SA SENATE

Gift Request Rolls Senators for 2nd Straight Week

By CHAD ARNOLD

For the second time in two weeks, Student Association’s legislative agenda was bogged down by a debate surrounding an appropriations bill, paving the way for a rule change in how student groups can spend appropriation dollars in the coming weeks.

Wednesday’s debate centered around a $427 appropriation request from Doctors IV Hope, an on-campus organization that aims to support academic, service, and professional development for pre-medical and health students.

Divided into two lines, it was the second line which sparked debate. This line sought $104 to purchase “thank you” gestures for the event’s guest speakers, once again raising concerns about SA’s appropriation budget and whether money given to student groups should be used to purchase gifts.

“Should we be giving gifts out with appropriation money?” asked Mitchell Ryback, chair of the Board of Finance, who Gift Request Roils Senators for 2nd Straight Week. See DAVIDIAN page 2

STRATEGIC PLAN

Praise, Worry for E-TEC

By JOE HOFFMAN

Students, faculty, and staff are voicing both hopeful anticipation and logistical concerns as the construction of the Emerging Technologies and Entrepreneurship Complex nears its second stage.

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the project’s planned site last February, describing it as the central location for University at Albany’s new College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity and the headquarters of the Mesonet, a new weather analysis service.

Plans have been announced to move both the College of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences and the physics department onto the 12-acre site being built on the Harriman State Office campus to the east of UAlbany.

Need for more space for classes, offices, and research labs has been an issue for years, with acknowledgment of the problem coming from administration in the 2012 Facilities Master Plan.

Qing Lin Li, a third-year physics Ph.D. student, described a cramped environment for students and faculty in the physics building on the podium.

“From my understanding, we don’t have enough space for graduate students,” said Li.

See E-TEC page 2
Havidan

Continued from Page 1

planning committee. “As of today, we have 48 members.”

UAlbany has had strategic planning committees in the past, including one with 15 members formalized by George Philip in 2011.

According to UAlbany’s website, the planning committee will review documents, provide input to planning events, and ensure strategic goals line up with university campaigns and initiatives.

Rodriguez emphasized the varied composition of the committee, which includes 29 faculty members, 29 professional staff, 18 senior staff, and 11 undergraduate and graduate students.

Citing statistics that 16 percent of the current 48 committee members are 60 percent or more of Rodriguez said the makeup of the committee should make everyone feel represented.

In the town hall following the address, Burt Benjamin, former president of UUP at UAlbany, asked Rob-

Rodriguez for his perspective on the increasing trend of having “con-
tingent faculty” to teach a small

number of courses on a temporary

contract.

“The University at Albany has begun to take steps that have put it in the lead among SUNY institutions,” said Benjamin. “But there’s a lot more work that needs to be done, especially on job security, on pathways to permanence, on finding a way of shuffling composition of instructional faculty away from heavy dependence on contingent faculty and towards more permanent, full-time tenure-track positions.”

A 2015 university report which Benjamin referenced found that contingent faculty

made up 56 percent of all lectures and seminars on the campus, and that the minimum pre-course salary of $2,800 had not been met for the past five years.

The report recommended raising the course fee to $3,000 and working to ensure employee benefits for non-tenure-track faculty.

A bus stop will also be installed near the E-TEC building.

“It’ll be a really short route,” said Rodriguez in an email.

GIUSEPPE GREGORI / ASP

CRIME BLOTTER

HARASSMENT 2ND

10/27/17

Collegiate Quad- Clinton Hall

Report of a female student being harassed by a male student.

MEDICAL INCIDENT

10/28/17

Collegiate Quad- Herkimer Hall

Report of a female student with a head injury. Transferred to hospital by 911.

CRIME BLOTTER - 3RD ENCLSD PROP

10/28/17

Podium- Chemistry

Report of a female student being harassed by a male student.

INHERENTLY UNSAFETY OF MARUJUANA

Continued from Page 1

Several graduate students had to give up their second-floor offices when new physics professors moved in.

