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## Professor Llana Barber Earns Another Award for Her Latest Book

By Brianna Knibbs

SUNY Old Westbury's American Studies Associate Professor Llana Barber has received the 2018 Kenneth Jackson Award. She was awarded Best Book in North American Urban History for *Latino City: Immigration and Urban Crisis in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1945-2000*.

"I spent over a decade researching and writing this book so of course this recognition is thrilling for me on a personal level," said Professor Barber. "This award recognizes the historical significance of the city of Lawrence, and of the Dominicans and Puerto Ricans who struggled to transform the city." She was presented with the award at the Urban History Association Biennial Conference in Columbia, South Carolina.

She originally learned she had won in an email back in August. "I read the email while I was in Puerto Rico on the last day of a two-week service learning trip I had led for SUNY students," she said. "Getting this news while I was in Puerto Rico made me particularly hopeful that the award would affirm the importance of Puerto Rican and Latino history in the United States."

*Latino City: Immigration and Urban Crisis in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1945-2000* shows Lawrence as the first Latino city in New England. The book proceeds to explain how in the aftermath of World War II, Lawrence faced many economic struggles due to deindustrialization and suburbanization.

According to a summary on Amazon, "Barber interweaves the histories of urban crisis in U.S. cities and imperial migration from Latin America. Pushed to migrate by political and economic circumstances shaped by the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America, poor and working-class Latinos then had to reckon with the segregation, joblessness, disinvestment, and profound stigma that plagued U.S. cities during the crisis era, particularly in the Rust Belt. For many Puerto Ricans and Dominicans, there was no 'American Dream' awaiting them in Lawrence; instead, Latinos struggled to build lives for themselves

(Cont. on page 3.)

## HOW SMART ARE THE SMART CLASSROOMS?

By Arlyn Sorto



Dr. Maguire pictured with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in an undated photo

## SUNY OW Grieves Loss of President Emeritus John D. Maguire (1932-2018)

By Kristin Brave

Dr. John D. Maguire, president of SUNY Old Westbury from 1970-1981, passed away on October 26, 2018 in Pomona, California. He was 86.

A friend of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Maguire was heavily involved in civil rights and the movement for equality. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) honored Maguire's years of service as board member. Born in Montgomery, Alabama, Maguire was committed to the Civil Rights movement as a teenager and participated in the 1961 Freedom Rides for equality.

Maguire's last visit to SUNY OW was in 2011, when he delivered the commencement address to graduates. Maguire was proud of the diversity on campus and that the college would continue to

follow on the course of "the riddle of human justice."

Included in the "The Ethics of Engagement" textbook is Dr. Maguire's 1980 address titled "What Old Westbury Is Really About." Required for every freshman to read, he promises that SUNY OW:

- \* was committed to examining civic as well as intellectual values
- \* was committed to educating, not training
- \* operated with the belief that remembering, creating and imagining led to new understanding, and
- \* above all, that Old Westbury educated people to lead resourceful, courageous and compassionate lives.

Following Dr. Maguire's passing, current SUNY OW President Dr. Calvin O.

DVD players in many classrooms are either missing or broken due to ongoing technology problems at SUNY Old Westbury.

Broken players in the New Academic Building (NAB) and in room F114 of the Campus Center often require faculty members who want to show a DVD to surrender a driver's license to the IT help desk to secure a laptop which then must be connected through a complicated process in a classroom.

"Some of the faculty might find it very daunting to figure this out," said Karl Grossman, professor of American Studies/Media and Communications. "I don't know how smart it is to have 'smart classrooms' when they are not in fact user friendly."

When the NAB opened in 2012, it was meant to contain the most vital technology in the "smart classrooms" but the technology has become outdated.

Expressing concern, the faculty senate on November 2nd passed a resolution on classroom technology stating that surrendering a driver's license to the help desk "raises concerns of privacy" and the use of a portable player or laptop computer to show a DVD "can result in connectivity problems, delays, and confusion during the precious minutes between classes when students have questions or need assistance."

The resolution added that "connectivity issues, and bandwidth limitations, prevent reliable streaming of online

(Cont. on page 3.)

Butts, III said in a statement to the campus: "He represented the best of what is at the very core of the Old Westbury experience -- a belief that all humankind shares this Earth equally, and that we must focus both on what brings us together and what divides us...."

"I am proud to say I have followed in the footsteps of Dr. John D. Maguire as president of an institution dedicated to solving 'the riddle of human justice' as we endeavor to stimulate a passion for learning and a commitment to building a more just and sustainable world among our students. As I lament his passing, I will also remember all the good he has done across a lifetime of service and commitment to others."

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# SUNY OW Mourns Loss of Madelyn Bowen to Cancer

By Kristin Brave

Madelyn G. Bowen passed away on October 6, 2018 at just twenty-one years old due to synovial sarcoma. She had battled this rare type of cancer that affects the arms and legs since she was diagnosed in April 2017.

She was an active member of the SUNY OW Panthers women's softball team and continued to play up until this fall. As a junior and PEL (Politics, Economics and Law) major, Bowen signed up to work on Liuba Grechen Shirley's campaign, a Democrat running against Rep. Peter King for New York's 2nd Congressional District.

She will be missed by her coaches, teammates and classmates. Head coach of the women's softball team Rich Borawski

remembers Madelyn as, "a beacon of light, meaning she never let cancer stop her from what she loved to do."

Bowen continued to play softball attending all games and practices until she could no longer do so. "I honestly do not know how she did it! And how well she hid it from all of us the pain and suffering she was going through!" said Borawski. "Tough as nails as a player! And a far better human being for touching us ALL in our lives!"

Any students or faculty seeking support following the loss of Ms. Bowen can visit the Office of Counseling and Psychological Wellness Services located in the Student Union building.



Madelyn G. Bowen

www.oldwestburypanthers.com

## Alumnus Highlight: Pierry Benjamin

By Nikki Kallipozis

Pierry Benjamin graduated from SUNY Old Westbury in 2013 as a Media and Communication major, and is currently the Director of Grassroots Outreach for the Republican Party.

In 2011, Benjamin founded the Being Involved Greatly, Living in Various Environments program, also known as The BIG Live. The BIG Live is an outreach program for adolescents in urban communities.

So far BIG Live serves over sixteen schools with the New York City Department of Education to provide students with motivational seminars, public speaking, mentorship, and more. Gaining notoriety, BIG

Live has been featured on Hot97's Street Soldiers with Fox Five journalist Lisa Evers, and Nickelodeon's Stick Sticky's St. Patrick's Day Weekend.

As a teenager, Benjamin was an active member in his church's youth group which led to the creation of BIG Live. The BIG Live program has partnered with SUNY Old Westbury's Career Planning and Development Department, and the Community Action Learning and Leadership Program to allow SUNY Old Westbury students to intern at the BIG Live.

Benjamin has also served as the New York State Director for the Republican Leadership Initiative during the 2016 presidential cycle. The Republican Leadership Initiative is a six-week program dedicated to training grassroots leaders to become professional field organizers to run campaign operations.



Pierry Benjamin

In early 2016, Benjamin received the Republican Youth of the Year Award presented by the Queens Village Republican Club, Inc.

He encourages students to plan for their future, "Save money and invest! Life will get very expensive, be ready for it! Get politically active at local level, know your local officials and make sure they know you. These are not fail-safes, but rather be safe, then fail."

Before attending SUNY Old Westbury, Benjamin acquired an Associate Degree from Briarcliffe College majoring in Networking and Computer Technology. Benjamin offers advice

for current SUNY Old Westbury students, "College is the most influential time of your life. Do not sell it short. Join the club, organize the trip, start the movement and pass on the legacy. Do not just rely on Greek-Life to be the culture. Create opportunities for others to engage and be the culture!"

"My biggest takeaway from SUNY Old Westbury are [sic.] the endless networks and lifelong connections that I have obtained with my fellow alumni," Benjamin reflects on the valuable information he learned at SUNY Old Westbury. "We have an ability to collaborate and engage; to build and to explore and furthermore build each other where the opportunity presents itself. Gifts like these are priceless."

