



Underground culture for leasing disrupts communication between college and students



ALEX LYONS/PHOTO EDITOR

Many off-campus students have expressed that the school was no help in their search for off-campus housing; however the college maintains that the current housing culture prevents successful programming.

CASEY LARKIN
NEWS EDITOR

Making the choice to move off campus in Geneseo generally has several stressful factors, including time constraints for finding a residence, how to find a residence and what to do next if one is secured. A recent survey not only reinforces these claims but has exposed some of

the reasons why the process of moving off campus is stressful for many.

The editorial board of *The Lamron* distributed a survey on Nov. 15 to off-campus students, via social networking, to see how satisfied students were with the services provided by the college and local landlords.

In total, 213 students replied to the survey, and the

results paint a picture about students' perception of the college's services for off-campus housing.

When asked whether or not Geneseo helped students in their search to find housing, 92 percent replied "no," while only 5 percent and 3 percent said "yes" and "somewhat," respectively. Students were prompted to supply ways the process could be

improved, and many students wanted more information from the school regarding leases and available houses for rent, typically in the form of a forum or website.

The college, however, already provides many of the services that students are seeking.

Thus, the high percentage of "no" responses highlights a disconnect between students and the college, as there are Geneseo offices that offer services in line with what students would like to see.

Dean of Residential Living Celia Easton said that such a disconnect can be explained by the nature of moving off campus itself.

"We need to remind ourselves that new experiences, such as moving and living off campus, are scary," she said. Easton explained that the competitive environment, combined with the many nuanced considerations and legal processes, can distract students from what the college is offering.

Dean of Students Leonard Sancilio said he believes the root of the problem lies with students' desire to be educated.

"It's a challenge," he said. "When we offer programs and info, students don't go. Only when students need something do they seek information. So how do you educate those who don't want to be educated yet or don't know they need to be? Students don't know what they don't know [about living off campus]."

The Office for Off-Campus Services, in conjunction with Residence Life, offers sessions in the Geneseo Opportunities for Leadership Development program for signing leases and renter's rights. Wendi Kinney, assistant dean of students for fraternal life and off-campus services is also available for appointment to discuss any off-campus related topic.

The college also hosts the Geneseo Housing Registry website; however, Easton said it is the responsibility of landlords to post vacancies and to keep their posts updated. Unfortunately, many landlords do not update their posts. As a result, only 19 percent of students found their housing online, while 56 percent found it via word of mouth.

See **SURVEY** on page 3

College works toward maintaining a studio art presence on campus as department closes

CHELSEA BUTKOWSKI
KNIGHTS' LIFE EDITOR

Students and faculty in the studio art department are preparing to enter their final semester of studio art at Geneseo. The department will officially close along with the computer science and speech-language pathology departments at the end of the spring 2014 semester.

Administration announced the deactivation of the three departments in fall 2010 in response to a \$7.2 million funding deficit, allotting a three-year period for the college to adjust to their absence and for current students to complete their coursework.

According to Interim President Carol Long, departments were selected for deactivation by the administration in conjunction with

the Strategic Planning Group and the Budget Priorities Committee, with considerations including student achievement, graduation rates, cost and expense of programs.

Due to the presence of affected faculty members in the United University Professions Union on these advising committees, the names of the departments in question were kept anonymous in their discussions.

Long added that the shutdown of the departments accounted for approximately \$2 million of budget cuts instituted to compensate for the deficit, with other sources of funding drawn from early retirement initiatives and other spending cuts.

The college has effectively bridged gaps left behind in programs such as art history, which

included a studio art-based track in its curriculum, and assisted studio art majors with completing their degrees on time, according to the Dean of Curriculum and Academic Services Savi Iyer.

Long acknowledged the importance of studio art as a tenet of the liberal arts curriculum, and of eliminating the classes from the fine arts prefix of Geneseo's general education requirement.

"We certainly are aware that the arts is an important part of our understanding of human life and of creativity," she said. "It's clearly not a statement on the part of the college that studio art isn't important or that we don't want to have it around."

While there will be no studio art classes or department in coming years, several studio art professors



EVAN GOLDSTEIN/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

Sophomore Johnny Thomas works on a ceramic piece in Brodie Hall. The spring 2014 semester will be the studio art department's last.

are eligible for a phased retirement program, allowing them to continue teaching at Geneseo for an agreed-upon period of years.

