

THE CATALYST

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“IGNITING THE MIND”

OldWestburyCatalyst.org

The Year of the Dragon on Campus



Credit: Joanna Vissichelli

By Bethany Watson

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Community Group at SUNY Old Westbury hosted a Lunar New Year Celebration in the Campus Center Atrium on February 21. There were many festivities like face painting, lantern crafts, photo booths, traditional dances, and holiday treats to help students, faculty, and staff discover the Lunar New Year traditions and culture.

The two week Lunar New Year is celebrated by Asian cultures all around the



Credit: Joanna Vissichelli

world. It is a chance for families and friends to connect through food, fireworks, festivities, and parades.

The Year of the Dragon began on February 10, 2024 and concludes on January 28, 2025. The dragon symbolizes power, nobility, success, luck, and honor. The color red symbolizes good fortune and joy. (Cont. on page 3.)

**SPORTS
PAGES
10-12**

The Shuttle Bus at SUNY Old Westbury



Credit: Andrea Gordon

By Andrea Gordon and Luisa Garcia

Some students are having problems with the OW campus shuttle bus service. The buses are not consistently on time which can make students late for classes. A Catalyst reporter had difficulty getting home on Tuesday and Thursday nights for three weeks because there was no service after 7:30 p.m.

Students who attend late classes must find a way to go home. Some are forced to walk back to the train station because they can't afford to pay for an Uber or they don't have a person to pick them up. Others must wait longer until someone can take them home.

This semester, Old Westbury changed the schedule of class periods for the first time in nine years. A Catalyst reporter who rides the bus regularly noticed that in the mornings, the bus has delays of 5 to 15 minutes.

Marcus Ennette is a Media and Communications student who uses the morning and evening shuttle buses to get to school and back home. He has noticed some improvement. "The service has improved a lot from when I first came to school. Sometimes, it was fifteen minutes late or the schedule was wrong," he said. His concern is that the Transloc application he uses to track arrival and departure times is not very accurate which causes problems.

Another Media and Communications major, Ethan Ford, said he's heard

of students missing classes because the bus never showed up. He has also had negative experiences. "One day, me and my friend were trying to go home, and I guess the guy showed up earlier than he was supposed to and didn't come on time. We waited out there for an hour." Ford continued, "I know a lot of times it happens that the bus was supposed to leave in a couple of minutes, and it would just leave early and wouldn't wait for the time it's supposed to wait for."

One of the shuttle bus drivers told the Catalyst that, "when we get off to go to the mall, it should not be an issue, but they [SUNY Old Westbury] don't want us to stop there during the day, and it's a concern for the students." The driver explained that students end up being late. "The last schedule was good," he said, "but the new one, we're hitting a lot of lights, so he [the director] should rethink the schedules."

Why is the new course schedule and shuttle bus schedule making it difficult for students to arrive and leave on time? The Catalyst attempted to contact the Transportation Office by phone, leaving messages for a week without a response.

Michael Kinane, the Vice President of Communications & University Relations at SUNY Old Westbury, responded to the Catalyst's questions about the shuttle bus. He explained that the Facilities Director, John (Cont. on page 3.)

Student Activity Fee: Gone or Golden



Credit: Joanna Vissichelli and Derell Smith

Students getting food at Fried Chicken Wednesday, paid for by Student Activity Fee.

By Derell Smith and Joanna Vissichelli

On March 26 and 27, the Student Government Association (SGA) will hold their annual elections. Part-time and full-time students will have the chance to vote on the fate of the Student Activity Fee during this year's election.

The Student Activity Fee is a mandatory fee for all students at SUNY Old Westbury. The funds are allocated by the SGA toward student activities. This includes clubs, organizations, the Center for Student Leadership and Involvement (CSLI), and the Campus Activities Board (CAB), among other OW entities that promote student engagement on campus.

"We give donations to the Panther Pantry," SGA President, Amira Crystal T. Richardson, explained. "We give out free bus cards for people to be able to have transportation in an equitable way."

Fried Chicken Wednesday, CAB parties, club events and meetings that have giveaways or food are funded through the Student Activity Fee. The fee also funds scholarships through the Old Westbury College Foundation and student success initiatives related to LSAT and MCAT test preparation, according to Richardson.

Students will be able to vote if they want this fee to continue to be mandatory on March 26 & 27. (Cont. on page 3.)

**LUNAR NEW
YEAR PHOTOS
PAGE 7**

Dr. Julius Garvey Visits SUNY Old Westbury

By Kayla Kidd

Dr. Julius Garvey delivered a keynote address, “Look for Me in the Whirlwind: Reparations, Restorative Justice & the Continuing Legacy of Marcus Garvey” in front of a packed house in the New Academic



Credit: MFC

Dr. Julius Garvey spoke about a “Better World” at SUNY Old Westbury.

Building on February 6. This first big event of Black History month at Old Westbury was sponsored by the Black Studies Center.

Following in the footsteps of his famous father Marcus Garvey, Dr. Julius

Garvey, is an activist who speaks out against injustice for people of color. He is also an “acclaimed Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeon and Professor of Surgery.”

Dr. Julius Garvey’s speech “A Better World,” touched on topics that not only affect people of color, but all people. He spoke about the abuse of people and resources, war and weapons technology, corporate globalization, and the mental health crisis.

Dr. Garvey’s message was that all people must come together to fix the problems of the world. There must be accountability to promote change and knowledge to fix change systematically.

He argued that we must address the problems holding us back in order to move forward. Dr. Garvey ended his speech by saying, “Repairing us as a people, will repair the world.”

After his address, Dr. Garvey was asked, “How do we get financial literacy and wealth back into our communities?” He responded with, “it is up to us” and that “we cannot expect anyone to help us.” Garvey said that “it is the responsibility of the organizations in our community,” and that “it should begin at home, these things should be taught around the dinner table.” He concluded that, “if we unify and understand, whatever advance we make is not the advancement of an individual, it is the advancement of our community.”

Another questioner asked Dr. Garvey about the “hopes” for reparations for Black people or at least some “acknowledgment” from the government. Reparations are “alive and well,” said Garvey, responding that “the reparations agenda is getting stronger and stronger.” He added that, “we are talking reparations internationally, there is progress.”

Dr. Garvey prefers the term “restorative justice” to “reparations.” He asked, “what dollar amount can we put on the treatment of our ancestors, who were enslaved?” Garvey cautioned that “it’s

more than money, it has to be a systematic change, so that Black communities and lives can thrive.” For Garvey, “reparations are meaningless, without financial literacy.”

After the seminar, I had the opportunity to ask Dr. Garvey, “What can our generation do to improve our ideals and mindsets, to positively further our community?”

Dr. Garvey responded that it’s “about being educated, it’s about the content.” “Sound bites” are not enough. “To influence the system, you must be able to deconstruct the system, understand the system, and critically think in order to pull it apart to implement change.”

The director of the Black Studies Center, Dr. Jermaine Archer stated that it is an honor that Dr. Garvey came to SUNY Old Westbury to speak to the students. “I’m so happy with the turnout,” said Archer. “The goal of the seminar was to get students to think critically and have an opportunity to engage with someone with the family legacy that he has and get them inspired by that.”

