

THE CATALYST

www.oldwestburycatalyst.org

“IGNITING THE MIND”

OldWestburyCatalyst.org

Mona Rankin is Retiring as Chief of Staff

By Arlyn Sorto

Mona Rankin is expected to retire as chief of staff at SUNY Old Westbury this semester.

“I have been in higher education for over thirty years,” she explained. “I started in the City University of New York system.”

When she first came to the school in 2000, she was had the title of executive assistant. Prior to her current role as chief of staff, she was the executive vice president.

As chief of staff, Rankin has worked very closely with President Calvin O. Butts III. “The President relies on me to pretty much to be aware of everything that is going on,” she said. Rankin says that this is important because she must brief him about events on campus so he can make “fully informed decisions.” President Butts has announced that he will step down from his role as president of SUNY Old Westbury, though he will continue to be affiliated with the college by assuming a tenured position in the School of Arts and Sciences.

“As the conversation evolved, the time just worked out, in that we would both be leaving the office of the President at the same time,” Rankin added.

After thirty-years, Rankin is ready for this next chapter in her life. “Thirty years is a long time to be tied to one field,” she reflected. “It’s time for me to do something different. I’m not quite sure what that is at this point. I need some time to sort of sit-down, relax and decide on what this is.”

She recalled that one of the toughest times that she had to face here at SUNY OW was September 11th, 2001; the day al-Qaeda launched terrorist attacks in the United States. “I was at a meeting outside, a construction meeting,” she said. “I received a phone call from someone in Chicago who said, ‘Do you know what’s going on in New York?’” She remembered going to a

(Cont. on page 3.)

**LIBRARY
PHOTOS
PAGE 7**

DR. BUTTS RETIRING AFTER 20 YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF SUNY OLD WESTBURY

By Keya Rice



Dr. Calvin O. Butts III

Dr. Calvin O. Butts III will be retiring in 2020 after serving as SUNY Old Westbury’s president for more than twenty years. However, his retirement as president does not mean his time at OW is over as he will be transferring to a faculty position. Starting on January 21, 2020, he will be engaged in a study leave and on June 15, 2020, he will return to the classroom as a tenured professor in the School of Arts and Sciences, reportedly in the American Studies Department where he began teaching many years ago.

While Dr. Butts is aware of the positive impact his presidency has had on this college, he said in a recent interview: “The shelf life of a president is about seven years. When I leave, I will have been here twenty-one so I’ve out-lived three presidents in this job, but its time to go. You know the same way divine guidance kind of brought me here, divine guidance kind of says it’s time to go.”

Dr. Butts attributes his assuming the presidency at SUNY Old Westbury as an act of God. He said: “I see the whole scenario as a hand of divine guidance because I didn’t pursue it, it came to me and the move into the position was easy and unobstructed, it moved right along.” He told the story of how three men from the State University of New York showed up at his church one Sunday and shocked him when they asked him to become the president of SUNY Old Westbury. You can imagine his surprise when he thought they’d come to ask him about his teaching career at Old Westbury as he had been a visiting professor here and gave lectures on black history. However, they had come to ask for much more. “I said yes, I was shocked, I thought I could do the job, even though I had no prior academic administrative experience,” he said.

He added that at first it was hard convincing people that he did not just

(Cont. on page 6.)

Governor Cuomo Comes to SUNY OW

By Ty’Asia Smith

Governor Andrew Cuomo told an audience at SUNY Old Westbury that he plans to urge the state legislature to pass a permanent property tax cap for the middle class. It is currently set to expire in 2020.

Speaking on February 28th, the governor also criticized President Trump’s tax bill that placed a \$10,000 limit on federal deductions for state and local property taxes. New Yorkers are expected to lose billions to the federal government under the law.

As Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties pay among the highest property taxes in the country, according to the governor, he has made it a priority to reduce such taxes and also to reduce

state income taxes.

Without lowering taxes, it will be difficult for New York to compete with other states, he noted, and businesses will move elsewhere.

Cuomo said that he wants to make it affordable to live here again and encourage people to stay in New York. “We are competing to attract and competing to keep,” he said.

In his talk, which was sponsored by the Long Island Association, the governor also said that a priority is the improvement of the Long Island Railroad. Some parts of Long Island only have one track, making it difficult to travel. “If a squirrel happens on to the track and has a heart attack, everything

(Cont. on page 3.)

**SPORTS
PAGES
11-12**

Executive Editor Emeritus:

Laura DeMarzo

Managing Editors:

Keya Rice & Arlyn Sorto

Interns:Kirsten Hyman
Jalen Michael
Ty'Asia Smith
Selena Valentin**Staff Writer:**

Brianna Knibbs

Layout Editor:

Joseph Wood

Faculty Advisor:

John Friedman

CAMPUS NEWS

PAGES 1-4,7, 8

MONA RANKIN IS RETIRING AS CHIEF OF STAFF

DR. BUTTS RETIRING AFTER 20 YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF SUNY

OLD WESTBURY

GOVERNOR CUOMO COMES TO SUNY OW

FORMER PRESIDENT HARRIS WOFFORD DIES

SESSIONS OF H.O.P.E.

PRESIDENT'S TOWN HALL MEETING

MULTIFAITH FORUM

FREDERICK DOUGLASS LEGACIES: AS TOLD BY DR. JERMAINE

ARCHER

NICOLE PAULTRE BELL-EARLE

LIBRARY REMODELING IS ALMOST FINISHED

NEWS

PAGE 4

"THE WOMEN'S MARCH" A CLOSE TALK WITH TAMIKA MALLORY

OPINION

PAGE 5

CLEANING UP THE GREAT SOUTH BAY THE RIGHT WAY

REVIEW

PAGES 9-10

"OUR LAND"

BIG WIN FOR DIVERSITY AT THE OSCARS, BUT IS THERE STILL

WORK TO BE DONE?

CARDI B'S GRAMMY

THE LEGO MOVIE 2

SPORTS

PAGES 11-12

THE HAMMERIN' HANKS: FROM FATHER TO SON

PANTHERS BASEBALL SEASON PREVIEW

PANTHERS WOMEN'S LACROSSE SEASON PREVIEW

Cont. from page 1**Governor Cuomo Comes to SUNY OW**

Photo by Julia Sorto

Governor Cuomo speaks at SUNY OW.

stops," he said.

Noting that adding two or three tracks in about fifty stations, would "prioritize the project called Eastside access which brings the trains into the Eastside of Manhattan."

The governor also said that he has made progress with water quality, part-

nering with Suffolk County Executive, Steven Bellone. Together, they are planning on bringing a "real water and sewer system to Suffolk County." He added that the state is doing environmental work in cleaning up bays and shorelines with shell fish restoration.

Cont. from page 1**Mona Rankin is Retiring as Chief of Staff**

television and tried to find a way to calm the students and faculty members on campus. "I made the decision to walk into every office and tell them 'we are okay, we're staying on top of it, we'll keep you informed,'" she remembered telling people on campus. "That was very difficult because people responded in so many different ways."

As officials from SUNY Old Westbury step down from their roles such as Rankin and President Butts, many are wondering what the fate of the school will be. "We have set a very solid foundation for whoever might be coming

in," she said. "There will be a consistency in support for those who have worked here for many years and will continue to do so," she explained. "There is no way to know what style might be used by whoever is appointed next." At this time Rankin does not know who will be filling the positions.

"I have seen significant change and growth," she said. "I have been a part of that, and it's been very exciting. It's time for me to do something different."

Former President Harris Wofford Dies

By Cedric Pompey

Harris Wofford, the founding president of SUNY Old Westbury, passed away at the age of 92 on January 21, 2019. He served from 1966 to 1970.

President Calvin Butts in an e-mail noted that Wofford had played a part in creating American history. Dr. Butts also noted that Wofford helped shaped the future of the U.S. by promoting social justice and civilian service among Americans. Wofford served as special assistant on civil rights for President John F. Kennedy and was a legal counsel and friend of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was a U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania in 1991 and was influential in the establishment of the Americorps and the Corporation for National Service.

Dr. Butts noted that Wofford had laid a foundation for the mission at

SUNY Old Westbury to "empower all students through education and to advocate for a just society for all humankind." He added, "As we remember and honor the memory of Harris Wofford today, we can still define ourselves in that way – as a college seeking to understand and to educate about those issues that face our world, so that we can, in the end, each do our part to improve that world for all who inhabit it."



Sessions of H.O.P.E.