Cont. from page 1

### How Smart Are the Smart Classrooms?

video resources as an alternative" and "inadequate or poorly functioning classroom technology can hinder effective teaching, create an impression among students that the College is not properly equipped and have a negative impact on students' learning and experience at the College."

The resolution called for the IT department and/or the IT governance committee to provide a report about the state of the "smart classrooms" and a "schedule for refreshing equipment when needed." It also called for IT to "work with Academic Affairs and affected departments to ensure that a complete and up to date array of reliable devices be provided promptly in each of the rooms currently designated as a classroom with technology."

Evan Kobolakis, assistant vice president, information technology services and chief information officer, claims that his department is currently working to replace the DVD players. But so far, faculty members have seen little progress.

A teacher who preferred to remain anonymous said she didn't understand why the IT department shrugs its shoulders when confronted with the faulty machines. "It's an ongoing problem" that they don't seem capable of fixing, she added.

A student who used to work at the help desk, who also wished to remain anonymous, said, "When I worked

there urgency was not a big thing." According to two faculty members, some IT personnel are willing to help them with DVD's in the classrooms, while others refuse.

A person with knowledge of the problems said that the IT department believes that DVD's may not be used in several years and therefore the department is reluctant to spend any money to replace the machines. Instructors who teach film courses, however, point out that many older films are only available on DVD's.

The failure of DVD players is a symptom of the larger IT problem on campus where equipment and the Internet frequently break down.

"Most of the educational technology is coming from that wonderful thing called the student technology fee," Kobolakis said. The student technology fee is currently \$182.50. The fee is supposed to cover IT services in addition to funds IT receives from the school's budget. According to the Overview of the College Financial Resources for 2017-2018, the College Financial Plan, the Information Technology Services should have received nearly \$3 million.

Kobolakis claims to understand that functioning equipment is vital to teaching. He noted, "If there is a demand for that technology to be here we will continue to support it until a full solution will come in to replace it."

Cont. from page 1

### Professor Barber Earns an Award for her Latest Book

in the ruins of industrial America.

"Lawrence has long faced stigma, prejudice, and dismissal, so I truly hope that this award will help bring Lawrence and its residents some of the recognition and respect that they deserve," Professor Barber said.

This isn't the first time the book has earned an award. Earlier this summer, Professor Barber won the 2018 Lois P. Rudnick Book Prize from the New England American Studies Association. The Rudnick Prize is awarded to the best scholarly books in American Studies written about New England or by a New England scholar. *Latino City shared the 2018 award with Hidetaka Hirota's Expelling the Poor: Atlantic Seaboard States and the Nineteenth-Century Origins of American Immigration Policy.*

As an educator, she spreads her knowledge to others. She said: "I write and teach with faith that understanding systems of privilege and oppression will help us dismantle them. I want to share energizing stories of activism, stories that show the heroism in people's everyday struggles against injustice. The true achievement would be a just and sustainable world."

Professor Barber is hopeful about the future. "I certainly hope that this award will help draw a wider audience for both *Latino City* and for my future projects. Other than that, I simply hope to have the great fortune to continue doing the work that I'm already doing."

## The Mold Cleanup

By Cedric Pompey

Several SUNY Old Westbury residents at the Woodland Halls have been exposed to mold this fall semester.

College President Dr. Calvin O. Butts III has reassured current and potential students of SUNY Old Westbury that all the dorms are now "safe for occupation." The campus administration blamed the "unusual weather pattern" for the mold.

On October 19th, Dr. Butts sent an email that provided an update on the

mold condition stating that "the reports of new mold appearances appear to have stopped." He added that each residence hall is safe following the results of testing by an independent licensed mold assessment consultant.

In late September, according to OW spokesperson Michael Kinane, vice president for communications and chief communications officer. Kinane said that he couldn't guarantee that mold will not reappear. However,

he added that the school is doing the best it can.

Three large, commercial dehumidifiers are temporarily in each building to help keep humidity levels as low as possible.

In addition, affected areas are being cleaned quickly when the administration learns of any mold and growth-inhibiting products in all instances are being used.

Students are being compensated

for their damages. Kinane noted that the claims vary. "Each claim is handled independently," he said.

**Students seeking redress can find information on the college's website. All complaints must be filed no later than 5 p.m. on November 19th, 2018 on the college website.**

## Patience with Photography

By Kirsten Hyman

SUNY Old Westbury student, Audrey Malone is a professional photographer with various artistic talents and hopes to inspire other artists.

Malone is currently a junior at SUNY Old Westbury, and she has been living in the dorms for the past three years now. She is a double major aiming to graduate with a B.A. in Psychology, and a B.F.A. in Visual Arts.

Audrey grew up in Long Beach, New York. Her interest in art started at a young age. “I started drawing and painting when I was very little, probably like four,” she said. “I liked anything creative.” At the age of 18, she started her own photography company called *Hanging Orchid Photography*. She actively works doing portraits, infant photography, weddings, bat mitzvahs and bar mitzvahs, band events and, even religious ceremonies.

Her interest in photography started as a hobby. She began using disposable film cameras. Growing up she did not have much money to fund her interest in photography. “That’s all I could afford at the time,” she said. “I didn’t have any money as a kid, or you know, anyone that showed me photography. I just got into it.” She would shoot and then print the photos at CVS or any other kiosks that she could find. Audrey did not originally take photography seriously. “I wasn’t thinking,” she said. “I just knew I enjoyed it.”

While Audrey attended Sacred Heart Academy, things began to change. Sacred Heart Academy is an all-girls Catholic school in Hempstead, New York. During her time at the school, Audrey took a digital imaging class where she learned useful programs. She said they “would teach us how to use *Photoshop*, and *Lightroom*.” At the time, she did not have a fancy camera. “This is when I was still shooting with like a ‘point and shoot.’”

After joining the class, she asked her uncle if he would help her pay for a Digital Single-Lens Reflex camera, also known as a DSLR. According to canon.com.au, a DSLR is “a type of camera that uses a complex mechanical mirror system to redirect light coming through the lens.” Her uncle agreed and she finally had her first DSLR camera. It was a Canon EOS Rebel T5. “It’s just a better quality camera in general, but a camera is a camera to me,” she said. “What matters to me is the composition; what you want to portray.”

In 2016, Audrey took pictures for a band in the basement of the “Creative Corner.” She describes the music school located in West Hempstead, New York

as a “little music spot.” When taking pictures of the band she realized she had developed a skill. “Wow, I can take pictures,” she thought to herself. “I’m not bad, I could probably do this.” As Audrey’s photography skills developed, she began to take pictures for family events. “I’d take pictures of anything and everything,” she stated.

Taking pictures for the band at the “Creative Corner” set the stage for her wanting to charge for her work. The band was supposed to have paid for the photos she took, but it didn’t end up happening. “I think I charged him like twenty bucks, but he never gave me the money,” she remembered. “You really need to get people to pay you,” she said. “You can’t give your art away for free, because it’s art.” Audrey believes that if someone is good at something, they should find a way to make a living out of it.

Along with her growing passion for photography, she enjoyed painting and drawing. In college she continued her creativity. “I continued with my art. I still kept painting and doing all that. I had sold a couple of paintings at that point.” She would sometimes do commission work for people who wanted her to paint or draw portraits for them.

In 2017, Malone started *Hanging Orchid Photography*. She had taken pictures for a band called *Sticky Trigger*. “They were the cute boy band that I liked,” she said. Audrey went on to give credit to the Long Island music scene. She said that the diversity in music is what really got her in tune with her creativity. “The music scene is filled with you know, artists of all different kinds,” said Malone. She mentioned that along with many musicians on the scene, there are several visual artists. Malone feels that the musicians impacted her. She said, “[I] had a really big impact on my life.” She finds herself comfortable working in the music scene. “It’s my home now.” She feels as if she learned a lot about herself through meeting people.

After meeting several other photographers in the music scene, Malone realized how many of them made a decent living. In August 2017, she attended “Muñoz Stock,” a small art and music festival where a band called *The Muckrakers* were performing. The show was performed at the Broadway Mall, in Hicksville, New York. She brought her camera and began to shoot. “I took pictures of everything I saw,” she explained. This was what Audrey considers to be her first real gig. Although she did not receive pay, she



Audrey Malone

met many people that she said were “very important in the music scene at that time.” She met artists such as Kyler Sane, a songwriter and guitarist for *The Muckrakers* band.

