

# THE CATALYST

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"IGNITING THE MIND"

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## How Will Amazon HQ2 Affect Public Transportation?

By Kristin Brave

The opening of Amazon HQ2 is expected to bring 25,000 employees to Long Island City. There are significant concerns over whether the already struggling transit system will be able to support the potential population increase.

A popular option for commuters who work near Grand Central Station is to take the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) to the Hunter's Point Avenue station and then the 7 train to Grand Central Station, which is two stops. However, since the 7 train is used by so many people, it is often delayed and packed to capacity at peak hours, particularly the morning rush hour.

Patrick Greene, who commutes from Bayside to Midtown on a daily basis, recognizes the difficulties many commuters face when catching the 7 train. "The 7 train is always full and almost always delayed," said Greene. "Both the express and local trains are packed at rush hour."

Once Amazon HQ2 opens this will mean that more people will be commuting in the opposite direction, from Manhattan into Long Island City. This will fill up those empty lines during rush hour times.

In order to free up the subways, more options will be needed for people commuting from Long Island. The only LIRR terminal in Manhattan is Penn Station. The construction of an LIRR terminal at Grand Central Station has been talked about by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, MTA. Yet, it has not yet been put into action. The creation of an LIRR terminal at Grand Central Station would reduce the number of passengers commuting via the 7 train. The MTA has not announced a new plan that will take effect after the new headquarters open in Long Island City.

The MTA has until January to figure out how it will manage the first Amazon employees that are expected to start that month. The company is plans to have 40,000 employees by 2034 which would further affect the 7 train if the current problem persists.

Steve Kovach reporting on CNBC said, "I imagine Amazon would have to encourage its employees to live in Long Island City and make it to work on foot, or start some sort of neighborhood-wide shuttle service to compensate for the poor train service."

**OPINION & REVIEWS**  
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## SNOW WOES AT OW

WILL THE SCHOOL BE READY FOR THE NEXT STORM?

By Keya Rice

On Thursday, November 15th media outlets across the tri-state area forecasted one to two inches of snow followed immediately by rain. However in the New York area residents were in for a shock. One to two inches of snow quickly escalated. In Central Park, 6.4 inches of snow were recorded — the biggest one-day November snowfall in 136 years, according to the *New York Times*.

A multi-car accident closed the George Washington Bridge and normally short commutes turned into hours of stop and go traffic.

At SUNY Old Westbury classes were not cancelled until 7 p.m. At that point the snow was well underway and roads had become hazardous and unsafe. Cars skidded off campus roads. Others were stuck on roads or in the parking lots. Police had to divert drivers around blocked exits and trapped cars. Gate A was closed as a precautionary measure going both in and out of the campus because of the hills and traffic was rerouted to Gates B and C. A senior majoring in PEL who preferred not to give her name said it took nearly six hours to get home on what would usually be a forty-five minute commute.

Students, members of the faculty, and staff said they had almost had an accident or feared causing one. Police Chief Steve Sienna confirmed, "It is possible there were minor accidents that wouldn't rise to the level of me becoming aware of them. I know that we didn't have any injury accidents. I would have heard of that." While many complained that the campus authorities reacted too slowly, Sienna went on to say that the police responded as fast as they could and took action as soon as they were aware of the need. Mike Kinane, vice president of communications and chief communications officer, said that the roads could not be salted beforehand as the forecast called for rain which would have washed away the salt.

Many wanted to know why the college waited so late to cancel classes or why the college wasn't just closed altogether. There were various complaints from both stu-

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## The Future of Recycling on Long Island

By Kristin Brave

Recycling regulations are changing across Long Island as residents of both Nassau and Suffolk counties are switching recycling systems from dual to single stream.

Dual stream recycling means that the materials accepted will rotate on a weekly basis. For example, one week solely cardboard will be accepted and the next would be plastic or metals.

Glass will only be collected at certain collection sites and cannot be put out as a recyclable. This is a hassle for residents. Residents will now have to sort through their recyclables and bring their glass to a center where glass is accepted.

China's "National Sword" policy went into effect in January 2018. Meaning, China will no longer accept United States recyclables. According to the National Public Radio, China has previously accepted plastic wastes from developed countries since 1992. NPR continues to state that China took this initiative due to "the protection of the environment and people's health." This raises questions on the future of recycling in the United States and how the recycling system will change in response to China's policy as of the beginning of 2018.

The Village of Bayville has begun a single stream recycling system. A letter

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## From the Managing Editors

Laura DeMarzo has been the executive editor of *The Catalyst* since Fall 2017 and will be stepping down from her role at the end of this semester.

As co-managing editors we have shared laughs and stories with Laura throughout the semesters. She has exhibited great bravery in her brilliant writing abilities during her time here at SUNY Old Westbury. She has helped us to bring out the very best in our writing skills through practice and close work. Laura has never left of us clueless, often taking time out of her busy schedule to assist, encourage, and guide us.

Most recently, she won the hearts of many on campus when she shared her unfortunate personal account of being sexually assaulted. "#WhyIDidntReport," shows her bravery on a topic that most victims are afraid to share. According to RAINN, which stands for Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network, every 98 seconds someone experiences sexual assault. While most sexual violence cases go unreported, there is comfort when one victim shares their story.

Jalen Natera, a sophomore and media and communications major, reached out to teachers on campus such as Ozgur Akgun and Samara Smith when he saw Laura's article. Natero said, "Laura is an amazing woman and survivor." This led Laura and Arlyn to work with Jalen on a multi-media project to discuss sexual violence. Laura helped interview students on campus to discuss their thoughts on consent. Some students even felt comfortable discussing their own unfortunate tales to Laura. Ty'Asia Smith, a student and an active member of OWTV, said, "One day I went on a date and I was so naive that I went back to his house to play some board games." She then added, "He started touching my leg. Two out of three of the times I told him 'no, no and no.'" Students were clearly comfortable to speak to Laura about their own accounts.

The audio recording was not enough. Laura and Arlyn then set out to create a panel with the help of Natero in which students from Standing Together Against Rape, STAR, were invited to discuss consent and sexual violence. STAR is a sexual violence awareness advocacy group on campus which provides education and assistance when an unfortunate crisis occurs. In addition to Laura's work on #WhyIDidntReport she has been both a receiver and nominee of numerous MAC awards, including last year when she was nominated for her investigative piece on "Civil Jury Finds SUNY Old Westbury Professor at Fault in Rape Lawsuit."

On behalf of *The Catalyst*, we are beyond grateful to have had an outstanding executive editor, a community member, but most importantly a dear friend. She will be missed but we know her awesome contributions to *The Catalyst* will propel her in the media world.

Arlyn Sorto and Keya Rice

## From the Faculty Advisor

Thank you Laura for the all the ways you contributed to *The Catalyst*. You are a superb researcher, writer, and editor who has mastered not only journalism skills but also business and managerial challenges. You have made my job easier and more enjoyable.

Your courage has enabled you to overcome numerous personal obstacles while your intelligence and sensitivity will strengthen you and your companions on whatever paths you follow.

I will miss your contagious smiles that have brightened many days.

John Friedman



Cont. from page 1

## The Future of Recycling on Long Island

from Mayor De Natale and the Board of Trustees states, "The Village of Bayville is launching a Recycling Awareness/Education Campaign in advance of our change to Sing Stream Recycling, which will go into effect November 1, 2018." The letter continues to say, "There are some changes to what can be recycled- glass is no longer recyclable and only plastics 1 and 2 are recyclable." Plastic recyclables are labeled on a scale from one to six, meaning residents will now have to check whether the plastics that they are putting out are accepted by the town.

Towns in Suffolk County such as Smithtown and Brookhaven are expected to switch to dual stream recycling in early 2019. However, the town of Smithtown has not yet officially notified its residents of this change.

Smithtown resident Brandon Charletta recently learned of the towns switch to dual stream recycling beginning in early 2019. "The town hasn't officially notified its resident, she said. "Which is important for us to know because we will have to follow a new recycling schedule," she added. "We would need to know these dates in order to continue putting out recyclables on days that they are collected."

