroller since the fall, said that SA’s constant turnover contributed to accounting errors.

“In that year we were in a transition phase, so that’s where a lot of our major deficiencies started to flare up,” said Carroll. “SA leadership at the time decided that we needed wto pay a fiscal agent.”

The contract with UAS, which is technically a non-profit,

Problems Identified

The auditors noted in this year’s presentation that SA’s payroll of employees at Dippikill, an 800-acre camp that SA manages, was not performed correctly for the 2018 fiscal year.

“Between the statements of Dippikill and SA, they didn’t agree. If you were relying on those numbers, they weren’t correct for really the entire year,” said Kearns.

Kearns said that UHY and Student Association’s executive branch had addressed the problem.

“SA and that relationship we have with Dippikill, it’s a very complicated relationship, especially from an accounting perspective,” said comptroller Patrick Carroll. “I think that’s where the mix up was.”

“That’s not going to be an issue next year, plain and simple,” said Carroll.

UHY also noted that SA had no formal process for tracking vacations for full-time employees like Dippikill staff or executive officer manager Shannon Beal.

Beal said this was due to an error in the SA handbook.

“We’re working with our lawyers to make sure we extend the policy,” said current SA president Langie Cadesca. “We’ll definitely have one prepared before the end of this fiscal

Photo: Dalia Yan / ASP



Auditor Brian Kearns told senate Wednesday about the improvements and problems identified in their most recent audit.

non-state agency, is costing Student Association \$130,000 every year.

According to the contract, UAS handles accounting, payroll, and employee benefits for SA.

year.

“The thing about the SA is, every year we get a new president, a new comptroller, so having people in the office who’ve been familiar with that process helps,” said Carroll.

“I also think adding our executive office manager as a full-time employee, that’s been crucial to the continuity of all of our internal control.”

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A LITTLE BIT OF LOVE AND COMFORT BEFORE THE MID-TERM

THERAPY DOGS AT THE UALBANY SCIENCE LIBRARY



All photos by JOE HOFFMAN / ASP

CRIME BLOTTER

OPER MOTOR VEH W/ .08 OF 1% OR MORE ALCOHOL IN BLOOD-1ST OFF
3/9/2019
Colonial Quad-CQ
No Description

Maintenance Problem
3/7/2019
Other- UPD
Maintenance report about the card reader not working on UPDs side door.

Assist a Person
3/7/2019 2:32 PM 08476-19
Other- Building 25
UPD responded to take a report about a concerning fax/letter that was found on an office fax machine. Letter was non-threatening in nature. Machine audit unsuccessful. Nothing further at this time.

Medical Incident
3/7/2019 11:17 PM 0
Podium- Campus Center
Report of a female student with extreme exhaustion. Transported to hospital by 5 Quad.

Parking Enforcement
3/7/2019
Downtown Campus- Draper Hall
Report of vehicle illegally parked at Draper Hall. Unable to contact owner. Ticket issued.

CRIM MIS INTENT DAMAGE PROPRTY
3/6/2019 10:03 PM
State Quad- Irving Hall
Report of a male student caught on camera damaging property. Officer unable to make contact with student, will continue to attempt contact.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS 2ND ENTER/REMAIN UNLAWFULLY IN DWELLING
3/6/2019 10:49 PM
Dutch Quad - Ryckman Hall
Report of trespassers in a dorm room. Officer responded to get statements.

CRIM POSS CONTRL SUBST

3/6/2019 1:14 AM
Indian Quad- Onondaga Hall
Report of two male students in possession of a controlled substance. Arrests and referrals were made.

Persons Annoying
3/6/2019 4:46 PM
Podium- Lecture Centers
Report of students yelling in the Lecture Center. Officer responded. Individuals gone on arrival.

Persons Annoying
3/6/2019 6:30 PM
Podium Pod- Tunnels
Report of skateboarders in tunnels. Officer responded and subjects left without incident.

Persons Annoying
3/6/2019 7:48 PM
Alumni Quad- AQ Grounds
Report of students refusing to leave the gym. Officers responded and students were escorted out. Referrals were made.

Check a Subject
3/5/2019 3:27 AM
State Quad- Eastman Tower
Report of a camera seeing two subjects in an altercation on an elevator. Officer responded and determined subjects were joking around. Scene cleared

Persons Annoying
3/2/2019 2:34 PM
PE Complex -SEFCU Arena
Report of a male subject having taken a picture of a female student. Male subject gone on arrival.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIHUANA
3/1/2019 9:46 AM
Roadways- SQ Lot
Report of a male subject in possession of marihuana asleep in his car. Marihuana was seized and Officer told him to leave campus.

AGGRAV HARRASS-2:COMMUNICATE IN MANNER LIKELY TO CAUSE ALARM
3/2/2019 4:55 AM
UPD- Other

Report of a male subject harassing a female student. An Order of Protection is in place.

CRIMINAL POSSESSION MARIHUANA 3RD: WEIGHT MORE THAN 8 OUNCES
3/2/2019 11:49 AM
Roadways- Univ Dr East
Report of two male subjects in possession of marihuana. Arrests were made and vehicle was towed.