Support Group Returns For Spring Semester Informational Session

By Brianna Knibbs

This semester Sessions of H.O.P.E.Inc has returned, hosting their first informational session of the semester on February 27th. Sessions of H.O.P.E. is a nonprofit Christian based organization that inspires and helps people to reach success in their lives by achieving their goals and developing better relationships with themselves and friends or family using the word of God. All are welcome to Sessions of H.O.P.E. The first session took place in the New Academic Building in room 1119 during common hour.

Students were served refreshments and watched a presentation given about the group by various E-Board members. The acronym H.O.P.E. was explained to mean, Helping Other People Every day which the groups mission is. Sessions of H.O.P.E. president, Kayla Mcleod further explained what the organization was about. The group's founder Jakyra Mcleod then went into detail about how

the group started at Suny Old Westbury and their plans to cater to student needs.

After sharing the groups' origin E-Board members came up and spoke about career development, internships, and volunteering opportunities that can be accessed by joining the group. The presentation showed clips from career and mentoring events the following year such as Sessions of H.O.P.E. first Annual Career Expo and Sessions of H.O.P.E. first Annual Guest Speaker Month. Both events were geared towards giving career guidance and mentoring opportunities. During the presentation, there was a raffle where students could enter to win giveaways and prizes. Sessions of H.O.P.E. meets this semester every Wednesday at common hour in NAB rm 1119 and you can also interact with and learn about the group through social media by following Instagram @sessions_of_hope_



Students watching a presentation during the Sessions of H.O.P.E. meeting 2/27

or Facebook @Sessionsofhope.

For more info about how you can become involved in the group as well as career and community outreach events

please contact Sessions of H.O.P.E. founder Jakyra Mcleod via email: jmcleod3@oldwestbury.edu

President's Town Hall Meeting

By Brianna Knibbs

On February 26th, SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts III held a town hall meeting in the multipurpose room of the Student Union during common hour.

Dr. Butts addressed the progress of the school and improvements that need to be made. He mentioned the enrollment of students and transfer students at SUNY Old Westbury. He said: "Our intended enrollment for new first time and transfer students is effectively flat. We want to hold on to the students that we have. We want to do all that we can to

make the experience so attractive and so rewarding....we want our students to stay with us and work hard to graduate in four years." The college's applications for first time students has been down more than ten percent.

He then went on to discuss the three new graduate programs that are going to be released in the upcoming fall semester including an online program where graduates can complete their degrees quicker. Recently, the school paired up with SUNY Downstate Medical Center to place graduates in the different medical programs

they offer. "These things we do because we believe in who we are at Old Westbury," Dr. Butts said.

Dr. Butts talked about the new developments that were made in the school such as the Panther Food Pantry and the Interfaith Center. While new developments have already been made in the college, there are upcoming projects that SUNY Old Westbury is currently working on such as constructing a new Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Center, while also renovating the Natural Science Building.

Dr. Butts announced that he is retiring from his presidency by August of 2020. He will then go on a study leave on January 2020. He will still remain in the school and be part of the faculty. He emphasized his point by saying "It has taken a long time for us to get to this point because we had so far to come." He added, "We have built a college that is competitive to any in this region and I would argue to any in the state."

MultiFaith Forum

By Jalen Michael

On February 21, SUNY Old Westbury hosted a MultiFaith panel at the Recital Hall in the Campus Center. The panel consisted of six guest speakers Rabbi Yosef Mizrahi who discussed Judaism, Reverend Marcus Tillery who discussed Christianity, Mohammed Hafeez Abdullah who spoke on Islam, Sarabjit Kaur who spoke on Sikhism, Dada Rainjitnanda who discussed Neo Humanism with a background in Hinduism and OW's very own professor Christine Keller who not only discussed the core principles of the six different religions but also spoke about Buddhism/Hinduism.

The panel was put together by Honors College students Sonya Babakhanova and Daniella Mullokandov. The discussion (which was moderated by

Babakhanova) touched on themes of self-responsibility, community values, and the ideals of being a good person within each religion.

Babakhanova's goal was for this event to inspire more students to learn about different religions. "The purpose of this panel was to bring faiths together," she said. "We wanted to educate students and hope that they continue to learn more afterwards."

The students in attendance appeared to be very engaged in the discussion. One attendee, OW student Kenny Adams, believed the panel to be very useful. "I liked seeing different people's perceptions of religion and the slight differences," he said. "I found it very interesting."

The forum proved to be very success-

ful, with a high number of students attending. "Not what we were expecting honestly," Mullokandov said. "We had one hundred free shirts to give to students, and we ran through them quickly. I am very happy with the outcome." Babakhanova added that even though time restrained the event, she was still very satisfied with the end result. "Time only allowed me to get through three questions," she said. "But they were three very important questions and I am happy with the outcome also."

The event also took a moment to promote OW's Interfaith Center. Mullokandov described the center as "a safe space for students to pray, discuss, and hang out." The Interfaith Center is located in the Student Union in room 326.



Frederick Douglass Legacies: As Told by Dr. Jermaine Archer

By Kirsten Hyman and Ty'Asia Smith

Dr. Jermaine Archer, chair of the American Studies/Media and Communications Department at SUNY Old Westbury, spoke about Frederick Douglass on Valentine's Day. Archer's speech on "Frederick Douglass: Legacies," was part of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Public Lecture Series. His presentation was in honor of black history month.

Archer began his lecture with a quote from Frederick Douglass, "Many things touched me and employed my thoughts and activities between the years 1881 and 1891. I am willing to speak of them. Like most men who give the world their autobiographies I wish my story to be told as favorably towards myself as it can be with a due regard to truth. I do not wish it to be imagined by any that I am insensible to the singularity of my career, or to the peculiar relation I sustain to the history of my time and country." Archer picked this quote because he felt that it captured the essence of "how Douglass claimed ownership of his own story; in his own way, and in his own time."

There was a sentimental meaning behind the lecture being held on *Valentine's Day*. Douglass's mother used to call him by the nickname "Valentine." Douglass did not have many memories with his mother. He had only seen her a few



Jermaine Archer

times as he had lost her when he was around eight or nine years old. However, the times he did have with her, he recalled warmly; recollecting his mother and grandmother as elegant women. Since he remembered his mother giving him a heart shaped ginger cake, and calling him "Valentine," he annually celebrated his birthday on Valentine's Day.

When Douglass reached the age of 63, he began writing his autobiography, *The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass: From 1817-1882*. His autobiography included images that he strongly opposed. During the 19th century, African Americans were inaccurately depicted in condescending and racist ways in America. Douglass was more than aware of this issue. This form of ignorance was

exemplified in theatrical entertainment, in the press, and in other forms of media. It was "unrelenting," said Archer.

While publishers were resistant, Douglass insisted that he was in charge of his own story; and wanted an addition of the book to be published without illustrations. He even threatened to take legal action if the addition that included the illustrations was distributed. He wanted to avoid the then common portrayals of African Americans.

Douglass told stories of African Americans who were victims of slavery and of those who were brave enough to stand up to their oppressors. He was constantly seen giving speeches and mentioned in newspapers, novels, and other publications. Douglass himself had escaped slavery when he was young. He went on to become the most photographed figure of the 19th century. This was important to Douglass. According to Archer, Douglass did not just want to be known as "the most photographed African American of the 19th century, but the most photographed American of the 19th century."

Douglass gave a speech in 1876 for the Freedmen's monument to Lincoln in Washington, in which he took issue with the depiction of an African American who

was positioned kneeling. The scene that had been chosen was based off of a real-life account of a slave named "Barney." Barney was depicted on his knees as if to accept a beating from a colonel. This is not the image that Douglass wanted the public to have of Barney. In reality, Douglass regarded Barney as an honorable hard-working man who cared for horses. Douglass had been there personally to witness this horrific event in 1881. Douglass said that this was "the first and last time I ever saw a slave compelled to kneel to receive a whipping." He detailed the encounter in his autobiography. This may have been one of the reasons he became so involved in activism.

Douglass became quite known in anti-slavery organizations. He continued to speak out; insisting on the proper depiction of the freed men. He became the face for African Americans who thought that their voices did not matter. Douglass chose to use his platform as a way to let the world know that African Americans would no longer be controlled or oppressed. As Archer pointed out, he made sure that their story was accurately told.

NEWS

"The Women's March" a Close Talk with Tamika Mallory

By Ty'Asia Smith

Tamika Danielle Mallory is an American activist who currently serves as co-president of the 2019 Women's March. She was one of the leading organizers of the 2017 Women's March, for which she and her three other co-chairs were recognized in the *Time 100* that year.

