

THE CATALYST

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“IGNITING THE MIND”

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Will Music Ever Return to OW?

By Brianna Knibbs and Cedric Pompey

For the past few decades, there has been a lack of music programs and clubs on campus. SUNY Old Westbury once had a music major which catered to students who wanted to have a career in music. It was later disbanded. But as more students enrolled in the school, there has been more interest in music.

Honors College student Sharay Grosvenor voiced her concern: “I think that the lack of music in the school is really sad.” Grosvenor and other students believe that there was no music because nobody took the time to determine if students were interested in it.

When SUNY OW was founded, there was a music, dance, and theater program, according to Sociology Associate Professor Eileen Landy. “The musicians that were here were world-renowned. They had connections of Broadway as well as all over Europe. Students who went through the program often ended up playing in Broadway orchestras.” The program was later retrenched by the administration in the mid-1990s and the coordinators lost their jobs.

President Calvin O. Butts III had stated in his Town Hall meeting that during his presidency, he wanted to bring a performing arts program to the campus.

Recently, Honors College Director Dr. Anthony DeLuca came up with an idea of forming an Honors College band after learning that many of the Honors College students play musical instruments. Grosvenor and Brianna Williams were among the students who started the group. They worked along with Dr. DeLuca and four instrumentalists from the Honors College to perform for the Synesthesia Release Party and at the end of the year picnic.

Accounting major Antoinette Riehl, a member of the band, expressed her thoughts on the lack of music. “The fact that the campus lacks any sort of music

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MAC AWARDS

The 12th Annual Student Media Arts Celebration (MAC) Awards will be held on Wednesday, May 1st at 7 p.m., at the Campus Center in the Maguire Theatre. The MAC Awards recognize the achievements of SUNY University at Old Westbury students in the fields of journalism, television, digital arts, video, new media and radio. A dinner will begin at 5:30 pm. for the nominees and their guests.

At 6 p.m. there will be a “Red Carpet Ceremony” via YouTube, then, at 7 p.m. the MAC Awards take center stage with a live webcast on OWRNY via Facebook, live from the theatre with all the action, including a special live student performance.

Any student at SUNY Old Westbury could submit material for award consideration. Submissions were reviewed

by faculty, and faculty decided the nominees, then all the chosen works were judged by industry professionals. The judges were:

- Peter Bellotti, CBS Sports Radio, New York, NY
- Liz Deluna, St. Johns University, Queens, NY
- Ed Easton Jr., Entercom, New York, NY
- Vivian Giang, *The New York Times*, New York, NY
- Thomas “TJ Smooth” Johnson, HOT 102.9 FM, Alpha Media, Dayton, OH
- Zyphus Lebrun, CUNY-TV, New York, NY
- Melia Patria, ABC-TV, New York, NY
- Larry Striegel, *Newsday*, Melville, NY

The Student MAC Awards are presented by students, staff, and faculty of (Cont. on page 3.)

SGA ELECTION WINNERS

Kalief Metellus is the New President

By Brianna Knibbs

After weeks of candidates promoting their flyers on social media and attending Student Government Association meetings, students finally made their decisions and voted for SGA candidates at the polls.

The positions in the ballots were president, vice president of clubs and organizations, academic senators, and campus life senators. The candidates (Cont. on page 3.)



SGA President Kalief Metellus



Campus Life Senator Oluwademilade Ogunlade



Academic Senator Kevin Adams-Edwards

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The 53rd Graduation Ceremony

The 53rd Commencement of SUNY Old Westbury will take place on Saturday, May 18th at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The ceremony for the class of 2019 will begin at 9 a.m. at the Coliseum, which is located at 1255 Hempstead Turnpike, Uniondale, NY 11553. It is expected to run for about 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

Graduates will stand by their academic department and be led to the stage by their department marshal and Old Westbury staff ushers. They will hand their name card to the reader for announcement; each student will be announced individually.

The President will congratulate each graduate. Graduates will cross the stage, descend the platform, have a professional photograph taken, and return to their seats as directed by Old Westbury staff ushers.

When all have been introduced and have returned to their seats, graduates will be asked to stand. At this time the President will confer degrees. All graduates will move their cap tassels from the right to the left side and be seated.

The featured speaker was not announced before *The Catalyst* was published.

The ceremony can be watched online via the Livestream link.

Student Mourned

SUNY Old Westbury mourned the loss of LaTisha German, a junior, who passed away on April 4th. German was a campus resident, living in the Woodlands Residence Halls. She was fatally injured in a motor vehicle accident.

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Selena Valentin

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Brianna Knibbs

Web Editor:

Eric Landro

Layout Editor:

Joseph Wood

Faculty Advisor:

John Friedman

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SGA Election Winners

received the results last Thursday night. Kalief Metellus won SGA President. He is the first black openly gay man to be elected president.

“Being a homeless student,” Metellus said, “I plan as SGA president to help homeless students get year-round housing. I also will push to have more variety of food in the cafeteria, to represent the diversity of every student, to extend library hours until 2-3 a.m., to get computers for the dorms, to get a nap room for commuter students, to create an app for parking to cut the

time wasted looking for parking, to getting new washers/dryers, and to extend bus running times to accommodate students that work off campus. Lastly, I want to accommodate students with disabilities who attend the college to make them feel more included.”

Metellus is in the Educational Opportunity Program at SUNY OW, majoring in Politics, Economics and Law. He won “Homecoming Lord” his freshman year. He currently holds a president’s position for his club Hairitage, a club that teaches/empowers

people to love their hair and how to manage it. The club has done a range of things from beauty bars to panels on stereotypes about black hair. His current goals are to graduate, attend law school and become a lawyer to be of service to his community.

Newly-elected campus life senator Oluwademilade Ogunlade said: “My hopes include incorporating student concerns into conversations surrounding campus policy change, encouraging student leadership amongst the student body and enriching campus life for

both residents and commuters.”

Other winners include Kimberly Omezi who became the vice president of clubs and organizations; Kevin Adams-Edwards and Julia Peralta who become academic senators; and campus life senators Jashey Matheson and Jessica Smith. The new vice president of communications is Marshley Souverin.

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Will Music Ever Return to OW?

program or extracurricular activity is actually really saddening to me,” she said. “I have been a music student since I was very young and it played a large role in my college decision-making process back in high school. In fact, I almost decided to attend another school strictly because SUNY Old Westbury did not offer any sort of music program or activity. That’s how important I think music is. It is such a great skill, hobby, and learning experience that I strongly believe every school should offer something for its music-playing students. I’m sure that students from other artistic disciplines, like dance or theater, feel the same way.

SUNY Old Westbury definitely needs to cater to more students in this aspect.”

Riehl also believes that investing in a music program would bring many more students to the school. Music brings pure happiness to those who listen to it, she believes. “I know that is how I will feel when I am playing. I and my fellow band members would be extremely happy if this small honors college band was the start of SUNY Old Westbury’s desperately-needed music programs.”

“I’m hoping our small musical ensemble will encourage more students to step forward and hopefully inspire them to want to join the fun,”

Williams said. Williams feels that a musical program would be a great addition because it is a fun and a unique way of self-expression while giving back to the diverse college community.

“Music blasts in the Campus Center every so often which is okay, I guess,” she said. “But there is nothing like live music. Overall, if SUNY OW’s campus was comprised of music, students would enjoy their days at the school more. Their days would be more memorable and even more substantial.”

Lord Sahagun, SGA vice president of communications, along with a friend

used to perform for the Honors College. Another friend joined and they decided to expand the duo which led them to create a music club called the OW Music Society. They performed at many events and taught members how to play. Unfortunately, the club later became inactive.

What is needed to bring back music programs on campus, he said, “is student involvement. At the end of the day, it’s how many students are involved. That is what the administration notices. I think if we push hard enough for it, we can get it back. It’s just the matter of finding the professors and location to teach classes.”

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MAC Awards

The American Studies/Media & Communications Department, the Visual Arts Department, *The Catalyst*, OWTV, Old Westbury Television, and OWWR, Old Westbury Web Radio.

Joe Manfredi, who founded the event, is a lecturer in the American

Studies/Media and Communications Department and is the OWWR, Old Westbury Web Radio, station manager.

He said: “We are looking forward to a great program with over eighty nominees competing for thirty awards judged by industry professionals. The

students who participate represent some of the most talented at Old Westbury in the arts, and demonstrate that through multiple modes they educate their audiences by expressing themselves with vigor, passion, creativity and intelligence. (This year in addition, we

have a very talented student singer.) I’m certain it will be a great night. The MAC Awards have high energy and are fantastically organic. Everyone is a winner. Check out macawards.org to experience all the nominees in their entirety.”

Sessions of H.O.P.E.’s Second Annual Career Expo

By Brianna Knibbs

Sessions of H.O.P.E. Inc held their Second Annual Career Expo on April 24th in room 1100 of the New Academic Building. The Career expo was in partnership with Inspirational Church of God in Christ Jesus, Inc. and The Office of International Enrollment Services.