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Student Activity Fee: Gone or Golden

By Derrell Smith and Joanna Vissichelli

SUNY compliance policies require that this proposition be on the ballot every two years. The question is designed to make sure the fee continues to represent student interests. Richardson said that, “it is really just making sure and seeing if the students align with having the Student Activity Fee as a mandatory fee, like the transportation [fee] or the technology fee or the student health fee.”

If the student body votes to keep the fee mandatory, it’ll remain in place. If the student body doesn’t vote to keep the fee mandatory, it turns into an optional fee.

An optional fee means each student will decide if they’d like to pay the fee. Full-time students who choose not to pay would have their tuition bill reduced by \$87.50 per semester (with the current fees in place). Part-time students would have a deduction of \$51.00 per semester.

If students chose not to pay the fee, SGA would receive less funding to allocate to on campus activities and resour-

way to make it a real, active campus.”

Beranna Beckett, an e-board member of OW Rainbow, finds the fee vital for the functioning of her club. She said the fee allows the promotion of her club and collaboration with other clubs. Beckett said a fee increase would help



Credit: Joanna Vissichelli and Derrell Smith

Fried Chicken Wednesday Event.

students “personalize their experience on campus.”

Other students are less passionate about increasing this mandatory fee. “I think that either it should be something that you choose to pay, or they [should] probably lower it to like fifty dollars or something,” said sophomore Public Health student, Ayo Adeniran. He explained that while it’s good to have funding for clubs, he doesn’t want to pay too much. When asked his opinion on the fee increase, Adeniran stated, “I don’t think so... no... no... I think it’s just too much money.”

Angel Fermaints, a sophomore History student, said, “theoretically [the fee] could just be optional, but I mean, I don’t mind necessarily paying for it if it’s gonna bring a lot of interesting events and interesting activities to do.” Fermaints would rather not pay more for student activities.

The last increase in the Student Activity Fee was in the 2014-2015 academic year when it rose from \$145 to \$175. The fee increased only \$55 over the 21 year period from 2001 to 2022. During this same period, the technology fee increased \$276, the athletic fee increased \$148, and the student health fee increased \$100. The college fee increased from \$25 to \$50. There was no transportation fee until the 2010-2011 academic year. Since then, it increased from \$100 to \$120.

Richardson explained that the Student Activity Fee at OW is one of the lowest in the SUNY system. The only fee lower than OW’s Student Activities Fee in the SUNY system is Empire State University with \$70. The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry is the only SUNY school with the same fee cost as OW, according to campus records. All other SUNY



Credit: Joanna Vissichelli and Derrell Smith

Fried Chicken Wednesday Event.

es for students. When it comes to voting about the proposal, Richardson said, “it’s just being really intentional about what your student experience looks like.”

There will also be a question on the ballot about whether the student body wants to increase the Student Activity Fee. SGA’s goal is to increase the fee to \$100. This is an increase of \$12.50 per semester for full time students. Richardson explained that if the student body supports a fee increase, SGA would plan to use the funds for “better artists, livelier weekends, and amazing fulfilling events for clubs because [they] would funnel that back to clubs.”

How do students feel about the Student Activity Fee?

On one hand, some find the fee to be an important asset to creating a fun campus environment. Freshman student, Jahjah Mason, believes the fee is important for campus engagement. He said, “it should be obvious that that should be a mandatory fee because the school, they should want to have kids engaging with each other.” He continued, “it’s the only

Cont. from page 1

The Shuttle Bus at SUNY Old Westbury

By Andrea Gordon and Luisa Garcia

Fabbricante, has been gathering information from students and learning about their experiences with the goal of creating an improved plan for the bus schedule.

Kinane said, “We are trying to resolve the issue with the resources we have because the last thing we want is to increase transportation fees.” According to the college website, full-time students pay a transportation fee of \$60 every semester. Part-time students pay \$30.

The administration is aware that the

new course schedule is creating problems for the shuttle bus which can prevent students from being on time. The facilities director, John Fabbricante, and his team are trying their best to find a solution with the resources they have in hand to make sure that the shuttle buses can be on time morning, evening, and night. When the Catalyst checked on March 1, the shuttle bus schedule read: “Shuttle bus schedule for Spring 2024 is BEING REVISED” in big red letters at the top of the webpage.

Cont. from page 1

The Year of the Dragon on Campus

By Bethany Watson

Jian Fang, an academic advisor at the Academic Planning Center at SUNY OW, started the AAPI Community group last year to amplify the voices of the college’s Asian population. The success of AAPI events last year created a demand for bigger and more public events. “We came up with this idea and wanted to provide an opportunity for our students and faculty to get a chance to know the culture and traditions of Lunar New Year,” Fang explained.

Daniel Yu, a Chinese calligraphy artist at the event, spoke about the evolu-



Credit: Joanna Vissichelli

tion of the artform from ink and brush to keyboards and screens. “Not too many people now would know how to use the brush and the ink on the rice paper, but

it has a long tradition going back to, I would say, around maybe 3000 years.” In China there are calligraphy clubs for lovers of the art form. Yu said that calligraphy can be turned into money in China where his art is quite marketable. Very young children should try calligraphy. “First and foremost you got to like it, but school teaches it,” he said.



Credit: Joanna Vissichelli

Daniel Yu celebrated the New Year with brush and ink.

schools have higher Student Activity Fees.

During this year’s election, students will also be able to vote for who they want to represent them in all SGA positions, including but not limited to, the President, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and Director of Programming. All SGA positions are voted on annually.

The ballot will be available on Panther Connect under the “elections” tab. There will be tables around campus on the days of the election where students

can vote online with the help of SGA representatives at the tables, according to Destiny Perez, the SGA Director of Communications.

On March 26, there will be a table in the New Academic Building. On March 27, there will be a table in the Campus Center. This vote will determine the upcoming future of campus activities for our school.

REVIEW

Are We Saying “Yes” or “No” to Apple Vision Pro?

By James Panagakos

Apple released the brand new ‘Vision Pro’ on Friday, February 2. The headset experience combines virtual reality and augmented reality into something that Apple calls “spatial computing.” Even with a hefty price tag of \$3,500, Apple has reportedly already sold about 200,000 units. Will OW students say yes or no to the Vision Pro? I decided to catch up with a few students from SUNY Old Westbury to hear what they think about this new device.