Tamika Mallory, co-president of *The Women's March*, in a recent interview offered insight on the Women's March origins, issues of concern and the problems encountered. Tamika got involved because when it started only white women were involved when it was being led across the country. Black women began to question and challenge the leadership online. Black twitter was having a field day because white women who voted Trump into office were actually planning a march and also



appropriated the name of a historic march that black women did years ago called the *Million Woman March*. The women had been challenged and overwhelmed so much that they were in the process of changing the name and finding women of color.

Tamika got involved because it was a great opportunity to bring the issues and the plight of black and brown people in specific women to the forefront. The online support and the amount of people who were declaring their participation of this march was very broad. Over time about 150,000 women responded and the list was diverse. While the rsvp was diverse, the leadership was still all white.

Tamika got involved [in the women's march] to broaden the diversity of leadership and ensure that the march itself

would represent the issues of the most marginalized community. In 2016, the march was announced. Tamika was joined by two women of color and a white woman, as well as another 150,000 people who signed up to attend the march at the time Tamika got involved. Tamika was never uncertain about support for the march because she knew based on the social media numbers that there would be a large turnout. The main goal was to get people to understand the issues that matter to women of color, getting those specifically in leadership to understand was a top priority.

Ideally when she started [fostering understanding for the plight of women of color] the response was negative and resulted in protest. The woman who headed the group at the time was only focused on Donald Trump becoming president. She was extremely concerned about that, as were a lot of the other white women who were involved. They felt, "Donald Trump becoming President was the worst thing that could happen in America." Tamika wanted to make it clear that "Donald Trump was not the beginning of oppression in America and in fact not even the worst part of it. He just upholds the racism and oppression that has existed for 400 years."

The action taken in the protest led by Tamika, and other women, consisted predominantly of marching but also incorporated social media as a tool to bring awareness to cases, stories and situations of discrimination across the country. In

addition, the use of their network to push elective officials to be more progressive and to be more radical in their approach in addressing the concerns of the Americans people.

The women protesting have taken it so far that they were arrested together for their cause in acts of civil disobedience. Tamika says she considers the women to be brave for example "when they all marched 250 miles from NY to Washington, DC." During and after their protest they had received responses from people who admired them and support them and people who hated them. "It depends on the audience," says Tamika. They were able to change the hearts and minds based on some of the feedback they've received after the protest.

There are different types of protest that happened in this country. There was the woman who pulled down the confederate flag and a woman who climbed the Statue of Liberty. They were brave. Most of the women know how to deal with the police who often allow the women to protest without aggression because if they are aggressive there can be more aggression on both sides. At this point, Tamika noted, we have established the respect of law enforcement that we would not be protesting if there were not unjust treatment of the people.

The movement went from about 150,000 followers to over a million followers on social media (two million combined Instagram, Twitter, etc.). Tamika said: "I do feel pressure by the responsibility of my

cause. I fight to maintain integrity and I recognize we all must grow and with growth that requires us to become better, more committed, more educated at times more patient with our work... I feel some men have been supportive of the cause. The ones that don't I feel people are afraid about things they don't understand and men in many ways are used to being in the center of things so its kind of difficult for them to allow women to be at the forefront of leadership because they are so used to the being the main voices in this movement."

She continued: "There are about four men that are apart of the leadership and very clear about us being the voices and the face of the work. They help and then step back." Tamika has had a number of personal experiences with men that women may find relatable but what stands out for her is the one she has with her son and therefore she feels that "*The Women's Movement* must include men and it must include issues that matter to men because women as wives, mothers, daughters, friends, family members, have an obligation to ensure their movement include everyone in everyone in their community. Black folks specifically are not in the position that does not speak for the black man. Our families have been torn apart so much and we must not perpetuate the same violence that America has inflicted upon us by excluding our men and trying to have movements that are not about the whole family and I can not participate in that."

CLEANING UP THE GREAT SOUTH BAY THE RIGHT WAY

By Kirsten Hyman

Locals of Long Island are very fortunate to have one thing in common; easy access to waterways. No matter what part of the island, one is always within what feels like twenty minutes of the beach. Unfortunately, waterways such as the Great South Bay, have been destroyed by pollution; and it's time to clean up the mess.

On February 8, Oakdale Long Island was granted \$26.4 million dollars in effort to clean up the Great South Bay. According to *News 12*, around 400 homes would be switched from cesspools to sewers. Pipes would be extended from West Babylon's sewage treatment plant to Oakdale homes. "Environmentalists say that once that happens, the water in the Great South Bay will be much cleaner." The switch will be done free of charge for the residents.

Citizenscampaign.org quoted Governor Andrew Cuomo saying, "We have to provide sanitary systems if we're gonna keep our water safe." However, this may not be the answer to the problem. Residents are able to stop this from happening. While Residents must vote for the plans approval; first it is important for them to understand what they are really voting for.

SUNY Old Westbury's veteran journalism Professor Karl Grossman urges everyone to vote against it. "When a sewer system involves outfall; absolutely voters should say no." An outfall sewer; according to Sacramento State Office of Water Programs; is "a sewer that receives wastewater from a collection system or from a wastewater treatment plant and carries it to a point of ultimate or final discharge in the environment."

In May of 2017, Lisa W. Foderaro wrote an article published in the New York Times called 'Dead Rivers, Closed Beaches': A Water Crisis on Long Island. As Foderaro stated, "The Great South Bay, flanked by Fire Island and the South Shore of Long Island, once produced half the shellfish consumed in the United States, and supported 6,000 jobs in the early 1970s.

Since then, the health of the bay has declined. Housing development meant more septic tanks depositing more nitrogen in the ground. The nitrogen flowed to rivers and the Great South Bay, leading to algae blooms. It depleted salt marshes

that serve as fish habitat and suppressed oxygen levels." Foderaro's article goes on to explain how the pollution has caused the collapse of the shellfish industry. "The annual harvest of hard clams, for example, has fallen more than 90 percent since 1980." *The Nature Conservancy* website, *www.nature.org*, posted an article on March 29, 2018. The article described a study that was done over the course of two years to observe the Great South Bay's oxygen levels; and to aid the issue of nitrogen pollution. The article states, "New evidence of seasonally low oxygen levels helps to explain previous observations of areas in the bay that are largely devoid of bottom-dwelling sea-life, including hard clams and other shellfish. Already linked to harmful algae blooms and loss of eelgrass, low dissolved oxygen is yet another negative impact of nitrogen pollution, which, in Great South Bay, is largely originating from cesspools and septic systems."

While it is clear that something must be done to save the Great South Bay along with the rest of our waterways, Grossman insists that there is another way. Karl Grossman has been a pioneer in investigative journalism for over 50 years. He has covered many environmental issues and recently wrote an article about the algal blooms plaguing Long Island's waters as result of nitrogen.

His article, written in September 2018 is called *Unchecked, nitrogen-fueled algal blooms spell environmental and economic disaster for Long Island*. Grossman's article mentions a comment from Dr. Christopher J. Gobler, chair of coastal ecology and conservation at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University. While not all algal blooms are toxic, Gobler stated "...the one we get in Spring is toxic to humans, as are the blue-green algae blooms in lakes and ponds." He added "Our blooms are very strongly linked to nitrogen loading from land and occur in inland waters, estuaries,"

Grossman believes that one of the real reasons that many places switch to sewers is to bring more businesses into the areas; which boosts the economy. He believes that the other reason is because, "They just don't seem to understand that a sewer system without recharge can cause enormous harm to the water



(Screenshot/Photo via: Newsday)

supply. They just don't get it."

According to Grossman, the problem with Cuomo's announced plan is that it will be "taking wastewater from the sewers; and sending the wastewater to the Bergen Point Treatment Plant; it's a Suffolk County treatment plant in West Babylon; and then through an outfall pipe, sending that wastewater out into the ocean. The result of that is; see Long Island is dependent on a sole source aquifer. All our potable water supply for Nassau and Suffolk county is under our feet; it's the aquifers under our feet; the underground water table; and if you take wastewater and send it out into the ocean, the underground water supply is [gonna] lose quantity."

He went on to explain how years ago, many had the notion that there was no need for concern. However "that turns out not to be true," said Grossman. For example, he explained how in Nassau County, almost all of its sewer treatment plants use outfall. "They send the wastewater out into bays and surrounding water bodies."

As a result of this, some of Nassau county's streams and creeks have dried up. "Lakes have lowered; and what this is, is a manifestation of what occurs when you don't essentially recycle wastewater." He proposed that the water should be going through not only a primary or secondary treatment; but through a tertiary treatment, "and then be recharged back into the ground."