The careers that were present at the expo included tax preparer, United Nations representative, attorney, IT analyst, project management, marketing, banking and finance, mental health counseling, physician assistant, speech pathologist, teacher, and NYPD careers. Professionals from various fields spoke to students about their careers. The purpose of the expo was for students to start exploring into their career aspirations and opportunities early along with networking with career profession-

als working in those fields.

Some career professionals shared their experiences about the start of their careers and advice they would give to students who are planning on similar paths. For example, Paige Davis who is an attorney always knew from a young age that she wanted to help and advocate for people. The people that she looks up to who helps others are attorneys which made her decide to choose that career path. “Growing up I see a lot of people made a difference and I realized that they are attorneys. So I said you know what, I know I like to advocate for people. I like having a voice and be able to make changes as far as law and policies, especially if it affects people of color,” said Davis. After college, Davis became a teacher for two

years. With her passion of education, she attended law school and took many educational law classes. Currently, she works for the Department of Education where she works on cases on helping students and parents. Davis advised students who want to become attorneys on the importance of hard work and also a profession where it requires a lot of critical thinking and analysis. She touched up on being passionate about what you do and making sure that this is what you want. “It’s important that you like what you do, not just do it for the money or you want other people to approve of it,” Davis suggested.

In addition to the career fields, the study abroad department were also present for students who are interested in studying outside the United States,

along with the daily inspiration table where students can pick up pamphlets and read motivational messages that can help them in their daily lives. Food and refreshments were also served.

Sessions of H.O.P.E. meet every Wednesday’s during common hour in NAB room 1119. Students can interact with Sessions of H.O.P.E. through social media on Instagram @sessions_of_hope_ or Facebook @SessionsofHope. To learn more about how you can join the group or info about career and community outreach events, contact Sessions of H.O.P.E. founder Jakyra Mcleod via email jmcleod3@oldwestbury.edu.

“Wong Chin Foo’s (Re)Vision of Chinese Masculinity in 1888”

A Women’s Center Gender Talk by Professor Amanda Frisken

By Kirsten Hyman & Ty’Asia Smith

During the late 19th century, white men feared that Chinese immigrant men would steal their women, American Studies Professor Amanda Frisken said in her Women’s Center Gender talk on April 9th. Due to this alleged fear, she added, Chinese men were demonized by the media to instill fear in the public. In an effort to decrease Chinese immigration; strict laws were created to prevent Chinese immigrants who left the United States from ever returning.

Frisken’s talk emphasized the activism of Wong Chin Foo, a journalist and lecturer, who lived from 1847 to 1898. Frisken’s explained Chin Foo’s attempt to depict Chinese immigrants as they truly were.

During the late 19th century, Chinese immigrant men were often associated with sexual violence. Frisken feels that at the time, when articles and illustrations were made, it was more than just entertainment; it was actually influencing the thoughts of the world. Chin Foo sought to create a visual counter narrative to help the groups that were being stereotyped.

In 1888, he featured an illustration in his *Cosmopolitan* article *The Chinese in New York*; to depict China town in a non-threatening way. Frisken stated that Chin Foo hired a photographer to take non-sensational, non-offensive photos that were “somewhat observational in tone,” yet “at the same time they convey a lot of information.” The objective here was to counter sensational images with factual ones. Frisken stated that Chin Foo, “liked to flip the script.”

In the 19th century; censorship efforts were being made to cut down on images of rape and or sexual innuendos. Unfortunately, this cut down of information left only stories and images of African American men attacking white woman. According to Frisken, in all the daily newspapers, the dominant depiction of interracial rape featured a black man raping a white woman. This set the narrative of sexual danger.

An image responsible for this nar-

rative of danger for white woman was found in *The National Police Gazette*. The image published depicted a Chinese servant. He appears standing behind a white woman in a seemingly ill-intentioned manner. The photo suggested that Chinese servants were a threat to white woman in the home. According to Frisken, the consensus that “the Chinese must go” was reinforced by the idea that they were a threat attempting to enter the home.

In another photo, a Chinese man and an Irish woman were depicted sitting together. In the photo one could see the buckets of water that were being thrown at them in disapproval.

Papers that were being distributed all over the country were portraying Chinese men in such a fashion.

In the early 1800’s, the threat of the Opium den emerged. This new type of establishment, starting in San Francisco; ended up spreading across the country. At the time, there was heavy opium use and addiction in China. The belief was that the Chinese immigrants were bringing both drugs and addiction with them to the United States.

Newspapers used this as another potential threat to instill fear in woman. Now woman were being convinced that Chinese immigrants could or would lead them to having a drug addiction. In 1882, photos depicted woman in distress in said opium dens. This new fear of vices added to the stereotyped narrative of the Chinese Immigrants being dangerous to women. In 1883, matters only got worse. A new idea circulated that Chinese men were luring children into the opium dens with candy. This of course led to accusations of rape. These large accusations continued throughout the rest of the century. This rumor eventually led to the idea that large groups of women, were also being raped in the opium dens.

Even if opium dens were not involved at all; cover stories of newspapers continuously insinuated that woman were being attacked. The fear and outrage created by these rumors led

to the theme of rape lynching. Soon after in Wyoming, violent killings began to occur. On September 2, 1885; the Rock Springs Massacre took place. A hundred and fifty white miners brutally attacked their Chinese colleagues. Twenty-eight were killed, fifteen were injured and several hundred more were driven out of the town.

The violence being imposed upon Chinese immigrants was increasing, and the media continued to make matters worse. During the time of the massacre, the *Gazette* featured a photo that grossly understated what had happened. The photo was small and according to Frisken “makes a playful joke” about what had happened in Rock Springs. While normally the *Gazette* had seemed to focus on themes such as massacres and violence, this particular event was belittled. The photo showed a Chinese man being pulled by his Queue, which was part of their cultural tradition. The photo poked fun at the Chinese, and made the event seem to be less than what it was.

Violence surrounding Chinese immigrants expanded across the country. Multiple Chinese men were lynched near Snake River, Oregon; and five were burned in Eureka, California. Frisken pointed out that with such discriminatory and stereotyping images being displayed in the media, violence was inevitable.

Such accusations of Chinese men were cruel in the eyes of Wong Chin Foo.



“Chinatown, New York,” illustration for Wong Chin Foo’s article “The Chinese in New York,” *Cosmopolitan*, June 1888

He rebuked those who burned the men in Eureka. The best thing that he could do at the time was to provide a narrative that refuted the negative stereotypes and replaced them with realistic images. He depicted representational images of Chinese men living a casual and docile life. As Frisken pointed out, this created “a counter narrative” to the uncivilized rapist stereotype. This would remove the brand put on Chinese immigrants by the media. Frisken’s research and analysis of the topic shed some light on the traumatic past of the United States. By pointing out activists of the past, one can inspire activists of the future.

Media Innovation Center Study

By Keya Rice

Seventy-five percent of students say that the Media Innovation Center (MIC) helps to improve job readiness, according to a recent survey. Ozgur Akgun, TV multimedia manager and lecturer, American Studies/ Media and Communications, said that MIC assists students with job readiness by replicating real-life experiences in a media environment. It also provides workshops that cover major career requirements.

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The study was conducted by MIC in March and April to better understand student expectations and concerns. Akgun said that ninety percent of students believe that MIC encouraged creativity. “While students felt the media innovation center improved their overall college experience, they wished it was open more.” The survey showed that sixty-five percent of students would like MIC to add evening and weekend hours.

The survey was conducted by passing out hard copies during class hours and digitally through emails. While all of the students surveyed were not Media and Communications majors, a large majority were majors in the department.

Akgun added that MIC is currently working with the provost and academic affairs to secure funding this fiscal year. MIC is also expected to receive a grant from New York State within the next two

semesters to rebuild and improve the media center. “Students make things much better and that once the funding is received it will not only improve the quality of equipment but student engagement as well,” Akgun said. After the grant is in place, he added, “SUNY Old Westbury will have a competitive advantage”

5th Annual Media Talks



From Left to Right: Ed Easton Jr, Tiamari Whitted, Karina Drake, Nate Derosena, Rashiek Smart, Jasmin A. Ortiz, and Joseph Manfredi

By Brianna Knibbs

During his years at SUNY OW, Ed Easton knew that he always wanted to pursue a career in the media. Although Easton had written for *The Catalyst* and was a program director at OWWR, he wasn't sure on whether he was doing the right thing that would lead to his career. OWWR was where Easton was taught by Joseph Manfredi, Media & Communications Lecturer and OWWR, Old Westbury Web Radio, Station Manager, about the business aspect and behind the scenes of radio. "I knew if I understood that it would be easier and make myself more marketable in terms of getting a job," said Easton. Speaking at the Fifth Annual Media Talks Symposium in sponsored by Old Westbury Web Radio (OWWR) and the Office of Career Planning and Development on April 10th, Easton further discussed jobs that were offered to him. He shared his advice to the Recital Hall audience about the importance of being known in the industry: "People are not just going to walk up to you and offer you full time. You can just be doing a great job, keep your head down, doing your job. That don't always work in this type of industry, you have to let yourself be known. People have to know who you are. You gotta make an impact."

Easton shared his story his story about interning at Sports Net New York Television, XM Satellite Radio, and 1010 Wins Radio (in where he is currently

employed).