Credit: James Panagakos

“I have heard of the new Apple ‘Vision Pro,’ and have purchased it myself! My opinions on it are very positive! I think it is a revolutionary device that is definitely ahead of its time. From its design and technological aspects, I believe that Apple knocked it out of the park. Despite its hefty price, I do also believe that it met the expectations. It feels like tomorrow’s technology today. I don’t believe it’s made for the average consumer, but I do believe that it’s perfect for people who love jumping into new technology. For the cons, I would say the biggest one is the battery pack that attaches to the headset. It only supplies 2.5 hours worth of battery, which is a bit disappointing. I’ve also heard that it does have an overheating problem, which I have experienced a bit myself. But overall, I’m excited to see how much technology will evolve before Apple releases the next generation of the ‘Vision Pro.’” - **Tim Coventry, Junior at SUNY OW**



Credit: James Panagakos

“I have heard of Apple’s new device. I’ve noticed that it’s a new, innovative form of the VR experience. From my years of playing video games, VR has solely been for gaming. But, now I’m seeing more of a visual entertainment aspect, which is interesting to see. The price tag is personally out of my budget, but I do believe that the price does match its capabilities. I also do see the entertainment possibilities as a positive aspect of the device, but its visible safety issues are where I see the negatives. Accidents can always happen, and the device seems to only be hindering your eyesight.” - **Lorenzo Santos, Junior at SUNY OW**



Credit: James Panagakos

“I have heard of the ‘Vision Pro,’ and I think this new technology has incredible potential, but it can also be a bit scary when people are using it in public places. And while the price for it is very high, I’m personally not too familiar with the many other VR headset prices in comparison. I do know that one of its competitors, the ‘Oculus Rift,’ is only a fraction of that price, and still has many similar features. It is also really cool that the device makes multitasking easier for its users, but I feel like using it very often will cause a loss in the focus of our actual reality.” - **Jacob Penalvery, Freshman at SUNY OW**

A New Era for EOP with Joseph Weinstein



Credit: Philip Mauro

By Keyshea Mackey

SUNY Old Westbury has announced Joseph Weinstein as the new Director of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP).

Weinstein previously served as the Director of the St. Thomas Aquinas Student Support Services Program (TRIO) at Molloy University. He earned his Master of Science in Criminal Justice at Molloy and his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from SUNY New Paltz. Dean Dorothy Escribano shared Weinstein’s accomplishments at Molloy in an email to the campus community, stating that he “implemented campus-wide first-generation student support programming, developed curriculum and seminars for the First Year Success course, and designed a peer mentor program.” He also “led the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) for five years.”

The new Director of EOP begins his day with a cup of coffee and jumps right into his workload. He balances his administrative tasks with providing support to his team so that they can assist the students efficiently. This ensures that he is “giving the right support” and that both he and his team are “accessing the needs of the students” throughout the workday.

Weinstein empathizes with the challenges that some students encounter because he is still a student himself, pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership for Diverse Learning Communities. He hopes “to make sure the program is the best that it can be,” ensuring that students receive all the support and opportunities available at Old Westbury.

The Director’s fondness for the students at OW is apparent. When asked about his favorite aspect of the university, he responded promptly with a smile: “The students.” He stressed the significance of comprehending the students’ needs and prioritizing their mental well-being.

Weinstein values family relationships. He is a loving father to his one-year-old son, a devoted husband, and a caring brother to his three sisters. Weinstein believes that the way he treats his family is important. He described himself as a kind person, “the word ‘kind’ has ‘kin’ in its root word.” This reminds him to treat others with the same care and respect that he would show to his own family. He wishes to incorporate this value more into the EOP program.

As a leader, Weinstein aims to be a driving force that motivates and inspires students “to be the best version of themselves.” His goal is to unlock the untapped potential in students that others might overlook. He said: “You’re going to have those moments where you just feel like, ‘I can’t do it’ or you want to give up, and you have to push through that stuff. You have to remember why you’re doing it in the first place.”

AI: Awesome or Abysmal?

By James Panagakos

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology has revolutionized the way we live our lives, transforming our industries, and reshaping our whole education system. AI technology is creating new forms of learning for students and educators. AI technology generates text, video, art, and even music with just a click. AI bots can even generate jokes: “Why did the AI go to therapy? Because it had too many unresolved issues with its algorithms!” Because AI is everywhere, I decided to ask SUNY Old Westbury students their opinions about AI and how it will impact our future.

Question: Do you use AI technology? What are your opinions on Artificial Intelligence, and how do you see it impacting our relationship with technology and learning in the future?



Credit: James Panagakos

“ I use AI technology when I need help with something. For example, I use it when I need to find something innovative for my TikTok editing. Through ‘CapCut,’ I use its AI software in order to help me with voice overs and other editing techniques. I think it’s useful that AI technology is able to produce any sort of helpful information in a matter of seconds, rather than having to figure it out for yourself in multiple minutes. I noticed that in India, they have their first automated AI human that covers news on their news stations. It was hard to identify if that was a human or AI in general! When it comes to our education system, I see AI taking the place of our professors’ roles by teaching a class for them. Like if they can’t come in for the day, AI technology can step in and teach the material instead. That way, professors can be at ease knowing that a class is still getting an interactive learning experience, even if they can’t do it themselves”

- Faizan Zahid, Senior at SUNY OW



Credit: James Panagakos

“ I do use AI technology! With a professor’s permission, I use chatbots to bounce my ideas off of in order to talk at something, without having to necessarily take their advice. I use it to get my ideas out, plan out how I get through assignments, and gather my own thoughts. Besides this, I definitely do probably use AI technology more than I even realize.

I feel like the technology shouldn’t be feared the way it is, and should really be used to benefit the working class, instead of big companies using it to phase out physical human employees. I also disagree with using AI to cheat in school, but using it to benefit our knowledge is harmless. I feel like a lot of people need to realize this. Especially our education system. Because once they do, everyone would be able to embrace and utilize AI technology positively, without breaking any institutional guidelines”

- Jedidiah Zervos, Freshman at SUNY OW



Credit: James Panagakos

“I don’t use AI Technology for any personal reasons, but I have looked into it out of curiosity. It is a huge convenience for people in the tech field, or even the writing field. You can give an AI a prompt, and in return it gives you a whole story. It’s very impressive.

While I realize that AI technology has done a lot for humans, it has also brought a few negatives. Through the use of ‘Deep Faking,’ AI is able to edit anyone doing anything, even if it’s incriminating. Then when someone else comes across it, they don’t think twice about it being fake. That’s a very big negative.

When it comes to education itself, it can be a very big convenience for others. And in the future I see it taking over our old school methods of obtaining information. If we can use AI technology alongside our standard methods of education, rather than for nefarious reasons, I see it becoming more of a positive thing for us all”

-Jalaal McCoy, Senior at SUNY OW



Credit: James Panagakos

“I use AI Technology when I use my ‘Smart Home’ in order to set timers, alarms, or even just play music. I don’t use things like ‘Chatgpt,’ but I am aware that the ‘Smart Home’ does utilize AI Technology in order to do its job.

I think it’s a promising technology because it’s able to help people solve things faster, and is constantly making our devices more smart and efficient. But now we have been quite dependent on it. Is that a good thing? I don’t know. But it’s important, and it’s big. I also do think that AI can be helpful for people in their education, but it is easily abused. If teachers could somehow use AI technology in a classroom setting, but in a productive way, I could see our relationships with AI usage being more positive. And the more we make AI technology more snappy and responsive, the more our education will become more snappy and responsive. The more we evolve this technology, the more we evolve as well.”

-Ethan Ford, Sophomore at SUNY OW

Need It Or Keep It?: Telfar Bags

By Griskarly Sena

College students at SUNY Old Westbury tend to be influenced by fashion and new trends in social media. Students have diverse styles, but there are repetitive fashion trends that are followed. One fashion piece that has become popular around campus are Telfar purses.

Telfar was founded in 2005 by Telfar Clemens and is known for being a unisex line. The basic price for a medium Telfar bag is around \$202. Many students around campus have noticed that even though the Telfar bag is known to be a bit pricey,



Credit: Griskarly Sena

OW Students with Telfar bags.

it is also a great price for luxury.