After Sane was shown the photos that Audrey had taken at the show, the band hired her to shoot their set multiple times afterward. This led her to various other locations. For instance, Audrey met the owner of a music venue whom connected her with gigs at other venues. She eventually worked for bands at larger venues like *Revolution*. “I work with bands at those places, and they pay me to do photography for them,” she said. “Every weekend I’d be at a show with my camera.”

While her home is with the music scene, Malone wants to move to a more professional setting for her photography. She now works for a company called *Denis LEON & Co. PHOTOGRAPHERS*. The company often is hired out by high-end clients for bar mitzvahs, bat mitzvahs and even weddings. On top of working for *Denis LEON & Co. PHOTOGRAPHERS*, she is still involved with her company, *Hanging Orchid Photography*. “To be twenty-years-old and working for, you know, incredible artists,” she reflected. “I really made something for myself at a young age,” she said.

This summer Audrey purchased a new camera, and plans to continue upgrading her equipment for future jobs. She is currently shooting with a Canon EOS 5D Mark II. She uses multiple lenses, mostly Canon, and some Sigma. Her current artwork can be seen displayed at SUNY Old Westbury for *Art Tutorials I*. She is taking the class with professor Eric Hagan. “He is an assistant professor with the art department,”

said Audrey. She has recently created a series regarding domestic violence. It includes paintings and a sculpture that should be done by the end of the year. Her series, “*Life After Suffering*” will be on display in the Campus Center in the art department. If interested, feel free to ask a professor in the art department for more information.

Malone gave a few tips to anyone interested in photography. “Stick with it, and don’t give up,” said Malone. “Everyone starts somewhere and you can’t let yourself get disheartened by failure or by making mistakes.” She admits that when she first started, she felt that she was terrible. “We are all terrible when we first start because there’s so much that goes into photography that makes a picture perfect,” she said. She believes social media has warped how we view photography because now everyone takes pictures on their phone. If someone does not have the funds to afford a nice camera, she encourages people to use anything. “I think the art of photography is patience; taking your time, learning about your subject and capturing it in the best way that you can present to other people.”

“I really do like working as a photographer,” she concludes. “I’m not saying that I’m the best photographer at all. There’s so much to learn, but I really have a passion for it.”

As of right now, social media is the best way to reach her. She said if someone is interested in getting in contact with her they can search for hangingorchidphotography on both Facebook and Instagram.

<https://www.canon.com.au/explore/glossary/dslr>

## Meet the Greeks



Marcella Morales-Lugo

Shainek Edmundson

### By Selena M. Valentin

Shainek Edmundson, is the chapter President of Mu Sigma Upsilon Sorority Incorporated, and has been a member since the fall of 2017. She is currently a senior and a sociology major, with an extensive involvement with the campus community.

Shainek is a dance member of All the Right Moves, and is also the tutoring coordinator at the Equal Opportunity Program office. She provides consistent programming throughout the academic year which range from a series of topics. In her senior year, Edmundson has recently won homecoming Queen for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Edmundson along with her other chapter sisters are currently preparing to host this year's annual National R.A.C.E. event, R.A.C.E. stands for Recognizing and Celebrating Ethnicities. R.A.C.E is an annual event every chapter in MSU hosts to promote cultural awareness and celebrate the beauty of diversity in our communities.

Lastly, she says, "This year I really want to continue to promote unity amongst students and staff. This campus is filled with so much potential and I want to be a part of our growth as a leader." Stay connected with Shainek Edmundson via instagram @\_neosoulvibing or via email ShainekEdmundson@gmail.com

## Dreams of Free Expression

### By Kirsten Hyman

SUNY Old Westbury Media & Communications major Ty' Asia Smith is an aspiring writer with dreams to open up a place for judgment-free expression. She has already written several short stories which she plans on posting to her website.

Smith was born in December, 1995 in Queens. As a native of Westbury, she attended Westbury High School; during which she says her favorite subject was always English. She said, "Ever since I was really young, I've just always loved writing; because no one really listened to me. I feel like writing was the only way that I could express myself."

She began writing at the age of eleven. She started her writing with poetry, and eventually began writing short stories. She explained how some of her stories have been inspired by films. "The majority of what I wrote was about *Lifetime* movies," she explained; "Sort of like fan fiction."

Smith has written multiple short stories such as *A Stranger in My Home*; and is in the process of finishing another called *The Fence*. When asked what gives her the ideas for her stories, Smith responded, "It depends on how I'm feeling. It just came to me in my mind." While Smith plans on continuing her writing, she admits to struggling. "Sometimes I feel like my writing is not that good. I get writer's block, but there's not a day that goes by that I don't think about finishing."

Smith wants her writing to reach people of all ages. She hopes that other students can become involved in writing. "Just do it!" she cheered. She encourages people to try even if they don't think that they have what it takes. "All of the major writers of today probably didn't like their writing; hated the story, or gave up on it at some point; but they eventually perfected their writing," she said.

Students looking to get involved with writing can look at the works of their favorite authors. Smith says that growing up she took pleasure in reading the *Junie B. Jones* series, by Barbara Park. She currently reads the works of Edgar Allen Poe in her spare time. "He actually made me love horror books. I

never realized horror could be so good," Smith stated.

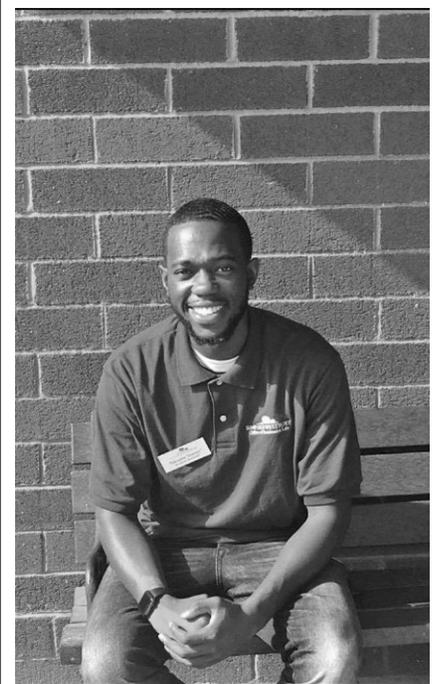
She also received guidance and inspiration while taking a Horror Literature class at Nassau Community College. Smith credited the class as beneficial to her writing success. "That really helped me," she said. While taking the course, she read a short story written by William Faulkner, that inspired her to write one of her own. "*A Rose for Emily* inspired me to write *A Stranger in My Home*." SUNY OW offers a similar if not identical class. "EL2239", better known as Horror Literature, is available for selection during registration. Taught by Professors Donald McCarthy, Karen Landau, or Paul Hadrian, the class puts a horror themed spin on getting one's Basic Communication attribute.

Smith is planning to graduate next year with a Bachelor's degree in Media and Communications. After graduation, Smith wants to focus on improving her writing skills. She wants to start writing about her personal dreams. Her next story will involve a red room. She hopes to write books as well someday. She stated, "I want to be one of those people who leaves an impression on someone's heart." Her stories will soon be posted to her website: "tyasiadsmith.wixsite.com/soulxcape".

Ty'Asia has a dream of creating a place where people are free to express themselves. She wants to eventually purchase a building to open up a poetry lounge. She's even come up with a name for the establishment. "*City Xscape*" she explained, "all the joys of going to the city, without going to the city." Ty'Asia explained how her lounge would make things more convenient for writers, poets, and other artists: "There's so much talent on Long Island, and it just makes no sense to have to go all the way to the city to show it."

Smith's overall goal is to engage others in expressing themselves. She thinks more people should get involved with writing: "Especially if they feel like they don't have a voice. Even if no one is listening, your feelings are still valid."

## Alumni Highlight: Tokunbo Jimmy Jose



Kelsey McGonicle

### By Selena Valentin

Tokunbo Jimmy Jose graduated in the class of 2017 with his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a concentration in Biology.