Special Event
3/2/2019 12:13 PM
PE Complex- SEFCU Arena
UAlbany Womens Basketball Game. Approximately 400 in attendance.

Check a Subject
3/1/2019 8:41 AM
Indian Quad- Cayuga Hall
Report of a suspicious male on campus. Officer interviewed and determined he was an employee working on fire alarm systems.

Medical Incident
3/7/2019 10:31 PM
Podium Lecture- Centers
Report of a female student having shortness of breath. Transported to hospital by 5 Quad.

Assist a Person
3/5/2019 2:42 PM
Podium- Science Library Assisted a subject that fell. Refused medical attention.

Maintenance Problem
3/5/2019 7:41 PM
PE Complex- SEFCU Arena Report of a spill in SEFCU Lobby. Power Plant notified.

CONSTITUTION

Rebuttal: The Founding Fathers Protected Our Fundamental Rights

By CHRISTOPHER PERILLO

I am writing this article in response to an opinion written in the ASP paper by M. Francis Mirro titled, "Stop Asking the Founding Fathers" on February 12. In his article, Mirro expresses his opinion that we as Americans should stop looking at the old and "flawed" interpretations of the constitution held by the founding fathers and instead embrace a more contemporary interpretation. Though I think Mirro hit on some interesting points, I think his analysis of what the founding fathers actually thought, was also flawed.

One of the key points that Mirro made was that the founding fathers lived in such a different time and that they couldn't possibly account for the improvements in technology, philosophy and society in general that we have made today.

He writes, "Cars, superhighways, telephones, television, manned flight and the Internet have brought the corners of the globe together, leading to new philosophies the Framers were not even capable of anticipating."

But they absolutely did anticipate technological advancements.

In relation to commerce throughout the states, James Madison wrote in 1787 in The Federalist Papers, "Roads will everywhere be shortened, and kept in better order; accommodations for travellers will be multiplied and ameliorated; an interior navigation on our eastern side, will be opened throughout..." it seems to me that he not only understood, but hoped for the advancements we would later make.

The framers of the constitution constantly talked about the advancements that individuals could make when freedom and liberty were preserved. That was

their primary goal, to preserve freedom and liberty. I would argue that not only did the framers anticipate societal advancements, but in a way, specifically allowed for them with the first ten amendments. The Bill of Rights protects us first and foremost from usurpation of government; foreign and domestic, and protects our individual liberties without which we wouldn't have achieved the progress we have today.

Moving forward, Mirro's claim that what the founding fathers intended "no longer has bearing on governance when the Constitution is applied today" seems a bit heavy handed for me. It completely ignores that many of the liberties that we so forgetfully enjoy today, were enumerated in the Constitution well before any of the knowledge and precedent he cited were ever realized.

One of the aspects of this article that I find particular disagreement

with is its reference to the so called, "living constitution" and Mirro's ideas of constitutional interpretation. I quote the late Supreme Court Justice and renowned legal scholar Antonin Scalia, "What a weird notion that a document changes its meaning, from decade to decade..."

This philosophy, that has somehow prevailed through academia, is very problematic. It says the constitution can be reinterpreted at different times by different people, depending on their own subjective views of the present. It allows for an individual politician, or activist judge the power to change our constitution willingly when given the opportunity. Many originalist judges and scholars like Justice Scalia, find philosophies like this to be dangerous and to be the foundation for bad law. How can words just magically change their meaning over time? It seems to

me that the law should be read the way it is written, and if it is an old text, then it be interpreted based on the time it was written. If the law needs to be changed and the people want it to be changed, then we do it through congress or the judiciary consistent with Article V of the constitution. That is the only way to guarantee a fair and consistent application of the law.

In closing, I believe that the constitution of the United States is one of the most precious and important documents written in the last 300 years. Though it may be flawed, it has undoubtedly sustained the longest lasting, and continuously free governments in history. Without the infinite wisdom and forethought of its framers, we may never have reached the success as a society that we have today. The words of our founding fathers should not be discounted, because without them we would be nothing.

