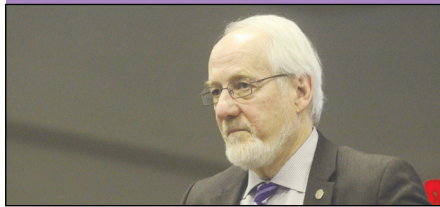


**PROVOST STELLAR TO STEP DOWN PG. 2**



**FIELD HOCKEY HOPES TO DEFEND WINS PG. 9**



**OPINION: RAs are forced to do too much PG. 5**  
**ENTERTAINMENT: NYS Writers Institute to host Sean Penn PG. 7**  
**LIFE: Funky record shop downtown PG. 8**

**DANES' HOME GAME OPENER**



DALIA YAN / ASP

**Testaverde, Danes win 30-27**

The University at Albany football team, led by 238 receiving yards from freshman wideout Dev Holmes, as well as 310 passing yards and a pair of touchdowns passes by quarterback Vincent Testaverde (pictured right with his father, 21-year NFL veteran Vinny Testaverde), came away with a 30-27 victory in their 2018 home opener at Casey Stadium on Saturday night. Testaverde walked on to UAlbany after two years at his dad's alma mater, the University of Miami. The senior, who beat out quarterbacks Will Brunson and Nyc Burns for the starting job in training camp, decided to pay tribute to his dad by wearing the No. 14, the same number Testaverde Sr. wore in college.



THOMAS PALMER / ASP

PHOTO PAGE EXCLUSIVE / PG. 10

**STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

# Low Turnout for SA Election

By NICHOLAS SHERMAN

Less than a third of students cast a ballot in the Student Association's fall election — a sharp decrease from last year's election numbers.

A total of 1,253 students cast a ballot in the span of a two-day election between Sept. 12 and 14 which filled 24 vacant senate seats and a University Council Representative.

That's a newly 32 percent decrease from last year's election.

The fall elections aim to fill the eight off-campus, two first year at-large and two senate vacancies from each of the living areas.

Voter turnout wasn't the only number that was low this year. Freedom Apartments and Liberty Terrace currently have vacant senate seats along with one off-campus position due to lack of interest.

The vacancies will be decided in a spring special election, according to Senate Chair Brandon Holdridge, who noted he would prefer to hold such elections before December.

Dutch and Colonial had the largest decrease in turnout. A total of 54 students voted on Dutch this year compared to 299 last year, an 82 percent decline.

Colonial saw a 63 percent decrease in voter turnout with just 66 students casting a ballot compared to 179 last year.

Holdridge voiced concerns over the lack of turnout on Friday afternoon, but ultimately

See ELECTIONS page 2

**RELIGION**

# Faith Groups Adjust to a Smaller Home

By EMILY AUCOMPAUGH

Students and chaplains welcomed a new Interfaith Center this academic year with mixed reactions, as well as plans for the future.

Over the summer, the IFC moved from its spacious building on the edge of the UAlbany campus to the third floor of the Campus Center (CC343-349). The

smaller space offers a more central location for visiting students. Rev. Sandy Damhof said, "Nobody got lost opening service," said Rev. Damhof who speculates she has seen an increase in students strolling through the new location, though their Center's "no membership" policy makes official numbers hard to track.

The new location lacks a

kitchen, a communal focal point of the former location had building, which makes ordering meals a necessity. Ordering meals has cost the Center triple what it cost to cook, according to Damhof.

"It's closer and easier to find, but we miss our food," said Benitha Muyizere, a sophomore and the vice president of Cornerstone Campus Ministry, one of the religious groups based within the

Interfaith Center.

The "no kitchen" dilemma is not the only criticism of the new IFC.

"It's smaller and darker and tucked out of the way," said Rabbi Nomi Manon, who noted she remains optimistic of the new year to come.

Several students remain in the dark regarding the IFC's new location,

including junior Ayushi Goel.

"I loved the old one," she said. "I didn't know they had a new one."

The Center's official website has not been updated to reflect the new location due to technical difficulties, though Damhof speculates the site will be updated soon as the new location.

Last October, tension between

See INTERFAITH page 3

**BUDGET CUTS**

# Spirit Squad Funds Slashed

By MACKENZIE CARROLL

The University at Albany Spirit Squad's budget has been cut in half for the 2018-2019 season, a decision affecting 40 cheerleaders and dancers, both male and female.

Last year, the Spirit Squad was allotted \$22,000, and all returning cheerleaders and dancers received textbook scholarships. Due to budget cuts within the athletics department, the two teams now

have \$11,000 to be split amongst them, and they no longer receive free textbooks.

Erin Murray, a senior captain on the dance team, will not let the budget affect the love that she has for this sport.

"I have been on the dance team since my freshman year, and it has been a huge part of my college experience," said Murray. "We practice three to four times a week, and we attend every home football and basketball game. I am not in it for the free textbooks. I am on the

See CHEERLEADERS page 2



Source: Bill Ziskin, UAlbany Sports

The Spirit Squad is lit this year had its budget cut by half

UNIVERSITY HALL

# Provost Stellar to Step Down in January



TYLER MCNEIL / ASP

Provost James Stellar will step down from his role in January

By JOE HOFFMAN

The man in charge of academic affairs at the University at Albany will step down from his role in January, a sudden change in leadership announced by the Office of the President Thursday.