During Jose's undergraduate career he had many roles. He was a resident assistant, an orientation leader, he later became a head orientation leader, a tour guide and was even a part of the men's cross-country team.

He is currently working at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as a research study assistant. In January 2019 Jose will be attending NYU Steinhardt graduate school for his MA in Counseling for Mental Health and Wellness.

His proudest moment at SUNY Old Westbury was undoubtedly graduation day. His best piece of advice to all undergraduates is to "get involved and do as much as you can. You don't want to graduate and have regrets. Take risks!".

His personal goals are to finish up his masters and go for his doctorate after. Jose has conquered his undergraduate career and has made it look easy. Students like Jose are great leaders and don't fall short from perfect, with all the curve balls and normal college student stresses Jose's perseverance worked its magic and got him where he is now.

## Meet SUNY OW Student-- Luis Rodriguez

### By Selena M. Valentin

Luis Rodriguez, is the chapter President of Lambda Sigma Upsilon Latino Fraternity Incorporated and has been a member since the Fall of 2017. Rodriguez is a senior and a Criminology major with a minor in business. He is currently working on a food and clothing drive for homeless people, that are in need this winter. Programs in which he has successfully completed are the PB&J Project, the Cupcake for Cause event where his organization baked cupcakes and sold them to raise money for Breast cancer awareness, and others similar causes.

His goal for the year is to grow within

the Old Westbury community and host successful programs that will bring knowledge and awareness to the school. Rodriguez said, "In the time I've been affiliated with my organization, I've felt fortunate to be in such an amazing brotherhood, where I can really say I have another big family. I have learned so much about the business and all the great endless opportunities. All the connections and people I've met are all thanks to my amazing organization." Stay connected with Luis Rodriguez via instagram @titibankz or via email LRodri68@oldwestbury.edu



Nicole Recenello

Luis Rodriguez

## Sessions of Hope: First Annual Keys to Success Event Guest Speaker Timothy Mcleod

By Brianna Knibbs

On November 6th, SUNY Old Westbury support group, Sessions of Hope, hosted the first session of their Annual Guest Speaker Month called "The Key to Success" which was held in multipurpose room B at the Student Union, sponsored by the Student Government Association(S.G.A.).

Host and founder of Sessions of Hope, Jakyra Mcleod introduced IT Analyst, Timothy Mcleod to discuss the importance of the keys to success. He started off his presentation with a question to the audience. He asked, "What are some of the keys to success, and or how does one achieve success in their life?"

Three audience members answered saying things like determination, the initiative to start, and dedication. McLeod explained that showing growth and adding on to the skills we have will lead to success. As stated at the event adding on to your skills is a way of making ourselves more marketable and better

in what we do, which will help us reach our goals.

Another significant point from the event as well, was learning doesn't stop just in school. "Learning cannot just start and stop in the classroom.. It can't! Learning or growing, whatever we do, getting skills cannot just stop or start in the classroom. But we gotta continue and make the effort. We gotta be dedicated, we gotta be determined, we gotta be self-starters. We gotta be determined in all these things to reach that goal." McLeod emphasized, continuously adding on to your craft as a number one key to success.

Mcleod used religion as one key that helps him succeed in life. He quoted a scripture from the Bible, 2nd Peter Verses 5-8, "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness

brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you in abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." It is a way for him personally to grow not only spiritually, but also naturally.

Analyst Mcleod mentioned: "Many times what I've learned is that sometimes we don't know what we want, and because we don't know what we want, we can't properly plan for the future. We have to know what we want and we have to be hungry to obtain those goal."

To further explain his point of being aggressive in our goals and knowing what we want he quoted NBA player, Kobe Bryant who said, "It doesn't matter how good you become at your skill of choice. There's always room for improvement. There is always potential for more learning and development." He discussed how believing that there is no room for

improvement can be dangerous and stagnating to your growth process. He again referenced Kobe Bryant and how he would get up and go the gym at 4am and practice while his teammates were asleep. He did this because he was constantly improving his craft, which made him one of the greatest basketball players in the country.

Mcleod continued to engage the audience with questions and prompted students to speak about times in their lives where they've had to apply a method or work hard to achieve success. At the end of his presentation, there was prayer and an invitation for students to interact with Sessions of H.O.P.E on social media. Sessions of H.O.P.E regularly meets every Tuesday at Common hour and the guest speaker event will continue every Tuesday from 5-6 pm through the month of November.

## Social Media's Role in Eating Disorders

By Kristel Garces

People who spend more time on social media have a higher chance to develop an eating disorder, according to Mirror-Mirror.org, an eating disorder organization.

It is no secret that social media plays a role in eating disorders. People who engage in social media weekly have 2.6 times the risk to develop an eating disorder according to Mirror-Mirror.org. Eating disorders are traced back to early childhood and what people don't realize is the impact social media has had on people with an eating disorder now. "I remember being five-years-old with my two piece sparkly purple bathing suit and feeling so insecure about my belly," said Maria Wurtz who is still recovering from exercise bulimia and anorexia admits.

Young women have body issues since they are kids because of the images presented to them on television. On a typical day, young people ages eight to eighteen are engaged with some form of media for about 7.5 hours. Television is the first form of media kids are exposed to, according to nationaleatingdisorder.com, an organization dedicated to support individuals and their families affected by an eating disorder. This is already playing a perception in young girl's minds and like Wurtz admits, kids are starting to form their

first memories when they are five-years-old and start judging their own body.

For many like Wurtz it was not easy to admit that she had an eating disorder but the first step was to realize she had one and seeking out help. She first had to hear it from her best friend to realize she had a problem. "I was a little defensive. I responded that I didn't and it was just my lifestyle," Wurtz said. The best way to help out someone suffering from an eating disorder is by letting them know that it's okay to seek help. "Eating disorders are way to severe to just handle them by yourself." Dr. Oren Shefet, a psychologist and counselor at SUNY Old Westbury points out.

There are many eating disorders and to each their own consequences. Eating disorders can have a long term effect on you. There's the symptoms of malnutrition, which means internal body parts stop functioning, muscles become weaker and bones become less dense and in severe cases it can lead to death and people die of anorexia," Dr. Shefet informs.

Early signs of an eating disorder include obsessing over food calorie count, anxiety over food indulgence, small snacks in comparison to actual meals, concern with body image and a lot more according to nationaleating-

disorder.org. "Before I was dealing with my eating disorder I was dealing with orthorexia which isn't a clinically diagnosed eating disorder but it's an obsession with eating healthy, so you're going crazy counting all the calories you consume and just this obsession that everything that is going in your body must be healthy" Wurtz admitted when talking about her discovery towards her eating disorder. She also adds that she saw this unhealthy pattern in her Instagram where people put posts of dieting but she compares those people to having orthorexia as well and not even realizing it. She also admits that orthorexia in a way like is like a gateway drug to her full blown eating disorders.

Mass media provides a significantly influential context for people to learn about body ideals and the value placed on being attractive. "People who view others on social media can learn about self-objection and get into all sorts of contests around whose losing weight more elevating the culture of anorexia," Dr. Shefet comments on the role of media. "Because we live in a society where thinness is looked as beautiful, when people said I looked thin I looked at it as a compliment and it actually made me want to become thinner. I think that was part of the reason why I didn't realize I had a problem" Wurtz

adds to the role media played in her disorder.

Media does promote a lot of unhealthy and unnatural body image mostly on women but also men. However, for men it isn't as noticeable. "For most men they try to become as buff as possible, it is just as devastating but men don't get diagnosed because they don't appear to be the image of an eating disorder," Dr. Shefet shares.

As a millennial it is almost impossible to not be exposed to media. It is around us and it's hard to be affected by it. Although it does promote a lot of self-hate there has also been created a lot of pages or people using social media to share their stories. "I unfollowed all the social media accounts about dieting and anything negative towards body image and I started following accounts that talked positively about body image" Wurtz says when talking about what she has done in social media in order to stay positive about her disorder.

Although Wurtz still finds herself recovering from her disorder she says that one of the things she did that have helped her recover is learning about feminism. For her being involved in feminism has taught her that you are beautiful in any shape way or form.