Burt Benjamin, former president of UUP at UAlbany, asked Rod-

James Steller, provost and vice presi-
dent of Academic Affairs, responded to the question, claiming that administration had raised the average compensation per course somewhere between $800 and $1000 since the release of the report.

“Derek needs to redact the whole article. This is not the first time the university has had strategic planning committees in the past, including one with 15 members formalized by George Philip in 2011. According to UAlbany’s website, the planning committee will review documents, provide input to planning events, and ensure strategic goals line up with university campaigns and initiatives. Rodriguez emphasized the varied composition of the committee, which includes 29 faculty members, 29 professional staff, 18 senior staff, and 11 undergraduate and graduate students. Citing statistics that 16 percent of the current 48 committee members are 60 percent or more of Rodriguez said the makeup of the committee should make everyone feel represented.
EX-SUNYSA CHIEF OF STAFF STARTS NYIHEA

By CHAD ARNOLD

With less than a year until graduation, Rey Muniz left his role as chief of staff for the SUNY Student Assembly for a new project: the New York Institute for Higher Education Advocacy.

“I would love to see this become sustainable and more far-reaching before me,” said Muniz. “I want this to be bigger and better than it will ever be.”

NYIHEA is a month-old nonprofit group established to bring about progressive reforms in higher education within the state. The group, which will officially launch this coming week, currently houses a staff of 15 and has policy advisors throughout the state.

After many conversations with friends over several months, Muniz decided to leave his position as chief of staff for the SUNY Student Assembly. In starting NYIHEA, he believes he would better allow him to make policy improvements and contribute while lobbying for the state’s two million college students.

Muniz, 23, said college institutions are vital economic drivers, with many throughout the state being the largest employers in their respective communities. As a result, Muniz found that state legislatures are inclined to discuss issues important to these communities, which is where he sees NYIHEA fit.

By partnering with individual student governments throughout the state, Muniz aims to advance the legislative needs of the campus community, before streamlining the legislative process by setting up the meetings and drafting policy. Then, according to Muniz, the matter of stepping aside and letting student leaders represent their constituents.

“I have a pretty aggressive travel schedule,” said Muniz who would like to meet with the student governments on every SUNY and CUNY campus by Feb. 1, to establish connections and better understand the legislative needs of these communities.

Muniz hopes to have 15 legislative proposals drafted by the start of the upcoming legislative session, policies he says are likely to include issues pertaining to campus safety and drug overdose, food insecurity, sustainability initiatives, and campus diversity.

Facetiously by government and policy in his entire life, Muniz, who grew up in the Chautauqua County, has been a member of the SUNY SA for nearly five years. He serves as SUNY SA’s director of Legislative Affairs, a role that allowed him to begin to see the impact his work could have on students.

This past spring, Muniz, alongside mental health professionals and members of the state legislature, worked to create the Student Telecounseling Network, a program designed to alleviate pressures on counselor centers throughout the SUNY system. The result: a $300,000 investment from the state to establish a five-campus pilot program to be rolled out in the coming weeks.

“I realized then, without delay, that I needed to focus on doing real things, on making real things happen,” he said.

TITLE IX
Admin: Sexual Assault Measures to Remain

By DESIREE SHEPHERD

Tele-DX changes will not change how University at Albany administration conducts campus sexual assault procedure.

The federal change made by the Department of Education on Sept. 22 offers a “new guidance,” a question and answer form. Higher education can now address administrative policies in conducting a sexual assault investigation.

Chantelle Cleary, assistant vice president for Equity and Compliance and Title IX coordinator, said that the new standard gives universities the choice on how to handle sexual assault cases.

Clery noted that the new guidance does not lead to any distinct changes in the way the University currently conducts administrative investigations.

Paul Burlingame, deputy chief of the University Police Department, agrees. “I don’t see that as terribly different from our old standard,” he said. “Preponderance is not that far off from ‘clear and convincing’ and I don’t see that being an issue.”