According to Long, one studio art professor has accepted a

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GENESEO FORECAST

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SUN. 32°/29°

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WED. 24°/17°

Women's studies minor completes interviews for first tenure-track professor



GINA OTTOLIA/LAMRON ARCHIVES

Academic coordinator for the women's studies minor and professor of theatre Melanie Blood led the search for a position beginning in August 2014.

MARY AULD

STAFF WRITER

The Geneseo's women's studies minor reached a milestone this semester, as the first tenure-track professor designated to teach classes in the minor will soon be hired.

Up to this point, professor from other departments who vol-

unteer to instruct the courses have taught all classes in the minor.

The women's studies minor and philosophy department have created the joint position for an assistant professor of philosophy and women's studies.

Professor of theatre Melanie Blood holds the position of academic coordinator for the women's studies minor.

"We've been requesting this position for years, and last year we requested a joint position with philosophy. We're hoping to expand," she said.

Blood said discussion continues about changing the minor to women and gender studies, to include lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender studies.

"The addition of this position will allow us to offer classes more often, to eventually expand to gender and sexuality," she said.

Senior Emma Jean Liberman is an international relations major with a minor in women's studies. She has been on the women's studies advisory board since last year, and as a result, she was asked to take part in the search for an individual to fill the position.

Liberman said she believes that an individual who is best fit for this position will have experience teaching women's studies and philosophy and demonstrate commitment to fostering department growth. These are

characteristics that she looked for while participating in interviews of the candidates.

"This is the first women's studies position, so it's the first step to becoming a major," she said. The lack of staff available to teach women's studies classes, she said, has caused some courses to be offered infrequently.

The addition of this position will allow for more availability of classes in the women's studies minor, which she hopes will expand the minor. Liberman said there have also been problems with availability of philosophy courses, and that this position would make more classes in the philosophy department available.

"To become a major, that's the goal, and to be able to do women's studies not just on a volunteer basis," she said.

Liberman and other students involved in the search have interviewed three candidates for the position. Inter-

views began on Nov. 1 and ran until Nov. 18.

The first candidate interviewed was Lauren Guilmette, a doctoral candidate in philosophy at Emory University.

Amanda Roth, the second candidate, is currently a visiting faculty member at Bowling Green State University. She received her doctorate from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in philosophy.

Heidi Savage was the last candidate interviewed; she is currently teaching courses at Geneseo as a visiting assistant professor in the philosophy department. This semester, she taught a class under the women's studies minor called "Feminism in Philosophy and Literature."

Faculty and students in the philosophy department are participating in the search for a candidate as well.

The hired individual will begin teaching in August 2014. ♦

SUNY SA to overhaul constitution

EMMA BIXLER

ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Student representatives of State University of New York's Student Assembly have reached a consensus that the current assembly system is structurally flawed and needs revision in order to continue working as an organization.

Members of the assembly will rewrite its current constitution in the spring 2014 semester in an attempt to repair the system.

"The rewriting of the constitution is a result of the fact that SUNY [Student Assembly] at the moment is a fairly dysfunctional body," Vice President of the Geneseo Student Association Katie Becker said. "It needs a little bit more structure in order to be truly effective in representing student opinion within the SUNY system."

This plan has been taking shape since mid-fall semester, when a task force of students wanting to contribute ideas was developed at SUNY Fredonia.

President of the Geneseo Student Association Forrest Regan attended the SUNY Board of Trustees meetings on Nov. 14 and 15, at which he addressed the trustees about the current frustrations of those involved in student assembly government.

The lack of uniformity during student assembly meetings was one of his major points of concern.

"It is not structured in a way where it can give a coherent student voice to the trustees," Regan said.

Regan and the rest of the task force want a complete re-drafting of the original constitution.

"It is beyond miniscule tweaks," he said. "Everyone has really big ideas."

Such ideas include implementing a Student Trustee on the SUNY Board of Trustees with the intent of improving communication between the student assembly and the SUNY administration and ensuring that student opinions are heard.