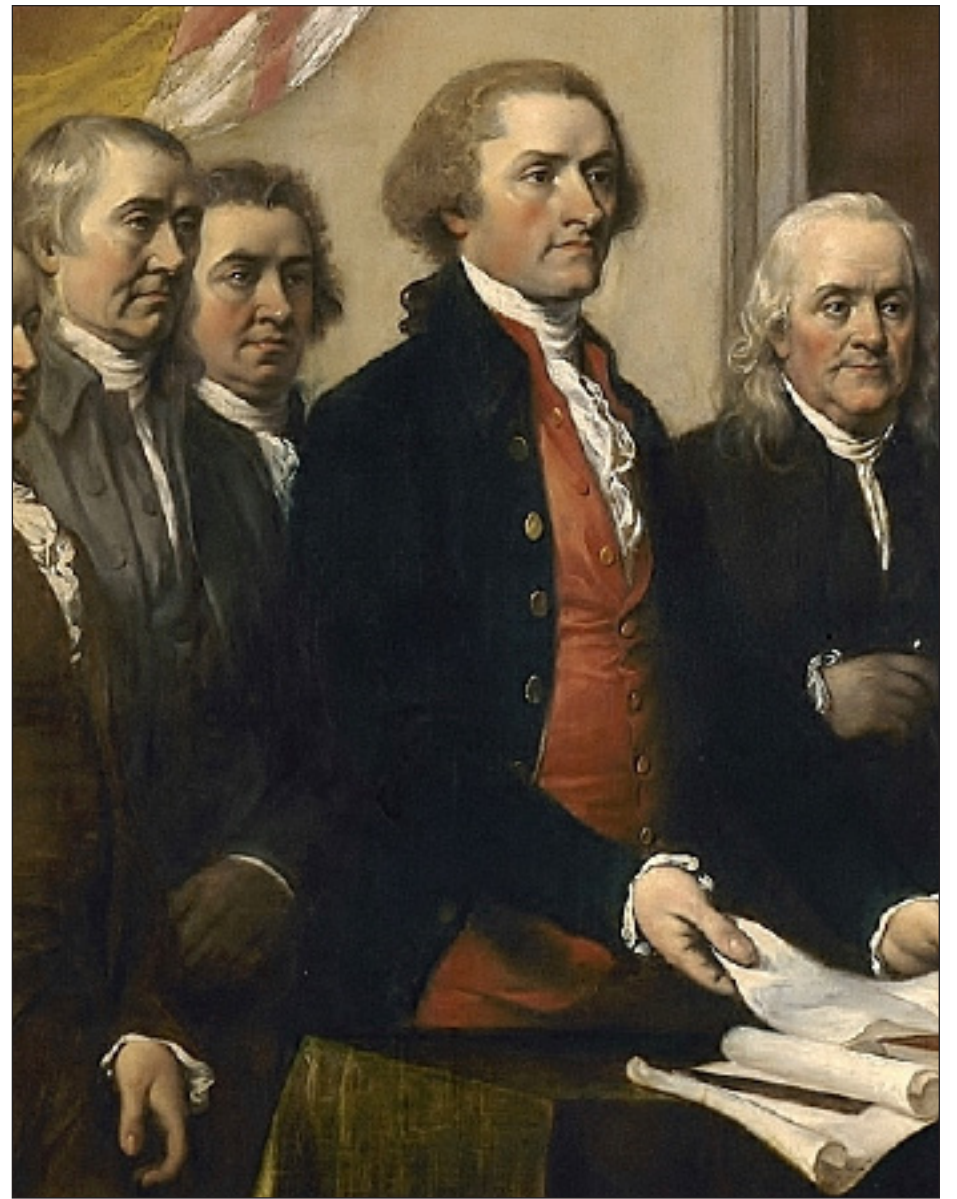
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John Trumbull, 1819, detail of Declaration of independence. Source; Wikimedia Commons

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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Other Democratic Candidates Are a Better Choice Than Bernie

By IZAIAH JEFFERSON

To counter the polarizing and scandal-ridden presidency of Donald J. Trump, the Democratic Party must support a candidate who is assertive to unite all American citizens with their politics and will pull in the party's far left leaning constituents; that candidate is not Bernie Sanders.

Sanders' presidential campaign for the 2016 election was far more successful than many expected given his almost extreme socialistic views. With his horde of passionate supporters, Senator Sanders is already a step ahead of the other Democrats. Yet, with that rise of popularity from the previous presidential election also created a large group that rejects Bernie's campaign from both the Right-Wing and Left-Wing parties. A large part of the reason Trump won the election was because he brought excitement and a vigor to politics. Bernie is the electricity of 2016, not 2020. The current political arena has seen a rise in new voices and an energized class of Congress members that have experience and accomplishments to rival Bernie Sanders.

Kamala Harris has the ability and knowledge to reform the Criminal Justice System in great volumes. Her career as a prosecutor and as the Attorney General of California provide her insight into the gears and cogs of the system that have caused it to be a machine for racism and recidivism.

Now, she has also gotten the lion's share of criticism for working in the Criminal Justice system as a Black woman. Some fellow African Americans believe that she has done far more bad to the black community than good. Her being a part of this prejudice machine makes her an accessory to the racism that has plagued this country. But, I contest that having African-Americans like Harris in the system is a necessity, not an act of betrayal. To create real change starts from within. Barack Obama knew that, which is why he became president. Kamala Harris speaks with conviction and confidence, which is reminiscent of the strong Black women in my life. It is voice, that so far I have trusted.

Cory Booker has been, as of late, a fearless politician. This is clearly evident when he violated rules meant to restrain him from releasing sensitive documents to the public. He adamantly accepted any punishment he might have received from the Senate. The New Jersey Senator is accused of being theatrical for media attention, and I cannot say I disagree with that assessment.