The panel also included five other alumni who are working in the media field: Jazmine A. Ortiz, Nate Derosena, Tiamari Whitted, Rashiek Smart, and current student Karina Drake, who is expecting to graduate in May 2019. The purpose of the event was particularly for those who are Media & Communication majors about pursuing careers in the media industry.

Nate Derosena, a writer from Slam Magazine and a SUNY OW 2013 graduate always had a passion for writing, besides being involved in the basketball team. His passion led him to become a sports editor for *The Catalyst*. He was well acquainted with the sports department and enjoyed writing sports news. Although his first job outside of SUNY OW wasn't media related, he never took his eye off of writing. Eventually, he saw an advertisement for an online sports news site for a writing job. He earned the job as a sports writer and wrote and published many articles. Derosena took on many sports writing jobs. While working at a shoe store, he was introduced to an assistant editor at Slam Magazine by his coworker. After viewing his published works, the assistant editor offered him a position.

Tiamari Whitted, another OW graduate, is a digital ad sales assistant at Entertainment Studios. She started off in her media career interning at Power

105.1 during the summer of 2008. Whitted then transitioned to an intern at Def Jam. It was during the time when the Great Recession and she wasn't offered a job. She struggled searching for media jobs while still going to school to pursue her master's degree in media. She got her first media job in 2017 when she was a freelance writer at *Black Enterprise Magazine*. She saw a job opportunity at Entertainment Studios on LinkedIn and applied where she was hired.

Rashiek Smart, an executive assistant at New York Women in Film and Communication, first started gaining experience in media by becoming a news director of OWWR and reporter for OWTV. After graduating in 2013, she interned at ABC Television as a Production Assistant for a segment called *Here and Now*. She then became a video journalist for MyLongIslandTV for four years. Smart wanted to learn about the corporation side of entertainment which led her to her current job as an executive assistant at New York Women in Film and Communication. Smart explained her duties in her job which is to recruit and train interns, working with the executive director, coordinate grants and events, and help out with other departments.

Jazmine A. Ortiz, a style/living editor of BET waited to get involved in media during her later years in college in which she later regretted. Before her

graduation from OW in 2013, she started searching for internships through Career Fairs. She met an HR representative for BET and earned an internship there in the summer. The internship eventually turned into a job and she earned herself editing positions that lead to being a style/living editor.

Karina Drake, a current student at SUNY OW, was a former production director for OWWR. Last semester, Drake applied for many internships and never heard back from any of them. Her frustration led to her deciding to work on her cover letter and resume. In December, she received an internship offer from Sirius XM Satellite Radio where she is currently interning. She used her experience from OWWR to help her succeed in her internship. Her goal is to get involved in the production aspect of Sirius XM. Drake discussed the importance of being involved in the school's media as early as possible and how she was able to balance school, her internship, and her job.

Manfredi stressed the importance of job seekers being adaptable in their skills to the media industry which is constantly changing, the importance of being involved in internships, of joining college media early, and of not giving up dreams of finally working in the media.

Saving the Garden



Group of Honors College Students at the St. John Cantius Parish Garden in East New York

Photo Credit: Honors College Director, Dr. DeLuca

By Brianna Knibbs

SUNY Old Westbury's Honors College students volunteered at St. John Cantius Parish Garden in East New York on March 23rd. The annual spring trip was coordinated by Honors College Director, Dr. Anthony DeLuca.

Under the division of NYC Green Thumb, the goal for the students volunteering is to help senior citizens maintain their neighborhood garden which may be in crisis of being taken away by the city, without proper maintenance.

Regarding the crisis surrounding the garden, Dr. De Luca stated, "The land the garden is on is very valuable land. Developers want to buy it from the city to build commercial buildings and housing. The communities the gardens serve really do need the knowledge and the means to eat healthy foods and have access to healthy foods. Senior citizens, who are often retired, have the time to work the gardens. However, gardening can be arduous work and they need help from young

people to keep their gardens maintained according to city standards." DeLuca mentioned that the neighborhood desperately needs fruits and vegetables and that there are very few stores in the area that can provide them.

The students were split into groups where some of them removed garbage and putting out to the front for sanitation to pick up. Others worked on building a pathway for people to walk on by removing piles of dirt and transporting them to wagons in order to prevent themselves from receiving a fine from Inspection. Some were putting together the honey frames for beehives and building garden frames to give more roots and soil and making it easier for senior citizens to plant.

Gemma Garcia, coordinator of the garden, was impressed and express her appreciation for students and other community members coming out and helping out at the garden. "I have been

doing this for the last twenty one years and we always appreciate our gardeners, our helpers." She believes that the garden will remain in the hands of senior citizens who work it as best as they can.

The students were pleased about coming out on a Saturday to volunteer at a garden, despite the cold weather that day. Nicholas Prahalis, a sophomore majoring in accounting explained the importance of volunteering at a garden. "I think it's a great opportunity for people to get involved and other communities, to reach out to people in need. Help people eat healthier and make better decisions." He gave his perspective in full detail on the ongoing issue on the crisis. "It's a tough situation because although you have people to help, they can't just simply do all the work. That's why it's important for us, even college students or people in the community or outside wanting to reach out, to keep these gardens for anyone

who can't afford food that needed."

At the end, Dr. DeLuca was very impressed about the amount of progress being made by students under two hours. The main lesson he wanted students to learn and take away is the good feeling they receive when helping others and gaining knowledge of organic gardening, how easy and healthy it is along with beekeeping on how intelligent and civilized bees with all of the medicinal properties of honey and beeswax.

The Honors College had three more available dates to work at the St. Cantius Parish Garden. for Honors College students which are March 30th, April 6th, and April 27th.. Honors College students can rsvp to Dr.DeLuca through his email: delucaa@oldwestbury.edu.

Medicaid Rally

By Brianna Knibbs

Thousands of 1199SEIU members and healthcare workers gathered together at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, New York to protest against Medicaid cuts on March 23rd.

State lawmakers outlined proposals that would cut \$550 billion in Medicaid funding in the 2020 fiscal year. The proposal was made by New York Governor, Andrew Cuomo after the state was facing a \$2.3 billion shortfall due to the federal law on deducting a limit of \$10,000 for state and local taxes. Originally, President Trump proposed his 2020 budget reducing Medicare and Medicaid in more than hundreds of billions of dollars. According to timestelegram.com, the proposal cuts includes an across the board cut to healthcare providers including hospitals, removing a planned two percent increase in Medicaid payments to hospitals, elimination of indigent care pool funding, and many more.

Protesters were expressing their concerns about not receiving the medical needs that they need for themselves and their relatives. Many healthcare providers spoke at the rally and were in fear of hospitals not getting enough funding, shortage of staff, job loss, or being close down if medicaid was cut.

"We're here to raise our voices, to say healthcare matters. People matter," said George Gresham, President of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. Ivanna Tavarez, a secretary at the 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East Headquarters shared her concerns on medicaid cuts. "My biggest concern is community hospitals closing down, clinics as well. We won't have easy access as to checkups whatever the case may be. Unfortunately for 911, ambulances won't be here until fifteen minutes. That's a problem, anything can happen in fifteen minutes. It only take seven minutes before your brain actual-

ly passes out. If you think about, we're not giving thought to saving lives. We're thinking about money at this point which makes no sense."

Tavarez hopes that the state won't cut medicaid. If they do, she is hoping that there will be a plan made by healthcare workers to fight against medicaid cuts.

While protesting, a group of people brought out many ambulance stretchers as props to show an example of what would happen if there wasn't as much access to hospitals. Majority of the rally participants were given hospital attire and hats to dress up in.

Protesters rallied around the New



Photo Credit: Brianna Knibbs

1199 members protesting outside of Empire State Plaza in Albany, New York

York State Assembly and the New York State Capitol. On April 1st, Governor Cuomo and state legislators agreed to a \$175.5 billion spending plan which increases a \$550 million in Medicaid funding according to crainsnewyork.com.

REVIEW

Dumbo

By Kirsten Hyman

Walt Disney's *Dumbo* premiered in Los Angeles on March 11, 2019. The film directed by Tim Burton tells the tale of a baby elephant born with humongous ears that enable him to fly. With the help of his friends Dumbo learns to perform for the circus in hopes that the circus's success would eventually reunite him with his mother. While the small circus struggles to stay financially afloat, the mysterious V.A. Vandevere, owner of a large circus, promises them wealth and success through his partnership. Dumbo and his friends reveal the dark secret behind Vandevere's circus and his maniacal plan.

According to Forbes.com, *Dumbo* earned \$130 million in its first weekend. However, in comparison to other live action Disney films, it has not done so well. The film cost a whopping \$170 million to produce. For *Dumbo's* cost of production to pay off, *Forbes* stated the film would need to make a decent \$400 million. In Disney's 1941 animated film, *Dumbo* was the main character. However, the adorable CGI elephant seemed to be more of a supporting character in Burton's production; while the humans were at the forefront of the story. The film features several noted actors such as Danny DeVito, Colin Farrell, and Michael Keaton.