## Many Firsts for Politicians in Results of the Midterm Elections

By Kristel Garces

The Democratic Party took over the House in 2018 midterm election for the first time in eight years, impacts of the election can be seen on Long Island.

Although New York State has always been a Democratic state, there were some surprising races that took place in the midterm elections.

Letitia James, a Democrat, broke many barriers in the midterm elections. She is now the first African-American woman to be elected in a statewide office and the first black person to serve as Attorney General in New York. The Former Public Advocate for New York City, she will now advocate for everyday New Yorkers and promises to protect immigrants' rights, reducing the burden of student loans, and even emphasize gender equality in her new role.

The phrase that was most heard in

this election was the "blue wave," which meant that a lot of Democrats were going to turnout for the election. The Democrats wanted to take control of the Senate. However, the takeover of the House was important.

Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, a Democrat, became the youngest woman ever to be elected to congress at age 29. She will assume office on January 3rd as a representative of Congress from New York's 14th district. Ocasio-Cortez is of a Puerto Rican background and promises to represent and lead on for the issues of district 14th such as access to health insurance and gun control.

In the 2016 presidential election, Staten Island was the only borough to support Trump. In the midterm elections, Max Rose was the Democratic candidate that was elected into con-

gress to represent New York's 11th district. He defeated the incumbent Dan Donovan by focusing in his sight for affordable healthcare and education.

Overall, the Democrats picked up three congressional seats in New York from Republicans.

On Long Island, Peter King was re-elected for New York's second congressional district. Although King agrees with many of President Trump's policies, he expressed disagreement on Trump's approaches to Russia.

In the first congressional district, at the eastern end of Long Island, Republican Lee Zeldin defeated Democratic challenger Perry Gershon.

As expected, Governor Andrew Cuomo won a third term.

In District 21, Judy Griffin defeated incumbent Brian Curran who previous-

ly served eight years in the state assembly. Judy Griffin fights to make Long Island more affordable, access to better education and is currently fighting against corruption in Albany.

In Old Westbury, Anna Kaplan won the New York State Senate position in District 7 against incumbent Elaine Phillips. Anna Kaplan is Iranian-American and focuses on fighting for the hard working families of Long Island.

This past election has been the most diverse in terms of potential candidates, according to CBS. For the first time in history there were many firsts of elected candidates all over the country and that is already seen as a victory for the Democrats even here on Long Island.

**Professor Carolyn Cocca (PEL Department)  
"Superheroes, Superpowers, and Social Change:  
How and Why Representation Matters for Gender Equity and  
Equality"  
Thursday, November 15  
5:30—7pm  
NAB1100.**

Dr. Cocca teaches courses about U.S. politics, constitutional law, and gender studies and is a recipient of the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. She has served as Director of the SUNY Old Westbury Women's Center, and was co-principal investigator with Professor Amanda Frisken of a \$200,000 grant from the Department of Justice's Office of Violence Against Women to train all campus units to have a coordinated and effective response to sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking, as well as establishing educational programs geared toward preventing such violence. She is the author of *Jailbait: The Politics of Statutory Rape Laws in the United States* and the editor of *Adolescent Sexuality*. Her latest book, *Superwomen: Gender, Power, and Representation*, won the 2017 Will Eisner Comic Industry Award in the Best Academic/Scholarly Work category.

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Venom

By Keya Rice

Last month, the world welcomed back a long lost frenemy. Fans of the 2007 *Spiderman 3* film may know him quite well, as the creature who brought out spider man's dark side literally. In the 2007 *Spiderman 3* film a meteorite crashes to earth and lands in Central Park bringing with it an extraterrestrial symbiote, who later assimilates Peter's suit and corrupts him. Some may have thought they seen the last of the symbiote when he was blown to pieces in 2007, but eleven years later he's back in business with the new 2018 action packed film *Venom*.

Audiences drift into space as they follow some sort of fallen aircraft from the sky. The aircraft crashes to earth killing all scientists aboard and apparently misplacing one of four extraterrestrial beings that they brought to earth. Nope doesn't sound like a recipe for disaster at all, I mean a misplaced extraterrestrial being what could possibly go wrong.

Fast and furious journalist Eddie Brock rips through the city of San Francisco uncovering injustices one by one.

Although Brock is on a tight leash with his boss they have a mutual agreement, Brock does what the boss wants and gets to keep his job. On this particular occasion Brock is needed to play nice and do an easy going interview with crooked scientist Carlton Drake, and of course Brock has a hard time playing by the rules. Digging so deep that he became obsessed Brock just had to know more. Stolen files, an interview gone bad, rage and curiosity take Brock down a road he's never thought he'd be traveling, one that may be dark but could lead him down a path that would change him forever. With no job, no girlfriend and symbiote still on the loose, life couldn't get any worse, right?

*Venom* leads its fans on a cautionary tale of curiosity and urges you to test your superhuman strength. Maybe we haven't been invaded by a symbiote, but we've sure got something inside of us that speaks for us when we cant for ourselves. Is he a hero or is he a villain? Only you get to decide but remember the side your on when the darkness is exposed.



# Ella Mai's: Ella Mai

By Brianna Knibbs

British-native singer Ella Mai released her first debut album, *Ella Mai* on October 12th. Hit songs "Boo'd Up" and "Trip" hit the billboard charts giving fans a feel of a 90's R&B album.

Throughout the album she says her name in an acrostic poem style. Originally the first track "Emotions" appears to be a song. I came to find out that it was only a twelve second intro with her stating the first letter of her name, "E: Emotion. A natural instinctive state of mind depriving from one's circumstances, mood, or relationship with others. A roller-coaster!" The intro was way to short and [Ella Mai] should've at least extended it to thirty seconds or a minute in order to get her message across.

The next two songs were very monotonous as the melody remains the same, but the lyrical content is still impressive. The album gets even better as her vocal pitch starts to shift to the more fun records starting off with her fourth track, "Sauce." Here she brags about being too good to handle when guys want to date her. At the end, she said the letter L in her name, "Lust: Four letters like love but less precious. More like

electric veins running very fast that frenzy my heart, making me crave and act restless. So infectious."

Other records such as "Cheap-shot," "Shot Clock," "Own it," and "Run My Mouth" revealed a different side of her that was never seen before. The melody of those songs makes you want to listen to them when you're in a relaxed state of mind. She has more of an attitude and is in need of a strong relationship. In "Shot Clock" she sang, "five years of waiting, tired of being patient." It shows that she is not afraid on stating what she wants and is determine to make the relationship with her partner better, if he is willing to put in the work as well.

Features in the album included R&B singers, Chris Brown, John



Legend, and H.E.R. Ella Mai's hit song "Whatchamacallit" featuring Chris Brown talks about a secretive relationship and realizing that it was wrong but felt right. The message of the song was very confusing when Ella Mai and Brown mentioned in the chorus that their relationship wasn't cheating. It contradicts the meaning of it. It makes it difficult to understand what Ella Mai stands for in relationships. Is she all about love and loyalty or she is the girl that loves to play the side chick?

The last two songs in the album should have been in reverse order. Ella Mai decided to end her album with the song "Easy." Her album should have ended with the song "Close" since she already stated the last letter of her name "I: Inner." This would have concluded her acrostic poem that

read, "I am Ella Mai." It would have been a better way to end the album and would have made a greater impact on her fans.

Knowing that Ella Mai is a rising R&B singer who is new to the music industry, she is already successful with many of her songs. Most of her fans would be in the mood to listen to her album as a way to relate to relationships and love. Her album gives a nostalgic 90's R&B sound that we all have been waiting for.

Her album's success is greatly due to the help of the executive producer, DJ Mustard. Although at some point, it could have been done better. For instance, the beats could have been more catchy in the beginning, or even blend in her vocals. This would have energized everybody to want to play her songs over and over again. Overall, the album is not so bad, rating it a 4 on a 5-scale-system.

# A Thanksgiving Special

By Ty'Asia Smith

It's that time of year again where you begin packing up those Halloween costumes and start basting the turkey. Thanksgiving is approaching and we must start preparing for dinner.