In early September, Betsy DeVos, United States Secretary of Education, made a speech at George Mason University in which she made a critique about Title IX under the Obama Administration.

The main topic of discussion was if there has been a one-sided investigation process for individuals accused of sexual violence against another person due to a potential lack of due process.

Burlingame pointed out that the two processes that come about within a reporting of administrative versus criminal.

The criminal standard of UPSD has not changed since the federal change. All procedures are exhausted within ongoing investigations that are reported to the department.

He defines this as a “burden-of-proof” change.

UAlbany already follows those involved in an investigative report due process, an administrative process where victims and those accused are both provided an in-depth investigation. The process gives both parties the right to know the evidence that is against them to make a statement, and to respond to opposing evidence.

Many colleges including The University of Colorado Boulder, California State University, and Bentley University have made statements announcing to maintain current guidelines. With this specific topic going viral, there has been a new stage of awareness on how sexual assault is defined.

Burlingame pointed out that there has been an increase in the amount of sexual assault being reported on campuses this school year. Although, this does not mean that the rate at which sexual assaults are still occurring has changed.

Once a report is sent to UPSD, they either send it to the Cleary or to the District Attorney’s Office.

This role emphasizes the administration has it in handling the resolutions of a case and in why the Title XI changes do not affect UPSD.

GIFTCARDS
Continued from Page 1

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U.S. Should Intervene in Niger to Fight Terrorism, Encourage Democracy

BY NICHOLAS SHERMAN

The death of four United States soldiers in Niger earlier last month has prompted the questions: why does Niger, why are we in Niger, and should we be in Niger? First off, Niger is a landlocked country in Africa. It is bordered by Libya and Algeria in the North, Mali and Burkina Faso to the West, Benin and Nigeria to the South, and Chad to the East. The United States involvement in Niger has two explanations: countering terrorism and helping the French.

The first explanations is as to why we’re in Niger at all: to stop the spread of terrorism. Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001 the United States has become preoccupied with ensuring that radical foreign born terrorism be stomped out to prevent another 9/11. This is an easy answer as the United States has become involved to stop terrorism in many countries in the world besides Niger. Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya are three countries where the United States has intervened in many countries in the world besides Niger. This is an easy answer as the United States has become involved to stop terrorism in many countries in the world besides Niger. Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya are three countries where the United States has intervened in many countries in the world besides Niger.

The second explanation as to why we should be in Niger has to do with France. All of the countries surrounding Niger, with the exception of Libya, were all at one point part of the French colonial territories. In 2012, the neighboring country of Mali erupted into a state of armed conflict. The Tuareg, an ethnic group native to Libya, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali rebelled against the Mali government. The Tuareg did not fight their rebellion alone — they were aided by several outside groups such as Boko Haram and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. Since the Tuareg are Muslim they banded together to fight their common foe: Mali.

By April of 2012 the Tuareg had gained control of Northern Mali and instituted their own national state of Azawad. This, however, was not to last. The Tuareg were then betrayed by their Al-Qaeda comrades who then seized the Tuareg and instituted their own Islamic state with Sharia at its center. The Mali government requested French intervention. The French were joined by several African states to retake Northern Mali. It is here that the United States became involved. To aid France, a United States ally, Barack Obama sent in 150 troops to Niger in 2012. So, should the United States intervene in Niger? The answer is yes. There are those who believe that we are intervening in Niger for oil, and it is a conspiracy that follows United States intervention wherever it goes and is plainly not true. There are those still that claim United States and French intervention in the region is an effort to establish or maintain a sort of colonial empire in Africa, which is another baseless conspiracy.

The United States has the right to protect itself from would-be terror organizations who wish to do it harm, and as a side-benefit, the United States can help a former colonial territory regain its independence, stability, and — most importantly — to create a democratic country. In both of these cases, what could be more just than the creation of a stable, democratic, and terror-free central Africa?
international outbreaks as well. There was an E. coli outbreak around the same time as the Indian Quad outbreak in an elementary school in Wisconsin that left 19 kids sick and four more hospitalized.