Tim Burton's flying pachyderm earned a 47 percent rating on rotten tomatoes' "tomato meter" with 315 reviews. The audience score was at 57 percent. Some critics feel that the remake was unnecessary while others

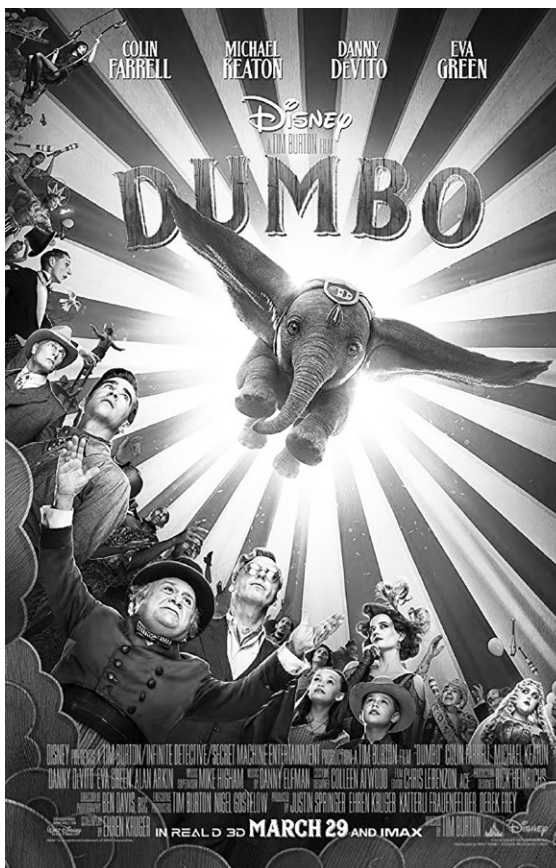
enjoyed the film. Adam Graham said, "Lost in all of this is Dumbo himself, a CGI creation with big ocean blue eyes and those lovably floppy ears... But the spirit and heart of the original "Dumbo" is still locked away in the Disney vault." Linda Cook of the Quad City Times in Davenport, Iowa stated, "It doesn't focus on the charming pachyderm, but rather the people around him." Other critics such as Michael Medved enjoyed the film thoroughly. Medved stated, "The movie is visually spectacular and the computer generated beasts--particularly Dumbo--are unforgettably endearing. DUMBO is nearly 2 hours of

surprisingly effective enchantment." On Fandango.com although the rotten tomato rating is displayed, the film has received a rating of 4 and a half stars.

While there are many who were disappointed with the remake, others found it to be heartwarming.

The original story of *Dumbo* was written by Helen Aberson Mayer. According to an article written for the *New York Times*, journalist Harold Pearl who passed away in 1975, was the co-author of the story. *Dumbo* was published in 1939 by a company called *Roll-a-Book*. According to said article written by Eric Pace in April 1999, titled "*Helen A.*

Mayer, Dumbo's Creator, Dies at 91," Mayer came up with the idea of *Dumbo* spontaneously. Pace's article states, "...her son, Andrew, said: 'She just got an



Poster via: imdb.com

inspiration about a flying elephant.' He said she liked to create animal characters and plotting that represented, to a degree, people she knew or situations she had been in." The story was published as a regular book in a single printing; producing no more than a thousand copies.

According to *Smithsonian Magazine*, although Mayer's story was originally planned as a children's book, "...this was no ordinary hardcover. It was intended to be published as a novelty book with illustrations printed on a long scroll contained in a box. To follow the story, readers would twist dials on the outside of the box until the next frame with pictures and words came into view." After *Roll-a-Book* was given publishing rights from Mayer and her then husband Harold Pearl, the story was purchased by Disney. "...before it could go into production, the story idea was sold in 1939 to Disney Productions, which purchased all intellectual property rights, including book publishing." Mayer was proud of her story; and had gone to Hollywood to serve as a consultant for the making of Disney's 1941 animated film adaptation of *Dumbo*.

Tim Burton's *Dumbo* is now playing in theatres near you. For showtimes check your local movie listing or online. While the film received mixed reviews, one can see for themselves how Burton's CGI baby elephant holds up to that of Disney's 1941 animated film.

The Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, *Nicaragua 1978 - 2018: Susan Meiselas*

By Selena Valentin

SUNY Old Westbury has been graced with the talented and passionate photographer Susan Meiselas with her *Nicaragua 1978 - 2018* exhibition. Meiselas, a member of Magnum Photos since 1976, has been most known for her coverage of the Nicaraguan insurrection as a documentary photographer. Meiselas has received the Robert Capa Gold Medal, the Leica Award for Excellence, the Engelhard Award from the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Hasselblad Foundation Photography prize, the Cornell Capa Infinity Award, the Harvard Arts Medal, and most recently was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. In 1992, she was named a MacArthur Fellow. Meiselas has served as President of the Magnum Foundation since its founding in 2007.

In the exhibition one notices that there are multiple purposes for her work, one of which is raising the public eye to increase awareness of what is happening in Nicaragua. The exhibition includes work dating back to 1978, and there is footage of her film *Pictures from a Revolution* (1991) which brought the pictures to life, and later in 2004, the Reframing History project by having mural sized images in the exhibition. There are also pieces from her "Molotov Man: The



Photo credit: Harvey Wang

Susan Meiselas

Life of an Image" which showcases the process of publication and reappropriation of Sandinista Pablo "Bareta" Arauz. One of her most recent works; a compilation of Nicaraguan photographers who captured moments during the 2018 protests against President Daniel Ortega, is also in the exhibition.

Meiselas' photos are gripping, often disturbing, and profound. She is truly one of the great documentary photographers of our time.



Photo credit: Susan Meiselas



Photo credit: Susan Meiselas

Shazam!

By Jalen Michael

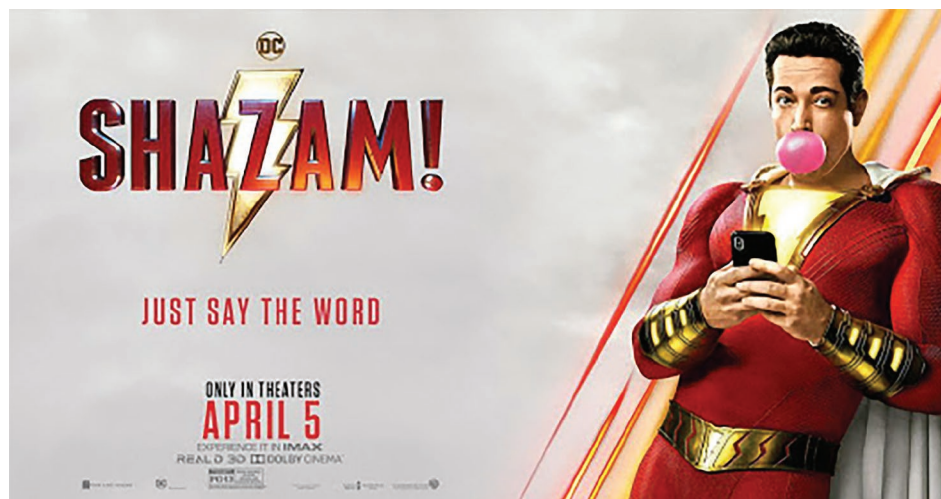
Based on critical reaction and box office returns, recent DC movies have been either hit or miss. *Batman vs. Superman* left many angry, while *Wonder Woman* was seen as a triumphant success that paved the way for future female led superhero movies. *Justice League* disappointed the masses, while *Aquaman* came in and surfed his way past one billion dollars at the box office. So here we are with *Shazam!*, the seventh movie in this Warner Bros. franchise, and many are anxious to know, will this be another failure for DC or another triumphant win? As I can only speak for myself, I think that this is a huge win for DC and Warner Bros as this movie is really entertaining.

The film is about an orphan teenager named Billy Batson (who is played by Asher Angel) who spends his time searching for his mom. He moves into this foster home, and one day, while riding the train, he gets transported to another world, where a wizard gives him the ability to become an adult superhero (played by Zachary Levi)

whenever he says the world Shazam.

Right off the bat, I really enjoyed the concept of a teenager who turns into an adult sized superhero. Zachary Levi plays Billy in adult form, and he is hilarious throughout his entire screen time. Levi's outlandish personality really fits for playing as a 14-year-old boy who discovers he has super powers. Most of the humor comes from just this simple premise and I appreciated how the movie chose to keep it a smaller scale, compared to most superhero movies out there. *Shazam!* carries the same concept as the movie *Big*, just with Tom Hanks given some super powers.

The movie also surprisingly has a lot of heart to it as well. Billy was separated from his parents as a child and has since been searching for them. When he's adopted into this foster home, you're expecting it to be the stereotypical evil family that always bullies him and puts him down. Instead, the family is very wholesome and are accepting of Billy coming into the



home. The other children were all sweet, and I enjoyed each of them as supporting cast members. They all play a role into the film's theme of what it means to be a family, how it is not defined purely by blood.

Saying all that, I felt the movie had some issues. The first act of the movie is a bit messy, and it doesn't start getting interesting until Billy gets his powers. For those first thirty minutes or so, none of the jokes really landed for me, and it was following a formulaic pattern for a hero origin story. I also did not care for the villain in this movie

who is played by Mark Strong. I think Strong is a talented actor, but his character was mostly one note with unclear motivations. I did enjoy how violent his character was (especially for a PG-13 movie), but he did not have much depth to him.