"I think there also should be a delegation process where the different voices are consolidated because, right now, you have about over 100 to 200 students trying to speak their own personal opinions when a lot of them are the same," Regan said. "It'd be good to have different voting parties."

"If there were ever any big problems within SUNY policy, it would be good for Geneseo to have a voice within that body," Becker said.

As for Geneseo, a reformed system would encourage students to attend these student assembly meetings, giving them an opportunity to speak their opinions in front of the SUNY Board of Trustees. ♦

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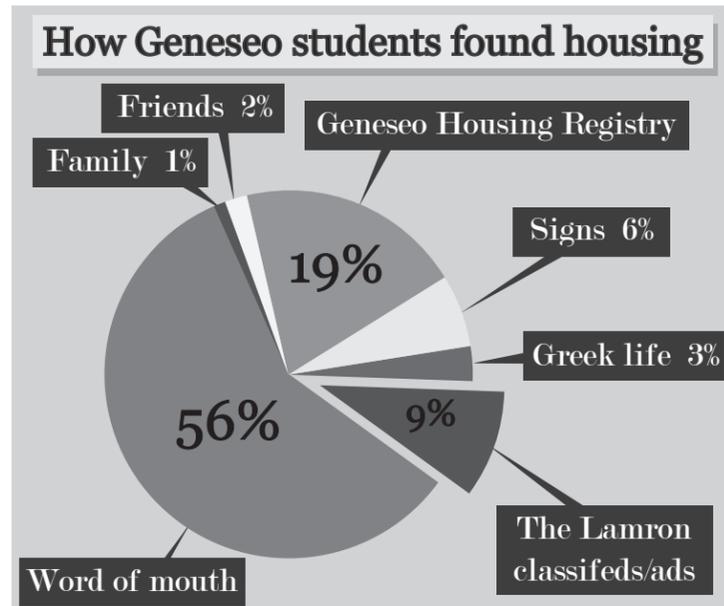
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The Lamron will return on Jan. 30, 2014.

Survey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



LARA ELMAYAN/DESIGN AND LAYOUT EDITOR

The Office for Off-Campus Services currently has three intern community assistants who are working toward improving the website.

Sancilio said that, for a very long time, the process of moving off campus has been dominated by “an underground culture, where students find their housing through other students or friends, or houses are handed down. Today, Facebook and Twitter also play a large role.” Sixty-two percent of students found their houses in manners such as these.

Ultimately, only 26 percent of students found the process of moving off campus difficult, while 69 percent did not and 5 percent found it somewhat difficult. Further, 75 percent of students were aware of the high demand, while 23 percent were not aware and two percent were only somewhat aware.

These percentages suggest that, while students want more information from Geneseo, the

college isn’t a necessary catalyst to finding off-campus housing.

Sancilio said that the college functions best when it works as a support structure for students in this capacity.

“How far do we go? ... We walk a fine line for what we can do for off-campus students,” he said. Sancilio said he feels the college is in a tough spot when it comes to providing students information regarding landlords.

“The campus is unable, due to liability issues, to do a ‘Rate Your Professor’-type thing for landlords,” he said.

While the school would like to see an improved relationship, the deeply ingrained underground culture for finding housing has remained dominant for years, making it difficult for the school to act as more than simply a supportive resource. ♦

Art

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

phased retirement agreement and will teach courses through the art history department in the 2014-2015 school year, with others potentially joining in coming months. The phased retirement professors may teach classes incorporating some studio art, but they “won’t be exactly the courses we have now,” Long said.

The specialized art studios in Brodie Hall will undergo a program study similar to that of Sturges and Fraser Halls to determine the reallocation of space on campus with the completion of construction in Doty and Bailey Halls. While the studios may go unused in the fall, the Brodie Hall study will start as early as summer 2014.

The college is working to incorporate art into student experiences in other ways. Professor of studio art Patrice Case said that the place of studio art is unique at Geneseo.

“We service more than just people coming in for a studio art course. We service biology majors, geology, philosophy, math, physics – those are the people that take our courses,” she said. “Those are the people: the left-brained think-

ers that are asking for right-brained tasks to come to them. It makes a whole person.”