Similarly, in 2012, Sodexo faced one of the largest E. coli outbreaks to date in Binghamton University, another SUNY campus. The outbreak left over 11,000 students infected across 500 schools. Thirty-two of those children were hospitalized due to their illness. It would be understandable to switch back to a company that only had one or two small outbreaks like these, as it is understandable in a company that large dealing with that much food. But with its many outbreaks and its outsized share of the market, Sodexo has had its share of bad publicity as well.

When UAlbany first made the switch to Chartwells from Sodexo, it was because of its food quality and working conditions. If this were a second time, if they know how poorly students were hospitalized due to Sodexo, it seems like the university is turning a blind eye to continuing work with Sodexo.

The Agriculture Department of the federal government tried to intervene in 2011 by issuing an arrest warrant for the president in the Catalan government. Rajoy exercised the vital democratic principle of national self-determination, as denoted by the conservative Rajoy Administration and the Spanish courts, Catalonia’s separatist leader, Carles Puigdemont, dissolves the region’s independence from Spain on Oct. 27, following a vote from the Catalan region’s independence from Spain on Oct. 1. Rajoy ignored the possibility of Catalonia leaving Spain. Instead, the Rajoy Administration sacked the Catalan government. Rajoy exercised an executive power and dissolved the region’s government, placing full control of Catalonia back in Madrid. Madrid’s separatist officials have either fled the country or been jailed. Rajoy’s club to Brussels and Spanish high courts have sought an arrest warrant for the president in exile.

It is not only that the Catalan crisis is ongoing or that their union with the Republic of Spain has been simply dominated by Spanish habits, it is also that it has been handled using violence and without trial. Rajoy granted Puigdemont’s expressed desire for a peaceful discussion and, instead, chose to use the region’s autonomy. Only elected officials have been jailed, beaten or driven into hiding by federal police because they sought the will of the large percentage of their population. This is not how democracy works and, as a member of NATO, the United Nations and the European Union, Rajoy’s Spain needs to be held accountable for its egregious abuse of power.

President Donald Trump has come in support of Rajoy and spoke out against the possibility of Catalonia leaving Spain. This came following a meeting between President Trump and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy. Trump has been a vocal supporter of the region’s independence from Spain. Since the Oct. 1, a lot of things have been said on the Catalan Crisis on Twitter. Since the Oct. 1, Donald Trump has come in support of Rajoy and spoke out against the possibility of Catalonia leaving Spain. This came following a meeting between President Trump and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy. Trump has been a vocal supporter of the region’s independence from Spain. Since the Oct. 1, a lot of things have been said on the Catalan Crisis on Twitter.
By KATHRYN DARA

On Friday, Oct. 27, Netflix released the long-awaited second season of its most popular original drama ever, “Stranger Things.” Many doubted that the series’ second installment could live up to its first. Recreating the sense of discovery of the first season is impossible. “Stranger Things 2,” while not perfect, is an excellent continuation of the story.

The show’s first season was released last July and was an immediate hit. It garnered 63 million viewers within the first month of its release. Now, it has become an obsession for millions around the world. The story takes place a year after the events of season one. It addresses the effects reverberating from last season’s events after Will Byers (Noah Schnapp) returned from the alternate dimension, “The Upside Down.” He deals with the trauma he experienced and struggles to adjust to the normal world, all while his mother Joyce (Winona Ryder) lives in fear of losing him again. It becomes evident that “The Upside Down” is not gone forever. Instead, a much larger and more powerful force threatens to seep into the world and destroy it.

Audiences also see Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown) as she tries to find her place in the world after nearly dying at the end of last season. She seeks to discover her origins and tries to figure out what to do with her powers. This season was strong with its energy, plot development, and character growth. However, certain storylines felt rushed or forced this season than the last one. It becomes evident that “The Upside Down” is not gone forever. Instead, a much larger and more powerful force threatens to seep into the world and destroy it.