Are you looking for different ways to spice up your meals or are you more traditional and want to add more decorum on this holiday? Are you vegan and want to know how to prepare a vegan thanksgiving meal without the results of killing harmless animals?

Websites such as Pinterest, Amazon, Etsy are great for providing customers with new ideas or items that will capture your attention. Here are some tips to keep yourself sane during the holidays for a successful Thanksgiving dinner!

Sorting decorations can be stressful. Hosting a party is far worse! That's why it is very important to get as much as you can done before last minute tasks 'waddle' into your life.

Pinterest is great a way to view ideas for meals and simple decorations. For example, if you're a last minute shopper then you know about the last minute rush right before the holidays. Not only will the website Pinterest provide creative photographs, it'll send you to the link attached to the photo for an easier find.

Once you've obtained your vision on what it is that you are looking for, Amazon is great for buying almost anything for a reasonable price. If you're looking for a cornucopia, games to play with the entire family such as *pin the feather on the turkey*, or even ingredients to be delivered to your house. Amazon is great for those last minute ideas with their same day delivery option.

On another note, if you're feelings artsy and want to have arts and crafts with the family, Etsy might be the right fit for you! With their hand crafted pieces and their unique items, you and your entire family will



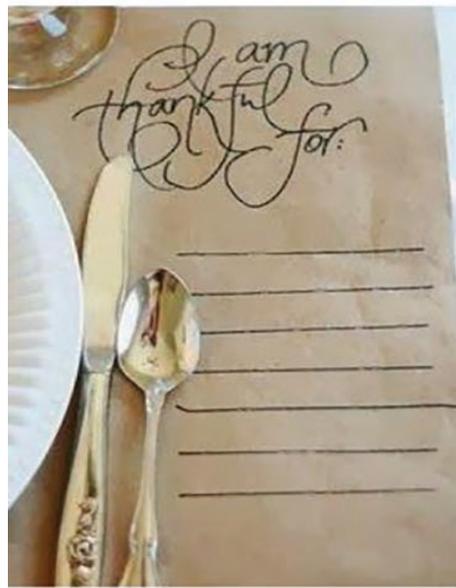
Macy's annual Thanksgiving Day parade

have lots of fun with their vintage pieces.

Once you and your family have had your successful thanksgiving meal and everyone is happy with your choice of decorum please find time to make it to the annual Thanksgiving Macy's day parade in New York City.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Parade is the world's largest parade provided with a beautiful view of Manhattan. Tens to thousands of people attend every year to view the huge balloons, floats, smiling faces, and even Santa Clause, marching bands etc. Although, it is easy to watch it from home on your couch, there is nothing like the in-person experience that will be sure to leave an impression.

The Macy's Thanksgiving parade is on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2018. It will start on 77<sup>th</sup> St and Central Park West towards 34th Street to Macy's Herald Square.



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## Sessions of H.O.P.E will like to formally invite you to our First Annual Guest Speaker Month!

Sessions of H.O.P.E will present its first annual "Keys to Success Event." Beginning Tuesday, November 6th, we will be having guest speakers come to campus on Tuesdays for the month of November! Please see the attached flier for the campus location of each event.

an IT Analyst field --November 6th ---- SU MPR B  
Two United Nations representatives--November 13th & November 20th ---- SU MPR B  
a Business Management Field Representative -- November 27th --- SU 311

The speakers will come to the campus at 5-6 pm every Tuesday to discuss the steps that they have taken to be the successes that they are. This is a GREAT learning AND networking opportunity. There will be food and beverages served and everyone who attends will be seated at a dinner table. Please RSVP to the following emails: [Sessionsof.h.o.p.e7@gmail.com](mailto:Sessionsof.h.o.p.e7@gmail.com) or [jmcleod3@oldwestbury.edu](mailto:jmcleod3@oldwestbury.edu)  
Looking forward to seeing you there! Thank you

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Come to a training program that was designed to focus on the importance of bystander intervention in order to prevent death from alcohol overdose. The goal is to create culture change by helping students understand the importance of recognizing alcohol overdose as a medical emergency and the toxicity that comes with binge drinking. This training is focused on knowledge, skill and confidence building regarding preventing death from alcohol overdose. Those who attend will receive an **introduction to CPR Training.**

**DATE: Tuesday, November 20th, 2018**

**TIME: 7:00pm-9:00pm**

**LOCATION: Student Union, MPR C**



**\*Refreshments will be served**  
**Certificates will be given out**

**\*The first 20 students who register and attend, will receive training and a watch!**

**\*Please register before November 19, 2018**

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NJAi9TPyEk-nFji39JBDcAZuoTrMcnFAsrMt3GpG6VRUOURIV1NB\\_VlkxQjRWV05TWjY3UkFFRVJYMC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NJAi9TPyEk-nFji39JBDcAZuoTrMcnFAsrMt3GpG6VRUOURIV1NB_VlkxQjRWV05TWjY3UkFFRVJYMC4u)

For more information, contact Blanca Schneider, SU Room 303-I (schneider@oldwestbury.edu)

# SUNY Old Westbury International Artist Helidon Gjergji

By Keya Rice

The new faculty exhibit at the Amelia A. Wallace Gallery in the Campus Center will feature a discussion by the artists on November 14th. This exhibit has work from Visual Arts Department Assistant Professor Helidon Gjergji, Assistant Professor Eric Hagan, and Assistant Professor Fred Fleisher.

This fall semester Helidon Gjergji assumed the position of assistant professor in the Visual Arts Department. He has an unusual background.

Gjergji was born and raised in Albania in 1970 during the Communist regime. He called it the worst dictatorial society in all of Europe, referring to Stalinism, the political and economic system implemented under totalitarian leader Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union. Albania remained Stalinist until around 1989. "This was a time of very strict rules, if you didn't follow the rules of the regime you could end up in prison...some ended up dead," he said.

Gjergji grew up in a time of socio-political upheaval in Europe and by his last years of college, the Albania he once knew, so loyal to the Stalinist regime was actually becoming one of rebellion against Communism.

Helidon received his bachelor of fine arts from the Albanian University of arts, known at that time as the Academy of Arts in Tirana, Albania. During his time in college, the art movement Impressionism was banned. Gjergji learned everything from art, to art history, to anatomy to perspective. A high significance was placed on accurately proportioning and representing the human body through various art forms at this time.

Helidon admits to being a wise but also daring college student, proudly

recalling a point in his life where he and other students of the Albanian University of arts actually took on the Stalin regime and won. "At the fall of the Communist regime students started to rebel, Academy of Fine Arts students were among the first to go against Stalin," Gjergji reminisced on marching, protesting and signing petitions, all peacefully with other students to get Stalin's name and figure removed and they succeeded.

After his time spent at the Albanian University of arts in Tirana, Albania, Helidon took his love of art and education to Italy where he pursued his second art degree at the Academy of fine arts in Naples, Italy. By the early 1990's Albania, a once isolated country, had opened its borders making it possible for Helidon to move to Italy and further his studies.

Helidon thrived in Italy and not only did he graduate from the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples as a Summa cum laude student but Italy is where he would also meet his future wife. But when I got to Italy I was shocked, I went from a highly closed society to an open one," Gjergji said. He spoke vividly about how the differences in the socio-political climate in Italy vs Albania was reflected in his art.

He and his wife went to live in Chicago where Helidon attended Northwestern University and received his

Masters in Fine Arts, while his wife pursued her PHD at the University of Chicago. When asked how his art work was influenced by politics both now compared to his time in Albania, Gjergji stated, "My work has always been influenced by politics, except in Albania it was forced and to some extent it wasn't honest."

Gjergji went on to speak about how some Albanian artists in the time of the Communist regime would "write under the lines," "meaning that the art would have hidden messages, some in support of the regime others against

it. He however had never gotten to that point in Albania because he was a student. However some of his professors and others he'd known actually ended up in jail for writing under the lines.