An arts presence will continue on campus on a smaller scale. Director of Galleries Cynthia Hawkins recently developed the Geneseo Integrated Gallery program in conjunction with administration – a committee of professors in a wide range of departments who will advise her on creating interdisciplinary art exhibits. The first exhibit under the program, titled “1888 in America: William Trost Richards’ ‘Seascape’ Contextualized,” will open in October 2014. Hawkins is calling for interdisciplinary student and faculty papers and presentations to accompany the exhibit discussing historic topics.

Additionally, Residence Life is incorporating an arts learning community into Nassau Residence Hall that will encompass studio art as well as music and dance.

Senior Carly Fowler is one of three current studio art majors. She is unsure of what kind of legacy the studio art department will leave at Geneseo, saying, “I think we’re all just a little bitter, and the closer it comes to 2014, the closer we are to being like, ‘This is the end.’” ♦

Assistant professor of dance Broomfield among four honored with diversity award, Geneseo’s first

NICOLE SMITH

ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

The State University of New York Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion announced the recipients of the Faculty Diversity Program awards for the 2013-2014 academic year. The winners include Geneseo’s assistant professor of dance studies Mark Broomfield ‘94. Broomfield is the first Geneseo professor to receive this award.

According to Carlos Medina, associate provost and associate vice chancellor for SUNY ODEI, the program started around 15 years ago. It was created in conjunction with the State University of New York system and the New York legislative body “as a result of not having enough diversity within the faculty ranks,” he said, in a phone interview.

The program aims to encourage diversity through recruiting, retaining and promoting scholars of different backgrounds, including those from groups who have been historically underrepresented in higher education, according to the SUNY ODEI website.

Broomfield is knowledgeable about the rich tradition and culture of the African and African-American experience. He has worked with the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company and recognized choreographers that include Talley Beatty, Katherine Dunham, Eleo Pomare and Ronald K. Brown.



JUANITA ORBEGOZO/LAMRON ARCHIVES

Assistant professor of dance studies Mark Broomfield was awarded for bringing rich African-American tradition and culture to the classroom.

Broomfield said we live in a world where everyone dances, offering so much to choose from, yet, “oftentimes that level of diversity isn’t manifested in the program itself.

“So that’s part of my reason of being here too: to diversify the curriculum in ways that it doesn’t necessarily show in a diverse student population,” Broomfield said.

His recent work focuses on “the production of an internationally recognized branding of the black male dancing body and the queer embodied resistances that arise between on and offstage performances of masculinity,” according to the guide from the Decentering Dance Studies: Moving in New Global Orders conference. He

presented this paper in California in November, titled “Branding Ailey Men and the Embodied Resistances of the Queer Male Dancing Body.”

Broomfield is also producing a book manuscript and documentary film exploring the world of professional black male dancers and their insights on masculinity.

Broomfield said he has seen how the student population brings greater diversity than what is demonstrated in the dance program.

“We have diverse offerings, but we could do better,” he said. Broomfield is teaching DANC 104: Cultural Dance I: Urban Dance in spring 2014.

See **DIVERSITY** on page 4

NYS minimum wage increase won’t cost students jobs

EMMA BIXLER

ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Those working a minimum wage job in New York State, including students, are going to see larger paychecks soon.

As of Dec. 31, the New York State Department of Labor will apply incremental increases to the current minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, raising it to \$8 this year, \$8.75 in 2014 and \$9 in 2015. For 2013, that is a 10.3 percent increase in wage.

The state has accepted that a wage of \$7.25 is unlivable and is following the example of states like Connecticut, Vermont and Massachusetts, each of which has a minimum wage of \$8.00 or higher.

As an integral student employer for New York, Geneseo has prepared for these changes budgeted accordingly.

James Milroy, vice president for administration and finance at Geneseo, explained

that this law will cost the Student Employment Service \$160,000 dollars on an annual basis in addition to the original \$7.25 wage.

“We knew it was coming,” Milroy said. “So we’ve budgeted for it. We have set the money aside.”

Still, Milroy noted that, due to the additional costs, there will be sacrifices made in order to maintain the current system of employment. This could include hiring one or two fewer staff members over the next few years, during which the incremental increases will be most greatly felt.