I do not think that is necessarily a bad thing. It seems to be a common trait of Booker, to fight on behalf of the people or underdog. He puts an emphasis on livable housing and criminal justice reform. He seems to be a man of honest living and has an appreciation for the traditional American ideals. Booker is extremely optimistic that he can unite all Americans no matter their demographic. That could be his ticket to the white house or his ticket back to Newark. Americans appreciate when a leader is inclusive and thinks about all walks of life. However, Americans also like when someone is earnest about choosing a side. Senator Booker could lose many Liberal Democrats because he is too hesitant to join them in ideology.

I think that Kirsten Gillibrand is often overlooked and will be a strong candidate once more people are made aware of her platform. She sponsored a bill to extend the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. She also, helped repeal the homophobic "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy. Gillibrand has accomplished many actions during her time in Congress that is not given enough attention in this country's political discussion. After, announcing her candidacy she has received a lot of criticism for apparently being a "flip-flopper" in her political stances. Yes, she has changed many of her major views regarding gun control and same-sex marriage, but so has a lot of people. The beauty of this country is you can learn from each and discuss because we have free, open dialogue. I would venture to say that a president should be able to think critically on subjects and if given sufficient support or evidence change their opinion on a matter.

POLITICS

We Need an Olive Branch Between Young and Old

By JESSICA SHERMAN

Senator Dianne Feinstein 85, from California doesn't believe that kids should have a voice. That was the thoughts she portrayed in a video that went viral when a group of kids visited her at her San Francisco office Friday February 22nd.

Like many adults from a different era, she treated those that are younger like they just don't know what they're talking about.

"You come in here and you say 'it has to be my way or the highway.' I don't respond to that," Feinstein told about a dozen kids who visited her San Francisco office Friday morning. "I've gotten elected, I just ran, I was elected by almost a million-vote plurality, and I know what I'm doing."

The group was there in attempts to get her support on the Green New Deal that has become an attempt from Green Party US to provide provisions for a more sustainable future for us and generations to come-- generations like those that stood in front of Feinstein that day as she was dismissive and rude to hearing what they had to say.

Communication gaps like this one is creating generational differences that make it hard to work together in a professional setting. Managers from the Baby Boomer generation have a set belief that Millennials and Gen Z are entitled, lazy and disconnected. Millennials on the other hand think that the older folks just don't get it and need to get with the times.

Who is really right? Both. Yes, Millennials can be entitled, have a need for instant gratification and do spend more times hooked into technology than ever before.

There are many reasons for this, but are in no way the fault of this generation alone. We grew up with parents that wanted to make us feel special, so the group is used to participation awards and when thrust into reality outside of school it is almost a shock to realize that things are not handed to us.

Instagram and Facebook were staples of everyday life and we felt the need to compete with others, not realizing that a lot of it was living through filters and not a true reflection of what was happening in real life. To combat our low self esteem we look to social media to justify ourselves, always chasing the next level of dopamine.

As these societal norms have been integrated into our lives, the younger generation may lack the ability to balance professional lives with our addicted lives. There is no patience, as instant gratification has become the expectation. Instantly checking movie times, calling a car to pick us up and go anywhere, no need to go find a date because there are millions of options in our phones.

This doesn't translate well into the workplace though. And that is because there is a severe lack of job satisfaction. And the older generation needs to help us get there.

While the generation is one that could be seen weak, there is also so many great benefits to the younger, newer era. Being intuitive, wanting to make a difference, higher creativity levels, there are clear benefits from growing up in the age that we did.

Old systems of corporate environments are a thing of the past. Management within these companies must adapt to the times and help this new workforce maximize their potential.



Source: Pexels

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PROFILE

From Iran to Albany: UA Official Escaped from War



Caroline Borrego / ASP
Fardin Sanai holds the medallion his mother gave him.

By ADRIANA CARRENO

“My job is to be an educator, I want to open up the eyes of students whose eyes haven’t been open to refugees.” Fardin Sanai, a six foot one man, walked in with authoritative energy.

With freshly polished black leather dress shoes and a tailored navy suit, he sat silently for a minute and fumbled around uncomfortably with his silk red tie, preparing to take himself back to where his journey began.

He sat up tall, with a soft smile, “I know I’ll keep saying it, but I come from the most beautiful place on Earth.”

Born into a middle class family in a small town in Iran near the Caspian Sea, Sanai would spend his days by the ocean. His house sat a few hundred yards from the beach and around it stood tropical fruit plants. He lived where everyone would vacation.

His father, just like Sanai, was a self-made man and loved by many in the town. Growing up, he knew his future was set for him.

He would go attend a college in Europe, just as his two older siblings did, and then take over his father’s business.

But that future changed in 1978, when the revolution began in Iran.

This is the year his life turned upside down and the day he went from a being boy to a man.

The first people who suffered were the religious minorities.

Sanai’s father was taken to prison and tortured.

People of the Bahai faith were looted and their homes were burnt to the ground, there were even family members going missing.

The Bahai teachings are almost in direct contrast of the fanatic regime in Iran.

The Bahai religion allows you to decide if you want to continue its practice, woman don’t have to wear hijabs, and

women are seen as equals. “We believe women and men serve society as two wings to a bird, both have to be fully and equally devout before this bird can fly in harmony.”