Though recycling on Long Island might change, officials apparently need to reinforce their policies for these changes to take effect.

### Your Guide to Single Stream Recycling

**What to recycle:**

Plastic Bottles, Milk Jugs & Detergent Bottles  
(Plastic 1 & 2)

Metal Cans, Aluminum Containers & Foil  
(Rinse & Clean)

Paper, Newspaper, Magazines & Junk Mail  
(No Need to Tie or Bundle)

Cardboard, Paper Containers & Cartons

**How to recycle:**  
Before you toss it in the recycling container...

Empty it!

Clean it!

Dry it!

**What NOT to place in curbside recycling container:**

- Glass (bottles, jars, windows, mirrors)
- Cat litter
- Chemicals
- Household hazardous waste
- Contaminated paper products
- Dry cleaning bags
- Food waste
- Garbage
- Light bulbs
- Needles/syringes/sharp items

- Paint and paint cans
- Plates (plastic and ceramic)
- Plastic (3, 4, 5, 6)
- Plastic shopping bags
- Plastic utensils
- Styrofoam
- Waxed paper
- Yard waste
- Drinking glasses

Please check the village website for the recycling schedule, program rules and list of acceptable recyclable items.

Do Your Part. Be A Good Recycler!

Cont. from page 1

## Snow Woes at OW

dents and faculty that they had to stay in school. Yet there were no known accommodations for those who may have needed to stay on campus overnight.

"I cannot definitively tell you if there are or aren't [such accommodations]," Kinane said. "My gut reaction is that there aren't any because nine out of ten times that's not an issue. Accommodations are made for food service, if people are here differently than they expected. We had staff members who couldn't get home that night or stayed in their offices or rode with other staff members who live close to them."

Students were notified via text and email at 5:39 pm regarding the seven p.m. class cancellation. The website was also updated around that time. Answering question of why the school waited so late to cancel classes, Kinane said, "Part of the thinking for that was we've already had people come for 5:30 classes,

people are already here and in class.... It would have had to been done well before three o'clock for the cancellation to be effective and between 2:30 and 3 p.m. the forecast was still an inch to an inch and a half of snow and then rain."

The college by state regulation cannot be closed unless given jurisdiction by the governor who has to deem the situation a state of emergency. According to Kinane, the campus decides to cancel classes based on a decision making process made by three offices: the office of Academic Affairs, the office of Maintenance facilities, and University Police. Academic Affairs specifically looks at where we are in the semester and what the state regulations are for instructional hours.

Both Sienna and Kinane stressed the importance of notifying the appropriate offices and getting the message out to students. Students are urged to constantly check their

emails and to opt into the text alert system. Students get contacted college wide about cancellations via their campus email. Everybody has the ability to enroll to receive text messages to their mobile devices.

Currently only 44 percent of students are currently registered to receive alerts via text message for cancellation and only 48 percent of faculty and staff. Students are given the opportunity to receive text alerts when they first log onto to banner to register for classes. They actually have to accept or opt out the alerts to register for classes. University Police also emphasize the text alerts during first year and transfer orientation. While it would be easy just to text everyone it is against regulations for students to receive the text alert without their permission. Local news organizations are contacted with messages to post on their broadcast outlets and websites.

## English Professor's Book Provides New Understanding of James Baldwin's Work

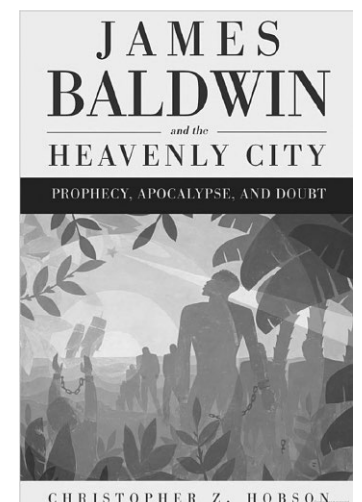
Dr. Christopher Z. Hobson, professor of English at SUNY Old Westbury, recently authored "James Baldwin and the Heavenly City: Prophecy, Apocalypse, and Doubt," which provides new interpretations on the works of the famous American novelist and social critic. Hobson's book focuses on Baldwin's six novels, as well as on selected essays, drama, and short stories.

According to the publisher, the Michigan State University Press, Hobson's 258-page study "shows that Baldwin's novels use biblical ideas in part but not fully secularized ways to express the possible human attainment of a new life embodying a real but undefinable holiness. The

book shows Baldwin's method of recasting biblical and African American prophetic traditions to reveal their liberating core."

Hobson's book - his sixth - provides new readings of Baldwin's novels, reassesses his once-neglected later fiction, and shows Gospel music's centrality in his fictional imagination. It is available for purchase online and through the publisher.

A professor at Old Westbury for more than 20 years, Hobson is currently a resident of New York City, and teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses including U.S. literature, major authors, and senior capstone seminar.



## SUNY Old Westbury Alumnus Highlight: Kevin Lopez

By Nikki Kallipozis

Kevin Lopez graduated from SUNY Old Westbury in 2016 with a degree in Media and Communications and currently works for the National Organization for People with Disabilities (YAI).

Lopez began working for the non-profit YAI in 1957. YAI provides more than 300 programs throughout New York and New Jersey.

Lopez has worked his way up to be an assistant supervisor and works directly with the WAVE program in Brentwood, Long Island. WAVE is a Day Habilitation and Pre-vocational Day Habilitation center. The Day Habilitation group are individuals who are not actively seeking jobs but looking to build their skills.

Lopez helps provide support, counseling, and assists individuals in improving their communication skills. The objective of the WAVE program is to equip YAI members with vital job skills that par-

ticipants will one day use in the workplace. YAI believes everyone should have the privilege to make their own money.

While at SUNY Old Westbury Lopez was an active member of Old Westbury Web Radio, OWWR. He worked on a total of five shows, obtaining skills like writing, recording, producing, engineering and editing a radio show.

His involvement with OWWR it was a natural progression to bring YAI to OWWR. WAVE visits OWWR on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On Tuesdays, the Day Habilitation group records a 30-minute show mixed with talk and music. On Thursdays, the Pre-vocational group records their own show similar to Day Habilitation. However, the Pre-vocational group are individuals looking to eventually enter the work force. The Pre-vocational group do their own research and planning for the show.

Lopez engineered a show for Long Island Wins when he was involved with

OWWR. Long Island WINS is a non-profit organization focused on immigration issues on Long Island. Working with this organization had an impact on him. He spoke of his 102-year-old grandfather who became a U.S. citizen at 100-years-old.

He was equipped with an incredible work ethic. Lopez has worked on many projects in such little time. Throughout his college years Lopez worked 32-hours a week while going to school Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 am to 9 pm. In addition to working on a total of five shows, he helped train twenty-five incoming staff members at OWWR on one point. Lopez recalls this time as "tedious," but added that he "liked it."

Many aspects of SUNY Old Westbury have changed since Lopez graduated. One aspect that hasn't changed is the parking. Lopez reminisces on the "rough parking" situation even then. SUNY Old Westbury may not be abundant in parking spaces, but Lopez spoke very highly of the professors. "Professors were very engaging with students, they were helpful

and fair, at times of controversial topics were able to let everyone share their opinions in a calm manner," said Lopez. He specifically pointed out Professor Joseph Manfredi, OWWR Station Manager. He accredits Manfredi for helping him with his craft and helping him to train others.

Lopez hasn't slowed down since his college years. For the past year, Lopez has been the Spanish Chaplin for the minor league baseball team for the Long Island Ducks. When the Ducks have home games, Lopez preaches a 15-minute motivational convicting message and encourages players by using the Bible. Lopez is currently working on his Masters of Divinity from the University of Clark Summit in Pennsylvania.

Lopez's advice to current students is, "develop relationships with professors. Don't be the first person to leave the classroom stick around and get to know the professor. Don't just pass college, make it last, make it worth it."