Mark Scott, executive director for Campus Auxiliary Services, reported that CAS will be affected as well, experiencing about a \$30,000 increase in expense to compensate for the minimum wage. Scott said that he and the CAS team feel very confident in dealing with the new expenses.

As for Geneseo students employed in both Temp Services and CAS, there seems to be little reason to worry about these expenses putting their jobs in danger.

“Students are a very valuable part of our program,” Scott said, and he added that it is not in the plan to lay off any students already employed. Milroy said that no students currently in the Temp Service will be laid off.

In addition to guaranteeing student workers their jobs, Milroy also said that Student Employment Services would ensure all students be rewarded with the proper pay raise.

“There are provisions in the law that would enable us not to pay minimum wage to certain students,” Milroy said. “But we don’t play that game. If the minimum wage is going up, it goes up for everybody. It is not fair otherwise.” ♦

Tentative SUNY smoking ban calls for community enforcement

NICOLE SMITH

ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

State University of New York Chancellor Nancy Zimpher recently proposed a policy that would make SUNY schools tobacco-free environments. This could prohibit use of all tobacco products on campus, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes, pipes, hookahs and chewing tobacco.

While this policy was originally expected to go into effect Jan. 1, 2014, it has been pushed back. According to Assistant Chief Scott Kenney of the Geneseo University Police, this policy wasn't submitted to the State Senate and Assembly during the 2013 legislative period. Because of this, the legislation couldn't be passed by the desired date. There is no set date for when this change will take place or a guarantee it will pass in legislation.

According to Kenney, some schools, like Buffalo State College and SUNY Cortland have already adopted the tobacco-free policy, although it has yet to be officially implemented SUNY-wide. Geneseo, however, decided to keep its current policy intact until a final decision is made on the policy.

As explained in the Smoke-free Workplace Policy, effective as of May 2004, "smoking is prohibited in all indoor areas that are owned or leased by SUNY Geneseo ... Individuals who wish to smoke out of doors must do so away from the Geneseo buildings so that second-hand smoke does not enter the buildings. It is mandated that individuals stay at least 25 feet away from buildings and the perimeters of intercollegiate venues when smoking."

Kenney explained that because the current approach to smoking is a school policy rather than a state law, enforcement is not solely up to University Police but rather the people of Geneseo.

"Everyone at Geneseo has a responsibility to enforce the smoke-free workplace act. You don't call [University Police] because someone is smoking. If you see someone that's not smoking where they should be, you have the right to go up to them and inform them of the regulations and ask for voluntary compliance," Kenney said.

If said person complies, the issue is dropped. If not, the issue is supposed to be brought to an employee of the college. If it is a student, it can be brought to the head of an academic department or as high up as the dean of students, depending on the case. If a faculty member fails to comply with this policy, they can be reported to Human Relations.

Kenney said the enforcement of the tobacco-free rule on campus will depend on how it is passed. If it becomes a mandated SUNY policy but isn't a state law, the current voluntary compliance practice can be upheld when the switch to tobacco-free takes place. If the idea passes through legislation and becomes state law, however, University Police would deal with enforcement.

As explained on the SUNY website by SUNY Board of Trustees Chairman H. Carl McCall, "Tobacco use on college campuses is a serious public health issue for which SUNY can be a larger part of the solution. By establishing a policy that will prohibit the use of to-

bacco among our 468,000 students and 88,000 employees on campuses across New York, we will have a positive impact on their health and that of our visitors."

Geneseo also acknowledges the health benefits of a smoke-free environment. According to Interim President Carol Long, Geneseo has taken a health initiative and offered education on the dangers and health risks associated with smoking, also providing support for people trying to quit.

While the health benefits of this policy are recognized, Long said that making campus tobacco-free isn't as easy as it sounds.

"One of the concerns about smoke-free that I've heard expressed is, 'Where do you go on a residential campus if you're going to remain a smoker?' Our park in front of Doty [Hall] is a smoke-free park. Do they go on Main Street? Businesses on Main Street might not particularly enjoy that. Do they go down on Highway 63 and get run over by the semis driving past? You don't want to put people in danger for a choice like this," Long said.

Another concern is regarding unions because it is part of working conditions to have a smoking policy on campus.