His shock continued to be expressed through his art and continued when he came to America. As an international artist Gjergji has had many memorable and impactful experiences but one that he was insistent on highlighting was his work on the Tirana Facades project in 2001. At the time Tirana's mayor was Edi Rama who initiated the Tirana Facade project, in which the goal was revitalize former Socialist blocks and housing complexes with color and public art. (Rama was actually a former professor of Gjergji's and

was elected best mayor in the world in 2004.)

Gjergji went on to speak about vast illegal construction taking place in Albania at the fall of the regime, people were building illegal housing, restaurants, kiosks and the like. Mayor Rama wanted to take the city back and bring in fresh air. Rama invited curators and artists from all over the world to create art on the new buildings.

Gjergji said: "It was really interesting because in a normal art exhibit, you do an art piece and at the end of the exhibit the piece goes home, it's like a film, or a theatre, it has its life. But with this one, after the show was over the work remained for the city, because it was painted buildings...and we still have it after almost twenty years." He added that this project helped to shine hope that change can come even if it's fostered in a minimal way. "Just putting paint on a building was minimal but the impact was so big."

Gjergji said that he wanted to be in a place like SUNY Old Westbury, which has deep roots in social justice. He was able to teach part time from fall of 2013 till 2017. In 2017 there was an opening for a full time assistant professor which he began filling this fall.

Helidon states that he wants to bring all his experience to teaching and to cater to each student's needs, as we are all different and should not be grouped together generally. "I want them [students] to think in those terms," he said, "it's not difficult because you think only in one way. I want them to not only continue in art but to be successful and to be leaders."



Helidon Gjergji

## MOVIE REVIEW

# The Hate U Give

By Brianna Knibbs

T-H-U-G- L-I-F-E (The Hate U Give Little Infants F\*\*ks Everybody)! The well known acronym came from late legendary hip hop artist, Tupac Shakur, which led as an inspiration to the title of the latest movie, *The Hate U Give* directed by George Tillman Jr. Released in theaters on October 6th, the movie stars Amandla Stenberg, Russell Hornsby, Algee Smith, Common, Regina Hall, and many more.

*The Hate U Give* was directed by George Tillman. It was based on the novel, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. The movie explores the life of Star Carter (Amandla Stenberg.)

Star Carter is a sixteen-year-old girl who is mourning the loss of her childhood

best friend, Khalil (Algee Smith) who was shot and killed by white officers.

As Star and others in Garden Heights are mourning the loss of Khalil, Star is also struggling with her own identity. She finds it hard to balance fitting in at a predominantly white school and living in a predominantly black neighborhood. All the while she is trying to find a voice to keep her friends memory alive and bring justice to his cause.

Watching the film, allows for reflection of the world we live in today. Many African American males are killed at the hands of white officers and almost never get justice. This is why movements like black lives matter are important today,

there is a continuous fight protests police brutality, racial profiling, and racial inequality with in the criminal justice system. This movie stresses the importance of why we need to speak about these issues, make changes and educate the up and coming youth on how to interact with others in the world. The movie had so many heart stopping scenes as we awaited the fate of the characters.

You become so connected with the characters laughing when they laugh and crying when they cry. Amandla Stenberg gave a stunning performance as she embodied every emotion possible with such accuracy. The role she played in the movie is one we can aspire towards in real

life, we need to speak up and advocate for others.

Common played Starr's uncle and did not cease to amaze us as he always does. His character is very empathetic and serves as a voice of reason.

The central message of the film leads back to Tupac's acronym T-H-U-G- L-I-F-E, which refers to overcoming adversity and still making it out on top.

Overall, *THE HATE U GIVE* has received a lot of positive reviews as it has become a talking point for many. Movie sites such as Rotten Tomatoes rated the movie 4.5/5 or 9/10.

## An Analysis of Zoos

By Jacqueline Schroder

There are an estimated millions of animals around the world that are held captive for their entire lives. This punishment has been controversial for years because of the belief that it violates the cruel and unusual punishment clause of the eighth amendment.

This argument is that humans are social animals and when humans are put in an isolated environment for an extended period of time, it's torturous. So, why isn't this argument applied to other species as well?

We have complete control over these animals; the only reason they are in captivity is because the majority of society support their captivity for our entertainment. Zoos hold animals that suffer from stress, boredom, abuse, and confinement, entirely for human entertainment.

"The Federal Animal Welfare Act establishes only the most minimal standards for cage size, shelter, health care, ventilation, fencing, food, and water." For example, enclosures must provide "sufficient space to allow each animal to make normal postural and social adjustments with adequate freedom of movement. Inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of malnutrition, poor condition, debility, stress, or abnormal behavior patterns." Evidently, the treatment of animals in captivity is not taken seriously enough and has a profound effect on the animals.

Scientists say that there are multiple species. Elephants for example like elephants live a significantly shorter life in zoos than they do in the wild. There are several variables that could contribute to this unfortunate conclusion, such as starvation, depression, or injury-related incidents. As previously stated, employees of zoos are instructed to give each animal a distinct amount of food, essentially being the bare minimum.

Animals may suffer from mental illnesses because of their captivity. According to an undercover investigation by Animal Equality, "zoos, contrary to popular belief, are often little more than psychological torture and extermination centres for animals," they stated. "They get depressed, psychologically disturbed, frustrated,

they harm each other, become sick, go hungry, and are forced to endure extreme and unnatural temperatures," Animals cannot flourish in these conditions.

What is the fundamental reasoning of a zoo? Animals are taken from their natural habitat, from their families and everything else they had ever known. They are then shoved into a cage, most likely for the rest of their life. Considering these horrible conditions, there is a profound decrease in the human interest of zoos.

There is a misconception that zoos are made distinctly for educational purposes. It's meant to overlook the fact that the animals aren't be treated right and support the zoo anyway. According to People for the Ethical Treatment, "possibly the biggest lie that zoos tell people is that by visiting them, people will learn about wild animals," PETA states. "But the only thing that zoos teach people is that it is OK to keep animals in captivity- bored, cramped, lonely, and very far from home."

Animalfacts.org concludes that the average time individuals spend on each animal display was less than one. It's outrageous to consider that zoos exist merely for human entertainment, but the amount of time humans expand to see the animals is grossly minimal. It further proves that zoos were not created to educate the public on the animals. They were meant just to show off.

Scientists also argue that the attempt to recreate a natural environment interferes with their ability to naturally mate and engage in activities that they would in the wild, according to animal-facts.org.

Mark Derr's Journal Report "Big Beast's, Tight Space and a Call for Change," featured in The New York Times, goes in-depth on the psychological dysfunction animals face in captivity. An Oxford University study based on four decades of observing animals in captivity and in the wild found that animals such as polar bears, lions, tigers, and cheetahs "show the most evidence of stress and/or psychological dysfunction in captivity" and concluded that "the keeping of naturally wide-ranging carnivores should be either fundamentally improved or

phased out."

At the Copenhagen Zoo in 2014, CNN reported a horrific story concerning an innocent, healthy giraffe, that was killed to be fed to the lions. An online petition was created and signed by thousands immediately once they heard about this. The beloved giraffe, previously known as Marius, "was dismembered in front of a zoo audience that included children, and fed to the zoo's lions," according to CNN. "Despite online uproar over the move and reports of last-minute attempts to save the animal, the zoo in the Danish capital said it had no place for Marius in its giraffe herd."

Scientific director Bengt Holst admitted that Marius' death was entirely preventable. "CNN anchor Jonathan Mann asked Holst if it would have been possible to sterilize Marius or move him to another zoo to avoid killing him," CNN reports. "If we just sterilize him, he will take up space for more genetically valuable giraffes," Holst answered.

Marius was only two years old when he was unjustly euthanized. The average lifespan of a giraffe is said to be twenty five years old. Several other zoos reached out and volunteered to take Marius in if space was that much of an issue - no one wanted Marius to be killed.

Many animals are called into the zoo every year. "On average, Holst said some 20 to 30 animals, including goats, antelopes and wild boar, were culled for the same reason every year at the zoo," CNN states. "This is the first giraffe. ... I do not understand the outrage -- we are all used to on a current basis of animals being culled in the wild," CNN said. The public was not aware of this horrifying 'sacrificing,' because it is a direct example of what zoos do not want you to know.