## Sessions of H.O.P.E: Three Guest Speakers

By Brianna Knibbs

### Guest Speaker Donniel McLeod

SUNY Old Westbury support group Sessions of Hope hosted the first event of their Annual Guest Speaker Month on November 3th. The event was located in multipurpose room B at the Student Union. It was sponsored by the Student Government Association(S.G.A.).

The guest speaker was UN Representative, Donniel McLeod. He started off his presentation explaining what the United Nations does and his role there. He also gave



students valuable websites and information they could use to secure an internship and do work with the United Nations.

The key to success he discussed was changing your perspective. He started off with an open-

ing statement, "There are times in our lives when we need to do some soul searching to give us a better picture on where we are at in life. In these times, we need to analyze our thought process to find out if we are properly positioning ourselves for a successful outcome." McLeod explained that in order to reach our potential we have to change the way we see things. Even in difficult situations, we have to see hope and focus more on the positive outlook. He posed a set of questions for the audience to think about. "What is your outlook on things?, How do you view your present situation?, How do you turn a problem into a conquest?, and what mechanisms should we set in place?"

While students pondered on those questions McLeod showed a slide with an animal figure. The slide was titled the Paradigm shift. He asked students what they saw. Some said they saw a rabbit while others said that they saw a duck. He said that they were both right and a person who could see both was the most successful. McLeod explained the definition of the Paradigm Shift as an important change that happens when your way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new way of doing something that is different from the

way you are accustomed to."

A significant point that McLeod brought up regarding the Paradigm Shift is that viewing different perspectives opens us up to more possibilities and more ways to accomplish our goals and tasks. He stated "it is important to divert from just one usual way of thinking and to look a little deeper and do some soul searching to change your perspective."

McLeod shared his personal story of triumph, recalling a time when he was diagnosed with cancer. At that time doctors told him to start his treatment right away however he declined wanting to attend a mission trip to Nigeria. His positive attitude helped sustain him through the mission trip and he was able to complete his treatments when he got home. McLeod no longer suffers from cancer and his renewed outlook on life has helped him to live longer.

McLeod quoted the scripture Matthews sixth chapter Verse 25, "Therefore I tell you, stop being worried or anxious perpetually uneasy distracted about her life as to what you will eat or what you will drink nor about your body, as what will you wear. Is life more than food and the body more than clothing." Introducing new ideas and trying things differently will shift your perspective into a more positive outlook. McLeod gave a few ways to change your perceptions such as an increase in awareness, being aware for your own patterns/fears/thoughts and your triggers, starting a daily routine of counting your blessings etc... Being self-aware and evaluating yourself will replace the negative thoughts with positivity, which leads to keys to success.

To conclude his presentation, he quoted from late philosopher and author Wayne Dyer, "When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change." McLeod advised not to give up on your goals if you reach a certain obstacle on the road. Always see the good and see yourself achieving those goals. Sessions of H.O.P.E. meets regularly every Tuesday at common hour in Library room L138. The next guest speaker event will be held next Tuesday from 5-6pm in Multipurpose room B. Sessions of H.O.P.E invites students to follow them on social media. Instagram @Sessions\_of\_hope and Facebook @sessionsofhope.

### Guest Speaker William C. Gilmore

On November 20th, SUNY Old Westbury support group, Sessions of H.O.P.E (Helping Other People Everyday), hosted their third session of their Annual Guest Speaker Month. The guest speaker for the event was UN Representative, Elder William C. Gilmore. Gilmore spoke on giving as a key to success. He posed the question, "Do you want to know how to be rich, wealthy and never go broke a day in your life?" The answer is to give. Gilmore stressed the point that in giving you will never lack anything because God loves a cheerful giver. He went on to use his wife as an

example His wife was at the Holy Convocation in St. Louis, Missouri and didn't have as much money, she had just five dollars in her pocket. After a sermon a preacher stated to the audience "If anybody



gives five dollars today towards the ministry or the board, God is going to bless you." She gave her last five dollars and when she arrived back in New York someone gave her \$300 dollars out of the kindness of their heart. She basically received a return on her investment.

Gilmore used this story and others to illustrate that once you give, good things will happen to you. He quoted a scripture from the Biblical book of Malachi which stated "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that it may be me in my house, and prove me herewith, saith the lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive." Gilmore gave a statement that he wanted students to remember "The law of giving ignites the law of reward." This concluded the Session and the floor was opened to ask any questions to the speaker. Sessions of H.O.P.E meets regularly every Tuesday during Common hour in Library room L138. Sessions of H.O.P.E invites students to follow them on social media. Instagram @Sessions\_of\_hope and Facebook @sessionsofhope

### Guest Speaker Naomi Brown

On November 27th, SUNY Old Westbury support group Sessions of H.O.P.E (Helping Other People Everyday) hosted their last guest speaker of the month. The event was held in Student Union room 311 and was sponsored by the Student Government Association(S.G.A.). Host and Founder of Sessions of H.O.P.E Jakyra McLeod introduced Business Representative, Naomi Brown to discuss how students can reach success. Naomi connected with the audience by sharing her struggles of balancing home and college life, as she was a college student not long ago. The key to success that Naomi highlighted during the event was contentment.

Brown gave the definition of the word contentment which is "to be in a state of peaceful happiness and the state of being satisfied." She asked the question to the audience "When you are not happy or satisfied, how does that make you feel?" Students responded back with answers such as stressed, alone, and discouraged. Brown stated "a lack of contentment is a recipe for disaster." She explained that if you are unhappy and unsatisfied about where you are at now, then you are setting yourself up for disaster. "Instead of looking for something bigger and better, we have to enjoy the success in the moment."

Brown went on to quote Albert Schweitzer, an Alsatian theologian, who said, "Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love



what you are doing, you will be successful." She then reaffirmed that point using a biblical reference from the book of Philippians 4:12, "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." This scripture was to show that we will experience both having plenty and being without, however if we learn to be content in any situation we can experience joy in our circumstances.

During her time in college Brown found in research that "happy students tend to get better grades," which was quoted by Christina Hinton, Har-

vard Graduate School of Education neuroscientist and lecturer. She also referenced another research study from *Psychology Today* with an important quote, "A positive mood has a specific influence on learning. It affects your ability to learn things that require some amount of flexibility and creativity. It does not influence learning where flexibility is not required." This is quoted by Art Markman, P.H.D.

To help students achieve contentment and use it as a tool of success Brown gave five thieves of contentment that we can be aware of. The five thieves of contentment are Pettiness, Anxiety, Destructive Thinking, Resistance to learn, and Independence. She emphasized that being aware of the thieves will show us what to look out for and avoid.

To conclude her teaching Brown stated "The secret of contentment is the reliance on God." At the end of the presentation, the audience was asked to turn to their partner and discuss how they would avoid the thieves of contentment to reach success. There was also 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 during Common Hour in Library room L138. This was the conclusion of their first annual guest speaker month. Students can interact with Sessions of H.O.P.E on Instagram @Sessions\_of\_hope or Facebook @Sessionsofhope.



## Artist Profile Eric Hagan

By Keya Rice

Visual Arts Department Assistant Professor Eric Hagan joined SUNY Old Westbury in fall 2017; teaching sculpture and digital fabrication. Hagan has been an artist in a variety of media for the past 10 years and found that teaching is a necessary component for him to have his best artistic practice. "Teaching has been a great way for me to get new ideas through assignment, experimentation and seeing students output there is no better way to learn a subject then to teach it in my opinion."