While the chemistry and shared history was obvious, the writing did much more telling instead of showing. Also, the season featured an episode where Eleven traveled on her own to Chicago to find another experiment like her, who she referred to as her “sister.” What was old was new, and this was the sole focus of that episode instead of featuring the stories of several characters like it usually does. While the episode was important for Eleven’s character, it felt off-brand and somewhat killed the momentum of the season. It will be interesting to see if the ideas of other people with powers like Eleven’s will be explored in future seasons.

For example, while most fans were excited about the return of the Upside Down, “The Upside Down” is not gone forever. Instead, a much larger and more powerful force threatens to seep into the world and destroy it. The episode was important for Eleven’s character, which was made evident in their performances as a whole. Although there were weak points in story development, the season was fantastic as a whole. It was terrifying, dark, mysterious, fun, and heartwarming. One only question remains on fans’ minds: when is season three coming out?

‘Stranger Things 2’ is Darker, Dominates Halloween Weekend

While the chemistry and shared history was obvious, the writing did much more telling instead of showing.

The characters are a collection of popular original drama ever, “Stranger Things.” Many doubted that the series’ second installment could live up to its first. Recreating the sense of discovery of the first season is impossible. “Stranger Things 2,” while not perfect, is an excellent continuation of the story.

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University at Albany ID cards were replaced nearly 4,500 times within the first eight months of this year. Of over 11,000 cards printed within this time, 46 percent were replacements, University Auxiliary Services reported.

It’s unclear how many IDs were replaced over the last two months. UAS doesn’t compile card data until semester’s end. Should numbers mirror data from last fall, over 50 percent of cards printed during September and October will be replacements.

The number of card replacements was highest around the start of the spring and fall semesters: 753 in January and 980 in November. Both levels are common when students return to campus, according to UAS officials.

“The reason that people report for having lost their card and the reasons that people report as to how their card has been damaged are — there’s a million of them,” said Michelle Schliefy, assistant director of Administration for UAS.

Most cards are replaced due to wear and tear or loss. In rare cases, cards have been cut, damaged while used to strip ice, and in a recent case, Schliefy said an ID appeared to have been set ablaze.

“Some students simply don’t care for their card,” said Sharon Webster, director of ID Card Services for UAS. “Whether they keep it in a pocket or they keep it somewhere where they’re sitting on it all the time, there’s always that breakdown of integrity of the card.”

Since the start of the Dane It! temporary card program three years back, the number of replacements has decreased. UAS reported. Over the last eight months, about 70 percent of cardholders with a temporary ID had their cards restored.

Temporary IDs are active for three days. Official ID replacements cost $20.

Sydney Wright, a junior communications student, lost five IDs in two years, totaling $100 in replacements. She often discovered her card missing after riding taxis and buses across Albany.

Wright secures her ID in a wallet, a measure taken after her last card was lost six months ago.

“I never lose my credit cards or anything,” she said.“ It’s because with SUNY cards, you forget it’s there and if it’s not connected to anything [sic].”

UAS stopped referencing the ID as a SUNYCard in effort to maintain consistency with university branding. The name was part of a failed initiative from SUNY Center for Economic Development. From the Capital Region unlikely. The cold climate and lack of an large urban center, he explained, could risk high talent applicants looking elsewhere.

“Although it is the official name, it’s not the commonly referred-to name,” said Mikaela Norms, a junior political science student.

The CEG last month made a $100,000 investment in CEG’s proposal. Byoung Park, a UAlbany assistant professor in econometrics, considers the possibility of a second Amazon headquarters in the Capital Region unlikely. The cold climate and lack of an large urban center, he explained, could risk high talent applicants looking elsewhere.

“It’s much of a longshot,” said Park.

While proposals are processed, some have poked fun at Albany’s pitch. The Onion, a satirical publication, recently published an article titled “Jeff Bezos’ Heart Breaks A Little Reading Albany’s Amazon Headquarters Pitch.”