Markea Beazer is a senior at SUNY Old Westbury. She mentioned that she owns three small Telfar bags. Each of the small Telfar bags costs about \$150. “I like these bags because it adds on to the African American fashion culture. It can be expensive, but it is a luxury brand after all,” Beazer said. She seeks this brand out because it shows the power and support that African

Americans can give to Black-owned businesses.

Sydney Royal, a third-year market-

ing student, also loves the Telfar brand line. “It is a Black owned brand; it is a good price and convenient bag,” Royal said. “They come in a variety of styles and colors without changing the look of the bag.” She spent about \$350 on two bags.

Telfar also makes limited releases that gain lots of attention. Students on campus want these popular limited edition bags. One student mentioned they bought the bag because it was trendy even though they do not get the hype for Telfar.



Credit: Griskarly Sena

OW Students with Telfar bags.

The Telfar bags make a fashion statement at SUNY Old Westbury. Some students are carrying Telfar bags to show their support for the brand. They believe that Telfar is fashionable.

Social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, and Pinterest help influence the fashion of college students. One student believes that Pinterest is their way to find new styles. Fashion can transcend gender, everyone can wear what they want and express their own styles without feeling judged.

Visual Arts Student Exhibition at the Amelie A. Wallace Gallery

By Vincent Arroyo

The Amelie A. Wallace Gallery is hosting a massive collection of works by Visual Arts students until March 13. The works featured in this exhibition were created in Visual Arts courses, including Sculpture, Painting, Drawing, Creative Coding, Animation, Digital Imaging, Graphic Design, and Visual Culture.

The very first thing that catches your eye—When you walk into the gallery is the spinning diorama in the center of the room. This is the final project for Professor Eric Hagan’s Sculpture I class from the Fall 2023 semester: a group project culminating in a flat replica of a desktop globe.

On one side is a map of Earth with the western hemisphere on fire and full of trash, while the eastern hemisphere is full of flowers. On the other side, a bisection of the brain; one half pink with music, literature, and flowers. The other half is gray with cigarettes, pills, heart-break, and wine. According to the artists’ statement, the piece is a “kinetic” project that focuses “on positive developments and exploring the parallels between self and global improvements.”

Some of the artists at the opening reception on February 20 were familiar faces from past exhibitions. It’s interesting to see them try their hand at different things, or in some cases, see another example of something they’ve shown off before. Last December, Nicolas D’Amato exhibited an animation on zombie veganism. This year his work is a half-parody/half-summary of the 1978 film *Halloween*. According to D’Amato, this animation was made before last year’s zombie vegan film and “before [he] had a full grasp on the software.”

Students from the Creative Coding course taught by Professor Hagan contributed some of the most exciting works. These artists created a

game in a web browser for their final projects. While some did not work, the ones that did work were memorable. Graphic designer Semrah Husaini created a short, but memorable game where you simply open a door and run from a ghost. Nicholas Imhof built a brick-breaker game, an enduring classic that practically everyone has played some form of in their life. These remind me of the old flash-based games I played as a kid; they were simple, but it’s easy to sink hours into these addictive games.

The students of Professor TJ Proechel’s Intro to Creative Thinking course inflated a huge sculpture which takes up a majority of the space on the main floor. The sculpture is the last stage in a semester-long project on the way size impacts form. The hum of the large fan which inflates the creation is heard throughout the gallery.

Downstairs, Professor Elizabeth Atzberger’s Intro to Creative Thinking class constructed a Blind Contour Tiling project. Students layered images from different points of view. Andy M.’s piece looked like a macabre living room, featuring staticky figures writhing in checkered space.

Many of the works on display are impressive because they are collaborative. While many of them lack, say, a certain bite or edge, they’re entirely communal projects, which is worth a lot more

to me.

Professor Lizzie DeVita’s Digital Imaging course created this twee field mouse-man that I loved. These collaborative digital image projects did not give individual credits which means that the artists will remain anonymous.

But besides that, this exhibit was a much larger and more diverse, selection of SUNY Old Westbury’s unique art department.



Earth Side of Diorama by Sculpture Students

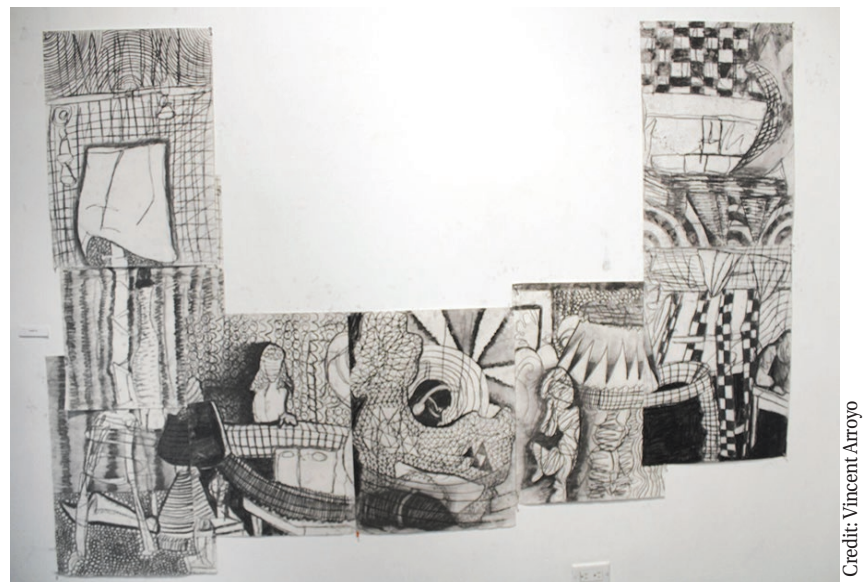
Credit: Vincent Arroyo



Credit: Vincent Arroyo



Credit: Vincent Arroyo



Andy M.’s Blind Contour Tiling

Credit: Vincent Arroyo



Credit: Vincent Arroyo

Inflatable sculpture by Intro to Creative Thinking students



Credit: Vincent Arroyo

First stage of Sculpture by Intro to Creative Thinking Students

Lunar New Year 2024 Photo Gallery

Credit: Luisa Garcia



Dancers pose after performing a dance.



Painting of the dragon, the animal of the year 2024.



Chinese lantern crafts originated during the Han dynasty.



Daniel Yu is writing some traditional Chinese calligraphy.



Zoe Li with Chinese opera face paint.



Traditional Chinese calligraphy.



Daniel Yu, the president of the Association of Chinese Calligraphy in America, Inc.



Shelly Huang using a traditional Chinese dress from 500 years ago.



The decoupage table.



Table full of Chinese traditional treats.



Chong Ming Li holding a dragon letter from his wooden art collection.



The tree of life with red envelopes that symbolize good luck and fortune.



Chinese classic dancers performing at the Campus Center Atrium.

The Evolution of Women's Rights

By Keyshea Mackey

Women have long been regarded as the foundation of families but the traditional idea that women should stay at home while men work is no longer relevant.

During the early 19th century, women were denied many rights that they enjoy today. Women were not allowed to vote, own property, or have any legal rights to their children, which were solely controlled by the father.

Women began to be recognized as individuals and not just perceived as their husband's property in the mid-19th century. In 1848, the New York State Married Women's Property Act was passed, which gave women the right to own property, have custody of their children, and access and keep their wages. This law marked a significant turning point in the fight for women's rights and paved the way for further progress in

gender equality.