Overall, *Shazam!* is a really fun time at the theaters, and I would recommend it to people looking for something new and enjoyable. Once you get past the first couple of minutes it is hilarious, heartwarming, and packs a couple of sweet surprises in it that'll keep people talking about it for a while.

Buju Banton's Long Walk to Freedom Concert

By Brianna Knibbs

Grammy Award winning reggae and international icon Buju Banton kicked off the first concert of his Long Walk to Freedom Tour on March 16th. Located at the National Stadium in Kingston Jamaica, the concert marks his first performance after serving eight years in prison for drug-related charges. More than 40,000 people from all over the world attended which marks the largest concert in Jamaica's history since Bob Marley's 1976 Smile Concert.

Recorded live on Facebook, YouTube, and CVM television, Banton entered the stage dressed in a white suit with his hands behind his back as the audience was screaming and cheering for him. He started off his performance by singing a prayer "Lamb of God Have Mercy on Me" as he fell to his knees. Falling to his knees was a symbolic way of asking God for his forgiveness after the mistakes he made that landed him in prison. Banton quickly got himself back up when the stage lights and the mood changes when one of his hit single, "Not An Easy Road" came on. With his long dreadlocks swinging freely and dancing around the stage, he and the audience became very energetic during the performance. It then transitions to his next single, "Close One Yesterday." Both songs describe the struggles that Banton went through in the past decade. Other records such as "Destiny," "Hills and Valleys," "Wanna Be Loved," "Champion," and many more came on.

Several of the notable reggae artists joined the stage with Banton such as "Electric Slide" singer, Marcia Griffith,

Wayne Wonder, Beres Hammond, and U.K. hip hop and dancehall artist Stefflon Don. All of Banton's collaborators joined the stage to celebrate his return and performed their hit singles with him. This marks one of the most iconic moments throughout the concert, not only was he performing with them, but he also laughs and shares jokes with them. The moment that strike out the most was after performing with Wayne Wonder and he stated the amount of time he served in prison. "Eight Years, six months, twenty-seven days, thirteen hours, five minutes, and twenty-six seconds" Banton stated without addressing his legal troubles. The National Stadium was where the then eighteen year old Wonder introduced Banton to the world in the beginning of their careers in the early 90s.

Banton closed the concert with his three hit singles, "Driver-A," "Murderer," and "Psalms 23." The two hour performance proves as to why Banton is still one of the greatest reggae and dancehall artists of all time. Despite being away for so long and with the music industry changing, Banton made a historic comeback as a way to not only bring back the 90s reggae and dancehall but set hope for music in the future. For example, he shows his appreciation and love for modern dancehall music while giving advice to the new generation. "I wanna say nuff respect to all the younger generation of youths who kept the music," Buju stated. "We don't kill champions, we raise them. We want you to know that Buju Banton loves what you're doing. We just



Buju Banton performing at the National Stadium in Kingston, Jamaica

want you to find your way, and change it up a bit, and make it... wholesome."

Overall, the historical concert was very successful and it was worth numerous flights to Jamaica's Capital along with packed hotels and increasing Airbnb bookings that reached 100 percent occupancy. I think it's safe to say that is how much the fans and supporters really loves and respects him a lot. Even celebrities such as DJ Khaled, *Love and Hip Hop* couple Safaree Samuels and Erica Mena, and many other reggae stars and politicians showed up to the concert. His name has been constantly hashtag on social media and being mentioned through the talks of

people around the world. It makes sense why Banton decided to name his tour after late former South African President Nelson Mandela's autobiography. Mandela made an appearance at the National Stadium in 1991 to address the people. Long Walk to Freedom describes the struggles that both men have gone through after spending years in prison and finally entering society of freedom. It was a concert that the fans have been waiting for so long. Banton will be touring around other countries such as the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Kitts, and many more throughout the spring and summer.

MOVIE REVIEW

Little

By Ty'Asia Smith

In early March, a little surprise made itself into theaters starring Regina Hall, Issa Rae and Marsai Martin in a movie called *Little*. *Little* is a spin off of the 1988 film *Big* starring Tom Hanks and David Moscow. The difference in films are instead of a child turning into an adult like in the movie *Big*, in *Little*, you have an adult who is magically transformed into a child.

In the movie *Little*, you have Jordan Sanders (Regina Hall), a tech mogul who strikes a nerve ending fear into all of her employees including her assistant April (Issa Rae). One day, Jordan is picking on a child magician, Stevie, who was just trying to brighten up everyone's day by showing them magic tricks. After a little altercation, Stevie unknowingly casts a harmless magic trick on Jordan by wishing she was little. The next morning, Jordan is transformed into her bullied 13-year-old self and immediately has to rely on April to take over as boss.

In a flashback, you get a snippet as to what makes Jordan such a bully to her loyal employees. When she was younger, she too was a victim of being a bullied. During her middle school presentation, she was humiliated by her peers and got hurt pretty badly. Second guessing herself, her father reassured her that when she gets older things will be different. Her father states, "Nobody bullies the boss." And from then on Jordan grew up to be the boss that not

only bullies' people; but she bullies people before they get the chance to bully her. She creates a defense mechanism to protect herself by being mean to everyone else around her.

In the present day, you can see Jordan as a successful business woman running a software company. Her outbursts make her employees run away from her peripheral vision. There was a scene in the film when it was one of the employee's birthdays and as the birthday girl was getting ready to blow out her candles; Jordan came, someone else blew out the candles and they ran out of Jordan's way. Her employees are too afraid to stand up to her. Even April who has a great idea for a pitch but was hesitant on showcasing her brilliant idea for a new app. The moment everyone leaves, Jordan and April are alone, April pitches her new idea and is immediately shut down, killing April's confidence. When Jordan is seen shrieking at her employees, she is approached by a child-magician who asks Jordan why is she so mean and with a smug remark she states, "I got big and I got rich. Who gonna check me, boo?" And with a wave of her magical wand, the young magician says "I wish you were little." The sudden change in appearance immediately takes an unexpected turn when she is forced to take a leave of absence. Soon after, her job is now in jeopardy when an important client is in need of a fresh new idea.

Now her former 13-year-old self, Jordan, now Marsai Martin, must go back to school and run a business through April. Now boss, April is set on making a few changes to the company. She dresses the part by wearing a few of Jordan's animal print clothing, a joke was made about her outfit in the film by stating that April "looks like Cookie from *Empire*." While April is at the office trying to keep the business alive, Jordan is forced to attend school by using what she knows now as an adult and using the opportunity to do things differently being little again.

The film *Little* is a coming of age story by teaching kids to be themselves. A young Jordan comes across these kids who are at the lunch table away from everyone else. The un-cool kids believed that if they win a talent show that they will be able to sit with the other kids even though those same kids casted them out. Young Jordan, in her attempts to save the kids from what she refers to as "social suicide," she invites them to her house and immediately she shows them around and they create a social media account. The social media account is created to make them look cool. She even tells them to refrain from entering the talent show because it's "social suicide" given their status at school. Eventually, Jordan makes an amends with her former self. When she realizes that she made a mistake by telling the kids to refrain from being in the

talent show, she rushes to their aid and puts herself out there by doing 90's dance moves. That gives the kids a boost of confidence and motivation to do what makes them happy. The biggest change in the film was when the audience sees a young Jordan and April talking and actually sitting there listening to one another. Instantly, they realize that they need one another and that they make a great team.

At the end, a young Jordan makes amends with the young magician, insisting that she's changed. Anxious, she asked if she can change her back but for reassurance the magician asked "How do I know that when I change you back, you're not going to be mean again." Young Jordan assures her that she's changed and that's when the magician waved her magical wand and the next day, Jordan was big again. When she returns to work, her employees immediately flee. When she enters the meeting where her important client is seen sitting down patiently waiting for her arrival, she gives her assistant April the floor, allowing her to pitch her idea. When she is turned down, Jordan assures her that there will be more opportunities and at the end, April is made partner. Jordan's business can continue to thrive with the help of her friend and now business partner April.

When I Get Home

By Brianna Knibbs

Singer and songwriter Solange Knowles released her fourth debut album, *When I Get Home* on March 1st. The album debuted at number seven on the US Billboard 200 with 43,000 album equivalent units. This marks Knowles' third top U.S. album. It is a follow up to her 2016 album, *A Seat At The Table*. The 19th track album explores Solange's hometown of Houston, Texas and contains R&B and jazz elements.

The first two tracks contain lyrics that are repetitive along with the messages that are not clear. It doesn't bring excitement or a hype feeling that would start off an album. Messages became clearer when songs such as "Down in the Clique," "Ways to Show," and "Dreams" came on even though the beat and the tempo is slow. The mood of the album starts to transition to when "Stay Flo" comes on. It contains a catchy beat where it makes you want to raise an expectation for Knowles on the type of artist we've always known her to be.