The short email announcement that Provost James Stellar would return to being a professor contained no clues as to why the decision was made, or who made it.

The President lauded Stellar for his service to the university in research, administration, and student involvement.

University spokesperson Jordan Carleo-Evangelist remained tight-lipped Friday, saying the university had no statement outside the president's message.

Stellar could not be reached for comment.

President Rodriguez's announcement harkens back to last year; at one time, Stellar could have had Rodriguez's position, with the power, higher salary, and influence that comes with it.

In last year's transition period after President Robert Jones left, Stellar expressed his interest in taking the job.

At the time, Stellar was interim president, a role preventing him from getting the permanent position according to SUNY guidance.

A portion of the campus community, including then-president of Student Association Felix Abreu, rallied around Stellar. They argued that SUNY had granted exceptions to the rule before, creating a petition on Change.org to try to get him considered for the position.

Ultimately, the search committee and SUNY appointed Havidan Rodriguez to the role. This week marked his one-year anniversary as acting president.

Stellar, a doctorate-holder of biological psychology, began moving up the academic ladder at Northeastern University in Boston. After 22 years of serving as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences there, he became provost at a CUNY school, Queens College.

Stellar may continue to be paid several hundred thousand dollars a year as professor, though Carleo-Evangelist said it would be calculated as a percentage of Stellar's final salary as provost.

During his time as interim president in 2017, Stellar made \$421,908.

## ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 1.

attributed the issue to a lack of interest in politics and a dip in the candidate pool.

"I'll do everything in my power to make the turnout and the candidate pool go up," he said of the spring election.

Students who won seats were pleased in their victories, including senior Brian Polanco, a three-time SA senator-elect, who won his bid for University Council Representative. Polanco called the results "surreal," saying that

it would be the last student-election he would be able to win.

Abdoullah Goudiaby, a freshman, won his first senate seat for State Quad. Having participated in his high school student government, SA was an organization he sought to join early on. Though nervous about the election, he won his seat with 144 votes.

SA is responsible for a \$2.7 million budget which is funded by \$110 student activity fee per semester.

The organization has come under fire recently for a perceived lack of transparency and questionable spending practices which includes \$500 spent on Uber rides through the New Orleans French Quarter during Mardi Gras while leadership attended a diversity conference last semester.

This spring, students will have the opportunity to vote on whether to keep the now mandatory student-activity fee.



DALIA YAN / ASP

Brian Polanco won a place on the University Council by 859 votes.

## CHEERLEADERS

Continued from Page 1.

dance team because I love performing on the field with my best friends by my side."

Patty Palmer, coach of the Spirit Squad, said she was confident that this cut wouldn't knock her members of their feet. "The members of the Spirit Squad are willing to go the extra mile and fundraise

as much as they have to in order to go to Nationals in Daytona," said Palmer.

Bridget Reilly, a senior and captain on the cheer team, said the cut disappointed her. The team was hoping to purchase new uniforms for the upcoming seasons. Whether the team can afford to buy new

uniforms or not is still an open question.

Despite the budget cut, several members of the Spirit Squad are very hopeful for the upcoming season. The team has already started to plan their fundraising events in order to help them get to the College Cheer and Dance Nationals in Daytona Beach,

Florida next spring.

"The Spirit Squad has a lot of talent this year, and I truly believe that the new budget will not deter this great group of kids from success," said Palmer.



**TECHNOLOGY**

# Upgrades Made to University Wi-Fi



**NICHOLAS SHERMAN / ASP**

By **NICHOLAS SHERMAN**

Information Technology Services upgraded the University at Albany's Wi-Fi system this summer, part of an effort to enhance connection across campus.

The Wi-Fi on campus was upgraded in several ways, according to Michael Decker, associate director of Network Engineering and Design, including expanding the system to new locations throughout campus.

Decker, who was hired in May 2018 before the project began, called the upgrades a "significant expansion" to the existing infrastructure which replaced older access points - the white, ceiling-mounted antennas found in classrooms.

Access points across campus are either updated or replaced each year, however, this year, codings for the systems were updated as well.

The majority of the work accomplished over the summer for this project was done to enhance Wi-Fi connections in classrooms, such as the above-ground classrooms around the Podium, including the lecture centers, according to Decker, who did not say how much the upgrades cost but noted the project was a "sizeable investment."

Wireless access and coverage weren't the only upgrades made to the Wi-Fi. The system received an upgrade to its security, an enhancement similar to the upgraded email ac-

counts announced in May and rolled out this semester.

"We continue to review and upgrade back-end Wi-Fi infrastructure to ensure availability and security of services," said Decker of the systems security.

Wi-Fi throughout the campus is monitored 24/7, according to Decker who noted ITS pays attention to responsive of the network at the beginning of the semester.

Several employees at the ITS Help Desk received calls from students complaining of the Wi-Fi. Decker, however, said such grievances are "usual for this time of year."

## INTERFAITH

Continued from Page 1.

the IFC and university administration over plans to move the Center from its 1.4 acre location into the Campus Center boiled over.

Under the move, the Center was absorbed into the Student Affairs Division of the Intercultural Student Engagement Unit.

Leaders and students who utilized the center did not go down without a fight, springing a social media movement with the hashtag #SaveTheInterfaithCenter.