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It’s much of a longshot,” said Park. Other proposals in the state include a joint Buffalo-Rochester bid, a Western New York bid, and a New York City bid.
DIY CLEANING

Supplies to Clean Your Dorm Room

By KATIE GIBSON

It is better for the earth to make your own cleaning products and keep them in reusable containers. Not only is this practice better for the earth and healthier for you, it’s also fun. I’m here to show you some simple cleaning supplies to tidy up your dorm.

ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER

Find a used squirt bottle and clean it thoroughly. Fill it halfway up with vinegar, then halfway with water. Vinegar naturally dissolves dirt and deodorizes smells. Add five drops of lemon or any essential oil you have lying around. This is more for aesthetic value. If vinegar isn’t your favorite smell you can counteract it with the essential oil. Close the bottle, shake up the mixture, and you’re ready to go. You can use this to remove stains, freshen a room, wipe windows, or clean dishes. For a stronger cleaning power use only white vinegar and essential oil.

BATH CLEANER

In a jar, mix baking soda, water, and essential oil until a paste is created. Spread this paste around your bathtub or sink to remove grime.

BODY WASH

Don’t forget that you have to stay clean as well. For a no-frills body wash, mix coconut oil, raw honey, and liquid castile soap in a jar. This will keep you clean and moisturized.

SHAMPOO

Once again, coconut oil saves the day. Reuse one of your old shampoo bottles for this recipe. Mix coconut oil with castile soap, sea salt, and essential oils. The coconut oil will make your hair soft, the soap will clean it, the sea salt will add volume, and the essential oils will make it smell nice. Shake the mixture and let it sit for 24 hours. Because of the moisturizing coconut oil, some hair types will be able to use this as an all-in-one shampoo and conditioner.

LEISURE

Activities in Albany for Chilly Weather

By KATIE GIBSON

You can have fun in Albany no matter the season. The weather’s getting chilly and it seems like Netflix is the only option, but never fear! You can still spice up your schedule. Whether you’re trying to organize a fun hang out with friends or a cute date, Albany offers a variety of options.

Busses can be a hassle. Sometimes it’s better just to stay on campus. It’s not too cold to have a picnic next to Indian Pond. Indian Pond is underutilized by our community. It’s beautiful, full of wildlife, and quiet. Gather some friends and some snacks and spread out on the grass or picnic tables. Bring a frisbee or some cards and get a tournament going. At night you can curl up with a piece of blankets and a well-charged laptop and watch movies in Collins Circle. Make sure to bundle up in a big sweater and some fuzzy socks!

If you’re looking for fun off campus try the New York State Museum. It’s free and a route 12 bus away. The museum is full of exhibits, but my personal favorite is the carousel on the top floor. You can see all of Albany as you ride around on a plastic horse. The Corning Tower Observation Deck offers another great view. It is the highest building outside of New York City. From the 42nd floor you can see Albany, the Catskills and beyond.

Once winter picks up, Empire Skate Plaza offers a cheap location to try out your ice skating moves. You can rent skates or bring your own. This is a fun activity for couples or friends. While you’re out you can build a snowman and hunt for winter treats. Take a stroll through Washington Park and see all the lights. A cup of hot chocolate and some friendship will warm up your night.

This is the perfect season for spending time with friends — indoors and outdoors. Don’t let the chilly weather stop you from exploring Albany.
**SPORTS**

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**Women’s Season Ends in Defeat Against New Hampshire Wildcats**

**By ROBERT LEPELSTAT**

**ALBANY, N.Y. —** The volleyball team won their 10th America East title and secured the rights to host the 2017 conference tournament for the first time in program history. In the opening round, they defeated the Hartford Hawks in three straight sets (25-16, 25-16, 25-11) at home on Friday, Nov. 17.