Features on the album included Hip Hop artists The Dream, Playboi Carti, Gucci Mane, and Tyler the Creator along with samples containing from actresses Debbie Allen, Phylicia

Rashad, Poet Pat Parker, and rapper and member of the hip hop group Geto Boys, Scarface.

"Almeda" featuring The Dream and Playboi Carti is one of the most stands out songs of the album. With the ode being chopped and screwed, a technique that originated in the Houston hip hop scene in the early 90s, Knowles dug deep into her Southern roots and traditions. "Almeda" being named after an area located in Southwest Houston, she mentioned a term

"Florida Water." Florida Water is defined as a unisex cologne based on a mixture of essential oils. It is purported to have spiritual and healing effects. Knowles sings about no matter how effective the water is, it can bring hope and perseverance of the diversity of black people.

Another record that also stands out is "Binz" which is about earning money and living lavishly while breaking the stereotype of African Americans being poor. Knowles constantly uses the term "CP." "CP time" or "colored people's time" refers to the negative stereotype that African Americans are always being late to events. According to genius.com, the term appeared as early in 1912 at a Chicago newspaper. American Anthro-

pologist, Jules Henry defined the term "CP time" during his observations of interviews with poor African American families living in St. Louis housing development in the 1960s.

The album concluded with the song "I am a Witness." With a powerful and spiritual element, Knowles delivered a prayer like message permitting control on accomplishing what needs to be done.

Overall, some of the messages are not clear or lyrics don't relate to the title of the songs. There were some that display messages, however, the beats and melodies don't match with the points that Knowles want to get across. The album is not as great as her previous one as far as the instrumentals. However, Knowles did a



Photo Credit: Pitchfork.com

great job of making listeners understand more about the importance of black culture and Southern roots. In contrast, this isn't the best album to listen to unless if you are interested in knowing the significance behind the project.

MAC AWARDS NOMINEES 2019

DIGITAL ARTS

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Clayton Zoller – “Slash”
Louis Cacace – “Night”
Gabriella Serrano – “Passenger”

DIGITAL IMAGING

Audrey Malone – “Nano”
Maurizio Portillo – “Untitled”
La’Niya Clark – “Imaginary Buildings”

WEB DESIGN

Kassandra Cruz – “Save the Elephants”
Melissa Outsen – “Bald Girls Do Lunch”
Dan Tobin – “The Principle Six”

3D DESIGN

Joshua Olsen – “Alien Invasion”
Antonio Romano – “Topo Escapes”
Dan DeAmeller – “The Walk”

ANIMATION

Dan DeAmeller – “One More Shot”
Amanda Brooks – “The Unbearable Picnic”
Alex Medolla – “Auto Clean”

VIDEO ART

Dan Tobin – “Mind Tricks”
Enoch Bekoe – “The Art That Travels”
Jonathan Gusman – “You Were Supposed to do Something Today”

TELEVISION

BEST TELEVISION PROMO

Aleeka Noble, Stenley Talabert – “Fall 2018 Club Bash”
Terry Phebe, Patrick Narag – “Media Innovation Center”
Wanwen Wang – “Miss Panda”

BEST SPECIAL EVENTS PACKAGE

Sean McCarron, Scarlett Vizcaino, Michael Ross, Georgene Zagarino – “Legalization of Marijuana”
Antoinette Haggray, Juan “Ricardo” Abreu – “Campus Talks: Episode 2 Valentine’s Day Special”
Juan “Ricardo” Abreu, Wanwen Wang, Daisy Morales – “Black History Month at SUNY Old Westbury”

BEST CREATIVE TELEVISION SEGMENT

Matthew Kearns, Enoch Byrd, Terry Phebe – “Cable Television vs Streaming Services”
Aleeka Noble, Emily Zumbach – “Can You Answer These Trivia Questions?”
Antoinette Haggray, Delano Goodall – “Campus Talks: Episode 5”

BEST FIELD REPORTER

Marvin Argueta, Sean McCarron, Cory Soodoo – “Spring 2019 SUNY Old Westbury Blood Drive”
Sabornée Judge, Terry Phebe – “In Memory of Sean Bell”
Judith Amaro, Stenley Talabert, Ricardo Abreu, Brandon Johnson – “Claudia Marin Andrade - Dean of Students”

BEST NEWS PACKAGE

Kristel Garces – “DACA Student on ICE”
Brandon Johnson – “Old Westbury Food Pantry”
Stenley Talabert, Sabornée Judge, Brandon Johnson – “Colin Kaepernick: To Kneel or Not To Kneel”

VIDEO

BEST PORTRAIT OF A PLACE

Marc Perrino – “Dilly Dally”
Sean McCarron – “Death of Radio?”
Wanwen Wang – “City and the Beat”

BEST PORTRAIT OF A PERSON

Wanwen Wang – “A Career in Dining Services”
Brandon Ellis – “Ellis: His Story”
Sean McCarron – “The Campaign: A Kevin McCarron Story”

BEST CREATIVE VIDEO

Terry Phebe, Patrick Narag – “Kill The Show”
Cory Soodoo, Selia Mercado, Patrick Narag, Terry Phebe – “Everyday: The Boondocks”
Marc Perrino – “It doesn’t get any BUTTER than this..”

BEST DOCUMENTARY

Stenley Talabert – “Polluted Community: New Cassel”
Jake McCoy – “4th World Comics Documentary”
Kristel M Garcés – “Abuse in Special Education”

SOCIAL JUSTICE DOCUMENTARY

Juan “Ricardo” Abreu, Wanwen Wang, Daisy Morales, Jennifer Amy Reyes – “When We Talk About Feminism in NY 2019”
Stenley Talabert, Monique Cambell – “Spoken Word: Yesterday and Today’s Trauma”
Arlyn Sorto, Jalen Natera, Laura DeMarzo – “Consent Panel”

NEW MEDIA

EMERGING MEDIA PROJECT

Jenna Barbone – “Avalon Walking Tour in Stony Brook”
David Klein, Ricardo Morales – “Now Cook It!”
Jessinta Smith – “Augmented Poetry”

MAC AWARDS NOMINEES 2019

INTERACTIVE PROJECT

Lauren DeLeon – “SUNY Old Westbury Greek Life”

Laura DeMarzo, Jalen Natera, Arlyn Sorto – “What is Consent?”

Jalen Natera – “Fighting for A Greater Cause”

MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE

Juan “Ricardo” Abreu – “Kicking For His Life: Life and Times of Craig Pinto’s Football Journey”

Chantel Smith – “Art In Her Language”

Maya Srinivasan – “College Students Honor Women Through Poetry”

PODCAST

Liam Bricker, Matthew Kearns – “Comic Books”

Thomas Gallopini – “Though Poppies Grow”

Dennis Hou – “Elder with Modern Technology”

WEB PORTFOLIO

Marcus Edwards – “Marcus Edwards Visuals”

Nyheim Mason – “Urban Exploration: The Forgotten & Abandoned”

Arlyn Sorto – “Portfolio”

PRINT

BEST FEATURE

Krystal Garces – “Social Media’s Role in Eating Disorders”

Elliot Goshman – “The Vinyl Renaissance

Jacqueline Schroder – “An Interview with Author S.A. Bodeen”

Laura DeMarzo – “Felton v. Oladimu: Race and the Industrial Prison Complex”

Ty’Asia Smith – “The Hammerin’ Hanks: From Father to Son”

BEST REVIEW

Keya Rice – “Once a Ghetto: The Worlds Created by Jews and Blacks in Brownsville”

Kirsten Hyman – “The Nutcracker and the Four Realms”

Selena Valentin – “Championships”

Jalen Michael – “The Lego Movie 2”

Brianna Knibbs – “Ella Mai’s: Ella Mai”

BEST OPINION PIECE

Laura DeMarzo – “#Why I Didn’t Report”

Kirsten Hyman – “Cleaning up Great South Bay the Right Way”

Jalen Michael – “Big Win for Diversity at the Oscars, But is There still Work to be Done?”

Jacqueline Schroder - “Theatrical Magic”

Lyric Morton – “Colorism Sure is Ugly”

BEST NEWS STORY

Kristin Brave – “New Funding Aims to Alleviate Opioid Epidemic in Nassau County”

Arlyn Sorto – “How Smart are the Smart Classrooms?”