Chaplains filed a complaint to the Attorney General after discovering

a 1987 provision between the University at Albany Foundation and John Holt-Harris III, the man who granted the land to the IFC, which stipulated the property only be used for faith related purposes. The Center was moved, despite efforts.

Leaders of the IFC are looking ahead, according to Damhof who said the ministries have plans for more casual events such as offering free juice and bagels on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"No one would have come to the old Interfaith building for a free bagel," said Damhof.



**JOE HOFFMAN / ASP**

Students from Cornerstone Ministry in the new IFC.

## CRIME BLOTTER

### UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIHUANA

9/13/2018  
Freedom Quad - FQ A-Truth Hall  
Report of male student in possession of marihuana.

### Domestic Incident

9/13/2018  
Roadways - Univ Dr West  
Assisted subjects in a domestic dispute. DIR and Title IX were filed.

### OPER MV-REGISTRATION SUSPENDED

9/12/2018  
Roadways - Western Ave  
Report of a male student driving with a suspended registration.

### Assist Other PD

9/12/2018  
Podium - Pod Other  
Assisted NYPD.

### Fire Alarm

9/12/2018  
Colonial Quad - Delancey Hall  
Caused by steam.

### CONCEAL/ALTER/DESTROY PHYS EVI

9/11/2018  
Other - Indian Pond  
Report of a male student and a female student trying to conceal marihuana.

### Welfare Check

9/11/2018  
State Quad - Irving Hall  
Welfare check on a female student. Student found safe.

### Fire Alarm

9/11/2018  
Indian Quad - Tuscarora Hall  
Caused by faulty fire head.

### HARASSMENT 2ND- PHYSICAL CONTACT

9/10/2018  
Colonial Quad - Herkimer Hall  
Report of a male student being harassed.

### Fire Alarm

9/10/2018  
Liberty Terrace - LT North  
Caused by burnt popcorn.

### DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED- 1ST OFFENSE

9/9/2018

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MEDIA COVERAGE

# The Media's Coverage of Celebrity Overdoses is Unfair

By DIVYA PITAMBER

It's no surprise that one of Hollywood's biggest secrets is which celebrity is using which drugs. We as the fans would never know what celebrity is using what if not for the media. For example, there was speculation that rapper G-Eazy was using cocaine, but nothing was proven until he was arrested on May 3, 2018 in Sweden for substance possession and assault.

Unfortunately, another way we learn what celebrity is using, is if they pass away. Notable celebrity overdoses include Marilyn Monroe, Amy Winehouse, Whitney Houston, and most recently, Mac Miller. While the loss of a favorite singer or actor is tragic, the way the media portrays their image before and after their death is interesting and largely unequal, especially when drugs are involved.

This summer, Demi Lovato was

rushed to the hospital following an overdose. Within a few hours of the news, celebrities and fans poured in love and support for the singer, who has been open with her addiction to cocaine and Oxycontin in the past. However, as the days dragged on, many people began to question her character, even disseminating misinformation at times. There were many reports that the drug she overdosed on was heroin as Narcan was used to help revive her at the time of her overdose. Her drug dealer, a man named Brandon Johnson even did an interview with TMZ, stating Lovato knew of the dangers of using "aftermarket drugs." This interview was conducted as the singer was fighting for her life, yet he was not apprehended by police, despite admitting to giving the singer the drugs that caused her overdose. While the news of her overdose has since died down,



PITAMBER

it is interesting to note how the media was more concerned over her overdose and the drugs that caused it than they were for her well being.

Mac Miller sadly passed away early this month and the love and support for his family and friends poured in from all around the world, the same as when Lovato overdosed. However, no one was actively looking for what he overdosed on. The toxicology reports have yet to be revealed. Whereas Lovato was portrayed as falsely using heroin and many reports stressed that she was partying the night before, Miller was being remembered for all the good that he had done throughout his career.

Does an overdose that results in death mean a more compassionate response from the media? If Lovato had passed away from her overdose, would the response had been different?

I'm in no way saying Miller's passing was not tragic, nor am I downplaying his talent as an artist, but what I am saying is that why are we focusing on the negative aspects of Lovato's overdose and the positive aspects of Mac Miller's career, despite them both being accomplished artists, who were open with their drug battles. Does it all have to do with the fact that Miller passed away and Lovato survived? Many people blamed Lovato for being an addict unable to stay sober, yet were so quick to blame Miller's ex girlfriend, Ariana Grande, for breaking up with him and getting engaged, which some fans believe led to his overdose. Many young artists and actors are using drugs in the Hollywood crowd, but an overdose, whether or not it results in death, should not determine how they are portrayed in the media. A death is a tragedy, regardless.

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**Chad Arnold**  
Editor-in-Chief  
theasp.eic@gmail.com  
845-519-4008

**Joe Hoffman**  
Managing Editor  
managing.asp@gmail.com

**Phillip Downes**  
News Editor  
theasp.new@gmail.com

**Rob Lepelstat**  
Sports Editor  
sports.asp@gmail.com

**Open Position**  
Life & Entertainment Editor  
lifeandent.asp@gmail.com

**Matthew Miro**  
Opinions Editor  
opinions.asp@gmail.com

**Dalia Yan**  
Photo Director  
photodirector.asp@gmail.com

**Taylor Hotelling**  
Social Media Manager  
taylorho1@aol.com

**Gina Tan**  
Business Manager  
asp.advertising@gmail.com

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**Contact the ASP for information and publication schedules:**

**Newsroom:**  
Campus Center 326  
**Email:**  
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CLASSROOMS

# Smaller Classrooms More Conducive to Learning

By **RAYMOND E STRAWN III**

Some freshmen and transfer students may have never been in a classroom as large as the lecture centers before. I know when I transferred from a community college, the largest classroom I'd ever been in could probably hold around 100 students. I've had only one class in the lecture center that could hold over 300 students. Because of this discrepancy, there are mixed views among students as to what the best venue for learning is. I prefer the smaller classrooms. It's a better learning compared to being in the lecture center.