Sanai felt like a prisoner in his own home, so he fled from Iran to avoid capture and execution.

With his aunt and uncle, he would journey on foot and in vans, across the desert and over the Atlantic Ocean.

To put it in perspective, the distance between Earth and space is 62 miles. A journey taken from Iran to the U.S. by 18-year-old Sanai took 7,239 miles. At that rate Sanai could have traveled to space 116 times.

“We were to meet somewhere in the dead of night in the middle of the desert.”

He began to tear up, breaking his calm demeanor. He reached into his shirt and carefully pulled out the golden medallion given to him by his mother. It was engraved with a Bahai symbol. Putting the medallion around his neck, she told him:

“Until now I tried to keep you safe - You’re in Gods hands now.”

At one point in his travels he was face to face with machine guns and came across a village that had just been attacked by chemical weapons. The smugglers told him to cover his mouth and run. He ran past the women and children who were scattered along the ground shaking, some bleeding, some dead.

They stayed briefly in the city of Quetta in norther Pakistan, then finally made base in another city called Karachi. There they could try and find a flight to Australia or somewhere in the west. At the time, Spain and Portugal were the only countries that allowed Iranians to enter without a visa.

“We bought tickets to go to Portugal, connecting through Denmark. Our plan was to wait for the planes to leave and ask for asylum. And that’s what we did.”

When Sanai was going through customs, the border control knew after looking at their papers that they were forged. They handed the agent another passport, instead.

“It had \$300 in it. So, he took the \$300 and let us go... Revolution makes a lot of people poor and a lot of other people very rich.”

For four months Sanai lived in Denmark, until he was allowed into the U.S. as a refugee.

“You would think this four months of travel would be the challenging part, but I didn’t realize I was going to face what was going to be the greatest part of my journey.”

When Sanai arrived to the U.S. in 1982, he immediately started to attend community college, along with working a few manual labor jobs.

But guilt started to eat at him.

He felt like he abandoned his family and friends. What bothered him most was the people who had no idea where Iran was or what was going on in the country. It turned him into a very angry man.

“The Bahais are standing up for the equality of mankind and giving our life for it! And no one knows we exist.”

— FARDIN SANAI

His voice rose, “There are people dying over there, the Bahai’s are standing up for the equality of mankind and giving our life for it! And no one knows we exist.”

Sanai worked at Marist College where he earned his bachelor’s degree. Eventually, he made his way to Albany where he worked his way up to the Vice President position for University Advancement.

But still, a big part of his life was hidden.

It wasn’t until he met his best friend, who is now his wife, that he felt strong enough to tell his story. His wife made him understand that people have to accept who he is and if they can’t, that’s their problem.

To Sanai, his wife was the cool water over his steaming anger.

Memories of his journey come back in increments, some stories have come back to him in the later parts of his life, especially after the birth of his daughter. Who for the first time this past Christmas, traveled to Iran to see her father’s town.

“I told her, before we leave I want you to write a para



Caroline Borrego / ASP

graph about what you think you’re going to see and when we return, I want you to write me another paragraph about what you saw.”

His daughter only heard the bad side of Iran, but wanted her to see his home, the place Sanai believes to be the most beautiful place on Earth.

What he wanted most from his daughter, was for her to be proud to identify herself as Iranian and part of the Bahai faith.

Breaking one more time with happy tears, Sanai said,

WHAT YOU MISSED AT HUMAN LIBRARY

By JACQUELYN ORCHARD

If you missed the Human Library Event at 1:30 last Tuesday, March 5th, I’m here to fill you in on how awesome it was.



Jacquelyn Orchard / ASP

Here’s how it works. You arrive in the campus center by Starbucks and some really friendly people hand you a list of human “books.” You tell them which one seems cool and they escort you to the private room where the “book” is waiting to tell his or her story.

My books were both in the “globe” and my first speaker was Zakhar Berkovich: “The Path of a Jewish Refugee: From Belarus to Staten Island.”

You are expected to sit quietly and not ask questions while your book is speaking for ten minutes. (Torture for chronic interrupters such as myself.) But when the book finishes telling his story, you are free to ask questions. Of course, I did.

“What do you enjoy most about sharing with us today? How does this help you?” I asked.

Zakhar said, “When I was invited to talk, I was kind of thinking about what I haven’t said out loud, you know, some things I was thinking about for a while. You know, I haven’t said thank you to my parents yet for bringing me here.” He pauses. “Which I should.”

And this is the best part about Human Library. You get to watch a “book” realize things about himself as he realizes it.

Zakhar was grateful that his parents brought him to the U.S. “I would not be having a master’s degree and having real estate and driving a car by this point,” He mused.

Because he was Jewish, Zakhar might not have even been permitted to a university in Russia or Belarus.

“I have a lot of opportunity here,” he said. “and I’m thankful for it.”

My second “book” was Nana-Hawa Abdul-Rahman: “Reframing Home.” Nana is also an immigrant, but instead of Belarus she is from Ghana. Her parents left her behind so that they could come to the U.S. and establish themselves.