Keya Rice – “Snow Woes at OW”

Brianna Knibbs – “SUNY OW and Roosevelt School District Create Scholar Academy”

Ty’Asia Smith – “Governor Cuomo Comes to SUNY OW”

RADIO

BEST NEWS SEGMENT

Christina DeSantis, Brandon Ellis – “OWWR Spotlight: Prosthetics”

Marvin Argueta – “The ESPN Sebastian Salazar Interview”

Brandon Ellis, Karina Drake, Lauren Fraser, Andrew Thoma, Deanna Bobadilla, Jalaal McCoy – “OWWR 6 PM News Update”

BEST EVENT PROMO

Karina Drake – “Panthers vs. Rams”

Brandon Ellis, Christina DeSantis, Ben Lubman – “Writing Workshop”

Arianna Drake – “Toys for Tots”

BEST STATION PROMO

Ariana Drake – “OWWR Production”

Brandon Ellis, Deanna Bobadilla – “The Damage Report”

Karina Drake – “TNT is Taking Over”

Karina Drake, Arianna Drake – “Reminisce Radio”

BEST CREATIVE PRODUCTION

Joseph Boscia, Arianna Drake – “OWWR Instagram”

Arianna Drake, Karina Drake – “OWWR”

Brandon Ellis – “In The Know: Trivia”

Karina Drake – “OWWR Worldwide”

BEST SHOW

Brandon Ellis, Scott Honickman, Sara DeMauro, Justin Ellis – “The Damage Report on OWWR”

Marvin Argueta, Rene Canales, Andrew Thoma – “Goal Zone”

Brandon Johnson – “In Too Deep Sports”

Karina Drake, Arianna Drake – “Reminisce Radio on OWWR”

YOU DIDN'T TRY IF YOU STOOD BY

By Ty'Asia Smith

Social media has been used to share funny meme's, social injustices and updates on what is going on in the world. Sometimes social media provides information that hasn't made the news yet. Yet there have been times when social media has been used to share graphic images of people being viciously beaten, wounded, or murdered. In the 1960's during the civil rights movement, media outlets would display horrific events to inform people of the harsh reality. Given the circumstances; it was necessary to show the world how African Americans were being treated. Today, we commonly witness people filming violence and not physically helping. We have more witnesses than we do heroes.

On March 31, Nipsey Hussle was murdered in Los Angeles, California outside his clothing store. He was shot by the killer six times. Nipsey Hussle was a rapper, a business man, and songwriter. He was often acknowledged for giving generous donations to his community and motivating the African American community with his music. Before his untimely death, he was supposed to do a documentary on herbalist Dr. Sebi but was killed before he could

finish his project. His death broke many hearts but for his girlfriend of five years, Lauren London, is constantly reliving his death because people on social media are sharing videos of the crime scene. Constant videos of Nipsey Hussle being fatally shot. There is even a video surfacing of Lauren London rushing into the hospital asking to see Nipsey. According to Monsters and Critics, "The clip appearing to capture Lauren London crying at the hospital has been posted several times on social media and has sparked a debate about privacy on social media." The ongoing debate on whether or not to post and share certain images has people questioning each other's character.

On June 20th, 2018, a 15-year-old boy Lesandro Guzman-Feliz who goes by the name, Junior, was brutally stabbed to death in the Bronx by local gang members called "Trinitarios." Junior was falsely mistaken as the gang members target. After running frantically, he came across a bodega and took refuge there. Unfortunately, he was followed into the store and they dragged him out; with more gang members waiting. As people stand witness of Junior being stabbed, they began pull-

ing out their cell phones and began recording. According to ABC, "His murder outraged the community and the nation, put a spotlight on gang violence, and led to the #JusticeForJunior slogan."

According to Quartz, "Our phones make us feel like social-media activists, but they're actually turning us into bystanders." There have been so many viral videos of people dying and violence being shared on social media. Footage of Eric Garner being choked by police officer taken by a pedestrian. His last words during the incident were, "I can't breathe." Another innocent person, Oscar Grant, his death was caught on cell phone footage by multiple people who witnessed Grant being told to lie down before being shot from the back. Furthermore, Wikipedia states, "Owners disseminated their footage to media outlets and to various websites where it became viral. Both peaceful and violent protests of police actions took place in the following days." Popular YouTuber, Logan Paul, posted a video of himself laughing after coming across a man who committed suicide in the "Suicide Forest," in Japan. As stated by Know Your Meme, "The

video immediately created a wave of controversy as people saw the video as Paul trivializing suicide for the success of his YouTube channel."

Unfortunately, people are choosing not to intervene in emergency situations. According to Quartz, "There are other people around." It continues, "Viral videos that incite outrage and prod at our sense of justice demonstrate both the difficulty and necessity of acting in accordance with our values." Even though Social Media is a convenient tool, we need to be careful about what we support and post on it. Recording violent events and refraining from helping helps no one. The use of social media is being taken advantage of unless it is used ethically. As stated by Quartz, "a video of an assault on your phone helps no one if it's not formally filed to the police or uploaded to the internet in an effective, ethical manner." Today, we commonly witness people filming violence and not physically helping. We have more witnesses than we do heroes. Be a hero, put your phone down and lend a hand.

COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP

By Jalen Michael

Raymond Lall spends his week doing what most other third year college students do: going to class, typing up five-page essays, clocking in heavy hours at his part time job, and being deprived of a sufficient night's sleep. "My schedule is packed. I get home, try to knock out homework and other assignments...then right after I head to work until like 10 at night, and get home by 11," he said. Lall says that by the time he finishes his daily schedule, he gets about 5 hours of sleep.

This is not uncommon for students around Raymond's age. The University of Georgia Health Center reports that on average, most college students get 6-6.9 hours of sleep per night. The recommended average of hours of sleep college students should get is at least 8 hours. "There's just not enough hours in the day to do everything. Reading the textbooks, writing papers, then having to fulfill my responsibilities at work. It's a lot," said Lall.

Recent studies show that fifty percent of students report daytime sleepiness and seventy percent of students attain insufficient sleep. Students who do not receive their full 8 hours of sleep also report to have academic trouble, including lower GPAs, trouble paying attention in class, and trouble studying.

Cristina Tobar, a registered nurse at the Campus Health Center at SUNY Old Westbury said that she gets students coming in with cases of sleep deprivation mostly towards the end of the

semester. "We usually see more of an uptick around finals time," she said. "I guess it's more of the big cram to study for the final tests and what not."

Students pulling "all-nighters" to finish up their studying might seem beneficial to them for that one test or assignment. However, experts argue that long term, it will cause more negative effects to not only their sleeping habits, but their physical and mental health as well.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, not getting enough sleep is linked with many chronic diseases and conditions, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and depression.

Lall says that he has yet to fall to any of these conditions, but he did realize a change in his eating regimen. "Spent too many nights trying to pull all-nighters," he said. "And because I barely found time to eat during the day, I would do all of my 'binge eating' during those late-night sessions."

Lall also said that because of his lack of sleep, he discovered that he has a heightened sense of anxiousness that he has never noticed before. "Not necessarily towards getting my work done, but I do feel a bit of anxiety towards catching up some work that I may be behind on," he said. While lack of sleep does not advertently cause these feelings of anxiety or depression, studies show that it is a huge factor that plays along with other medical conditions

and personal issues specific to that person. According to the American Sleep Association, an organization that aims to raise awareness on the importance of sleep in order to improve public health, 50-70 million US adults suffer from a sleep disorder.

These disorders include insomnia, which is the inability to maintain sleep; Sleep Apnea, where people have trouble breathing while sleeping; and (the disorder Raymond Lall believes he has) Narcolepsy, experiencing excessive daytime sleepiness along with muscle weaknesses.

Research shows that Narcolepsy affects an estimated 1 in every 2,000 people in the U.S. Many people who have narcolepsy reported experiencing cataplexy, which is a condition where showing strong emotions can cause physical pain to a person due to a sudden loss of muscle tone. It is important to note, however, that being able to diagnose narcolepsy can be difficult as some of its symptoms are not too specific to this disorder; and in fact, according to recent studies, sixty percent of patients were misdiagnosed with disorders including narcolepsy.

Excessive daytime sleepiness might appear to seem miniscule and non-threatening on the surface, but experts say it leads into many dangers and accidents long term.

Speaking on the dangers of sleep deprivation, Nurse Tobar says that having a lack of a good night's rest has

many critical and risky outcomes. "Your body needs sleep to function," she said. "So if you don't have enough energy to function...in the case of let's say driving, there's a high and dangerous chance of you crashing because you did not sleep well the night before."

Drowsy driving is a term that Lall is reluctantly familiar with. "I try not to drive when I am really tired," he said. "But sometimes, when I don't have anyone to pick me up, I have no choice."

Studies show that drowsy driving has become a big problem in the United States. The National Highway Traffic Administration reports that in 2013, drowsy driving was responsible for 72,000 crashes, 44,000 injuries, and 800 deaths. Experts estimate that these numbers have increased each year since then, and in a recent study published back in February 2018, drowsiness was identified in over ten percent of all crashes examined.

Nurse Tobar argues that it is imperative that students get their full night's sleep. "We really take sleep for granted, but it is a necessity," she said. "Everyone should make the time to sleep, even if it's just small naps throughout the day."

For Raymond Lall, he continues to put in his all both at school and work but says that he is determined to set aside time for himself. "Maybe I'll request Friday's off from work, since I don't have class those days," he said. "Then I'll just sleep the whole day."

The Sunchoke: A Beautiful Plant with Beautiful Benefits



Photographed by Hunter Obshatcko

(From left to Right) Raza Memon, Ervetz Bien-Aime, Rashana Calder, Professor Ebrahimi and Cassandra Lirio.

By Hunter Obshatcko

Grow, Eat, Heal. This is the motto of Ali Ebrahimi, associate professor, Marketing and Finance, and his team of students Raza Memon, Cassandra Lirio, Ervetz Bien-Aime and Rashana Calder who are conducting research based on the new superfood, the Jerusalem artichoke, also known as the sunchoke.