During my time at my community college, I sat in the back. With my anxiety and hypervigilance, I felt more comfortable sitting away from the front. That way, no one was behind me and I could see everyone in front of me. In a small classroom, it did not make much of a difference. I could hear the professor clearly and see the notes on the board easily. When I transferred to the University at Albany, it was repeatedly suggested that I sit towards the front of the class. I knew I would feel uncomfortable at first, but when I entered LC 18, I knew I had to sit up close anyway just to hear what is going on. I didn't sit up in the first few rows, but about eight rows back. Of all my classes, the one in LC 18 took me the longest to feel comfortable in.

There were screens on the side of the classroom to help students towards the back to be able to see the notes. A microphone was used to help students towards the back hear. However, there were a couple of times the microphone did not work, and it was a little difficult to hear from where I was sitting. I can't imagine how difficult it must have been for those sitting in the back and some students did complain they could not hear and the professor suggested to the students to move up. The biggest thing I did notice was, those who sat in the back, rarely ever raised their hand or was called upon. That is the biggest take away for me.

I believe to have the best learning experience; a student must take risks and raise his or her hand and answer the professors' questions. I also believe sharing your ideas and thoughts help expose and teach your classmates and having students not able to share because they are sitting so far away, limits the learning experience. Sure, it can be more nerve-racking being in such a large classroom, but over time I got used to it. But in a smaller classroom, most, if not all, of your classmates can speak up and share. In a large lecture center, that is not always the case. Smaller classrooms promote a better learning experience because it provides more opportunities for all students to answer questions and share their thoughts and ideas.



STRAWN

RESLIFE

# Making RAs do Office Work Takes Time Away From Students

By **LIAM SMITH**

It has been several years since Residential Life made changes to the Residential Assistant position. As a student that has only interacted with RAs in the new model, and with the massive increase in new students coming to the University at Albany every year, I thought that it would be salient to talk about how this structure is lacking.

One of the core changes has been expanding the RA role to include more administrative work, segmenting the responsibilities of the single student. For those that don't know this is a newer change, as there was, at one time, multiple types of students that ResLife employed, some to work the Quad office as Student Assistants, and some to live in the dorms as RAs.

This has undoubtedly been a cost-saving method for

ResLife, as there no longer is a need to bring on additional students to do deskwork. From the resident perspective, it has meant that RAs have less time to interact informally and are being asked to perform duties that should be split among several people. Ask pretty much any student if they ever signed off on attending an "event" (one that only existed on paper), just because the RA needed to fill the quota and didn't have the time.

While many of us introverts don't mind an overbearing RA, let's not forget that not having an accessible RA, especially for those in their first year, can be isolating and detrimental. Those hours away from the dorm take away from time that

could be spent with helping new students on the boring stuff, like where their classes are, and how to use the bus system. But it can also help



SMITH

residents adjust to these cold concrete walls. And with more students coming to the

university, RAs will be asked to stretch their resources even thinner to compensate.

It is not like the old model didn't work. The separation of administrative tasks and resident focused RAs is still the standard at many schools, including SUNY Buffalo. Regardless, the decision has been made, and it will take a lot of movement in the opposite direction to get that segmentation back. This could be something like a sudden statewide movement to unionize, which would be hard since RAs are not paid in cash. Nevertheless, the current utilization of ResLife resources leaves a lot to be desired, a quite a bit of room for reevaluation and improvement. In the long run, changing the system could improve much more than just dorm life.

SEXISM

# Serena Williams Was Discriminated Against

By **SHANNON M. PALMO**

As some may know Saturday, September 8, was the women's single finals for the U.S Open in tennis. Here, reigning champ Serena Williams went up against first time grand slam finalist Naomi Osaka. The match was a complete upset, ending with an Osaka win, but that wasn't the story gaining momentum from this match. What has everyone talking is how Williams, attempting her 24th Grand Slam title, was penalized and fined \$17,000 after receiving three penalties from the chair umpire; one for her coach making a gesture in the stands, which is barred in tennis, one for breaking her racket on a point, and the third deducted for her outburst at the chair. Now to most people this seems reasonable, but in reality, it is most certainly sexist.

While Williams was in

the wrong, she was also discriminated against with her penalties. Men in tennis have always shown aggression towards the umpires, not only verbally but violently, breaking their rackets as Williams did. Male tennis players have, for years, used foul language towards the umpires. John McEnroe is notorious for his violence on and off the court, between racket breaking and threats towards the umpires. So why is Williams being penalized while men in her place seemingly get off easy for the same type of actions?

Women today are speaking up more and more in search of equality compared to men. Williams is just one more example of society judging men and women by a different standard. Had Williams been male, the chair umpire probably would have just ignored the comments or

the breaking of a racket and continued the match. I have seen male players do exactly what Williams did when a match didn't go their way, and yet they did not face penalties. Why make an example of Williams and not her male counterparts? Despite losing her temper, she supported Osaka by telling the crowd to stop booing and put her arm around her in support of her fellow opponent.