Hagan completed his Bachelor's degree at Duke University in philosophy with a concentration in the art of the moving image. "Philosophy allowed me the chance to read and develop written arguments about the nature of the world, which has been influential in my art practice." Hagan also has a Masters of professional studies from the Interactive Telecommunications program at New York University Tisch School of the arts. In his ten years of working as a professional artist Hagan has worked with fabrication, technology and even on major international art installations. International installations are as followed: Kara Walker's "A Subtely" featured in Brooklyn's Domino Sugar Factory link: <http://creativetime.org/projects/karawalker/> and Hy-Fi project shown at the MoMa link: <https://www.archdaily.com/521266/hy-fi-the-organic-mushroom-brick-tower-opens-at-moma-s-ps1-courtyard>

In teaching, Hagan hopes to encourage curiosity. "There is a lot of strangeness in the world, and I hope that my students take the opportunity to observe and incorporate the strangeness into their own creative practice." Hagan says his pieces in the Amelia A. Wallace gallery were inspired by mode and usage of communication in the contemporary world. His work explores the ways in which communications shifts on the media it is presented. He hopes that viewers will interact with his work and seek the hidden message within the art.

Statement from the artist: "I'm excited to teach a new class beginning in the spring which focuses on using computers as a component to create interactive artwork. Media experimentation can almost be as important as the message since I find it allows someone to view the world through a new set of constraints."

## SUNY OW and Roosevelt School District Create Scholar Academy

By Brianna Knibbs

SUNY Old Westbury and the Roosevelt Union School District have recently collaborated to create a new program for high school students called the Scholar Academy. The Scholar Academy program is funded by a five year \$700,570 grant from the New York State Department of Education.

"Far too often, students from lower income communities do not attend college or are ill-prepared for success they should get there," said SUNY OW President Calvin O. Butts III. "We are proud of this partnership with Roosevelt Union Free School District to offer the Scholars Academy to ensure students are ready for, and have the best access to, the life-changing growth a college experience provides."

Academic Affairs Director of Special Programs Yves Magloire explained the story behind the collaboration of SUNY OW and Roosevelt School District founding of the Scholars Academy: "About a year or so ago, the New York Department of Education decided to take on a brand new RFP(Requests for Proposal) because they were thinking of discontinuing the Smarts Scholars Program. In light of doing so, they decided to create a brand new program called Early College High School Program(ECHS). In light of that, they put in the brand new RFP and we applied for it through the New York Department of Education and reviewed our proposal and we got granted. So we call the program to make a distinction between Smart Scholars. We gave it a brand new name called Scholars Academy."

The Scholars Academy will assist students in exploring their career paths and developing their skills, in addition to advancing their college credits attainment. The college credit courses will either be provided at Roosevelt High School or SUNY OW, starting in

the beginning of tenth grade to students graduating with 24 college credits. The courses that the program offer are English Composition, College Algebra, Basic Biology, Introduction to Law, etc. All of the courses are evaluated to make sure that they are satisfying the Common Core requirements and the State University of New York General Education requirements.

In addition to the courses, the Scholars Academy will also conduct monthly workshops and seminars to students, parents, and the Roosevelt Community about the college admission process and higher education issues. Magloire expressed his hopes and goals for the Scholar Academy: "As a program director, I have high standards for the program. The goals and my vision for the program is being able to reach much more of the first year generation college students because the program is basically focusing on students who are first generation college student. We want to give them the tools and the necessities they need, in order for them to become successful academically."

The Academy will include a total of twenty students in each grade. The specific requirements for entering the program is students should have at least a ninety or above average. Students must maintain that average to remain in the program. SUNY OW and the Roosevelt Union School District will launch the Scholars Academy in January 2019. From there on, they are going to start the process of recruiting students into the program. The Scholars Academy is part of the Smart Scholars Early College High School Program(ECHS), which is a program that was launched from 2010 by the partnership of SUNY OW and Roosevelt Union School District.

## Artist Profile Fred Fleisher

By Keya Rice

Fred Fleisher joined the Visual Arts Department as an Assistant professor in Fall 2018. Fleisher states, "It was my privilege to be invited to teach as an adjunct here at SUNY Old Westbury." Fleisher says that the mission of the school was a factor that motivated him to teach here. Fred Fleisher has been involved in the making of art for nearly 2 1/2 decades and says that he could not explore teaching art until he pursued that avenue professionally. "Teaching at this level provides a well-rounded platform to further my pursuits. One is expected to develop and implement a strong sense of pedagogy along with service to both the college and community, all while developing as a professional artist."

After an enlistment in the Army, Fleisher attended Penn State University where he obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Drawing and a Bachelor of Science in Art Education. After moving to New York City, he attended Queens College, where he received a Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art. Fleisher's enlistment in the Army helped to provide direction for his life which led him to where he is today. "This [art] seemed natural to me, as I tend to have a creative outlook in life." Fleisher enlisted in the

army at seventeen and was often tasked with training other soldiers. Due to his experiences Fleisher says that teaching and sharing information has always been a part of his life.

Fleisher helps students will gain a greater sense of their own capabilities to his teaching. His teaching philosophy centers on conceptual development and the growth of necessary skills to achieve creative success. "I want my students to be socially aware of the world in which they live. It isn't enough to know what we want, life also requires us to be engaged and positively so."

Fleisher's work in the gallery examine things we see and experience yet take for granted. "I use (seemingly) diverse subject matter providing platforms for viewers that allow them to see connections that often go unnoticed. We live a world of information. I believe it is important for people to take control of that information - to be aware of it." When asked what reaction he hopes to insight from viewers of his gallery please Fleisher stated : "I always intend for my viewers to dive into my own personal take on the greater world and in so doing, see the connections that I believe many people share as they go about their day to day lives. There is an "American-ness" to my outlook as I create my work, but I strongly believe that I communicate to a larger global perspective.

Statement from the artist: "Finally, I always believe that teaching is about exchange - about what we know, about communicating in a back and forth, give and take way. We are all enriched by sharing our experiences as we learn." 5



## SUNY OW Mourns Loss of Khalid Hill

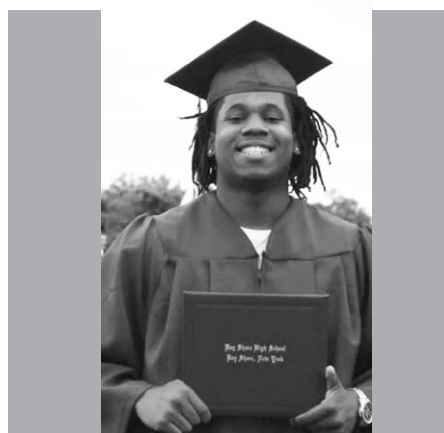
By Brianna Knibbs

Eighteen year old Suny Old Westbury student Khalid A. Hill passed away on Tuesday, November 20th. Hill was killed in a motorcycle accident while driving on the Northern State Parkway. Khalid was a first year student who lived in residential dorm Hall one. Hill was a desk attendant at the Woodland's Hall at night. He majored in biology but had plans to change his major as he dreamed of one day becoming a Suffolk County police officer. He wanted to serve the community where he grew up.

His closest friend referred to him as a

"best friend and a brother." Both boys would hang out at the gym or grab a bite to eat. You would rarely catch one without the other. If were not outside, they would relax in Hill's room and play video games, even if it was two in the morning.

He will be missed by many. He was described as "someone who always wanted to help others, even if he didnt know you." Any students or faculty seeking support following the loss of Mr. Hill can visit the Office of Counseling and Psychological Wellness Services located in the Student Union.





# IS THE WEATHER BAD? ARE CLASSES CANCELLED? HERE'S HOW TO FIND OUT...

## Text Messages

Sign up to receive text messages about weather events and other campus emergencies. Get details at: [www.oldwestbury.edu/getthetext](http://www.oldwestbury.edu/getthetext)



## Radio Outlets

WALK, 97.5 fm  
WBAB 102.3 fm  
WBLI, 106.1 fm  
WCBS, 880 am  
WHLI, 100 am  
WINS, 1010 am  
WKJY, 98.3 fm  
WMJC, 94.3 fm

## Television Outlets

FiOSI News  
News 12 Long Island  
WABC-TV, Channel 7  
WCBS-TV, Channel 2  
WNBC-TV, Channel 4  
WNYW-TV, Channel 5  
WPIX-TV, Channel 11

## Campus Outlets

Website: [www.oldwestbury.edu](http://www.oldwestbury.edu)  
Events Hotline: (516) 876-3030

SUNY OLD WESTBURY

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PR7519(11/18)

## REVIEWS | OPINION

### MOVIE REVIEW

# The Nutcracker and the Four Realms

By Kirsten Hyman

The Walt Disney Pictures and the Mark Gordon Company brought *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* to the silver screen just in time for the holiday season.