"If it does allow for recharge, then we can discuss it," said Grossman. Reminiscing about the Bay, he said "The Great South Bay, used to be the source of fifty percent of America's hard clams." Now the bay is the source for very little. "The

whole fishery has been ruined." Grossman stated. "I've been on this issue since the late 60's, so I know it well."

Grossman also mentioned how many who have been opposed to the Southwest Sewer District claimed that sewers actually threaten the clamming industry of the Great South Bay because they do not include recharge. "Those kinds of sewer systems with outfall are not good, and voters should vote against it. If the county would present a system where the wastewater would be recharged..." stated Grossman, "...if its needed, that would be acceptable."

In order to save our waters "We have to focus on recharge," said Grossman. "If the bay could be made clean again, maybe we could get the clams back." He added, "If Areas around the bay that need a substitute for cesspools; some areas, not all areas, but some areas might be appropriate to install sewage treatment systems, but with recharge." As for the areas that are not heavily populated, he suggests "...advanced wastewater treatment plants would do the same thing; because they remove almost all the nitrogen."

While the waste would still end up in the water; with the removal of nitrogen, it would not be harmful to the environment or to us as humans. "What they need there is; I think number one, advanced wastewater treatment systems in homes and in communities." Grossman feels that furthermore, "There should be truth to sewerage; honesty in sewerage. Does the community need sewerage? Or you're throwing sewers in just to goose up the business of the area." The Great South Bay and our waterways need to be cleaned up; however without recharge, sewers are not the answer.

advertisement

PUPPET GANG INTRO FOR CATALYST

The Student Escape Corner promotes drug and alcohol free living and supports this effort through tabling events in the campus center, monthly evening social programs, as well as offering short term educational counseling. In addition to the many things the Student Escape Corner offers, it works with students who have sanctions due to violating campus codes of conduct in the area drug and alcohol policies.

The Student Escape Corner is pleased to introduce a new program that will join us to help engage more students in dialogue about the challenging temptations of using drugs and alcohol and help educate students as well.

Say "No To Drugs" Puppet Gang

The Puppet Gang made their debut performance at the recent Karaoke Night held on February 11th and were a bit hit. They offered students an entertaining experience in opening a dialogue about to say "no" and handle peer pressure to use drugs and alcohol.

Be on the lookout for the Puppet Gang at the next event the Cinder Ball Dance Contest in the MPR A on March 12th 7 p.m.

For more information about the Student Escape Corner or the Peer Educator Program, please contact Blanca Schneider at 516-876-3054 or schneiderb@oldwestbury.edu



CAMPUS NEWS

Cont. from page 1

Dr. Butts Retiring after 20 years as President of SUNY OW

accept the role for political advantage. He said that he heard statements such as: "He's just going to be here for three months or a year or two then he's going to go back to the city and run for office."

Dr. Butts added that at the time running for office was not his intention and that he was here to help the college. He recalled one of his interviews with *Newsday* early on in his career when they questioned why he would want to come to a dying college and laughingly he said, "You've got the right one because I'm in the resurrection business."

Dr. Butts refers to his work at SUNY Old Westbury as a labor of love and says it taught him a lot about patience, long-suffering, and kindness. He also learned a lot about Long Island that he did not know.

As President of Old Westbury he has been responsible for the total administration of the affairs of the college -- for securing extra money and fundraising to supplement what the state provides to the college. He also is required to maintain relationships with political leaders, including state senators, state assembly persons, the gover-

nor and even the federal government, just to name a few of his key roles. His major responsibility, he said, is "to keep on the mission to make sure that people of all races, all ethnic origins, all sexes, and sexual orientations are brought together in a learning community that will benefit not only them individually but the community collectively and the world around them..." All of which, he added, has been challenging but doable only with the help of the faculty, the student body, the political leadership, and others.

Remembering his arrival at the school, Dr. Butts found an Old Westbury wildly different than the one today. "When I arrived at this school it was on the verge of being closed, the faculty had been disrespected, the foundation that is largely responsible for raising money for scholarships and faculty development was under investigation for nefarious activities.... When I arrived the dormitories were in terrible repair as was the Academic Village." Under his presidency SUNY OW has seen the building of new dorms, a new academic building, a student union (which did not exist prior to Dr. Butts becoming president), new parking lots,

a new police building, graduate programs, and as Dr. Butts puts it "restored cooperation between administration and faculty to the level that anyone can expect."

He proudly continued, "We've got the largest enrollment in the history of the college, we've improved technology 100-fold...we've become a model for many of our sister and brother schools in the state system as far as turn around and success."

As his time as president is coming to an end, Dr. Butts shed light on some projects that he still hopes to finish before he leaves: "So now I'm working on, (I don't know that it will be finished before I leave but I'll try) a new science building, we need one, that is a 130 million dollar project, we need faculty housing so that we can attract diverse faculty who will not have to wrestle the high costs of living on Long Island." He mentioned also the need for the building of more dorms which he believes is important for the comfort and accommodation of Old Westbury students.

With a hopeful expression, Dr. Butts realized that this opportunity was given to him when he was younger and that he must now help younger men

and women have similar opportunities. He believes that someone can follow him and take the college even further than he ever dreamed. He also mentioned that he might run for mayor in the future, something he says he always mentions for good measure as people have assumed he'd run for the past forty years.

Dr. Butts ended the interview with this statement: "I wish from this point that I could turn back my biological clock twenty years and start from here and go forward. I think that Old Westbury has an extremely bright future and when I arrived, I had nothing...there were no instructions...and with literally no academic experience. I sat down in a chair not as comfortable as this one and I sat back and waited for the phone to ring, and that's how I started my presidency. I pray that the next person who comes to lead this college will have a calling and they will know what their assignment is even before they get here... If they keep the faith, they will have even greater success and I will be praying from the sidelines of the classroom."



Dr. Butts speaking at a graduation ceremony.



Dr. Butts with U.S. Navy Petty Officer Third Class Brigette Riley-White who was recognized as the 2016 recipient of The President's Medal for Scholarship.



Dr. Butts with President Barack Obama at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Library Remodeling is Almost Finished



Photo credit: Selena Valentin



Photo credit: Selena Valentin



Photo credit: James Fileccia



Photo credit: James Fileccia

By Selena M. Valentin

The remodeling of the library is its final phases of completion. There are no more major reconstruction projects but only pending minor changes.

After remodeling that began in 2012, new amenities include individual and group study rooms, classrooms and interactive tv's and smart boards in all the major classrooms, IT assistance, instructional technology support, new furniture, and stairs. Still to come: The removal of all the outdated books replaced with new ones, replacing the current Mac desktops, the addition of two more individual study rooms, one of which group study rooms will be used for additional tutoring, and a sound proofed Podcast room to accommodate media students who need to make a noise.

Library Director Antonia DiGregorio said, "The library is transform-

ing into a commons because there are more student services and the library is more student oriented." In fact, traffic in the library has tripled since the start of the remodeling.

The library still offers student services such as the Math redesign lab, the writing center, math lab, librarian offices, reference desk, IT desk, as well as allowing students to borrow Ipad's for up to six hours, portable DVD players, and USB's, and as well as disposable headphones.

Students have said that the library has become a safe haven for



Library Director Antonia DiGregorio

them to study and get work done more efficiently. As the library is in its final stages of remodeling, students notice that there is a different ambiance in each floor.

Asking if technology has made libraries obsolete, the website of *Fast Company*

described in 2014 the then changes at OW, stating: "The College at Old Westbury recognized that its 1980s-built library at the heart of campus no longer adequately met student needs. The state of New York and the school committed to an extensive planning exercise that led to expanding the range of seating

types and creating collaborative study rooms, digital and analog media labs and individual research spaces. Collectively, these renovation efforts prepared the library to accommodate a growing collection for the next 20 years, provide staff with sufficient space for student support, and introduce adaptable and technology-rich environments across the library. The rejuvenated library not only enriches the existing campus experience but is also aiding in student recruitment and retention for the future."

Libraries have evolved due to the relationship between technology and learning, and SUNY Old Westbury has now caught up to the latest developments, making the library a showcase for the school.

Nicole Paultre Bell-Earle

By Brianna Knibbs

Nicole Paultre Bell-Earle, a social justice activist and former fiancé of Sean Bell, paid a visit to SUNY Old Westbury to talk to students about her life after Sean's death and the road to fight for justice in celebration of Black History Month. The Discussion was sponsored by the Black Student Union, the Student Government Association, the Campus Activities Board, and First Year Experience. After concluding the discussion, I got a chance to interview her privately about Sean and her efforts to fight for his name and legacy.