Williams is right to speak out about this and stand up for her beliefs as a woman. This wasn't just some random outburst on her part, but an outburst on gender bias and equality. So, I raise the question again, why should she be fined for something that men do all the time in tennis or any sport for that matter? I applaud Williams for taking a stand the way she did, not just as a woman, but as an example to

her daughter and daughters everywhere.

What happened at the U.S. Open has once again opened up a dialogue over gender biases and double standards. This goes for all women who seem to find themselves in a position where the men will always have the exception to the rules: always speak up in light of sexism or inequality. Whether or not it works for you, there's hope that maybe the next time the same thing happens it will work out differently.

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ANTHROPOLOGY

# Professors Tackle Complex Topics With Simple, Common Language

By JANE LEONHARDT

Can you explain a hard idea using only the ten hundred most used words? University At Albany's Anthropology Department gives four presentations on not-so-easy to understand topics using only the 1,000 most common words.

The free event was about an hour long and featured four volunteers from the Anthropology Department: Louise Burkhart, Adam Gordon, Cara Ocobock and Amanda Nicole Spriggs. They each used the Up-Goer Five text editor, created by geneticist Theo Sanderson, to rid their talks of jargon and replace them with the most common english language words.

The idea for the event was inspired by the annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. A similar talk was given that struck the interest and funny bones of UAlbany's faculty and graduate students that were in attendance. It was decided that they would host their own Up-Goer Five talk in the Fine Arts building.

The talks given were aimed at students and faculty alike, covering Mesoamerica, why mammals of the same species are different sizes, how much food we need to survive and how hair color is related to primate mating habits.

"This is so hard!" Spriggs whispered to the crowd, interrupting her own presentation. Her presentation was titled "Do small, human-like animals use pretty colors to get other small, human-like animals to have baby making time with them?" The crowd giggled from the first slide to the last.

The concept of Up-Goer Five was created by Randall Munroe, "a man who is known for drawing funny pictures" to explain a complicated rocket concept. Using only the most common 1,000 words in his diagram eliminates complex jargon, making the design easier for the layman to understand.

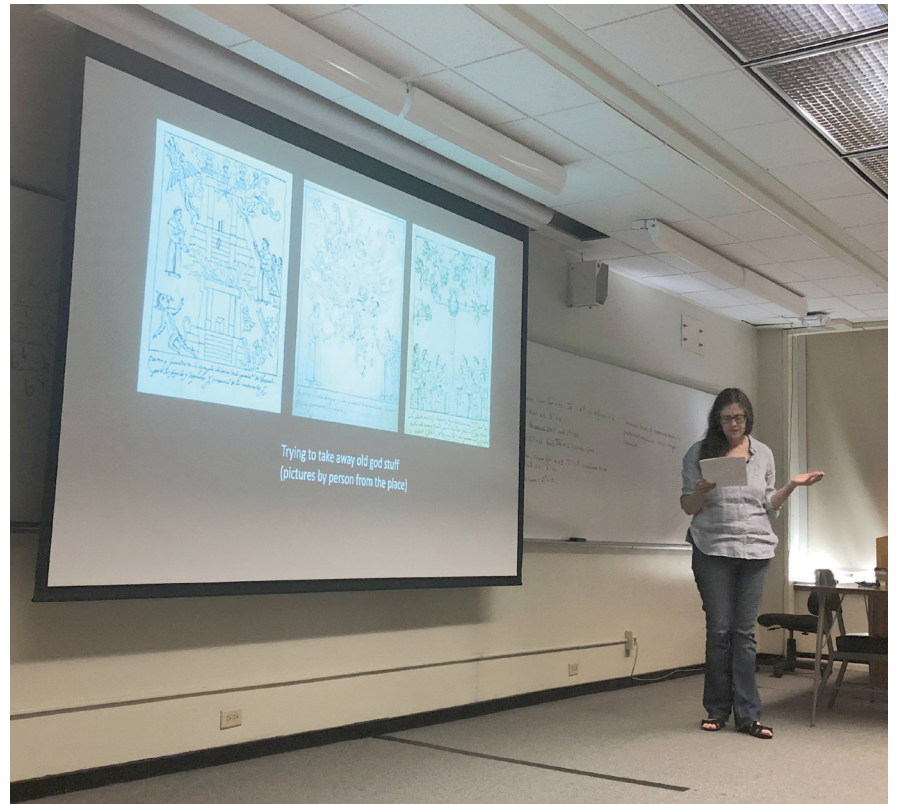
Each presentation had serious subject matter that became oversimplified with the up-goer five challenge.

"I was wondering if you guys noticed that you were actually talking to us like we're kids?" an audience member asks at the end. The speakers unanimously agree that it was hard to make their talks sound serious.

"At Science On Tap [an all ages event hosted at a variety of local bars] if I spoke to people like this, I would be laughed out." Ocobock said.

Another audience member brought up a second pitfall to Up-Goer Five. His concern was that if you don't come to the talk with background knowledge on a topic, the oversimplification could make it harder to understand. Burkhart's talk on Mesoamerica's colonial history often repeated phrases such as "new God stuff" and "the people from the place." "If I didn't know anything about Mesoamerica, would I come away from this knowing anything? I don't think so." The audience member said.