Many individuals still believe that a woman's main responsibility is to be a homemaker. This outdated view suggests that women should focus on taking care of their children, cooking and cleaning while men should provide for their families and expect to be catered to by women.

Nilah Washington is a 26-year-old Certified Nursing Assistant from the Bronx, NY. She refuses to conform to traditional gender roles. She desires to start a family and pursue her dreams, but society tends to unjustly view independent and assertive women like her as masculine. Conversely, "men are often of the view that taking care of the household is a job for women only," Washington said, while men should be engaged in "manly" activities.

The media often portray women in

stereotypical roles which is what most people expect. However, women have different expectations. Until recently women were not given the same opportunities as men. Today, more women are working in non-traditional roles, breaking down the barriers that have existed for centuries.

We must acknowledge the important contributions of women. Margaret Knight invented flat-bottomed paper bags and Josephine Cochrane invented the dishwasher. Marie Van Brittan Brown invented the first home security system, which has helped many people feel safe in their homes. It's worth noting that gender doesn't determine a person's ability to innovate.

Women with rights are influential. Women are more than just caretakers of



Credit: RF Studio/Pexels / João Bido

their families. The fight for women's rights and equality has seen significant progress, but there is still a long way to go in the struggle against gender stereotypes.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Birth of House Music



Credit: dazedigital.com

By Kayla Joseph

The story of house music begins on the night "the death of disco" was declared in Chicago's Comiskey Park on July 12, 1979. That event became known as "Disco Demolition Day." "Disco Demolition Day" was orchestrated by a local radio host named Steve Dahl.

Banners marked with "DISCO SUCKS" lined the stadium and over 20,000 disco records were destroyed during a baseball game between the Chicago White Sox and the Detroit Tigers. Some people said it was a promotional gimmick, but with the use of the word "sucks" (an intentional homophobic slur), it was clear that there were social prejudices at play.

After the "death of disco" was declared in 1979, LGBTQ+, Black, and Latino communities created their own new genres. In New York, hip hop was on the rise, but in a West Loop building in Chicago house music was born at the "The Warehouse." The Warehouse's three-story loft served as a members-only gay club from 1977 to 1982. The club's owner, Robert Williams, purchased the building in 1975, he added a high-tech sound system and modeled the club after

the iconic dance floors of New York's 8 Studio 54.

Williams hired Frankie Knuckles, an openly gay Black man, who served as the club's official resident DJ. During his time working at the Warehouse, Knuckles created house music. To keep club attendees dancing, he blended 1970s disco with gospel, funk and electronic music.

The Warehouse became a safe haven for Black, Latino, and LGBTQ+ people and the new genre quickly became a symbol for equality and power, but most notably, queer liberation.

The highly stylized freestyle dance, "Vogue," was born from house music in the queer Black and Latino queer communities of Harlem, New York. Voguing was performed during drag competitions known as "vogue" battles (formerly known as ballroom or elaborate pageants).

In this underground queer culture, competitors would "walk" or vogue, dance, lip-sync and model in different categories to house music. Eventually, DJs and producers began to make their own music, "Vogue beats," which were and still are heavily influenced by house and electronic music.

House music's roots are Black and Latino, in the 1990s, but according to the

MOVIE REVIEW

The Color Purple

By Daniel Jefferson

The Color Purple, directed by Blitz Bazawule, is a musical adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. The film does a great job at capturing the tone of Walker's powerful novel, delivering a pretty good cinematic experience.

Set in the American South, during the first half of the twentieth century, the film follows the life of Celie, a poor African American woman who endures years of abuse and hardship. From the beginning of the film Bazawule's direction draws viewers into Celie's world, immersing them in the harsh realities of racism, sexism, and domestic violence.

Fantasia Barrino's performance as Celie is amazing. She brings depth to the character and portrays her journey from a submissive young woman to a strong and empowered individual. Through Celie's eyes, viewers witness the injustices and struggles faced by African American women during this period in American

history.

The supporting cast is equally good, with standout performances from Danielle Brooks as Sofia, Celie's outspoken and defiant friend. Brooks was nominated for an Academy Award for her role. The great Taraji P. Henson plays Shug Avery, the blues singer who inspires Celie. Their chemistry on screen is undeniable, adding depth to the relationships at the heart of the story.

Bazawule's masterful direction allows the emotional parts of the story to shine. He captures the novel's themes of resilience, sisterhood, and love. He dramatizes both the good and the bad of Celie's journey. From the landscapes of the rural South to the intimate moments of emotion, Bazawule's direction delivers a feeling in every frame.

Visually stunning and emotionally gripping, *The Color Purple* is a great movie that I can recommend to anyone. It lingered in my mind long after it ended.



Credit: IMDb.com

Guardian, as electronic music grew in popularity and became adopted by international audiences, white people started to take ownership of the genre.

Black and Latino influence was quietly erased, as white communities began to shut down nightlife venues with the help of law enforcement. They claimed that these spaces were unruly and riddled with crime.

As the genre became more popular in white communities, artists like Daft Punk and Pete Tong began to pop up and garner success from it. Eventually, the genre became associated with white people, today white music fans identify with the genre even more so than Black ones.

However, post quarantine, Black

artists took back ownership of the genre. In 2022, rapper Drake released his album *Honestly, Nevermind* which was heavily influenced by it. Fans and critics alike felt iffy of the album, but a few days later, Beyoncé teased her song "Break My Soul."

"Break My Soul" featured the distinctive bassline of the house classic "Show Me Love" by Robin S. Prepped by Drake's album, fans took a big liking to Beyoncé's song, on August 8, Billboard reported that the song hit number one on the Billboard Hot 100.

House music is a vibrant genre for everyone to listen to and draw inspiration from, but it must not be forgotten that the roots of the genre are Black.

CONCERT REVIEW

Pantera “For Legacy” Tour with Lamb of God

By James Panagakos

The crowd was blown away by the intensity of Pantera’s performance at Madison Square Garden on February 22. Lamb of God and Child Bite opened the show. Pantera’s “For Legacy Tour” was more than just a concert experience. It was a celebration of the enduring legacy of Pantera and a beautiful memorial for the members they lost along the way.

Energy and heavy music moved the crowd, from the moment Lamb of God

took the stage, to the moment they left. Fun tracks like “Laid to Rest” and “Redneck” began an unforgettable night of mayhem, setting the stage for Pantera.

When Pantera stepped on stage, the energy doubled. The band unleashed their signature heavy sound. The set was packed with decades worth of hit music. Stand out classics like “Strength Beyond Strength,” “Walk,” and “Cowboys from Hell,” had the general admission section

looking like an absolute warzone. On top of that, their face-melting guitar solos showcased the band’s unparalleled talent.

Pantera has suffered tragic losses. Guitarist Dimebag Darrell was murdered onstage in 2004, and drummer Vinnie Paul passed away in 2018.

Pantera’s performance was a beautiful memorial honoring these lost bandmates. Guitarist Zakk Wylde and drummer Charlie Benante were perfect replacements, delivering an unforgettable performance.