Every year, you and your family always celebrate the life of Sean Bell. How are you today mentally/spiritually?

Mentally I would say, I am strong. We have spent twelve years of learning how to overcome something that was in our way that we never expected. I spent a lot of time with my family, Sean's religious family. Even from the first day, we face this terrible tragedy. The first thing I do is pray, even till this day. Before I speak, I pray. Prayer has taken me a long way.

How do you go about your day to day life now since Sean passed away?

I am a real estate agent, an activist and also a public speaker. So what I do, everything that I am involved in no matter what it is, I have to do it with my whole heart. I have to do it with prayer. Right now, I spent several years of finding out who Nicole was. When Sean was killed, a part of me died with him and then Nicole Bell was born. I would like to say right now, I'm a little bit more serious than I was back then and that's probably because of everything that we faced. Realizing that life doesn't always go planned. But, I probably would say that right now, having support from people like yourself, the students here at your college, and the community really helps me to push forward and move forward. And it helps me be able to raise my daughters. I spent a lot of years repairing myself. You can't learn to love again if you don't love yourself and that was what I had to do. I had to learn how to love myself and be able to move forward because if you get into a relationship and you're broken, all you're going to do is break someone else. You gotta learn to love yourself before you move forward.

How do you help both of your daughters dealing with the aftermath of their father's death?

Thank god that we're surrounded by a strong family. Sean's father is very instrumental in my daughters' lives. My father is very instrumental in their lives. As well as my new husband, he's also instrumental and making sure they're safe and protected. We are surrounded by a group of amazing men. Of course, no one can ever replace their dad. My family is so strong. I encourage my daughters everyday, especially Jada, she's the oldest, she knows the most. That things happen in life and no we don't always find the reason why it happens. But we have to learn how to push forward, how to overcome, how to react to it. Things are gonna come. Even after Sean, things come into my life, challenges that I don't necessarily have an answer for. But, we have to learn how to react and control.

How do you feel about the Black Lives Matter Movement that now exists and others being informed about the Sean Bell's story?

I'm happy that there are movements. There's Mothers of the Movement, there's so many other organizations such as Black Lives Matter who are now really hitting the streets, making noise. I really feel that Sean's case, his tragedy was one that rejuvenated the Civil Rights Movement. Before that, there weren't too many movements going on. I think when Sean was killed, that was New York last time that they were gonna allow this to happen and go quiet. And then there was Eric Garner, and then after Eric Garner, everyone was marching. We're creating Black Lives Matter, there's Trayvon Martin. There's Ramarley Graham. There's so many people and mothers that I've known. All of these things really help me to be able to move forward.

Have you reach out to other social activists that went through the same situation as you?

Yes! I have a great relationship with Sabrina Fulton (Trayvon Martin's mother), Kadiatou Diallo (Amadou Diallo's mother), Ramarley Graham's mom Constance, they're from the Bronx, Eric Garner's mother Gwen Carr. I'm close with Sandra Bland's mom. All of these women are in my phone. If I send them a text right now, occasionally, we're all in a different space but I send them a message. The mothers release it together (The Mothers of the Movement) and I'm so proud of that.

Do you feel that justice will be served in any day since the three detectives aren't found guilty?

I feel that when officers began to be held accountable for their criminal actions then we will see a change. Until then unfortunately, this is gonna continue to happen. It has! It has happen every time since Sean Bell. There was an acquittal for Sean Bell and ever since then, we see the same thing played out over and over again. Until we have a jury that convicts an officer for wrongdoing or a judge who convicts an officer for what he's done, we're gonna continue to see this. And that's unfortunately, that's the statistics to prove that. Numbers don't lie.

How do you respond to the news of an officer recently sentenced to six and a half years in prison for the murder of Laquan McDonald?

It's still another measure of injustice. We know that right now when someone goes and shoot someone in the street, you're gonna get more than that. Police Officers don't need a tap on their wrists. They weren't drafted into the job. They took this job because they felt that they were prepared and the state that hired them, felt that they were prepared for that job. So when you commit a crime and you do something you were not trained to do or you take it upon yourself to do some kind of racist act towards someone, you gotta pay for it. Again, that was a tap on the wrist. It was a slap on the wrist. These baby steps aren't getting us anywhere. We need someone that's gonna take a lead and give them the time that they deserve.

Do you think that Sean was murdered because of his race or was it more of an accident or mistake?

There's a big blue wall of silence that is a large part of the problem. That wall of silence and when one officer witness and another doing something that is wrong or criminal, they don't speak up on it and that's that wall. There's white, there's black, and there's blue. And that's what I see. I think that when officers going to the force, certain neighborhoods, they're policing those neighborhoods. They're aggressive. Sean was stopped twice the night he was celebrating his bachelor party. Why? Why? He didn't commit a crime. He had the civil right to be there, he had a civil right to go home peacefully. So that blue wall of silence is a huge problem and no matter what color you are, that wall is something that we always have to fight against. To make sure that the police officers who are good police officers who are doing what they suppose to do to get the bad ones out.

Do you keep in contact with the two other men that was involved in the incident? How are they?

Sean's friends occasionally will reach out. We were never really close friends. We were sort of Sean's friends through the neighborhood. We occasionally speak, but no. It's not



like an everyday thing. We do reach out through family, our families and friends. I know that Joe lives down south and he's traumatized. Trent and Joe, they're both traumatized. Joe was shot seventeen times and still has bullets inside of him. It's a constant battle not only for me, not only for my family, but for theirs to. They were traumatized. They watched their friend die right next to them.

What is your advice to other families who are going through the same situation you and your family went through?

My advice for families who are going through what we've went through is you are not alone. We have to stick together. We have to continue to fight. Twelve years from now, we want them to also be right where I am, out there speaking and standing. Getting changes and laws made in the name of the loved ones. I want the love ones of victims to know that your world is not over and know that it should have not happen and it's gonna hurt like hell for a long time. But the more you do to fight for your love one, the better it will become. I always say that it never goes away, we just learn how to live with it.

Is there anything that you are working on as far as keeping Sean's name and memory alive?

Right now, I'm in contract for the Sean Bell movie. It will be in the big screen one day so we're working towards it. Look out for that! Things like that will last forever, even when I'm gone. We have Sean Bell Way, a street in Jamaica, Queens named after him. So many times we drive down these streets, we don't know who these streets are named after. But, when I'm long gone, things like the movie and things like his street, things like the laws that we had changed, the policies that we had changed within the police departments, those things will be there. That's what my goal is. So when I'm gone and my kids grow up, and they have kids and they have kids, our legacy is cemented and Sean's legacy is cemented.

“Our Land”

Amelie A. Wallace Art Gallery, Campus Center

Through March 13th

By Keya Rice

The “Our Land” exhibition is comprised of photography and videography by artists from the Middle East, North Africa, and their diaspora as quoted in a statement by the exhibit and is curated by photographer and adjunct visual arts professor of Old Westbury Anthony Hamboussi. The first level of the exhibition features works from artists Rhea Karam (“Breathing Walls”), Manal Abu- Shaheen (“Beirut”) and Camille Zakharia (“Al Bar”).

The upper-level exhibition captures its onlookers with a series of intricate colored and black and white photographs. The photographs feature pictures of people, places, neighborhoods, and art almost as if to indicate a culture. In Rhea Karam’s photographs “Breathing Walls,” there is a heavy presence of buildings and art decorated walls which is likely a testament to her focuses on urban landscapes which she began documenting in Lebanon in 2007 and 2009 (Our Land 4). What stood out most in her work in the feeling of familiarity it is as if you are in the places that are pictured, or you know them well. I believe the urban landscape helps those who may not understand the historical background to connect on a more intimate level.

The black and white photographs from Manal Abu- Shaheen’s

“Beirut” and the vibrantly colored photographs from Camille Zakharia’s “Al Bar” both contrast and complement each other as

they sit on adjacent walls. In “Beirut,” we have billboards advertising excitement and beautiful faces. The choice to make them black and white gives the pieces a regal feel. Shaheen’s motivation for “the lack of visual history of the landscape of Lebanon” is what has drawn her to portray a city dominated by billboards. “ (Our Land 2). In one sense, these advertisements serve as visual proof of capitalist growth, while in another sense they support a mythologized Western ideal that is incongruous with life in the post-conflict city.” ‘(2). Then as we move to the wall shouldering that one, we are awakened with brown, orange, red

and tan colored tents in the desert. While the tents in the photographs are vacant, we see decorative rugs and furniture in and outside of them indicating their use. Zakharia uses these photographs to allure the viewer and portrays the transformation of Al Bar, a normally arid and lifeless area that comes alive between November and March(Our Land 5).