The sunchoke is derived from a bulb that is planted and able to grow year round with colors and tastes that vary season-to-season. It has the potential to grow up to 10 feet tall, carry a myriad of shoots, and may survive in any given environment. You may ask yourself, “what can I do with it?” In 110-150 days, you can harvest the sunchoke and then you can cook it, stew it, eat it raw or make a dip out of it.

Professor Ebrahimi and his team have taken their own innovative approach, crispy chips that range in flavors from cheddar to barbeque ranch. The sunchoke is a healthy alter-

native to their starchier counter-part, the potato. While potatoes are broken down by the body into glucose, the sunchoke breaks down into fructose. Because of this, the vegetable poses as a major preventative to the growing epidemic of diabetes.

According to the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, the number of Americans with diabetes will double or triple by 2050 if the current trends continue. In fact, the superfood contains a natural form of insulin known as inulin, which yields significant health benefits such as weight loss, digestive health, heart health and is also a preventative of colon cancer. In addition, sunchokes provide the consumer with a wide array of minerals that are often disregarded in our daily diets. Such minerals include phosphorous, iron and calcium. These minerals aid the body with bone health, the transporting of oxygen via blood cells and the maintenance of our mus-

cles.

This is an issue that affects a greater extent of the population as well as our Old Westbury community. Grown here, in our backyard, Professor Ebrahimi and his team are using the fertile soil of the Old Westbury Gardens to conduct their planting and research. Furthermore, the team recently presented their findings during Student Research Day of 2019.

As a great deal of students at Old Westbury are enrolled full time, students are often faced with back-to-back lectures that may carry on for hours. Consequently, students turn to the gummy-worm and potato-chip riddled vending machines around campus in order to “fuel” themselves. However, students truly deserve the opportunity to properly nourish themselves, just as academic institutions hold the responsibility of providing the means of doing so.

Just as an illuminated light bulb is symbolic to a bright idea, the bulb of a sunchoke is symbolic to opportunity. “We are moving fast now! Any professors that are teaching law, entrepreneurship...bring them in! Any students studying biology, marketing, etc., bring them in!” said Dr. Ebrahimi.

To learn more about this fantastic project, you may visit the team’s webpage, www.GrowEatHeal.com. For more information regarding how you can help, you may contact the team advisor professor Ebrahimi at Ebrahimia@oldwestbury.edu.

Athletic Director's Honor Roll Luncheon



Photo Credit: John Butler

By Selena Valentin

The student athletes at SUNY Old Westbury were recognized for their academic excellence at the Athletic Director's Academic Honor Roll luncheon held on April 1, 2019 in the Student Union. Lenore Walsh, the Director of Athletics since 2012, said, "At the event we celebrate the wins in the classroom. We highlight the academic achievements of our students. Student athletes are unique, they

create a healthy balance of academics and a rigorous athletic practice and game schedule. They are the masters in multitasking without even knowing it."



(Disclosure:
The author participated in the event.)

Harris Rappel Joins York College After Serving for Nearly 13 Years at SUNY OW

Harris Rappel joined York College as assistant director of athletics for external relations/sports information director, effective April 8th.

Rappel spent nearly 13 years at SUNY Old Westbury building a career in higher education across the areas of sports information, compliance and scheduling. Rappel has served at Old Westbury since 2006, when he assumed the position of the Panthers' compliance officer and sports information director. In 2010, Rappel was elevated to assistant director of athletics for compliance and sports information, and in 2012, Rappel added the role of scheduling coordinator to go with his sports information responsibilities.

Rappel was responsible for all

facets of the publicity and promotion of the Panthers' 13-sport, NCAA Division III athletics program. In 2009, he also played an integral role by forming a partnership with SIDEARM Sports to provide the technology platform that powers www.oldwestburypanthers.com. Rappel orchestrated a three-year agreement with SIDEARM Sports in 2018 to provide live video streaming and on-demand services for all home games and events.

Always looking for ways to increase and create value, Rappel was instrumental in spearheading the growth of Old Westbury's social media presence to over 3,000 combined followers by working to implement new and innovative ways to

reach the campus community and beyond. Throughout the years, Rappel has garnered coverage for coaches, student-athletes and staff members in local publications, as well as expanding the College's reach with features by ESPN SportsCenter and Sports Illustrated.

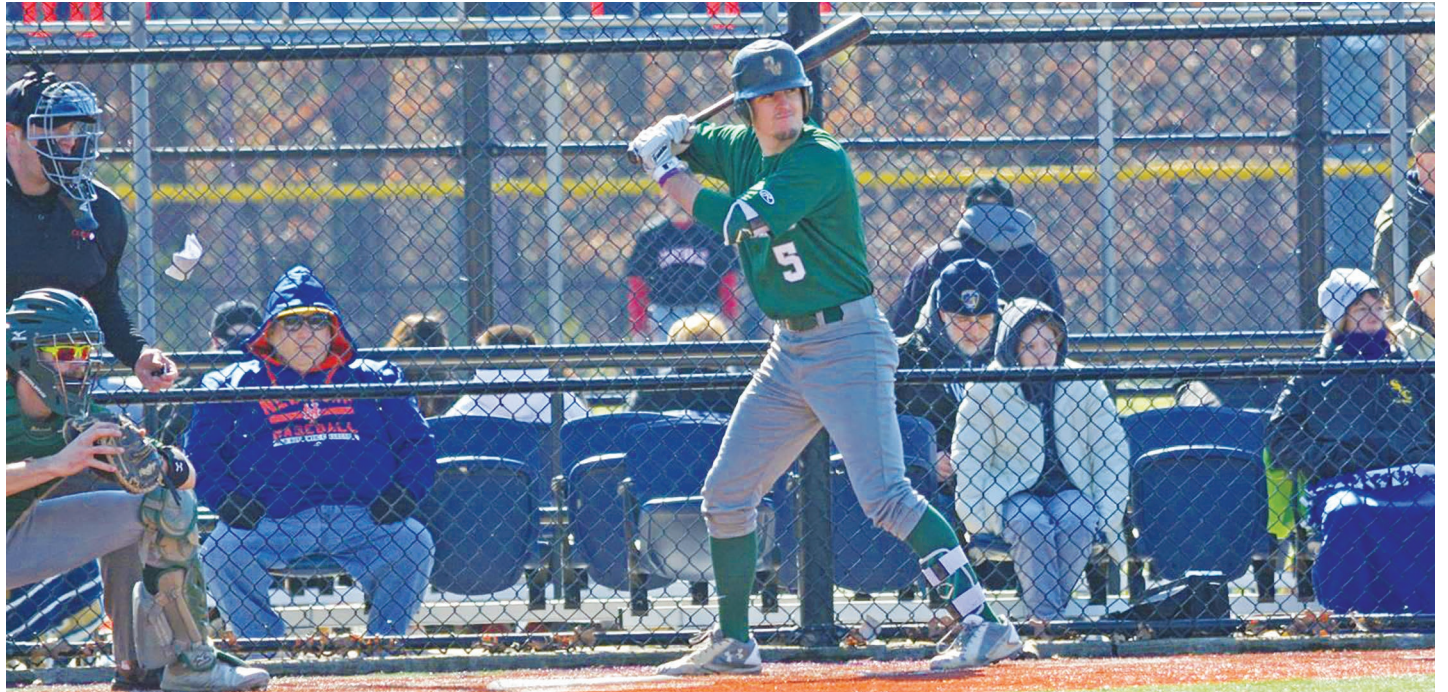
Through his internship program, he has helped start the careers of several former interns who currently hold positions in college athletics at all levels of the NCAA.



KAMINSKI SHINES AS PANTHERS BASEBALL SWEEPS MOUNT SAINT MARY IN REGULAR-SEASON FINALE

By Nicole Sasu-Twum

SUNY Old Westbury baseball came away with 10-9 and 5-1 Skyline Conference regular-season finale wins Saturday afternoon against the Mount Saint Mary College Knights (12-16, 6-10 Skyline) from Jackie Robinson Athletic Complex. Old Westbury (20-14-1, 12-6 Skyline) improve to a 7-5 mark against Mount Saint Mary dating back to the 2015 campaign. The Panthers advance to the postseason for the 12th-straight season and will await seedings for the Skyline Conference Championship.



Shaun Kaminski delivered the game-winning run with his first-career home run in the eighth inning of game one.

PANTHERS WOMEN'S LACROSSE PROPELS PAST PURCHASE ON SENIOR DAY



2019 Women's Lacrosse Senior Class.

By Nicole Sasu-Twum

SUNY Old Westbury women's lacrosse collected an 18-5 Skyline Conference Senior Day victory over the Purchase College Panthers (1-7, 0-4 Skyline) Saturday

afternoon inside Panther Park. Old Westbury (3-9, 2-2 Skyline) improves to a 4-3 all-time mark against Purchase.

Prior to opening draw, Old Westbury celebrated its five-member 2019 Women's Lacrosse Senior Class consisting of Tori Bellings (2019), Erika Fonseca (2016-

19), Monique Joseph (2019), Charlotte Renker (2019) and Natasha Treuman (2016-19) for their dedication to Old Westbury Athletics.