After Nana’s story, I asked her, “Did you ever ask them [her parents] how they made the decision to leave you behind in Ghana, out of all of your siblings, why did they choose you?”

She smiled a knowing smile and said, “I did ask them. My mother’s reasoning was they wanted to get to America, establish themselves, then bring me over to meet them. And they said they chose me to stay because I was a toddler and I would be harder to look after in America. So they left me with my grandmother.”

“Did you buy that excuse when she first told you?” I asked.

“I struggled with it for a long time. That is the reason I was deeply depressed when I first got here because I did not understand. But now I am not mad at them, it was the situation.”

Walking out of the Globe in the student center, I think more than a few of us wanted to be Nana’s new best friend. Her smile is infectious and her story was deeply raw and personal.

Nana ended the session by saying that seeing the sepa-

rated families at the Mexican border is very hard for her. She looks at those crying children and sees herself.

Nana and Zakhar, both with vastly different stories, from vastly different countries, somehow both had the same look on their faces: introspection. They glanced at the table and felt a whole feeling before answering our questions.

That is the moment that makes the Human Library a can’t miss event. You can’t read that look. You have to see it.



Jacquelyn Orchard / ASP
Zakhar Berkovich

DO IT YOURSELF

Cast A Vision (Board) For Your Life With Magazines, Paper, and Mementos

By FATIMA SYED

I sat down on my couch Sunday night with a bowl of warm chili, brainstorming a new and creative way to utilize the blank space on my wall. I decided on a vision board.

When was the last time you sat down and thought about your life goals?

Vision boards are meant to be visual reminders of your goals and dreams. The board reminds you of what makes you happy and what you are passionate about.

To begin, sit down and compile a list of things that bring you great joy in life. These joys could be things that you hope to achieve and/or things that you enjoy doing as a pastime: field hockey, the comedian Mike Birbiglia, winning the Pulitzer prize, or (if you're me) ballet.

Next, gather pictures that show what you are passionate about. These pictures can come from magazines, articles, newspapers, and personal albums. Cut all these pictures out and set them aside for now.

Try thinking outside the box (or magazine) and include different physical things that you can post on your vision board. Maybe it's a 1st place ribbon from your science competition, love letters from your significant other, a ticket stub for a movie that you saw with your friends, or quotes on the backs of Dove chocolate wrappers.

Try to gather magazines, articles, and newspapers that include pictures of things that you are passionate about. Ask friends, family, and teachers if they have any extras so that you do not need to subscribe to a magazine in order to complete your vision board.

Finally, acquire a board that you can paste all these pictures onto.

UAlbany sells the heavy-duty poster board in black and white. You would need some glue or

tape, and cutouts from your favorite magazines or print outs from the school library. The cost all together would be around \$12.

Challenge yourself to create something that truly represents a complete picture of what you believe, not just something limited to academics.

On my board you will find running shoes to give kudos to my track and field days, an enlarged picture of a ballerina to show how much I appreciate the art form of ballet, as I am a ballet dancer myself, and some tributes to my business major at UAlbany.

When I wake up every morning, I am reminded of what is important to me and what I hope to achieve in the near future because of this small, fun Vision Board. I want the same for all of you. Happy crafting!

QUICK TAKE:

1 PROJECT: Vision Boards

2 COST: \$12

3 TIME: 2 Hours



FATIMA SYED / ASP

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THEATRE REVIEW

'Our Country's Good' Interprets Difficult Material with Skill

By KATY DARA

UAlbany students put on a moving performance for "Our Country's Good."

After the curtain opens, there is a series of whip cracks, followed by agonized screams as the actor Alex Lodge collapses on stage. He cries in anguish as his peers comfort him below decks of a prison ship.

The play, which ran in the Performing Arts Center from Mar. 7-10, centers around a prison colony in Australia in the late 1700s.

The prisoners put on a play of their own for the King's birthday, all while grappling with their innocence and the injustice of the prison system.

UAlbany's Theatre Department implemented a few alterations to the original script that breathed new life into Timberlake Wertenbaker's 1988 play.

The dramatic opening certainly catches the audience's attention and forecasts what is to come. The play is full of dark moments featuring death, agony, executions, and injustice. Humor is injected into it, enough to alleviate the tension and make the audience laugh. The story tackles the concepts of guilt and injustice, and the consequences of both.

The ensemble cast composed of UAlbany students is inarguably talented.

With a variety of accents, mostly English, Irish, and Australian, the UAlbany students were challenged. Some students were even required to play multiple (and incredibly different) characters.

Actors who stood out in this dual-character arena included Shawn Passero, who played antagonistic Major Ross and the compassionate yet meek Ketch Freeman. Another was Maddy Rolon, who performed as the revered leader Captain Phillip and the raunchy prisoner "Shitty Meg."

Most intriguing about this production is that some characters are gender-bent. Captain Phillip, who is male and addressed as "sir," was played by Maddy Rolon. Other uniformed British officers, who historically were all men, were performed by a mix of genders.

A major difficulty with the performance is not the execution or the performers, but the text itself. The language is accurate to the period, but that, combined with strong accents, made the story difficult to follow at times. Although it was written in the 1980s, it certainly does not feel contemporary.