As we make our way to the mid-level gallery, we are invited into a space of not only photography but videography. The mid-level gallery features work from Youseff Chahine (Cairo) Rana ELNemr (The Khan), Anthony Hamboussi (The light that remains), Moath Alofi (The Last Tashahhud), Rania Lee Khalil (The Pan African-Asian Women’s Organization, Cairo and Conakry 1960-1965) and Aisha Mershani

(Apartheid wall). A small television screen in the right corner of the gallery features Chanine’s piece Cairo with a suited man talking in the middle of a busy street. As we move around the gallery, we see the photographic works of Rana ELNemr and Anthony Hamboussi in The Khan and The Light that remains. In The Khan viewers are captivated by the angles and perspective in which the artist chose in his photos. The way the light hits the areas of the photograph in some and the shadows dominate in



others makes the spaces seem hidden. In contrast, The Light that Remains uses the brightness of the day to highlight different objects and ruins. “The images highlight the waste and decadence of a shortsighted tourist industry and government policies that erased the indigenous Bedouin population(Our land 3).”

Next, we see a series of strategically captured buildings in Moath Alofi’s The Last Tashahhud which shows “neglected mosques strewn along the winding roads that lead to the holy city of Al Madinah Al Munawerah(Our Land 2).” Following that is the video installation The Pan African-Asian Women’s Organization of the artist Rania Lee Khalil and Aisha Mershani’s Apartheid wall.

As we transition from the midlevel gallery to the lower one, the wall in between showcases the photographic works of Yazan Khalili.

In “Landscape of Darkness,” the photographs, while mostly dark, invite parcels of warm light into the background. “As they walked toward the light, the city slowly moved away from them until it vanished into the light. At that instant, darkness declared itself a landscape that united this fragmented land and served as a platform on which exiled space could be reclaimed (Our Land 4).”

In the final gallery on the lower level, we have video installation pieces from Fouad Elkoury in Ruins. As the video clips change every few seconds, we see fixtures, statues and buildings some of which are whole and some of which are fragmented. “The juxtaposition of the three screens agitates the viewer, posing the questions: “Which ruins are valuable? Which ruins are to be preserved, and which are to be removed ?”

Big Win for Diversity at The Oscars, But Is There Still Work to Be Done?

By Jalen Michael

The 2019 Oscars ceremony took place on February 24th and shockingly turned out to be a decent show. The surprise comes from following the long and messy road going into the 91st Academy Awards, witnessing all the backlash and backpedaling on the Academy's controversial decisions. Starting with the Kevin Hart fiasco, where Hart was announced to host this year's Oscars, only to step down days later, after homophobic tweets of his from years ago resurfaced. With Hart not wanting to return to host, the Academy decided that this year would be the first time in three decades where the Oscars would have no host. The Academy has also faced major pushback for plans to cut down the "Best Original Song" performances, not having last year's winners present the categories and announcing that the show would present four awards during commercial breaks.

These changes were considered as solutions to increase ratings for this year's show, after the Academy experienced its lowest ratings in history last year. Among these changes, the one that proved most successful that night was the change to the Academy's voting members. According to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), they have invited 928 new members from fifty-nine countries, with forty-nine percent of the newly invited members being women, and thirty-eight percent being people of color.

The changes behind the scenes have in turn made the winner's list more diverse, who could've guessed it? It was a big night for diversity this awards season, with Regina King winning "Best Supporting Actress" for the film *If Beale Street Could Talk* and Mahershala Ali winning "Best Supporting Actor" for *Green Book*. Spike Lee finally won his Oscar, winning

for "Best Adapted Screenplay" for his film *BlacKkKlansman*. Rami Malek made many Egyptians proud after winning the "Best Actor" award for his portrayal of Freddie Mercury in the Queen biopic *Bohemian Rhapsody*; while *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, a film that features an Afro-Latino teenager as its main protagonist, won for "Best Animated feature." Mexican director Alfonso Cuarón also had a big night thanks to his movie *Roma*, winning three Oscars for "Best Director," "Best Cinematography," and "Best Foreign Language Film."

It was also a historic night of wins thanks to the cultural phenomenon *Black Panther*. Costume designer Ruth Carter won for "Best Costume Design" while Hannah Beachler and Jay Hart won for "Best Production Design." These wins make Carter and Beachler the first African-Americans to be nominated and win

in each category.

Even with these big diverse wins, controversy still followed the awards show after the "Best Picture" winner was announced. In a big upset, *Green Book* took home the award, angering many viewers across the internet. While the movie does discuss race relations in the United States, many felt it to be the safest choice the Academy could have made as the film did not really tackle racism in this country in a realistic approach. Many labeled this film as the most "feel good" movie of the year.

No matter how you feel about this win, it shouldn't take away from the other big wins of the night. The Academy does seem to be listening and learning, maybe slowly, but attempts of progress are being made.

Cardi B's Grammy

By Selena Valentin

The 2019 Grammys marked history for the rap game as Cardi B is the first solo female artist to win best rap album of the year. Cardi B hit a milestone at the 2019 Grammys because although Lauryn Hill as part of The Fugees received best rap album for *The Score* in 1997, Cardi B is the first to take home the title by herself.

For starters, the nominees for the best rap album did not all reach the same caliber of work ethic or creative talent, solely because it is strongly agreed that there were other albums who should've gotten nominated in this category especially if it were measured on deliverance, creativity and album accolades. Competition with the album *ASTROWORLD* by Travis Scott left many

mother, wife and artist, she falls short of her own creativity when it comes to writing her own music as opposed to having a ghost writer or lyricist. This argument is typically rebutted with the fact that not all success is measured the same and though for some being a "real" rapper means actually writing your own songs, others feel as though delivery of the song is the most important despite how it is assembled.

Cardi B's album *Invasion of Privacy* also went double platinum and was nominated for 2018 BET Hip Hop Awards Album of the Year, 2018 Break-Tudo Awards Album of the Year, People's Choice Awards Album of 2018, with pending outcome statuses for her nominations for 2018 Norway GAFFA Awards Best International Album of the Year and Juno Awards International Album of the Year. Cardi also broke many records with some of the songs on the album and some of which are still on the Billboard Hot 100.

Becoming a Grammy award winning artist fell nothing short of what was expected of Cardi's future, her story is unique and

respected in the music industry and upon her Grammy win she received plenty of love and congratulation shoutouts from heavy hitters in the rap game such as J. Cole, Lil Kim, Remy Ma, Missy Elliot and even Salt N' Pepa. With her fellow nominee deceased Mac Miller, she humbly accepts the award and says she is sharing her Grammy for the Best Rap Album with Mac Miller. There's a loss for words when it comes to Cardi's talent and work ethic and she truly deserved her Grammy, the rap game appreciates Cardi more than they're willing to admit.



in awe when he didn't win, which is an arguable debate as the album hit double platinum and was also nominated Juno Award for International Album of the Year. Cardi B receives the award on the stage alongside with her rapper husband, Offset and was humble and speechless, in her sincerest moment on the stage she says, "Babe I can't breathe. The nerves are so bad -- maybe I need to start smoking weed." and her personality wins the crowd over as they all begin to laugh.

While Cardi B does have an outstanding work ethic and is now a

REVIEW

The Lego Movie 2

by Jalen Michael

Back when the original *Lego Movie* came out in 2014, expectations for a movie about talking Legos were extremely low. Not considering myself a part of the film's demographic, I would have normally ignored the film had I not had three baby brothers who were all eagerly excited to see a Lego version of Batman beat up a bunch of other toys. In a classic case of "don't-judge-a-book-by-its-cover," I instantly fell in love with its zany fast paced humor, amazing animation, and heart-felt message that told children it's ok to break away from social norms.

Apparently, I wasn't the only one surprised by how good *The Lego Movie* was; with it going on to make over \$400 million at the box office, currently sitting at a 95% critic score on Rotten Tomatoes and spawning two spin-offs and a sequel.

So now here we are, five years later with *The Lego Movie 2*; and expectations are definitely much higher than its predecessor. Could it possibly live up to the hype? Unfortunately for me, I don't think it does; however, that does not take away from how great this movie is.