The concert was more than just a display of metal talent. It was a mesmerizing experience, uniting all their fans under one roof with their love for Pantera. Although the absence of Dimebag Darrell and Vinnie Paul was painful for many fans, their spirit lived on in every riff and beat the band produced that night, reminding us why Pantera remains a legend in the metal scene.



Pantera live at Madison Square Garden on February 22nd, 2024

Credit: James Panagakos



Pantera live at Madison Square Garden on February 22nd, 2024

Credit: James Panagakos

Bob Marley: One Love

By Alexia Croll

After its much-anticipated release on February 14, 2024, “Bob Marley: One Love” has captured the attention of both avid Bob Marley fans and moviegoers alike. The movie is directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green and produced by Bob Marley’s son Ziggy Marley. The screenplay was written by Terence Winter and Frank E. Flowers.

“Bob Marley: One Love” features Kingsley Ben-Adir as Bob Marley and Lashana Lynch as Rita Marley, his wife. The film has sparked discussions, reflections, and even critique of the reggae icon’s portrayal. Watching this movie made me ponder Bob Marley’s life and legacy.

The movie opens with a young

tragic death. The film frequently flashes back to a scene of a young Bob, running from a raging inferno while being trailed by a man on a horse, a symbol of his resilience and revelations.

Rastafarianism is one of the major themes of Bob Marley’s life. When I saw the movie the day after it opened, the theater was a sea of fans wearing red, gold, and green attire; the sense of pride in the room was inescapable. The three colors are a symbol of Rastafarianism, a faith-based movement that began in Jamaica in the 1930’s.

During the movie, many fans were humming along to the lyrics of classics such as “Three Little Birds” and the film’s namesake “One Love.” These songs were crucial to Marley’s mission: music with a message. Messages that propounded the ideals of resistance and redemption. Lyrics that spoke of the struggle and leading with humility against all odds.

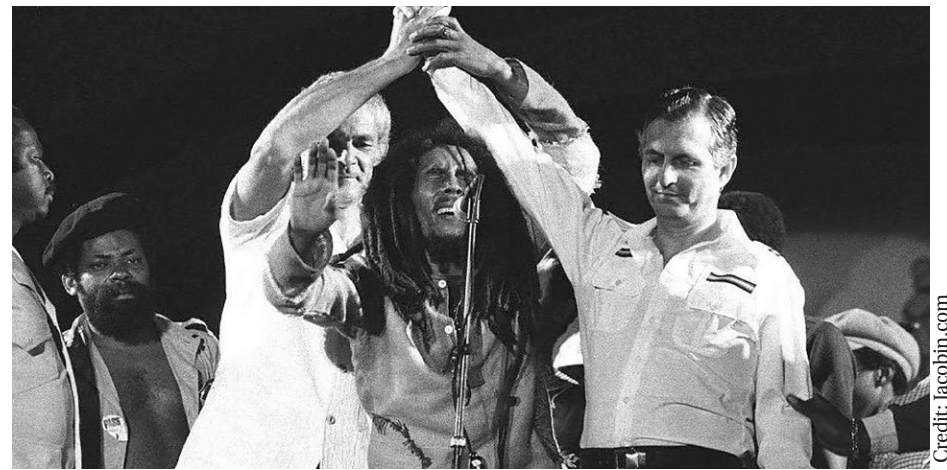
In Bob Marley: One Love, the themes of overcoming

adversity, political unrest, and having faith, all come together in a rich depiction of Marley’s adult life in 1970s Jamaica. But the film leaves the audience to

piece together the puzzles of his early life.

The 1976 attempted assassination of Bob and Rita Marley profoundly affected Bob Marley and The Wailers. The story follows Marley as he flees to London, navigating his teetering relationship. It

alongside his co-star Lashana Lynch, nailing his mannerisms and laid-back demeanor. The musical sequences were arguably the highlight of the film, showcasing the raw ability of the band’s ability to create art outside of the norm, which was where he drew inspiration for one of



Michael Manley, Bob Marley & Edward Seaga, One Love Peace Concert, 1978.

Credit: jacobin.com



You can't separate the music and the message.

Credit: Screenshot from Paramount Trailer.

Marley receiving a Bible from an elder before catching the next bus with his mother, foreshadowing the complexity of his journey from childhood until his

climaxes

back in Kingston with the 1978 One Love Peace Concert which according to Jacobin.com made history when Marley brought together political rivals Michael Manley and Edward Seaga.

The film focused primarily on Bob the musician rather than Bob the individual. In my opinion, the film reduced the story of his life to a few pivotal moments, instead of capturing his life from beginning to end.

Ben-Adir does his best to capture the musicality of the reggae singer,

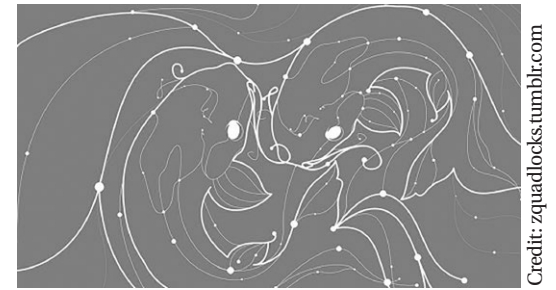
the most important albums of the 20th century, *Exodus*.

Marley used his platform to champion equality and peace, becoming a symbol against oppression and colonialism. I would personally rate the film a 5.5/10. I enjoyed watching the film during Black History Month. However, the overall experience trumped the quality of the production, which ultimately led to the question, “who was this film made for?”

Your March 2024 Horoscope

By Caitlin Duffy

About the Author: Caitlin Duffy is a New York based astrologer who brings over a decade of study to your horoscope. She has studied numerous charts, celestial movements, and has worked as an astrology expert. After a thorough analysis of current luminaries, she writes an entertainment column where the star is you.



Aries: At the beginning of the month, your themes are more about the hidden side of life. You will probably have moments that make you question your intentions. Get acquainted with your subconscious, as hidden wells of creativity and healing are just waiting for your attention. Explore your own psychology in the quiet moments between breaths. The more you contemplate the not-so-obvious, the more prepared you will be for the middle of the month when the sun shifts into your sign in your first house of self. Then is the time to share your initial inner findings about self with a trusted friend, therapist, or journal.

Taurus: You might feel a fire in your belly at the beginning of this month when Uranus, the rebel, is in your first house and makes a harsh aspect to Mars, the warrior. With a lot of activation in your eleventh house of community, you might see this conflict with friends, but the new moon here will alleviate some of the tension. Whether you're seeking a new community because it's time to move on or there is a new beginning that was birthed from the ashes of conflict, the key here is perspective. Take a beat as your peace is well worth it.

Gemini: This month asks you to put yourself out there. Transits in dreamy Pisces in your tenth house of reputation ask you to develop your vision of what type of legacy you would like to be known for. When glamorous Venus enters the scene, you will have the social grace to charm your way into any network you want to establish. When the sun shifts into Aries at the end of the month into your eleventh house of community, the theme of 'the-company-you-keep' will continue. What do you imagine others saying about you before you walk into a room?

Cancer: You will be stimulated at the beginning of the month to expand your knowledge. An intellectual project will begin to form around the new moon in your ninth house of higher education. This house also represents travel, so challenge yourself to mentally explore uncharted terrain. When the moon reaches the turning point of its cycle on the lunar eclipse, the end of the month will bring a culmination of a domestic matter that might be brought on by a chapter change in the realm of career.