In the film, Mackenzie Foy plays an eighteen-year-old character named Clara. Clara is led to a dream-like world where she discovers secrets about herself and others. She fights alongside a loyal nutcracker soldier named Phillip to save the beautiful dream world from the evil lurking within.

Clara struggles to find joy during her godfather Drosselmeyer's annual holiday party. She was gifted a silver egg by her mother who had recently passed away. She becomes frustrated that she can't open it without a special key. During the party, Clara is guided by a golden thread to a parallel world filled with snow and evergreen trees. Upon reaching the end of the golden thread, Clara finds the special key she'd been searching for. As she reaches for it, the key is swept up into the mysterious world by an equally mysterious little character. It is here that Clara meets Phillip, the nutcracker soldier who helps Clara see the truth about herself and restore peace in the four realms. Phillip is played by actor Jayden Fowora-Knight.

The film was directed by Lasse Hallstrom and Joe Johnston. Many famous names took on this project including, Morgan Freeman as Drosselmeyer, and *Pirates of the Caribbean's* star Keira Knightley as the Sugarplum

fairy. Mackenzie Foy has been recognized for her role as Renesmee Cullen in *The Twilight Saga* and as Cindy Perron in *The Conjuring*.

While the Walt Disney Pictures film featured famed actors and actresses, it didn't do as well as expected. According to an article written by Scott Mendelson on *Forbes*, "*The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* is likely to be a box

office disaster, or at least a minor financial whiff." The film's budget was a whopping 130 million dollars. The weekend of November 2, the film had only made 20 million dollars in North America and 32 million overseas.

A lot of money was invested in the production of *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms*. Mendelson compared it to famous Christmas films such as *Elf* who had a 33 million dollar budget and earned around 220 million dollars worldwide. Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* cost a mere eighteen million dollars to produce, but made 75 million dollars. Meanwhile, according



to IMDB, the gross USA income for *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* was roughly 50 million dollars as on November 29th.

A possible reason for the pricey film budget could be the pressure of creating a film of a widely famous story. *The Time* posted an article called, "How The Nutcracker Colonized American Ballet," by Sarah Begley and Julia Lull in 2014. The article

details *The Nutcracker's* history. "When the San Francisco Ballet company performed the first complete version of *The Nutcracker* in the U.S. on Christmas Eve, 1944, they had no way of knowing that in time it would become as American as leaving the milk and cookies out for Santa." The Christmas tale has become part of the American holiday tradition. The article went on to mention how seventy years later, *The Nutcracker* was still performed by dance companies all around the country, and "...whether they like it or not, the holiday mainstay often pays the bills for the rest of the season's productions." The

article goes on to discuss the economic outlook of the choreography. "As early as 1954, the year George Balanchine's iconic choreography premiered in New York, *TIME* noted its profitability: '*Nutcracker* cracked the New York company for a stout \$80,000, but by week's end it seemed certain to pay off: the public had bought out all announced performances.'"

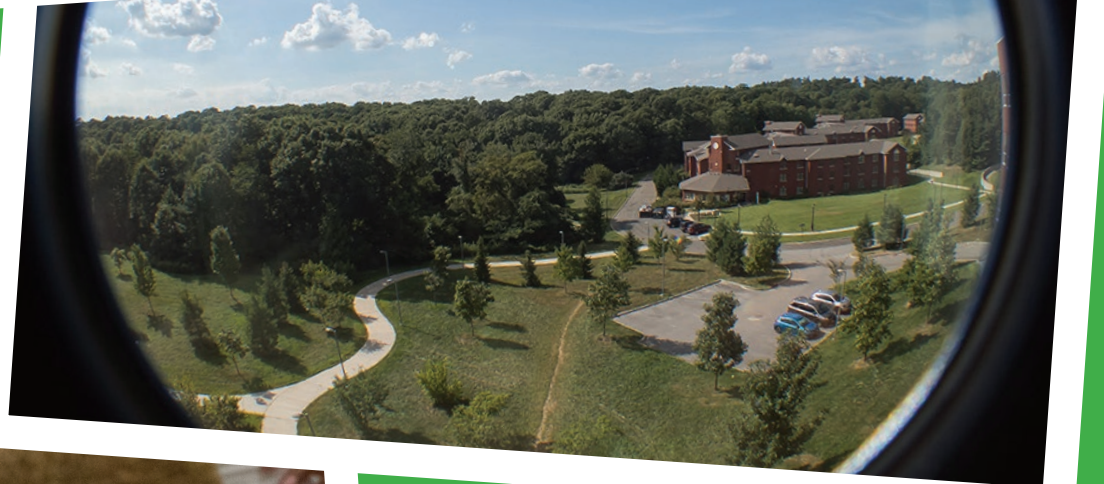
However, some found the movie to be highly enjoyable. A Fandango user said "very different from other movies and we liked it a lot! Creative and at times funny! It was good, it was great, it was AWESOME!" Another user said, "Good Family Movie!" and "my 8 year old really liked it! It had a good story that kept your attention throughout." Young children and families seem to have enjoyed the film.

Overall, the movie is unsuccessful. Many critics were not impressed. Rotten Tomatoes gave *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* a rating of 34% on their "Tomatometer." The Critics Consensus said it was "lacking a transporting yuletide story or dazzling dance routines, *The Nutcracker and the Four Realms* is a hollow holiday confection that's lovely to look at--and easy to forget." One would have to see for themselves! The film is rated PG and is playing at select theatres including the Broadway Multiplex Cinemas in Hicksville, NY.



# OLD WESTBURY IN PHOTOS

Photos by Miguel Castro





# Shareable Holiday Drinks

By Kirsten Hyman

It's that time of year again! The stores will be packed with the buzz of holiday shoppers and lights will illuminate the neighborhoods. Whether you celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah, the holidays can be highly stressful. A good way to unwind and add a little fun to your day is to make your own drinks! There are a vast amount of recipes for holiday drinks; many which don't even require much effort to make.

A simple drink to start with is Martha Stewart's Cranberry Sparkler; which can be found at [marthastewart.com](http://marthastewart.com).

## Cranberry Sparkler

All that is needed for this drink is 1 ½ ounces of Blackberry Puree, 2 ounces of white cranberry juice, 2 to 3 ounces of sparkling water, and one sprig mint as a garnish. The directions are quick and simple: "Place blackberry puree and cranberry juice in a champagne flute. Add Sparkling water to fill. Garnish with mint."

Another cranberry recipe can be found at [townandcountrymag.com](http://townandcountrymag.com). Lauren Hubbard wrote an article including a drink called the Cranberry Spice, which she cited was from the Waldorf Astoria Chicago.

## Cranberry Spice

The ingredients needed for this recipe are 1.5 oz sparkling water, 2 oz cranberry juice, 4 dashes of Peychaud's Bitters, 2.5 ounces of apple cider, 10 cranberries (plus additional for garnish), and an orange wedge. The directions for preparing this drink are as follows: "Muddle cranberries and orange wedge in cranberry juice, and then pour in the rest of the ingredients and stir with a spoon. Garnish with cranberries and orange peel and serve on ice."

If cranberry is not your flavor of choice, another recipe found on Martha Stewart's website is Apple-Pie Spiced Cider!

## Apple- Pie Spiced Cider

This recipe calls for 1 ¼ quarts of apple cider, 7 whole cinnamon sticks, ½ teaspoon of ground ginger, freshly grated nutmeg, 3 tablespoons (firmly packed) light-brown sugar, 1 teaspoon of ground allspice, ground cloves, and salt. The instructions are as follows. "In a medium saucepan, whisk together cider, sugar, spices, and salt. Bring to a simmer over medium-low heat. Remove from heat..." "Strain into pitcher; discard solids. Serve in mugs, garnished with cinnamon sticks."