In *The Lego Movie 2*, we follow our heroes from the original movie, Emmett (voiced by Chris Pratt), Lucy (Elizabeth Banks), and Batman (Will Arnett) five years after the first movie's ending, who finds themselves living in an apocalyptic world invaded by Lego DUPLO sets (it makes sense in the film). Our heroes go on a journey to defeat the invaders and save their universe for all of man-kind, or all of Lego-kind rather.

The best part of this movie is the humor. With writers Phil Lord and Chris Miller returning to pen the screenplay, the jokes are just as fast paced and hilarious as the original. What made the first *Lego Movie* such a hit beyond its intended demographic was its clever use of pop culture references that appealed to adults as well. This movie does the same, albeit

maybe a little too many obscure references.

There are a number of pretty funny musical numbers that take place throughout the film, one in particular that relies on a specific plot twist had everyone in the theater laughing hysterically.

Among the voice actors added to the film, Tiffany Haddish is definitely the stand out. Voicing the Queen of the DUPLO invaders, she injects her own eccentric personality into this already energetic and surreal film.

What keeps this from being as good as the original for me mostly has to do with the story. While not necessarily bad, it does tend to have some pacing issues in its storytelling that

brought me out of the film a couple times. There's a big reveal in the first movie (in which I won't spoil) that changed everything up and made the original something special. Now that the cat's out of the bag in this sequel, it is difficult to have that same emotional attachment again which makes the story not flow as well as I hoped.

However, one of the overall themes this movie carries is something that I think many kids and every adult should take away, and that is that sometimes not everything in life is going to be perfect all of the time, and that is fine.

Taking these complex ideas and injecting them into art to reach beyond the conventional audience is something I admire about many animated films. It turns these movies that I am usually dragged into seeing by my little ones into something that I actually look forward to discussing with my peers. Not only is *The Lego Movie 2* hilarious, but it also has great themes to sit and ponder about, and I definitely recommend that people see it...especially if you feel like you've outgrown the building blocks phase.



THE HAMMERIN' HANKS: FROM FATHER TO SON

By Ty'Asia Smith

As Black History Month came to an end, Lary Aaron paid homage to his famous baseball playing father Hank Aaron, also known as "Hammerin' Hanks."

Henry "Hank" Aaron was born February 5, 1934 in Mobile, Alabama. He was an outfielder for the Milwaukee Brewers where he hit 755 home runs during his time as a major league baseball player. He was America's all-time homerun leader for three decades. On April 8, 1974, he surpassed no other than Babe Ruth. His son, Lary Aaron, was selected by the Atlanta Braves in the 32nd round of 1981 and played two seasons. Lary currently works for the Milwaukee Brewers as a scout for the past nineteen years. Hank Aaron's legacy still lives on thanks to his five children.

Lary Aaron is the third oldest out of Hank Aaron's children and the nephew of Tommie Aaron who was an American professional baseball player and coach. Lary has one brother and three sisters. "When my father became the best player on [sic.] the game, breaking Babe Ruth's record, we had death threats on [sic.] our family," Lary recalled about his father's historic achievement. Being the son of a former baseball player had its hardships. "It was his job and he did it well," said Lary. "I'm proud our family came a long way. We will continue to move forward."

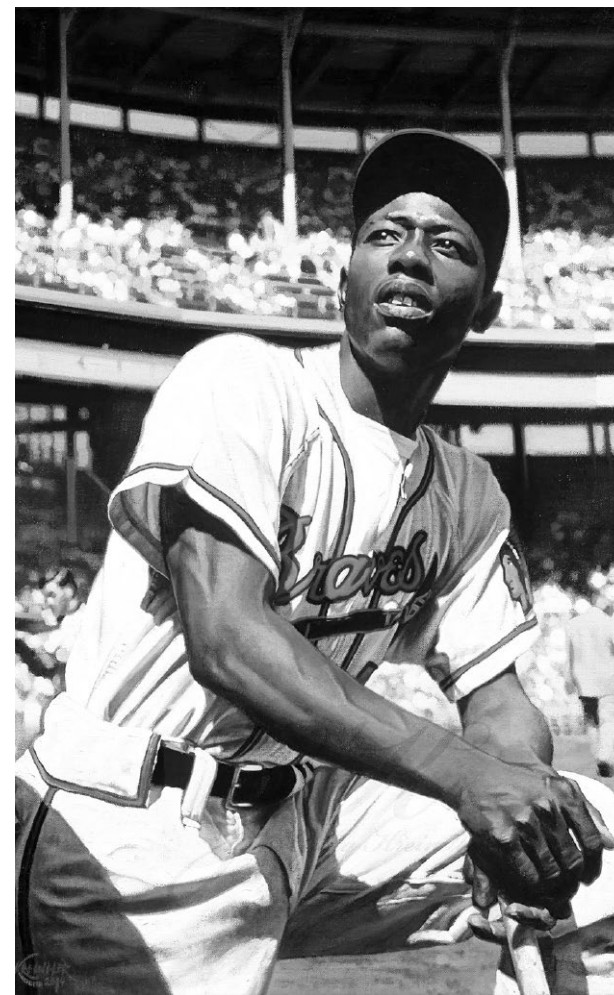
Lary recalled that his father had to unfortunately deal with a lot of discrimination because of the racist and divided Civil Rights era. Racial segregation restricted Blacks and Whites from integrating in schools, churches, and even parks. However, segregation did not stop African American players from signing up for high-level games. In 1953, Hank Aaron was away at a camp in Waycross, Georgia. The camp was far away from town, but a bus was able to travel the distance and pick up Hank Aaron and his team to buy any necessities that they might need. Unfortunately,

it was Hank Aaron's first time heading into town, and he missed his bus. The shortest route back to camp was to walk straight through the woods. A guard spotted Hank Aaron in the woods and aimed and shot towards Hank's direction. Fortunately, he managed to get away.

During a time surrounded with the stress and pressures of racial discrimination, Hank longed for his safety in order to help his family. His teammates often brought him food when they travelled together. His team provided Hank with uplifting and assuring words to help release any tensions he was feeling. Hank was regularly isolated from the other teammates and kept under tight security. For this reason, his teammates came to visit him. Hank was well admired, even the great boxing legend Muhammad regarded Hank as "the only man I idolized more than myself." He was considered by Farmer Mickey Mantle "the best baseball player in his time." Hank made history when he played against the Dodgers and hit a "home run" during his second game play. There was an uproar in the arena that day.

The 'Negro League Baseball' team was made up of majority African Americans. The sport allowed many African Americans to thrive at various levels of professional baseball. Hank Aaron was a consistent hitter with a powerful wrist and an outstanding swing. The "home run king" played shortstop for the Negro American League's Indianapolis Clowns for three months.

In his career, Hank Aaron had 755 home runs, 2,297 runs batted in, 6,856 total bases, 1,477 extra base hits and 12,364 times at bat. Aaron's number 44 jersey was retired by both the Atlanta Braves and Milwaukee Brewers. Each franchise displays a bronze statue of Hammerin' Hank outside of their company. His contribution in history will never be forgotten as his children continues to share his story.



Henry "Hank" Aaron

PANTHERS BASEBALL SEASON PREVIEW

OLD WESTBURY FEATURES 19 RETURNERS AND 13 NEWCOMERS ON THE 2019 ROSTER

By Harris Rappel

The 2019 SUNY Old Westbury baseball team returns 19 players from a 2018 squad that went 19161 (117 Skyline) to advance to Skyline Conference Championship play for the 11th straight season. The Panthers ranked 19th in the nation with a collective .330 batting average and featured five .300+ hitters in the everyday lineup. To replace three AllSkyline selections, ninth-year head coach Rod Stephan reeled in 13 newcomers ready to make an impact. Old Westbury's recruiting class features a trio of NCAA Division II transfers with playing experience, one NCAA Division III sophomore transfer and nine freshmen. The Panthers went 11-7 in the league standings before concluding the season in the opening round of the 2018 Skyline Conference Championship.

Old Westbury was selected to finish sixth in the 2019 Skyline Conference Preseason Coaches Poll. Stephan appointed seniors Adam Heidenfelder (Wan-tagh, NY / General Douglas MacArthur HS / Hofstra University) and John Condon (Oceanside, NY / Oceanside HS / St. Joseph's College Brooklyn) as his 2019 team captains. Here is a look position by position at the 2019 Panthers:

One of the four catchers is Condon, a two time first team AllSkyline selection. He started 13 of his 35 games at catcher in 2018, but will see the bulk of his playing time at first base. Swinging a lefthanded bat, Condon compiled a team leading .398 batting average with 13 multi-hit games and 10 multiRBI games to warrant a 201718 SUNY Chancellor's Scholar Athlete distinction.