Rowan Moskowitz, a commuter of SUNY Old Westbury admits she was unaware of the severity of the issue. Her heart goes out to all the animals suffering in captivity and is looking into what she can do to strengthen animal rights, and in assisting the development of much needed protective programs.

Many students state their opinion about captive animals, "Zoos

are made for human entertainment," Megan O'Haire, a freshman of Adelphi University, admits solemnly. "As someone who has been to a zoo in the past year, I can tell you first-hand that the experience was not fulfilling. It was very short, and my visit wasn't focused around the animals; my family and I paid more attention on walking place to place." When she did pay attention to the animals, she said it was unsettling.

"I feel sad that this is how it works," O'Haire said. "I feel like the animals are just being used for money. It isn't like zoos are operated because zoo companies want people to learn about the animals. They just want their money. For instance, the Bronx Zoo has a huge gift shop and that's where they make most of their money."

Evan Klauber, a journalism teacher at Smithtown High School West, was baffled and repulsed when he was exposed to the current state of zoos. "I wish that they would focus more on the rehabilitation of animals - that's what my assumption always was - that they spent time rehabilitating hurt animals and putting them back in the wild; I know now that the total opposite is happening and that's definitely troubling," he said.

"Do I believe that they're necessary in their current form? No," he asserts. "Their purpose should be rehabilitation and taking in hurt animals and endangered animals and be looking to incorporate them back into the wild."

All four interviewed participants are in concordance that our next step is undoubtedly in the hands of the government, and Klauber speaks for the group: "Our next step is legislation - there needs to be regulation and the general arc of our society right now is deregulating things which is the antithesis of what we need to be doing."

The only way to stop this cruelty is through government intervention. "I think there should definitely be government regulation - they need to step in and do something," said O'Haire. Perhaps it'll be the only way to save vulnerable animals.

## Student Athlete Highlight: DaShaun Ellerbe

By Selena Valentin

DaShaun Ellerbe is a senior majoring in Industrial and Labor Relations. Ellerbe has recently joined the Men's Cross-Country team. DaShaun is a former vice president of Residence Hall Council in hall 4, he supports all RA programs, and currently holds a work study position at the Clarkson Athletic Center in the fitness room. His experience as a student athlete has been a humbling one, because he says it takes a lot of hard work and dedication to harness your craft and remain academically sound.

DaShaun says his team is an amazing group of people with different personalities and they all come from differ-

ent walks of life but, when they come together its endless laughter, memories and tremendous support. He says the team is making him come out of his shell and be social instead of being in his room playing 2k all the time and "the team reset my humble it really gave me a new understanding of running and marathon runners and what it takes to be an athlete".

The biggest challenge he faced during his time on the team has been trying to find balance between academics and sports. Some of Ellerbe's favorite teams are the New York Giants, the Los Angeles Lakers, and the Carolina Panthers, besides cross country he

enjoys basketball and his favorite athlete is LeBron James.

Upon graduation DaShaun wishes to become an accountant, stating, "my dream job is to own his own accounting firm." As his motto is "It's not what you know... It's who you know." he says that he chose Old Westbury because it was close to his home in Manhattan. and it provided both the college doming experience while being able to go home. His advice to all prospective student athletes is, "Don't do it if your hearts not in it, if you don't wake up and think about it then it's not for you ,but be passionate and you will succeed."



DaShaun Ellerbe

Old Westbury Panthers images

## A TOUGH ENDING TO THE WOMEN'S SOCCER SEASON.



The Panthers gather around for a last talk before the start of the game.

By Miguel Castro

After a tough season, the Panthers looked to bring home the women's season with a win.

SUNY Purchase was ready and had a great position to play spoiler for their home game versus our very own Panthers. They started the first half with a rather uncharacteristic back-end spectacle which would usually force the Panthers defense to hold up under the pressure.

The Panthers defense was led by none other than Celeste Henriquez. She helped rescue the team

from tough situations as well as pressure the ball upwards towards Normile and Williams for attempts at the net.

Purchase's onslaught of shots rained upon the defense and goaltender Alexa Higgens. Westbury can be proud to have stood tall that first half, not letting the huge pressure and amount of chances be a factor on the score.

The second half started and there were three offensive attempts against SUNY Purchase. They grabbed complete control of the

game after some mid field turnovers. A few bad touches lead to SUNY Purchase's forward player, Rebecca Colgan to score the match winner at the sixty-ninth minute.

The shot was a result of a mixed play in the midfield in which instead of developing the play from the wings and sides, Purchase decided to play the ball through the middle, providing Colgan with a beautiful outlet pass for a shot alone. The goal was devastating as it took 10 minutes for the Panthers to get the ball back completely.

The Panthers were rushing to decide how to bring forward a few defensemen in an attempt to make up for SUNY Purchase's goal. Normile and Williams covered the field extensively by playing in different forms with non-stop shots.

Colgan notched a second goal after a beautiful over the head shot that left Higgens with no chance at the chip. Though the offense picked up in the final moments of the game, Purchase got to enjoy their 2-0 win and senior week.

# PANTHERS POWER THROUGH PENALTIES



The team embraces goalie Mike Warren after his heroics in the penalty shootout

By Miguel Castro

The Old Westbury Men's Soccer team survived their intense playoff game against long-time rivals Farmingdale State Rams.

The game started with an intense back and forth affair which saw crossing attempts go awry due to great defensive play by both teams. Heading towards the first half, the game started to shift to a more physical sense after a couple of controversial shirt pulling and dives from the Rams side.

The physicality led to the first yellow card of the game to #15 Elvin Campos for a rough tackle in the defensive line, bringing the Panthers in at the half with a bit of caution to not lose the player.

The second half saw Panther dominance in possession, only allowing a single shot on goal the entire match compared to

the three Panthers shots on goals. Though the score and stats aren't indicative of the action, it was an intense battle in the midfield due to great control but lack of space for players to develop their plays into chances.

At one point, the Rams dribbled towards the box, but the Panther's most valuable player, goalie Mike Warren exhausted chances before they developed.

The game came down to the fateful penalty shootout which saw Rams' keeper Scott Flores face off in a goaltending duel against the Panthers' Mike Warren. With one goal per team, the Rams missed a key shot as their second shooter William Grajales shot it over the cross-bar.

The Panthers were now in the lead. The Rams wouldn't



Panther's keeper Mike Warren with the game winning save.

score a single goal more as keeper Mike Warren made two key saves to lift his team to victory and advance to their playoff semi-final game against Mount Saint Mary College.

The tied score against

Farmingdale State College led the Panthers to verse Mount Saint Mary College on Halloween night. Unfortunately, the Panthers lost 0 to 3, costing them the 2018 Skyline Conference Championship.

# PANTHERS SWIMMING CLASHES AT HOME WITH LEHMAN



Aidan McCaughey won the 100-yard breaststroke and 200 IM events / Photo by Dave Anderson

By Harris Rappel

SUNY Old Westbury men's and women's swimming combined to collect team-best times in six events during the November 7th non-conference tilt against the Lehman College Lightning inside Clark Athletic Center. The Lightning claimed victory over Old Westbury with a 114-81 men's final and a 43-13 decision on the women's side to complete the sweep.

The Panther men opened the meet with a season-best time in the 200-medley relay as Jonathan Ruiz, Aidan McCaughey, Dineer Estriplet and Jalen Bonitto combined to win the race in 1:55.48. Spencer Young, Estriplet, Austin Young and Ruiz closed out the meet by winning the 200-yard freestyle relay with a season-best time of 1:40.86.

Old Westbury set a team-best time in the 200-yard IM (2:12.23) and 100-yard breaststroke (1:05.73) races with McCaughey's winning performances. Ruiz touched the wall first in the 50-yard freestyle for a victory in 23.55. Austin Young won the 100-yard backstroke in 1:05.24 while Estriplet took second place in the 100-yard butterfly in 1:13.49.

Timothy Probst placed fourth in the 500-yard freestyle to register a team-best time in 7:32.75.

On the women's side, Adelyn Veras swam a team-best time in 31.60 to finish second in the 50-yard freestyle. She also garnered first-place points in the 100-yard backstroke in 1:23.46.