The goal of Up-Goer Five is to challenge both speakers and listeners to turn rocket science into a funny doodle anyone can understand. "I'm definitely using this at the holidays." Spriggs said. "There will be no more confusion as to what I do."



JANE LEONHARDT / ASP

Dr. Louise Burkhart flips through a slide reading, "Trying to take away old god stuff (pictures: by person from the place)"

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## SEAN PENN SET TO VISIT UALBANY



SOURCE: WIKICOMMONS

By **NAIEKA MCTURNER**

Two-time Academy Award winner, Sean Penn is scheduled to visit the University at Albany later this month.

Penn, who will be promoting his novel, "Bob Honey Who Just Do Stuff" is scheduled to appear on Sept. 21 as part of the New York State Writers Institute visiting writers series to talk about the joys and challenges of writing and journalism.

"Sean Penn is willing and eager to talk about the only subject: writing," said Mark Koplik, assistant director of the New York State Writers Institute. "He's very enthusiastic about writing."

Winner of the Academy Award for best actor for his roles in "Mystic River" and "Into the Wild," Penn will speak at a non-public session open to students and faculty only at Page Hall, located on UAlbany's downtown campus.

His novel, "Bob Honey Who Just Do Stuff," centers around Bob Honey, a supposed international assassin who kills elderly people with a mallet. Released in March, the novel elicited negative reviews by most critics but did receive praise from several top authors and entertainment figures, including Sarah Silverman, Bill Maher, and Salman Rushdie, who visited campus earlier this year.

In response to the criticism, Penn took out a full page ad in the New York Times highlighting the more harsh reviews, along with the positive comments.

In an email, Koplik said that the Institute believes Penn's novel is an "interesting, unique and iconoclastic piece of writing" that has a place for discussion on campus, though Koplik acknowledges that Penn has generated controversy over the past few decades of his various careers as an actor,

screenwriter, journalist and author.

Penn has protested wars, drank with dictators and, more recently, criticized the #MeToo movement as "being led by mania."

His journalistic work has also sparked concerns among those in the news media industry due to his background in acting, which some say blue the lines between entertainment and news.

Koplik, who acknowledges the controversies, said he believes Penn has a lot to offer the UAlbany community, in part because the actor is a "big believer in the importance and relevance of literature."

In advance of the talk, the school screened the Oscar-winning film MILK, in which Penn plays Harvey Milk, a Gay Rights pioneer and UAlbany alumnus.

## NYS Writers Institute to Host Book Festival

By **CHRISTOPHER PAYNE**

The New York State Writers Institute at the University at Albany will feature a book festival in the Campus Center, where students and community members can meet authors and get autographs.

The Institute will invite diverse authors ranging from Gregory Maguire to William Kennedy and have panelists based on genre of books.

"We wanted to offer a wide variety of authors that we hope will appeal to people of all ages, from preschoolers to people in their 80's, across a wide variety of genres," said Paul Grondahl, director of the Institute

Community members and UAlbany students are welcome to attend for free and are encouraged to attend with a Dance Party Kickoff.

"One cool thing would be a Dance Party Kickoff at 10 a.m. on Sat. Sept. 29 in the courtyard by the

Science Library led by Radha Agrawal, creator of the DAYBREAKER early morning dance party phenomenon that has created a sensation in New York City," said Grondahl.

There will be many panels held at the Campus Center Ballroom to discuss their stories, including a food panel, a history panel, a mystery panel, and a "New Americans" panel to discuss what it's like living as an American in modern day America.

"We wanted to have a lot of options for what we hope are thousands of book lovers from across the Capital Region who will come to campus on Sept. 29," said Grondahl.

Scribblers Magazine, which is a publication at UAlbany that publishes grade school students' work across the Capital Region, will reward children who create stories to be published in the magazine and a gift certificate to the Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza.

"The competition was announced over the summer and

children in summer school classes and Scribblers readers submitted their work," said Dr. Tammy Ellis-Robinson, who is the executive director of Scribblers Magazine and an education professor at UAlbany.

Many students on campus have not heard of the book festival but have heard of the Writers Institute and its involvement with students on campus.

"I did not know that the Writers Institute had a book festival," said Maria Haji-Georgi, an education and psychology graduate student at UAlbany. "I went to a film screening called 'Backpack Full of Cash', which was a documentary about charter schools."

Some students are excited to relax with a good book and get signatures from authors that are coming to the festival.

"I did not know about the book festival coming in September, but I think it's a cool event," said Ella Costa, a journalism undergraduate student at UAlbany. "I might even check it out myself because I love reading."

## Aly Raisman to Headline Fall Speaker Series

By **ROBERT LEPELSTAT**

Five time Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman, who captained the United States to victory in both the 2012 and 2016 Olympic games, headlines the New York State Writers Institute Speaker Series at the University at Albany for the Fall 2018 semester.

Raisman, who has also been a strong advocate against the abuse of former USA gymnastics coach Larry Nassar, will be at SEFCU Arena on Dec. 3 to talk about her life experiences and her new book "Fierce: How Competing for Myself Changed Everything," an inspiring story of dedication, perseverance and having a positive outlook even in the toughest times.

A New York Times bestseller, Raisman's Fierce was also named an Entertainment Weekly Best Young Adult Book of 2017.