Leo: Now is a time to think rationally about your relationships. Uranus, the rebel, and Mars, the warrior, aspect each other in a harsh way. With these energies, a more personal dispute with a partner might be broadcast. An alternative could be tension with an employer. Any conflict you find yourself in requires you to think it through and weigh it out. Is the satisfaction of rebellion at the hand of impulse worth the casualties?

Virgo: With the sun, a new moon, and the planet of connection in your 7th house of partnership, this month you will be asked to dare to ask for more. When Venus is in mystical Pisces, it is considered the astrological term "exalted." This means the characteristics of a planet work very well in the flavor of the zodiac sign. Now is a blessed time for you to seek connections that support your authentic self. When your vibration is true, you can attract people that you're genuinely compatible with or swim a little deeper in your relationships.

Libra: As the sun shifts from Pisces into Aries, your seventh house of partnerships will be lit up. As Mercury, the planet of communication, joins the sun, you will be taking charge of your relationships by developing more thoughtful conversations. Any tension may be flattened as Mercury might offer mental clarity to navigate through your possible problems constructively. At the end of the month, a full moon lunar eclipse in your sign offers a chance to balance your relations even more.

Scorpio: When Mars, the warrior, makes a harsh aspect to Uranus, the rebel, in your axis of family and partnership, tensions are raised in your interpersonal relationships. Changes in your partnerships create disruptions in your domestic matters. Avoid wearing yourself too thin and assert firm boundaries. At the end of the month, a full moon lunar eclipse in your twelfth house of rest is going to require you to have some much-deserved alone time. Feel all the moods of the ocean.

Sagittarius: This month, when Mars, the warrior, is in your third house of communication, you are motivated in your conversations. A call to action on a social movement or new trend could be catching your attention on social media. Let your passions out, but as this astrological position is in a harsh aspect with the disruptive planet Uranus, you are encouraged to check your grammar and intentions twice. Remember that tension applied with the right amount of pressure can create a diamond.

Capricorn: Your thoughts around the new moon this month could be preoccupied by a writing project, social media campaign, or any form of sharing your ideas as your third house of communication is highlighted. With sensual Venus in this harmonious aspect, the stars reassure you it's time to put your thoughts out there. Venus is "exalted," a term meaning the planetary position is blessed. The sun is also here and should give you the courage to express yourself, but if you need a little reassurance, the time is now. Allow this time to change your ideas about what you can do.

Aquarius: Mars the motivator will be sitting in your first house of appearance this month. The tension this planetary position makes to the disrupter Uranus will bring insight as to new ways you can decorate yourself. Inspiration will come from your most sacred spaces. Many aspects are in your second house of finance. Now is a blessed time to make investments, but remember the biggest investment is in yourself.

Pisces: The first house of self is the way we gel with the world around us. It is the first impression we make and can influence how we style ourselves. Three major transits here will be a blessing to you this month. The sun will give you the courage to pursue your most authentic expression. Venus will make you magnetic, attracting your desires. Lastly, a new moon will emphasize the relationship you have with the most personal part of you. Shine on!

SPORTS

Panthers Give Fans a Show on Senior Night

By Dylan Murphy

Seniors Emmanuel Lemba and Jordan Johnson-Rader were honored for their 4-year commitment to the Panthers' basketball before the game on February 12 at the Clark Center. With parents and loved ones in attendance, it was a great night for Lemba and Johnson-Rader.

The Panthers made sure everyone had



Senior Night: Emmanuel Lemba and Jordan Johnson-Rader at the Clark Center, February 12.

game 65-50. The Panthers have won two home games in a row and improved their record to 2-22.

The game started out well for the Panthers with Chris Smith connecting for a couple of midrange baskets. But the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USSMA) started to pull away in the first half, by half-time they led by 11 with a score of 31-20.

Coach Tomlin emphasized that the Panthers needed to turn this around with hard pressure, lockdown defense, and some huge baskets early in the second half.

Amadi Lee-Kane, Chris Smith, and Jordan Johnson-Rader combined for 50 of the Panthers' 65 total points. Lee-Kane continued

to dazzle as a junior point guard with 27 points in 40 minutes of playing time. Johnson-Rader had 10 points with some timely baskets to help the Panthers pull away from the USSMA. Emmanuel Lemba had a big block and played some great defense in the few minutes he was out there.

"It was really nice to see the guys come together and dig ourselves out of a huge deficit like we did in the first half and it showed that we were the better team out there in the second half," Coach Tomlin said after the game. "As long as we dominate like we did in that second half, we will be successful every time."

Coach Tomlin said he is proud of his seniors and that they worked hard out there. He explained that they earned their spots on the team because of their commitment to the coaches and their hustle in practice every day.

The Panthers were defeated by Farmingdale State College, 80-60, in the last game of the season on Saturday, February 17. They finished with a final record of 2-23.



Chris Smith (#10) going for a layup.



Johnson-Rader (#24) with the ball.

Old Westbury Softball: Hyped For 2024

By Aidan Bongiorno

The Panther's first home game is against John Jay College on Friday, March 8 at the Jackie Robinson Athletic Complex. Coach Tom Pennino and the entire women's softball team are very excited to get the spring season started. They are training hard to improve on last season's record of 12 wins and 17 losses. Coach Pennino said that the team has a huge roster of extremely talented players making Women's Softball as strong as ever.

The team has five new players joining the team this season. "A major part of college coaching is recruiting," said Tom Pennino, head coach of the women's softball team. "The goal is to recruit better and better players every year."

Not all the new players come from Long Island. "Over the last couple of

years, Old Westbury softball has gained more popularity and interest both locally, semi-locally, and out of state," Panino said. "We have five out of state players, two from New Jersey, two from Florida, and one player from Arizona. We are starting to attract more out of state talent."

"I am looking forward to big things to come," said Senior Natalie Intrieri. "We have a good team this season. Coach Tommy did a great job at bringing in a lot of talent. We're looking forward to a lot of wins, a lot of fun, and a lot of exciting things coming our

way." The team truly has a lot to look forward to for the spring.

Junior Alaina Reilly is excited for this spring. "I am looking forward to really bonding with my new teammates," said Reilly, "We have a pretty young team this year, a lot of young talent." The addition

of new, experienced players will increase the team's chances for a strong season. "I'm very excited to learn with them, progress, and make big things happen," Reilly added.

Reilly explained how her outlook on the team has changed over the last couple of years. "The culture was definitely a lot different when I first came here," she added. "I was more like, 'try not to get mercied, do your best, have fun. Win or lose, we're gonna have a good time, and let's just try and make the play-offs for the first time in like ten years.'" Now, the team is more ambitious, Reilly said. "We just want it a lot more this year."

The Women's Softball team definitely has a lot at stake. The team is ready to



Tom Pennino (Head Coach)

Credit: Old Westbury Panthers



Natalie Intrieri (Senior)

Credit: Old Westbury Panthers



Alaina Reilly (Junior)

Credit: Old Westbury Panthers

bond together and win games. Coach Pennino is optimistic. "I'm hoping to accomplish more of that winning attitude and winning in culture. The team has definitely evolved over the last couple of years that I've been here," he said. "My goal is for the players to really enjoy the season, enjoy success, to look forward to a winning season, and to always believe that they are champions."