If one is looking for more of a desert drink, they may be interested in this next one. Provided by Frank P. Melodia, in 2007, [delish.com](http://delish.com) includes a recipe for Eggnog Hot Chocolate! The recipe yields eight drinks and takes twenty minutes to prepare.



## Classic Eggnog

To make this drink you're going to need 2 cups of milk, ½ teaspoon of ground nutmeg, ½ teaspoon of vanilla extract, 6 large egg yolks, ½ cup of granulated sugar, 1 cup of heavy cream, and whipped cream, for serving. The first thing you're going to do is combine the "...milk, cinnamon, nutmeg and vanilla in a small saucepan over low heat. Slowly bring mixture to a low boil." You'll be multitasking here. "Meanwhile, in a large bowl, whisk egg yolks with sugar until yolks are pale in color. Slowly add hot milk mixture to egg yolks in batches to temper the eggs and whisk until combined." The next step is to "Return mixture to saucepan and cook over medium heat until slightly thick (and coats the back of a spoon) but does not boil. (If using a candy thermometer, mixture should reach 160°.)" Next, remove from the heat and stir in the heavy cream. After you've stirred, refrigerate the drink until it is chilled. When it's ready to be served, add your garnish of whipped cream and cinnamon. That's all there is to it! Follow these steps and you'll have your very own homemade eggnog.

## Eggnog Hot Chocolate

This drink is 458 calories per serving and serves eight people. In total you'll need around twenty minutes to get everything done. For this recipe, you'll need 2 ½ cups of milk, 12 ounces of bittersweet chocolate, 4 cups of eggnog, 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract, whipped cream, and cinnamon or peppermint sticks.

The directions are as follows; "In medium saucepan, bring milk and chocolate just to a simmer; remove from heat. Let stand 2 minutes. Whisk chocolate until melted and smooth." Next you're going to need the eggnog. "Stir in eggnog. Gently heat over low heat until very warm. Stir in vanilla..." It'll be almost done! "Pour into mugs. Top with whipped cream and cinnamon sticks, if desired." There you have it folks, homemade Eggnog Hot Chocolate.

If chocolate isn't your thing and you're looking for a classic eggnog, [delish.com](http://delish.com) has a Classic Eggnog recipe written by Lindsay Funston. The recipe makes four servings, but takes longer than the recipes mentioned prior. While the prep time will only take ten minutes, the total time needed for this recipe is three hours and ten minutes.

These recipes and many others can be found online at [marthastewart.com](http://marthastewart.com), [townandcountrymag.com](http://townandcountrymag.com), and [delish.com](http://delish.com). There are many more, be sure to check out all the delicious things that you can make in the comfort of your own home. Have a safe and happy holiday season! All Recipes can be found at the websites below:

<https://www.marthastewart.com/347001/cranberry-sparkler>

<https://www.marthastewart.com/318051/apple-pie-spiced-cider>

<https://www.townandcountrymag.com/leisure/drinks/g3122/christmas-mocktail-recipes/>

<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a161/eggnog-hot-chocolate-rbk1207/>

<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a50609/classic-eggnog-recipe/>



## Let's Talk Money This Holiday Season

By Vanessa Gomez

The holiday season is approaching, and phone applications like Afterpay and Acorns are here to make your life easier.

Afterpay helps save you from the headache of trying to afford a holiday gift for your loved ones this season, while Acorns helps millennials save and invest their money.

It's easy to use Afterpay! Afterpay is linked with popular clothing and accessory brands such as Urban Outfitters and Boohoo and popular cosmetic brands such as Morphe and Colourpop. Once on the app, shoppers may select "installments with Afterpay" as a method of payment upon checkout. They will be redirected to Afterpay's website, where shoppers may create an account for free. Once the account is made, shoppers will then add a debit or

credit card to their account. The entire cost of the purchase, including shipping, is broken into four interest-free payments. The first installment is due at the time of checkout. The next three payments are charged every two weeks until the amount has been paid off. For example, a purchase amounting to \$75.28 will be charged \$18.82 at the time of purchase, and then \$18.82 every two weeks after that.

Millennials may not be the best when it comes to saving and investing in their future. That is exactly why we have apps such as Acorns! Acorns will round up your bankcard purchases to the nearest dollar and invest it for you. For instance, your daily morning coffee costs \$4.60, therefore Acorns will take \$0.40 to invest it for you. In short time, you will hopefully see your spare

change grow into big savings. Acorns will invest a small percentage of your money in large and small companies, stocks and even bonds based on a portfolio that works best for you.

Both phone applications are mindful that their users might be living on a strict budget. Afterpay users can search for available retailers and keep track of upcoming payments. Users may also pay an upcoming charge earlier. The service also offers reminders via email and text the day before a payment will be taken out of their linked payment method.

Acorns is on the hunt to get their users to be wise with their money. The application includes bonuses, such as original content articles, where our generation can read about important topics such as budgeting and entry-level

career tips. There is also a list of shopping brands who have collaborated with Acorns, allowing cash-back opportunities which go straight into your portfolio.

When linking your bankcards to these applications, it's wise to be well informed. The only real catch with Afterpay is that there is a late fee if funds are insufficient on a payment date. When using Acorns, your spare change from your purchases are taken out as a lump sum at the end of each week. Do not forget about your monthly subscriptions because those are also taken into consideration.

Once you're familiar with these systems, you'll understand the great benefits from this money saving tip. Happy holiday saving!

## New Year, New You

By Brianna Knibbs

It feels like just yesterday that 2018 started and now it is coming to an end. As we are transitioning to the new year, we all want a fresh start and that starts with our own new year's resolutions. One of the main new years resolution that we should all strive towards is becoming a better version of ourselves. Here are ways you we can all transform into better people in 2019.

**1.) Focusing on your Health:** Whether it is physical or mental, your health and wellbeing should always be your number one priority. According to Hellogiggles.com, "Selfcare means taking time to focus on things that contribute to your wellbeing." Whether it is going to the doctor, therapy, exercise, change your diet plan, etc...

**2.) Staying away from the negativity or Petty Drama:** Sometimes negativity or drama can infect us. Being involved in it can suck you into a dark place, one where you don't even recognize who you are. Once you fall into it, it is hard to get out. When you actually remove yourself from those situations, it shows growth and maturity. It also shows that you are doing the right thing and you are in a better space in life. Lets live Drama Free, with no negativity in our lane. Live your best life.

**3.) Level Up:** R&B singer, Ciara's Hit Single "Level Up" explains it all when she mention "Them old mistakes are gone, I won't do them no more. That's old news, there's new news, I done that before." Greatness will always come once you start progressing through life. It can be anything from getting your grades up, earning a job promotion, being more independent. You know what they say, the sky's the limit.



**4.) Giving Thanks and Show Appreciation:** Once you are in a great space in life and you know that there were people that contributed or help you get to where you are in life, it's good to thank them. Show appreciation to the ones that were there for you and supported you. Can you imagine what your life will be like if you didn't have anybody to show love and support to?

**5.) Focus on your goals:** If there are any goals you want to achieve whether it's academic, career, or just life in general. Don't let anything holding you back, even if it means cutting off some people who don't have your best interest at heart. Don't let people bring you down because negativity can affect your ability to achieve goals. Always stay on the right track and make good decisions.

## Championships

By Selena M. Valentin

Hip-hop star, Meek Mill released his first album as a freeman, Championships on November 30, 2018 and it was totally worth the wait. As many know about Meek Mill's recent court battles and jail release on bail, he has prospered and delivered a new level of artistry.

The quantity of quality writers on his album leaves audiences in awe, Meek featured some heavy hitters in the hip hop game like Jay-Z, Rick Ross, Drake, Cardi B, Fabolous, Jeremih, Future, Kodak Black, 21 Savage, PNB Rock, and amongst them are also features with new up and coming artists such as Ella Mai, Roddy Rich.