The Danes have now won nine matches in a row and 16 out of 17 on the season. They are the regular season America East Conference champs. The regular season title is coming on the heels of the Danes losing their first 12 matches of the season. During that run UAlbany lost a combined 45-33 sets. There was not much confidence in their locker room, but it was a learning experience.

“Pressure was kinda tough because we were playing really high ranked teams that have 6-0 girls hitting 160-160 lines,” said redshirt sophomore Akuabata Okenwa.

The Danes started their season out on the west coast and played schools like Michigan, Colorado and USC. "Preseason was kinda tough because we were playing teams that people and people who hit the ball really hard that we can’t even take a breath," said Engstrom. "Hats off to my assistants and the kids that come to practice and work hard every day."

"It ended up being a little tougher than I thought it was going to be, but I think it made us more mentally tough," said volleyball head coach MJ Engstrom, referring to the Danes’ rocky start.

The ladies know they have to take one game at a time, but this historic season has given the team the confidence they need to go out and make it to nationals.

“I think we’re going to come out and dominate,” said Okenwa. “We’re very close as a team. We know what we have to do and we’re going to come out strong.”

The Danes rolled through the America East, but they will have to work to do if they want a chance of redemption to play those teams they faced early in the season again in nation-

als. “It’s still one game at a time. We have to let it improve upon us and that’s what we’re going to keep on doing,” said Engstrom.

The team will wrap up their regular season conference play this Friday when they make the trip to Long Island to square off against Stony Brook. Then the following week they will host the America East Tournament, which starts on Friday Nov. 17th.

The team has now won nine matches in a row and 10 out of their last 11, securing their historic run in the America East while capturing the title.

"I think in all the years I’ve been here at Albany this is the first time we’ve won a home game in the America East while capturing the title. It was an opponent that the University at Albany has never defeated twice in the regular season, securing them 8-2 in the two victories."

It was that same team that UAlbany had dominated 4-2 on the road just eight days before their semi-final matchup in the 2017 America East Tournament on Saturday.

But when New Hampshire’s Katie Auclair ripped a shot past Great Danes goalkeeper Melissa Nealon with less than one minute remaining in overtime, it was the Wildcats who left Wicklund Ice Field with a 2-1 overtime victory and a trip to the conference championship game.

It was the 216-ranked team in the nation who walked off the field hockey turf on a November afternoon in Lowell, MA in utter disbelief.

Just like that, UAlbany’s pursuit of a 10th America East Title and secured the rights to host the 2017 conference tournament for the first time in program history. In the opening round, they defeated the Hartford Hawks in three straight sets (25-16, 25-16, 25-11) at home on Friday, Nov. 17.

They were really in the mindset to play them, but we ended up coming close with USC,” said Okenwa. "We weren’t really in the mindset yet to play them, but the fact that their out of conference scheduled was so strong prepared the Danes for a historic run in the America East while capturing the title."

"It ended up being a little tougher than I thought it would be, but I think it made us more mentally tough," said volleyball head coach MJ Engstrom, referring to the Danes’ rocky start.

Engstrom is in her 10th season with the team and believes she has a special group of players in her locker room.

“I think that in all the years I’ve been here at Albany this is the first time we’ve won a home game in the America East while capturing the title. It was an opponent that the University at Albany has never defeated twice in the regular season, securing them 8-2 in the two victories."

The Danes will have to hope for an at large berth to keep their season alive. Coming into Saturday’s contest, UAlbany (12-7, 6-2 AE) had won eight of their last nine matches including contests on Sat-

eraldine Sykes said. “With a little over a minute to go we earned a penalty corner and it was all looking good for the possible game winner but we hit the post. It was just one of those minutes into overtime, it was the Wildcats who left Wicklund Ice Field with a 2-1 overtime victory and a trip to the conference championship game.

"I think it showed us that even though teams have big opponents 33-12 over that stretch.