"Aly Raisman is fierce in every sense of the word," social rights activist and 12x Grand

Slam Singles champion Billie Jean King said. "Her story is one of persistence, hardship, triumph and leadership and Fierce is both inspiring and illuminating."

A native of Needham, Massachusetts, Raisman's love for gymnastics can be traced back to a "mommy & me" gymnastics class she took as an 18-month-old. Raisman is a leader on and off the floor, and a fierce advocate for body positivity.

On Oct. 10, the NYWI will also feature rapper, activist and writer Mona Haydar as well as Olympic fencer/memoirist Ibtihaj Muhammad -- the first hijab-wearing Muslim United States Olympian -- for a program titled "Muslim Women in 21st Century America."

The special event will take place at Recital Hall in the Performing Arts Center on the Uptown Campus.



SOURCE: WIKICOMMONS

Five-time Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman will be at SEFCU Arena on Dec. 3

MUSIC

# A Trip to Vestige Records: The Classic Record Store Experience

By HENRY BURKERT

Being in business for over 29 years, Last Vestige Records has a lot more than just vinyl. With everything from movies to posters to clothes to spoken word poetry, this isn't your dad's record store – though he'd probably like it too.

Located near Alumni Quad on Quail St., Last Vestige has an incredibly relaxed atmosphere and offers something for everyone, from the casual listener to the dedicated vinyl head.

Their vinyl selection alone is stunning, featuring a vast array of all genres like classic rock, country, soul, metal, hip-hop, movie scores, and comedy albums just to name a few. A rather noteworthy section of the store is the punk collection that ranges from early 70s all the way up to present day, featuring many of the bands keeping the scene alive in Albany today.

Last Vestige offers another hidden gem in their basement floor.

Tucked away in the Spoken Word section lies vinyl recordings of authors and poets reciting their work and giving interviews. T.S. Eliot and playwright, Henry Miller are just a couple names among the dozens that are there. A must see for fans of literature or poetry.

Not sure how good the vinyl you're about to buy might sound? The upper floor has you covered with a listening station where you can crank those records to your heart's content.

Vestige also sells turntables and stereos so you can blast all those vintage vinyl's you just bought. In addition, there's a niche collection of CDs and cassette tapes to fulfill all your hipster needs.

Music isn't the only thing that Last Vestige spins.

Their DVD collection is sure to impress any movie buff and satisfy music lovers to. Last Vestige offers a large selection of music documentaries and motion pictures about bands such as The Beatles, Black Sabbath, and Nirvana to name a few. Whether you're looking for a sci-fi thriller or a boxset of your favorite sitcom, Vestige has you covered.

Missed out on the poster sale and still looking to cover those dorm walls? Last Vestige Records is the place for you, offering a variety of music posters that are sure to speak to your rock-and-roll side.

Stepping into Last Vestige Records is like taking a step back in time and getting a taste of that genuine record store experience of the not so distant past. Once



HENRY BURKERT / ASP

The 29-year-old record store is nestled on Quail Street downtown.

there don't be surprised if you lose track of time searching through their incredible collection. No matter what kind of music you listen to, with three floors stacked to the ceiling with records and a whole lot more, Last Vestige Records will blow you away and have you coming back again and again.

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HENRY BURKERT / ASP



HENRY BURKERT / ASP

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Come out to News Nights and meet writers on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in Campus Center 326



## FIELD HOCKEY

# Field Hockey Hope to Defend Their Winning Legacy



Source: UAlbany Communications and Marketing

By GABE FLATEN

It can be argued that Field Hockey at the University at Albany is the most under-appreciated sport on campus. The team that plays on vibrant Alumni Field, tucked away behind Fallon Field has not had a losing season since 2006, and has clinched five NCAA tournament berths in the last nine years alone. This season's team expects to add another America East Championship to their gaudy resume in 2018.

There's a lot to be excited about for this year's team, which is returning their top four leading scorers from a year ago. Their "core four" includes forward Katie MacCallum, midfielders Ghislaine Beerkens, Dana Bozek, and

defender Frederike Helmke, all players to watch this season.

Last year's leading point-getter for the Great Danes was MacCallum, a forward from Edinburgh Scotland, and former member of Scotland's U-18 national team. In her freshman campaign, the 5-foot-7-inch MacCallum started all 19 games on the attack and led the Great Danes with 29 points. Her season was good enough to award her NFCHA All-Northeast Region second team, and AE all-rookie team. Expect her to be the catalyst of the attack again in 2018.

Scotland is not the farthest country that athletes will come from to play quality Division One field hockey. In fact,

sophomore midfielder Ghislaine Beerkens, who is currently leading UAlbany in scoring through five games, hails from the Netherlands. Beerkens was the Danes' clutch player a season ago, leading the team with five game winning goals, and tied for first with 12 goals. Beerkens is already building upon her stellar freshman season, leading the team thus far in 2018 with 7 points, and shooting the ball at an efficient 27 percent clip.

Another player to watch at the midfield is Dana Bozek, a junior from Lakeland High School, Westchester County. A season ago, Bozek was a facilitator for the Danes' offense, tied for first with seven assists and tallying eight goals as well. Through five games

in 2018, Bozek is off to a hot start, tied for second in scoring with Frederike Helmke, a senior defender/midfielder from Berlin, Germany.