His adaptability to the various artists on the album is what leaves many of his fans in pride and appreciative at the quality artist he has flourished into. While breaking up with Nicki Minaj, his legal struggles and being his own category of artist, he manages to pull through with his project. Earlier this year Meek Mill gave us a taste of what was to come by dropping Dangerous featuring Jeremih a smooth lovers song, and closer to his release date he dropped Uptown Vibes which is one of the two Latin fused songs on his album, which brought on a completely new audience.

He collaborated with Latino star rapper Anuel AA, and new Latina singer Melii, those two features were wise choices on Meek's behalf, not only does it diversify the album, but he paves the way for other potential collaborations with Latin artists and even then, the album was a banger. Meek's sudden bromance with Drake has made this is such a moment in hip hop since their history has led us to believe they would never make amends especially after the sequel of dis-tracks towards each other, the album is heat on its own, and this is

Meek's moment, as it was previously mentioned on many social media platforms, that as fans we should focus on how great the album is as a whole and not make this moment about how Drake and Meek finally squashed their differences and

decided to get in the booth side to side.

The project is performing very well with first week sales alone generating 208K. Big shout out to his producers and his team who brought on great samples from artists like The Weekend, Notorious BIG, DMX, even Beyoncé, giving credit where its due Meek Mill truly deserves this moment in hip hop.





## AIDS Awareness Month

By Brianna Knibbs

The month of December is AIDS Awareness Month. The first day of December marks World Aids Day. This month is an opportunity to raise awareness about AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) we can remember the ones who have passed away from the disease, and be grateful for the treatments and medicines we have according to DrexelMedicine.org.

According to AIDS.gov, more than one million Americans are living with HIV, but one in five of them are not aware that they are infected. HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that infects your immune system causing it to weaken and be unable to fight off bacteria and infections. With a weakened immune system it is very easy to get sick. HIV if not treated can turn into AIDS over time. However everyone that has HIV does not have AIDS. People who are diagnosed with AIDS have a very low amount of T-cells, which are cells that fight off infections in the immune system.

The AIDS epidemic started back in 1981 when the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) published an article in their Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report that described five young gay men who were diagnosed with a rare lung infection called Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), according to HIV.gov. It was thought to be believed that AIDS only affect gay men as more cases of that particular group were diagnosed with it over

the years. However, other groups also had AIDS such as women and children. People with AIDS only have a few years or months to live since AIDS is the most advanced stage of HIV. By 1994, AIDS became the number one leading cause of death in Americans in ages 25-44. It mostly affected African Americans. Notable celebrities such as late rapper and founding member of the West Coast Hip Hop group NWA, Eazy-E died from complications of AIDS in 1995.

Every 9.5 minutes, someone in the U.S. is infected with the disease, according to AIDS.gov. In 1996, ART (Antiretroviral therapy) became a treatment that majorly improve the life expectancy for people with HIV/AIDS. ART prevents the HIV virus from growing inside a person, helping the body's immune cells live longer, lowering the risks of developing a non HIV related illness, reduces the chances of transmitting HIV/AIDS to others.

Since AIDS affects young adults from the ages of 18-44 the most, the importance of raising awareness and being educated on this disease is very extreme. Northwell Health Outreach Worker in the Allergy Immunology, Ayana Miller, stressed the importance of educating students and others about the seriousness of the disease. "There's many ways to teach students and people in general about the prevention of HIV/AIDS. When it comes to campus life, students can

create a sex education group, or student bodies that have meetings can bring sexual health up as one of their topics. The student health department has testers and I don't think many students are aware of that, so finding a way to market HIV testing on campus would let students know that those services are available. Another way is to explain the importance of knowing your status in the campus paper. There's a lack of detailed information when it comes to the virus, and this is why stigma is still exists. There's also needs to be a forum where people can anonymously express their experiences, ask questions, or even state their fears.

There has continued to be misconceptions about HIV/AIDS. Miller cleared up those myths in stating "The myths and stereotypes regarding AIDS are just what they are myths. My family works in the medical field, so I was pretty knowledgeable when it came to the correct information; however, some of the things I've heard people say are very offensive and it can keep people from getting tested depending on the individual's activities. Stigma is due to false and lack of information. Anyone can get a virus, this is why we stress about knowing your status, and the status of your partner. Also, knowing how the virus is transmitted will let people understand that it's more than just a sexual contact virus. We have people that have been living with HIV

since birth, and that wasn't their choice. There's people that have contracted the virus by sharing needles. In the 80's, a young boy contracted HIV through blood transfusion. So these are many ways people can come into contact with the virus."

Over the decades, the life expectancy of people with HIV/AIDS have improved due to the treatments that are available. Advocates raising more awareness about this disease which leads to days such as National HIV Testing Day. "We've come a long way of the history of HIV/AIDS; transmission rate is at low, and more people are getting tested. We also have prevention tools like PrEP and PEP PrEP is what prevents one from getting the virus and PEP is used if someone were exposed to the virus. As far as AIDS is concerned, once an HIV positive person is on their medication, they can become undetectable. The person won't have to worry about HIV turning into AIDS once their T-cells are higher than 200. So with taking their medication and living a healthy lifestyle, one can live for years with HIV," Miller said.

Miller is usually at SUNY Old Westbury every other Wednesdays from 11:30 to 3:30 pm to conduct HIV tests. Students who wanted to be tested for HIV or is interested on finding out more information about HIV/AIDS, can go to the Student Health Center located in the Campus Center.

## Felton V. Olàdimu: Race & the Industrial Prison Complex

By Laura DeMarzo

When taking a deep dive into the implications of the prison industrial complex, you certainly find trends in recidivism and while you'll meet people from all over the country, ultimately their songs all sound the same albeit with a few different chord changes.

The United States currently has the highest incarceration rate of its population in any country of the world. According to a *Washington Post* article, that's 716 people for every 100,000. While doing research on the prison industry complex, I came across men and women that were doing lengthy sentences at Lewisburg Penitentiary in Pennsylvania and their story was so incongruous to societal expectations, that I had to find out more.

Mr. Felton is an olive skinned, shaved head Italian-American man. His striking frame was covered with the obligatory white pride, anti-Semitic tattoos. But he was smart and at towering 6'4 with over a 6ft arm span, he easily ran up the ranks of the white supremacy factions. Felton brought a spartan-esque militarization to his gangs. They were must read books for standard consumption and working out was a must.

Mr. Felton however, was a true believer and became disillusioned with the gang doing business with other races, and once he got out, he knew he'd carry out the real missions.

Mr. Olàdimu's upbringing set him for a life of confusion. His mother, once a nun, left the convent to join the civil rights movement of the 60s. It was there she met an African-American architect and conceived

Olàdimu and shortly after realized that she was a lesbian. She picked up and left for Gaithersburg, Maryland with her son. In an all white neighborhood other children began to notice that they've never seen anyone with hair and skin like Olàdimu. Soon racial slurs would be thrown and fights would be had. Now, that his mother had made something of herself in the school system, she assumed her son was a violent lost cause, misunderstanding that he may be suffering in a bigoted town with lack of representation. So, she had her son institutionalized. "He must be violent and crazy," she thought. Doctors came up with a different diagnosis. Her son was a genius and his IQ was in the top 1%. She didn't need to call Bellevue, she needed to call MENSA. However, in a sort of mother-knows-best gone wrong, she pulled more strings and kept Olàdimu in mental institutions, where he would endure and witness grotesque levels of sexual, mental and physical abuse, until he was 18. By his release, he knew nothing but criminality.

Meanwhile, Felton, was released from prison, linking up with a 19-year old white supremacist girl named Erica Chase and planning levels of domestic terrorism the world hadn't seen in years. Bridges and Holocaust museums were their number one target. They had fertilizer and counterfeit bills—and those bills were their downfall. Upon trying to use one of the counterfeit bills at a Dunkin' Donuts, an off-duty police officer was alerted by the cashier and after a long chase, feds were at Felton and Chase's hideout. Finding guns and plans. As much as it thwarted Felton's plans, this

wasn't new for him. He knew how to lie to cops and survive a bid, if need be. However only after the trial started was it the end for life as he knew it—because Felton and Olàdimu are the same man.