"I think we’re going to come out and dominate," said Okenwa. "We’re very close as a team. We know what we have to do and we’re going to come out strong."
SOCCER

MEN ADVANCE TO SEMIS IN CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

By OMAAR NOUJOUM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017
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The game didn’t start off to well as the Danes forced a 3 and out on the ensuing kickoff, giving the ball away more than taken it from their opponent. However, after capturing the America East crown in 2016, the team has quite a rocky path to repeating as champions. However, after capturing the America East crown in 2016, the team has quite a rocky path to repeating as champions. The next stop on the Danes path is Burlington, where they have a date with top-seeded Vermont in the America East semifinals. The Danes will have a chance to exact a little interconference revenge, as it was Vermont that knocked UAlbany’s Men’s Basketball team out of the 2017 America East Tournament. UAlbany will be looking to do the same to the Catamounts, this time on the soccer pitch. UAlbany and Vermont with kick off their semifinal match at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday night, with the winner advancing to the America East championship game on Sunday.

FOOTBALL

Danes Rack up 5th Loss in a Row

By JOHN C. LONGSTON III

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By JOHN C. LONGSTON III

Stony Brook, N.Y. — The UAlbany football team lost to Stony Brook 28-21 in overtime in the New York State "Empire Clash" on the road in front of a crowd of 7,006 at LaValle Stadium Saturday, relinquishing the Golden Apple to the Seawolves.

The Great Danes’ season has taken a turn for the worse as they have now lost five games in a row since upsetting #6 Villanova back on September 23rd. This year the team has been plagued by inconsistent performance on the offensive line, which has led the Danes to fall from fifth in the Colonial Athletic Association in rushing in 2016 all the way to last in 2017.

Last year the team had four seniors on the offensive line and led the league in rushing behind Elijah Shanks-Ham, averaging just over 177 yards per game. This year the team had all 10 players fall off by more than 100 yards with the team only being able to muster 70 yards on the ground. Saturday’s game was no exception as the Danes only manufactured 83 yards from their running game.

The game didn’t start off to well as Stony Brook dominated the opening kickoff inside the UAlbany 20-yard line, which was recovered by a swarm of Seawolves defenders. That set Stony Brook up in the red zone on the 16-yard line with only seconds off the clock. From there the Seawolves ran a 4:15 3:44 drive capped off by a 6-yard touchdown run by Donald Livingston, giving Stony Brook an early 7-0 lead.

The Danes responded the way that coach Greg Gattuso would have liked them matching down the field and tying the game on a 7-yard pass from Will Brunson to Brad Harris. The drive went 12 plays and took 6:07 off the clock. If the Danes could have maintained that same efficiency for the duration of the game, then this would be a different story. Simply that was not the case.

The Danes forced 3 and off on the ensuing Stony Brook drive, but dutiful themselves in the foot again when Karl Mofor was stripped inside the UAlbany 10-yard line as Stony Brook jumped on the ball at the 9. Stacey Bedell ran in for a 4-yard touchdown and the Danes found themselves in a 14-7 hole.

Mistakes were the difference in the game for a UAlbany team that led the league in turnover margin last year. This year that has not been the story, as they have given up the ball away more than taken it from their opponent.

“We gave them opportunities. It’s self-inflicted,” said UAlbany head coach Greg Gattuso. “We shouldn’t be in the position that we’re in. We need to play better. The discipline, the penalties, the turnovers were really bad.”

In the second half the Danes played a cleaner game and didn’t allow Stony Brook to put points on the board. UAlbany tied the game up on a 3-yard Karl Mofor run with under two minutes to play in the game which put the clash into overtime.

In the extra frame the Danes started to show flashes of offense, as they ended a big play drive with a touchdown or less in four of their last five games. Now it’s back to the drawing board for a program that looked as if it turned the corner way back on September 23rd, but has regressed since. Greg Gattuso and company have two games left in the season where they would like to go out with some pride and end on a high note.

Saturday they travel to Delaware and take on the Blue Hens and before they look to play spoiler when they host #19 New Hampshire at Casey Stadium next week.