Sophomore Peter Capel (Hicksville, NY / Hicksville HS) is slotted as the Panthers' designated hitter in 2019 after driving in 23 runs to bat .280 in 29 games (24 starts) between catcher and first base. Freshman Joseph Amoroso (Atlantic Beach, NY / Lawrence HS) will be in the mix to see action behind the dish. Infield Playing behind Condon and Capel at the first base post will be junior Jonathan Dastagirzada (Queens, NY / Queens HS of Teaching) and sophomore Matt Daulton (West Bab-

ylon, NY / West Babylon HS / Daniel Webster College). Dastagirzada contributed in nine games with four starts to bat .278.

Junior Brandon Wilson (Stony Brook, NY / Ward Melville HS / The College of Saint Rose) arrives from The College of Saint Rose, where he appeared in 14 games during his twoyear stint. He is slated to see time at second base and outfield.

As the lone Panther to play in all 36 games, sophomore shortstop Mike Manetta (Farmingdale, NY / Farmingdale HS) will look to build on an impressive rookie season that saw him swat .370 with 21 RBIs, 27 runs and 11 stolen bases. Manetta also turned 11 double plays and ranked third in the conference with 90 assists to sport a .915 fielding percentage. Sophomore Nic Labiento (Lynbrook, NY / Chaminade HS) will see an increase in playing time in 2019 after hitting .250 in four games a season ago.

Old Westbury will feature a revamped outfield full of athleticism and versatility. Freshman Sean Paprocki (Levittown, NY / Division Avenue HS) will take on the roll of patrolling center field at Jackie Robinson Athletic Complex. Sophomore Drew Robertson (Roosevelt, NY / Roswell HS / LIU Post) transfers in from LIU Post. He will play right field and saw time in three games last year for a team that advanced to the East Coast Conference Championship Tournament.

Pitchers Stephan will have plenty of arms he can choose from as he enters the 2019 season with a deep pitching staff anchored by senior righties Heidenfelder, Christian Tessitore (Baldwin, NY / Kellenberg HS / Dowling College), Vinny Negri (Commack, NY / Commack HS / Suffolk County Community College) and Alipio Tiburcio (Queens, NY / HS for Construction Trades, Engineering, and Architecture / Kingsborough Community College). leading 33 innings across nine appearances (five starts). He put together a 12 mark and registered



Peter Capel's sixth inning RBI single drove in Old Westbury's first run of the season.

25 strikeouts. Sophomore Brandon O'Brien (Levittown, NY / Division Avenue HS / Queens College) will take on role in the starting rotation in 2019. The righty pitched in five games (one start) and went 10 with eight strikeouts in 11 innings last season at Queens College. Former PSAL AllStar righty Patrick Quinn (Queens, NY / Robert F. Kennedy HS) will look to make an impact on the starting rotation as a freshman. 3/3/2019 2019 @OW_Panthers Baseball Season Preview - SUNY Old Westbury Athletics <https://www.oldwestburypanthers.com/news/2019/2/18/2019-ow-panthers-baseball-season-preview.aspx?print=true> 3/3 Junior southpaw Steven Tellerias (Santo Domingo, DR / Central Islip HS) will look to build on a 2018 season that featured a 20 record with three starts and one complete game outing. Tellerias also had a 3.75 ERA with 18 strikeouts in 24 innings over eight appearances. Junior righty Jason Espinal (Bellport, NY / Brentwood HS) held batters to a .207 average in 24.2 innings. The righthander made five starts and two relief appearances to hold a 12 record and was tabbed as a 2018 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Awards second team honoree.

PANTHERS WOMEN'S LACROSSE SEASON PREVIEW

OLD WESTBURY WELCOMES 12 NEWCOMERS AND WAS SELECTED TO FINISH FIFTH IN THE SKYLINE CONFERENCE PRESEASON COACHES POLL



Yaritza Caraballo, Erika Fonseca, Natasha Treuman

By Harris Rappel

SUNY Old Westbury women's lacrosse is set on returning to Skyline Conference Championship play in 2019 after missing out on the postseason for the first time since 2015. The Panthers, who finished 4-11 overall and 3-4 in the league standings during the 2018 campaign just shy of an appearance in the Skyline Championship, garnered 21 votes from the league's head coaches to place fifth in the preseason poll.

"I have full confidence in my team and we are excited to see where things go" said seventh-year head coach Lauren Schneider.

In 2018, the Panthers set program records for draw controls (11.80), woman-up goals (12), saves (174), saves per game (11.60) and save percentage (.413). As a team, Old Westbury ranked second in the league in caused turnovers per game (11.0) and fourth in ground balls (267) while finishing 78th in the nation in caused turnovers per game.

Seniors Natasha Treuman (Merrick, NY / Sanford H. Calhoun HS) and Erika Fonseca (Glen Cove, NY / Glen Cove HS) will provide leadership as team captains to a roster of 15.

Old Westbury returns three letterwinners, including a three-time All-Skyline midfielder in Treuman, who compiled 54 points, 49 goals, five assists, 29 draw controls, 36 ground balls and a career-high 35 caused turn-

overs in 13 games played in 2018. She ranked nationally in free-position goals per game (4th, 1.92), caused turnovers per game (38th, 2.69), free-position percentage (45th, .641) and goals per game (60th, 3.77). Treuman also ranked among the Skyline leaders in goals per game (5th), points per game (9th, 4.15), shots per game (7th, 6.46), caused turnovers per game (3rd) and ground balls per game (12th, 2.77). The program's all-time leader in goals (156) and free-position goals (59) enters her final season just two points shy of breaking Sara Bey's (2014-17) record for points (181).

Fonseca will see time at the attack position and provides Schneider with 22-career games of experience in three seasons as a Panther.

As one of six players to appear in all 15 games a season ago, sophomore midfielder Yaritza Caraballo (Shirley, NY / William Floyd HS) gained valuable playing experience with 14 starts in 2018. She also totaled two goals, four assists, 15 caused turnovers and 12 ground balls.

With 12 newcomers on squad, a trio former women's basketball Skyline Conference Champions look to contribute as seniors in defender Tori Bellings (Brooklyn, NY / James Madison HS), midfielder Monique Joseph (Elmont, NY / Elmont Memorial HS) and 6-foot-2 defender Charlotte Renker (Mineola, NY / St. Mary's

HS).

Junior newcomer Tandra Young (Jamaica, NY / Hillcrest HS) will vie for playing time in Old Westbury's offensive attack.

Old Westbury adds a pair of NJCAA transfers from Nassau Community College in junior midfielder Ryan Burmann (Hicksville, NY / Hicksville HS) and sophomore defender Sara Russo (Hicksville, NY / Hicksville HS). Burmann played two seasons at Nassau Community College and led the team last year with 22 ground balls while Russo finished behind her in ground balls (14).

After allowing a conference-leading 247 goals, Schneider looks to revamp her defense headlined with freshman goalie Tazmeya Allen (Freeport, NY / Freeport HS), the sister of two-time All-Skyline defender LaChaye Allen (2017-18). Allen takes over in between the pipes for Ashley Gugliuzzo (2015-18), the program's all-time leader in wins (23), saves (596), saves per game (9.31) and save percentage (.403). Schneider tapped into the Freeport pipeline with the addition of Allen to give the Panthers a bonafide goalie after being selected all-conference as a senior at Freeport High School.

Freshmen Kelsey Maldonado (Oyster Bay, NY / Oyster Bay HS), Gia Feleppa (Baldwin, NY / Baldwin Senior HS) and Lauren Allen (Barton, NY / Tioga Central HS) will be in the mix for playing time

as defenders.

Freshman Jessica Pedroza (Levittown, NY / Division Avenue HS) adds athleticism to Old Westbury's midfield. She was a two-time all-conference soccer selection during her time at Division Avenue High School. Freshman Hope Matthews (West Hempstead, NY / Malverne Senior HS) will also make a push for minutes in a talented midfield.

Opening draw for the 2019 season was slated for February 27 at Western Connecticut State University. Old Westbury plays four games on the road before taking on Drew University (Mar. 13) in its home opener.

In total, Old Westbury will play six of its 14-game regular-season schedule in front of its home fans, with United States Merchant Marine Academy (Apr. 9), Purchase College (Apr. 13), College of Mount Saint Vincent (Apr. 17) and Farmingdale State College (Apr. 27) coming to campus for Skyline Conference showdowns.

Playing against seven teams that advanced to the postseason in 2018, Old Westbury's quest for its third Skyline Conference Championship appearance in four seasons starts May 1.