When his federal trial began in 2002, the press leaked to his former constituents that Leo Felton, indeed had a black father. He wasn't Italian, he was of mixed race with Nigerian roots. After the news went public, Felton had been ready to die, completely dejected that what was once his family had turned on him and testified against him. That night in his cell, he slit both side of his neck, his wrists and thighs, while keeping warm water around him to let the blood flow. He lay in and out of consciousness for hours until morning roll call, where miraculously he was still alive, though his neck had to have dozens of staples.

Before the arrest, the night came he was finally intimate with Erica. He describes "Freaking out. I had to shave everything. If she saw any of my body hair, it was clear I wasn't just this white guy. Even my—and pardon my saying this, but even my member itself, it's much darker than the rest of my already olive body. So, here I am, mounting this woman, who I lusted for, and she has this enormous swastika tattoo covering her whole back, I felt validation, like a Norse god." Before the truth came out, Felton had to separate himself from what he thought other black men were; fallacies ingrained in him from his institutionalization.

Cut to 2008, Leo took on the surname of Olàdimu, the name of his familial tribe back in Nigeria, and through much self

reflection admits he was living a life of forced prison indoctrination after looking for a place to belong. With the lack of representation in his youth, he began a self hate campaign, refusing to apply himself anywhere but the streets. by finding philosophers, orators and academics who believed race and ethnicity were spiritual based. In jail, he would admit he was mixed and they accepted him. It wasn't until he would serve time in prison that men would tell him that he "had to pick a side." He passed for white, so that's what he claimed.

Today, Leo Olàdimu is the picture of the progressive left wing of American views and politics. And his experience begs the age old question of "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" In a country with astronomical recidivism rates, (76.6% within the first three years of release by most estimates), awful race relations, disproportionate amount of people of color stopped by cops and the profit through prison privatization booming, does the US itself cause this racial split or does institutionalization help breed the problem like it did for Leo Olàdimu? For him, it was the later that radicalized him but with our current president, upon his release, he wants no parts of the USA. "I'm going to self teach myself coding, reach out to some MENSA members in Uruguay, and I have to leave. This country has too much blood on its hands (the fact that he wanted to add to this blood seems lost on him, though he later makes it known he is always fully aware) and its only going to get worse unless we have the right people in office. I can't see that happening, But Bernie 2020, for sure man." 10



# PANTHERS MEN'S BASKETBALL SCORES FIVE IN DOUBLE-DIGITS AT MOUNT SAINT MARY



Photo by Dave Anderson

Pedro Marquez is averaging 18.3 points and 6.0 assists over a three-game stretch

By Harris Rappel

SUNY Old Westbury men's basketball were outscored by nine in the second half to fall 81-76 on the road Saturday afternoon to the Mount Saint Mary College Knights (4-1, 2-1 Skyline) in Skyline Conference action from Kaplan Center in Newburgh, New York. The Panthers (3-3, 2-2 Skyline) are now 3-2 on the road versus the Knights since the 2015-16 campaign.

After falling behind first, Old West-

bury hit five-straight shots during its 11-3 scoring spree to go up 11-5 with 16:53 showing on the first-half clock. Old Westbury created separation during a stretch of 5:06 to take a 31-11 lead by going on a 20-4 run (4-of-6 3FG) paced by Inderpal Dhaliwal's 11 points. Mount Saint Mary sank 5-of-5 from deep to counter with a 26-4 spurt from 8:53 to 2:58 for a 37-35 advantage. The Panthers closed out the final 2:29 with an

8-2 run to take a 43-39 lead into intermission.

Mount Saint Mary jumped back in front with an early 11-0 run to take a 52-44 lead with 16:06 left. Justin Alleyne-Washington scored six-straight points during a span of 1:19 to bring Old Westbury within two (54-52) at 12:36. After both teams traded leads, Kendall Francis scored four of Mount Saint Mary's six-unanswered points to

build a five-point cushion (63-58) with 8:37 remaining. After Alan McDonald's layup cut Old Westbury's deficit to three (63-60), the Knights rattled off eight-straight points 2:08 later to grab an 11-point lead (71-60). Down nine with 30 seconds left, Old Westbury scored five of the game's final-six points to settle the five-point setback.

# PANTHERS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COLLIDES WITH MOUNT SAINT MARY IN SKYLINE CHAMPIONSHIP REMATCH

By Nicole Sasu-Twum



Photo by Dave Anderson

Alexis Lopez tied career high five three-pointers to tally 15 points at Mount Saint Mary

SUNY Old Westbury women's basketball dropped a 62-52 decision Saturday afternoon against the Mount Saint Mary College Knights (7-2, 5-0 Skyline) in Skyline Conference road action inside Kaplan Center in Newburgh, New York. The Panthers (7-1, 2-1 Skyline) had their seven-game winning streak snapped and are now 2-3 on the road against the Knights since the 2015-16 campaign.

Mount Saint Mary broke the scoring

ice 16 seconds in before Alexis Lopez drained a three-pointer 18 seconds later to ignite a 12-0 Old Westbury run that made it a 12-2 game with 5:49 remaining in the opening period. At 5:12, Annie Keenan's layup helped the Knights respond with 13-unanswered points to regain the lead and head into the second quarter with a 15-12 advantage. The Panthers opened the second stanza with a 17-4 spurt from 9:42 to 2:20 that featured

three Lopez triples to extend the lead to 10 points (29-19). Over the next 1:24, Keenan scored eight-straight points for Mount Saint Mary to pull within two points (29-27) at the break.

Elizabeth Limonta laid in two points to knot the game at 29 before Old Westbury responded with a Charlotte Renker jumper to take a 31-29 lead. Mount Saint Mary used a 19-8 run over the final 8:31 of third-quarter play to retake the lead for

good (48-39). With 5:05 remaining in the fourth quarter, Old Westbury pulled within eight (52-44) courtesy of La'Niya Clark's layup before the Knights pushed its lead to a game-high 15 points (62-47) with 55 seconds left. Old Westbury scored five-unanswered points in the final 44 seconds to settle the 62-52 final.



# PANTHERS SWIMMING COMPETES AGAINST USMMA AND ST. JOSEPH'S (BROOKLYN) IN REGULAR SEASON FINALE



Photo by Dave Anderson

Dineer Estriplet contributed to a 200-yard medley relay season-best time

By Harris Rappel

SUNY Old Westbury swimming closed out their regular season Friday evening with a Skyline Conference tri-meet against the United States Merchant Marine Academy Mariners and St. Joseph's College (Brooklyn) Bears inside O'Hara Pool from Kings Point, New York. Old Westbury fell 116-60 in the men's race to USMMA while the Panther women

dropped a 121-8 decision to USMMA and 101-6 to St. Joseph's.

Old Westbury set a pair of season-best times to highlight the evening as Austin Young, Aidan McCaughey, Dineer Estriplet and Jonathan Ruiz combined to finish second in the 200-yard medley relay in 1:51.92. McCaughey, who won the 50-yard freestyle in 23.01, set a team-best time in the

100-yard butterfly in 1:00.45 to earn second-place points. Spencer Young (500-yard freestyle, 7:27.85 / 200-yard IM, 2:49.71), Timothy Probst (200-yard freestyle, 2:37.73 / 100-yard breaststroke, 1:26.30), Jonathan Ruiz (100-yard freestyle, 53.82), Alberto Matsuura (1,000-yard freestyle, 15:48.49) and Austin Young (100-yard backstroke, 1:06.36) all earned second-place

points in their respective events. Spencer Young, Ruiz, Estriplet and Austin Young closed out the meet in the 200-yard freestyle event with second-place points in 1:42.34.

On the women's side, Julia Zindman paced Old Westbury with fourth-place points in the 50-yard freestyle (30.91) and 100-yard freestyle (1:17.09) races.