Photo credit: UAlbany Theatre

Why is this play, which takes place in 1788, important now? A theme that is addressed frequently is the inhumane treatment of prisoners. The colony's prisoners are regarded as lesser humans and aren't thought to deserve second chances at living a life.

There is also the element of the "play-within-a-play," which makes the audience self-aware of the concept of theatre. The characters discuss the need for theatre, and how it is an expression of life that allows escapism.

That is still true now, for both performers and audiences.

Overall, "Our Country's Good" is a job well done for the theatre department. This play is not an obvious choice in terms of audience appeal, but is handled well by the performers and production crew.

UAlbany's next theatre production will be "Fresh Acts," a festival of new student-written plays from April 10-13.

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The Mysterious Possible 9th Planet

By CHRISTOPHER PAYNE

There is a new planet orbiting around the outer part of our solar system and scientists are referring to it as "the hypothetical Ninth Planet."

"The potential exists for this new planet," said Kevin Knuth, a physics professor at the University at Albany and a former NASA research scientist. "It [Planet Nine] is potentially real and very exciting."

The Ninth Planet is equal to five masses of Earth, according to researcher and astronomer James Tuttle Keane of Caltech.

"We call these types of planets 'Super Earths,'" said Knuth.

In 2014 scientists Batygin and Brown discovered a large Super Earth shape in the Kuiper Belt, otherwise known as Kuiper Belt Objects (KBO), according to Extreme Tech's Ryan Whitwam.

In 2016, astronomers Konstanin Batygin and Mike Brown predicted this "ghost" planet based on mathematical theories.

"The evidence has been mounting and the scientists are reanalyzing the data," said Knuth. "The simulations results are that a planet exists, altogether making it [this discovery] exciting. A new planet in the solar system is here."

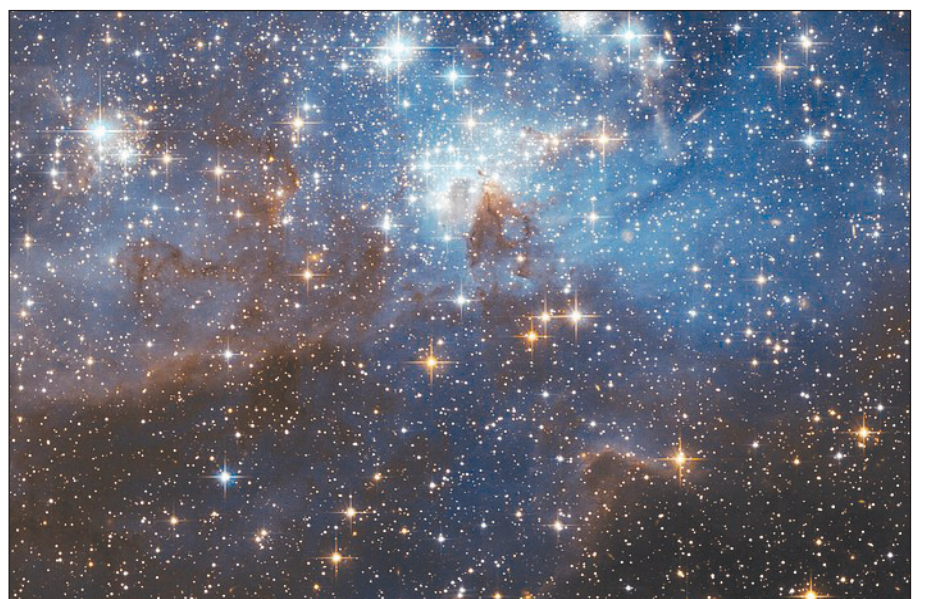
There have been speculations on whether or not there is life on Planet Nine. "I would be surprised if there was life," said Knuth. "It is further away from the sun. It has very cold climates."

Scientists are rushing to find out more about Planet Nine.

"People will look for it and it will be discovered within the next five to ten years," said Knuth.

Fittingly, another name for Planet Nine is Planet X, an appropriate nickname because scientists are hunting for "X marks the spot" like it is a piece of treasure. Because it is. There is a reward for the scientist who discovers this new planet: naming it.

"Most of the planets are named after Roman Gods" said Knuth. "Planet X will not last for long."



Source: Wikimedia Commons

ANOTHER DAY IN THE RECORD BOOKS

UAlbany Track and Field Make Strides at Meet



All Photos by Jay Bendlin / ASP.

Clockwise from top left:
Hannah Reinhardt - School record 3000m (9:21.05)
Placed 2nd at the ECAC championships

Kyle Gronostaj - School record 3000m (8:09.70)
Placed 4th at the IC4A Championships

Matthew JeanPierre - 4th All time 800m (1:50.47)

Joey Somerville - 8th All-time 800m (1:52.01)

NOT PICTURED: Anika Hibbard - Placed 7th in the High Jump (5-08.00) at the ECAC championships

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Bearcat Comeback Earns Danes a Trip to Maine

By **BRIAN MINUTOLO**

No. 4 University at Albany women's basketball earns a trip to the America East Tournament semifinals after a comeback 61-56 win over No. 5 Binghamton Wednesday night.