On the Court with Men's Volleyball

By Griskarly Sena

Our volleyball players are passionate about being athletes. The SUNY Old Westbury Men's Volleyball team practices for two hours every day except Sunday. They run drills and practice hitting the ball from different positions to get that ball back over the net.

Men's Volleyball started their season on Sunday, February 18. Unfortunately, they opened the 2024 season with four losses. The Panthers lost a scrimmage with Nassau Community College at the Clark Athletic Center on Wednesday, February 28. They are learning from their mistakes and practicing hard to bring back that first win.

Senior Anthony Moyett is the captain of the Men's Volleyball team. He

motivates his teammates, making sure the team is ready to play and always improving. Moyett has been playing volleyball since eighth grade and for Old Westbury since December of 2022. "Currently we are 0-4, but that's all about to change very soon," he said. "We started at the bottom, beneath the bottom even, but I can say confidently this season will be better and soon we will be a real force. I think as a team we are going to be way better than last season and even better the next."

The main goal that the volleyball team is hoping for is to win a home game while they have student fans supporting them.

The team is looking forward to win-



Men's volleyball scrimmage against Nassau Community College on February 28.

Credit: Griskarly Sena



Credit: Griskarly Sena

ning a home game for their fans. The team is bonding and playing well together, said Captain Moyett.

The energy and team spirit that this

team brings to the volleyball court will attract more students to college athletics at Old Westbury.

Coach Stephan Excited for 2024 Baseball Season

By Dylan Murphy

Baseball Coach Rod Stephan is excited about all the new faces on the team this season. He is determined to take the Panthers back to the Skyline Conference Championship after a disappointing playoff appearance in 2023. Last season the Panthers had 19 wins and 18 losses. They won it all in 2015.

Stephan is looking forward to returning to campus for home games for the first time since COVID-19 hit in 2020. Coach Stephan said, "This team is excited to be back at home and being able to use our locker rooms and our dugouts and weight rooms. It feels really good to see them happy to be back where they belong."

Coach Stephan is working with 22 new players this year. He is ready to see what this young team is made of and how

far he can take them this year.

James Sill is one of the top new recruits from Long Island. He stands tall at 6'3" and 225 pounds. Sill was a dominant pitcher at Division Avenue High School in Levittown. He also played first-base and crushed the baseballs at the plate. Sill led his Division Bulldogs to a county championship where they faced West Babylon, falling just short of a Long Island Championship.

Sill went 9-1 in 10 starts with a 0.60 ERA, a 0.71 WHIP, 84 strikeouts, and 12 walks in 58 innings, according to Newsday. He fired five straight shutouts and had 27 consecutive scoreless innings across six games. He showed his prowess as a hitter too. He went 40-for-84 and finished with a slash line of .476/.596/1.000,

tallying 16 doubles, two triples, eight homers, and 40 RBIs.

Coach Stephan said he is happy to have Sill aboard. He will figure out how much to use Sill because load management is important. Stephan can give Sill days off because this young squad has a deep roster. Sill said, "Everyone is going to play a key role on this team and to win in this conference [Skyline], you have to win as a team and that there is no one man crew."

The Panthers are currently sitting with a record of 0-1 with a loss to Kean on the road as their only game so far in this young season, but expect the Panthers to pile up a lot of wins this season, take back the Skyline Conference Championship, make some noise.



Baseball Coach Rod Stephan.

Credit: SUNY Old Westbury Panthers

SUNY Old Westbury Women's Basketball Honors the Seniors

By Aidan Bongiorno

SUNY Old Westbury held its annual Senior Night for the Women Panthers basketball team on February 12 at the Clark Athletic Center. This was their final home game of the season against the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA). For six of these outstanding players, this game was their final time on the OW basketball court. They were honored before the game.

The team had its ups and downs during the 2023-2024 season, with a final record of 3 wins and 21 losses. The Senior Night game got off to a strong start with Kasiobi Okenwa playing good defense against the Mariners. This allowed senior Allysha Thomas to go for the layup. By the end of the first quarter, the teams were tied with a score of 11-11.

While the Panthers hoped they would come back strong in the second and third quarter, the Mariners found their stride and managed to take back their lead.

Unfortunately, luck was not on the Panthers' side on Senior Night and they were defeated by the Mariner's with a final score of 30-45. While the Panthers didn't win on their home court, everyone played very well.

Senior Sierra Rowe looked back on how long she has played basketball and what encouraged her to play for Old Westbury. "I've been playing basketball pretty much my whole life, and I know that after COVID, the women's team took a big hit as far as the players. So I just decided to join because I had nothing else to lose." Rowe reflected on one of her best moments on the court, which was her career high of 17 points against St. Joes, Long Island. "My main takeaway [during my time at OW], to put it into words, anything you put into it,



Credit: Aidan Bongiorno

there's gonna be a positive result, as long as you practice, train, and give it 110%, it's all gonna pay off."

Senior Allysha Thomas enjoyed her time as a Panther. "My main takeaway would be to just play with the cards that you are dealt. I think about how I could've ended up at any one of the schools in our conference, but I know for a fact I wouldn't have enjoyed my time nor got the experience there like I have here." Thomas first joined the Old Westbury team during the 2020-2021 season. However, it was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That didn't stop her from continuing her athletic career. When things got back to normal, she continued to push hard both on and off the court.

Senior Phalan Smith recognized "the friends [she has] come to know along the way, how to be compassionate towards others, and being a role model for not only [her] school, but as a student athlete." Smith's time playing for Old Westbury has been memorable. "My all-time favorite

memory was freshman year beating Mount Saint Mary for the championship and cutting their net," she said. "My favorite memory as a senior was scoring thirty points in a game for a new career high."

Being a student athlete can be a struggle but there is always a chance to come back strong. Senior Kasiobi Okenwa learned to push herself during her three years playing for OW. "I can safely say that over the years, my game has improved and even though we have struggled, our team has proven that we can fight back and compete against anyone in our conference and I'm glad that I can take these lessons with me." Staying confident is a strong point and Okenwa learned the meaning of teamwork.

Senior Tamyia Jordan "wanted to play basketball at Old Westbury because I thought it would give me more opportunities than I had when I was playing in high school, and it did." She added that, "I also used it as a distraction from my anxiety and

issues outside of school and basketball." Jordan, who describes herself as introverted, said joining the team also helped her improve socially. She learned patience through her time on the team. "I didn't always start in a game, but when I did, I took advantage of it and was also given more playing time as well." Jordan summed up her experience: "Playing on this team also helped me grow as a person personality-wise. I learned to just stay positive and not give up on myself no matter what."

These seniors gave their absolute best during the last three years, starting off slow, and finishing stronger than ever. On Senior Night, the SUNY Old Westbury Athletics Department, the fans, and the entire Women's basketball team congratulated their senior players for their contribution to the team and wished them all the best of luck in the future.

The Panthers lost their final game on Saturday, February 17, against College of Mount Saint Vincent with a score of 32-81.



Credit: Christian Lyles

Sierra Rowe (#1) playing defense.



Credit: Christian Lyles

Allysha Thomas (#32) driving to the basket.



Credit: Christian Lyles

Phalan Smith (#21) dribbling the ball.