Helmke, who was a second team all-American last year as a junior, has started every game since her freshman year and has stifled opposing teams attack units. At 5 feet 8 inches, she is not only a strong defender, but she plays a big role on the penalty corner unit, taking every single penalty stroke for the Danes a year ago.

As for the netminder, UAlbany is returning a good one. Their talented goalkeeper Melissa Nealon, is a capital region native and redshirt junior from Shenendehowa High School. A season ago, Nealon was named NFCHA

All-Northeast region first team while leading the AE in goals against average. Her career-high of 13 saves came against last year's defending champions, the University of Delaware, a game UAlbany won 3-2 in OT. In 2018, Nealon has allowed just three goals, with two shutouts to boot.

The Great Danes will be back at home this Sunday, Sept. 23, where they will be rematching Delaware. This is a nationally-acclaimed field hockey matchup and a must-watch game for any UAlbany fan who wants to get properly introduced to the sport.

## SOCCER

# Men's Soccer Aims for Three-peat

By ROBERT LEPELSTAT

After capturing back-to-back America East conference championships in 2016 and 2017, the University at Albany's men's soccer team is far from satisfied.

They have unfinished business. The goal is clear - a three-peat.

Last year, UAlbany set a Division I program record with 14 victories, surpassing the 13 they won to tie the original record the year before.

After knocking off Maryland in penalty kicks in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, the Danes ultimately fell 2-0 to Western Michigan in the second round.

The Danes say goodbye to five seniors including one key mainstay over the past four seasons as they push towards a third straight title in 2018, forward Afonso Pinheiro.

The Sao Paulo, Brazil native graduated in December 2017 as the program's all-time leading scorer and was later drafted by DC United in the 2018 MLS SuperDraft.

This year's squad, which currently sits at 3-4 on the season, features a strong core of returning star seniors from that team including forward Nico Solabarrieta, goalkeeper Danny Vitiello, and

midfielder Carlos Clark.

With a road victory on Sept. 9 versus Brown, Vitiello became the winningest goalkeeper in program history with his 26th win in net for the Danes.

After leading the team in scoring last season, Solabarrieta scored in the 60th minute of their match vs Quinnipiac on Sept. 15, moving him into sole possession of second place in program history with 53 career points.

Clark is currently tied with Solabarrieta for the most goals with three goals and second in points with six this season. He was fourth on the team in both goals and points last season.

UAlbany fell 2-1 to Quinnipiac in overtime on Sept. 15. The Danes, playing in their third overtime game of the season, surrendered the game winning goal in the 100th minute. It was the second goal UAlbany has given up in the 98th minute or later this season.

They played in just three overtime games all of last season, including the America East and NCAA Tournament, going 2-0-1 in those matches.

"We're disappointed to lose a game we fought so hard in," head coach Trevor Gorman said. "We

feel like we let it get away from us. We had plenty of chances and created the looks we wanted, but we can't dwell on today and instead have to run all our attention to Stony Brook on Friday night."

The Danes start conference play with a home matchup versus Stony Brook Friday Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. under the lights at Casey Stadium, their first home match in 18 days.

UAlbany has now lost three of their last four coming into this conference battle.

After the matchup versus the Seawolves, UAlbany is back on the road for their next four matches.

With the seedings for the America East tournament based on in-conference record only, the Danes should be able to use some of the early season heartbreaks to prepare

them for the stretch ahead.

UAlbany was 4-2-1 in conference play last season before securing the four-seed in the AE tournament. After knocking off UMBC and top-seeded Vermont in the first two rounds, freshman midfielder Andreas Assiotis ended the Riverhawks' season with the game-winning goal in double overtime.



Source: UAlbany Athletics

UAlbany redshirt sophomore linebacker Levi Metheny brings down Morgan State WR Deontaye White. Metheny finished with 4.5 total tackles in the game, bringing his team leading total to 27 on the season.



THOMAS PALMER / ASP



Morgan State junior wide receiver Manasseh Bailey, right, hauls in his second of two touchdowns during the Bears 30-27 loss to UAlbany Saturday night at Casey Stadium. Bailey finished with two receptions, 109 yards and the pair of scores on the day.

THOMAS PALMER / ASP

# Danes duel to the finish

## Dev Holmes delivers in the clutch as UA wins, 30-27



DALIA YAN / ASP

Vincent Testaverde, above, playing in his first home start as the quarterback for the Great Danes, finished 15/43 for 310 passing yards, two touchdowns and four interceptions including the game-winning 88 yard strike to Dev Holmes with 6:54 remaining in the fourth quarter.

THOMAS PALMER / ASP

Elijah Ibitokun-Hanks, right, stiff arms Morgan State linebacker Rico Kennedy during Saturday night's thriller at Casey Stadium. The 2016 FCS All-american and CAA's leading rusher, who missed all but one game last season, had 62 rushing yards in the win.



THOMAS PALMER / ASP



THOMAS PALMER / ASP

Redshirt junior defensive lineman Dean Grogg, above (98), celebrates after teammate Eli Mencer's forced fumble to seal the win.



THOMAS PALMER / ASP

Monica Bottari, above, alumni class of 2017, celebrates a Great Danes touchdown during the UAlbany-Morgan State game.



DALIA YAN / ASP

Freshman wide receiver and Troy, NY native Dev Holmes celebrates in the end zone after scoring the game winning 88 yard TD in Saturday's 30-27 win.