"I am so happy for them," said UAlbany coach Colleen Mullen. "I think it showed everyone, ourselves, each other, just how far we have come, the improvement we've made and the toughness we showed."

The Great Danes entered tournament play having lost four of their last five regular season games.

UAlbany led 18-10 with eight minutes left in the first quarter before an 8-0 Binghamton run tied the score at 18 before quarter's end. The Bearcats led 31-30 at halftime behind junior Kai Moon's 12 points. They led UAlbany 42-33 midway through the third quarter.

"We all looked at each other and decided that we weren't going to just give up," said UAlbany senior Chyanna Canada. "We came together, we really had each other's back."

The Danes prevailed after a third quarter timeout, cutting the lead to 46-44 early in the fourth. A back-and-forth finish saw the UAlbany gain and hold a lead late, despite poor free-throw shooting.

The charity stripe remains an issue for UAlbany – they shot 64.3 percent while Binghamton shot 100 percent. The Danes went 1-4 after intentional fouls before junior Alexi Schecter made it a



Bill Ziskin / UAlbany Sports

two-possession game with four seconds remaining.

UAlbany's Second Team All-Conference senior Heather Forster fouled out with 1:20 remaining. She ran into foul trouble early, only playing six first half minutes and ending with 14. She

averaged 25.2 minutes during the season.

"My emotions were everywhere," Forster said about fouling out. "But I believed in my team and I knew everything they were capable of."

The Great Danes' leading scorer, sophomore Kyara Frames, was held to 12

points, shooting just 3-11 from beyond the arc. Her first points came at 8:59 of the second quarter.

Schecter led UAlbany with 13 points, nine rebounds and four assists. Danes' junior Khepera Stokes led the game with four steals, adding seven rebounds.

"Defense turns into offense," said Schecter. "Khep with those big steals I think was definitely the turning point of the game. That is the intensity we need to have and it trickled down from the guards to the post."

Binghamton's senior Rebecca Carmody paced all players with 19 points, 13 points and four assists. Moon added 17 points.

"Rebecca Carmody has been unbelievable with what she's brought to this program. I wish I could have her for another year," said Binghamton coach Bethann Shapiro Ord. "She has been invited to a pro combine and I think she will do terrific."

UAlbany improves to 5-0 all-time against the Bearcats in the AE Tournament and 42-25 overall, extending the series winning streak to 17 games.

Reigning AE Champion No. 1 Maine will host UAlbany on Sunday.

The 2018 AE victory ended a UAlbany 2012-2017 tournament winning streak.

The Black Bears defeated the Danes twice this season, most recently 67-61 Feb. 16 at SEFCU Arena.

"They are a really well-balanced team," said coach Mullen. "But we've played them twice very well. We've

MEN'S LACROSSE

UALBANY FALLS SHORT TO NO. 7 MARYLAND



JAY BENDLIN / ASP

By **WILL GAITINGS**

Albany, NY – Another game, another frustrating defeat for the Great Danes.

The University at Albany men's lacrosse team (1-4) dropped its third consecutive contest Saturday against No. 7 Maryland at Casey Stadium, marking its toughest start to a season since 2011-12.

Junior attackman Mitch Laffin scored three goals while junior attackman Jakob Patterson added two for the Danes in defeat. Sophomore attackman Tehoka Nanticoke did not play, per a coach's decision.

Junior goalkeeper Nate Sikierski made nine saves behind a strong defensive effort, but UAlbany never recovered from the 5-0 Maryland run that closed out the first half.

"All in all, our effort was fantastic," UAlbany head coach Scott Marr said. "Even though we gave up 14 goals, I thought we had some great, great stands."

After Patterson tied the game at two with 12:11 remaining in the second quarter, Maryland's offense came alive. The Terrapins scored five unanswered goals, the last coming in the final seconds of the half, to give them a 7-2 advantage at the break.

Later, with UAlbany trailing 8-4 midway through the third, senior midfielders Sean Eccles and Noah Taylor combined for a pair of goals to cut the Danes' deficit in half.

Maryland responded with two scores to open the fourth quarter, extending its lead to 10-6.

With the game threatening to get away, Laffin netted three goals for UAlbany in a four-minute span. His last, coming at the 7:22 mark, brought the Danes within 11-9.

The Terrapins withstood the rally, holding UAlbany scoreless over the last seven minutes of the game and added three goals for good measure to dash the Danes' comeback hopes.

Junior attackman Jared Bernhardt and senior attackman Louis Dubick both scored three goals for Maryland as the Terrapins improved to 6-1. Senior goalkeeper Danny Dolan stopped nine shots.

The Great Danes, who are averaging just 10.2 goals per game this season, remain optimistic they can turn their season around.

"I thought we played with tremendous energy, a lot of passion and a lot of positive energy," Marr said. "We're a young team, and we just have to get better at some of the small things."

UAlbany returns to action Sat. March 13 against UMass Lowell.



JAY BENDLIN / ASP