Amidst these concerns, SUNY remains focused on the passing of the tobacco-free policy. If it is passed in legislation as a mandatory policy, it is expected to be implemented on the Geneseo campus as well as on all other SUNY school campuses. ♦

Diversity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

His experience, academic credentials, scholarship and passion for teaching, Medina said, made him stand out among the pool of candidates.

"All of that together made him a pretty outstanding candidate," Medina said.

Medina explained that a two-pronged process is used to select recipients. First, campuses nominate a junior faculty member who they believe is deserving of this recognition. Once picked, SUNY faculty members considered experts

within their fields review the candidates and provide recommendations to the SUNY Provost, who makes the final decision.

The recipients of this award are granted faculty salary support for three years in addition to research grants up to \$15,000.

Other recipients include assistant professor of history Melixa Izquierdo of Farmingdale State College, research assistant professor Glenda Trujillo of Stony Brook University and assistant professor of chemistry Luis Velarde of University at Buffalo. ♦

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THE MONITOR

Campus Police Log

Nov. 19 - **Petit Larceny**, Onondaga Hall, 7:47 p.m.

Nov. 21 - **Petit Larceny**, Onondaga Hall, 1 p.m.

Nov. 21 - **Making Graffiti**, Genesee Hall, 10 p.m.

Nov. 21 - **Public Lewdness**, Welles Hall, 10 p.m.

Nov. 22 - **Disorderly Conduct**, Sturges Hall, 7:15 p.m., Arrest

Nov. 22 - **Possession of Marijuana**, Monroe Hall Load Zone, 10:49 p.m.

Nov. 24 - **Petit Larceny**, Onondaga Hall, 7:30 a.m.

Nov. 25 - **Making Graffiti**, Saratoga Commons, 8:54 p.m.

Nov. 26 - **Falsely Reporting an Incident**, Erie Hall, 1:30 a.m.

Nov. 27 - **Petit Larceny & Criminal Mischief**, Newton Hall, 5:30 a.m.

Dec. 2 - **Criminal Trespass**, Suffolk Hall, 8:06 a.m.

Dec. 2 - **Petit Larceny**, South Hall, 1:40 a.m.

Source: University Police and Geneseo Police
Order determined by time incident was logged.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Student choreography shines at dance ensemble revue



Photos by Alex Lyons/Photo Editor

SARAH SIMON

ASST. ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Art is fluid across all aspects of life; at least, that's what the Geneseo Dance Ensemble conveys in its upcoming concert "46Live: Songs of the Body."

In celebration of its 46th anniversary, the ensemble expresses emotion, music and artwork along with choreography by students of the Dance Studies Program.

Professor of dance Jonette Lancos serves as artistic director, curator and producer of the performance as well as mentor of student choreographers in the development of their pieces.

"Each [student] digitally records each rehearsal," Lancos said. "We discuss how to successfully communicate their concept through original movement material and knowledge of the craft of choreography."

In addition to Lancos' consultation, two outside dance educators and assistant professor of dance studies Mark Broomfield '94 advised student choreographers on their works.

After much preparation, the performance brilliantly illustrates emotional expression and the students' affinity for dance.

"Heartstrings" by student assistant senior Stephanie Willmarth commences the performance, with dancers gracefully flowing in pale blue dresses. The women in this contemporary ballet piece happily leap and pirouette in accordance with the levity of the music.

By a sharp exhale, the dimmed stage lights are awakened with the beginning of senior Erin Girard's "Out of Many, One." Throughout the piece, dancers embrace the power of namaste, a yogi principle that acknowledges the common energy within all of us. The dancers even seem to breathe together, as they often collectively gather and separate on stage. Speed and energy dramatically increase in both the music and movements halfway through, as if to communicate namaste's enduring importance throughout life's many moods.

The next act "Hindsight," choreographed by senior Jennifer Levy, has dancers adorned with translucent purple skirts. At one point, all performers exit but two, who then empower each other's brusque movements to match the drama of the background piano. Soon, the rest of the dancers return, and all slowly approach the front of the stage as the lights fade out to end the piece.

Following that is "Illumination of Self," which imparts the power of artistic expression across varying modes. In exhibiting their final projects, members of the Dance Composition class interpret design elements and principles present in paintings and translate them into dance. The choreography remarkably expresses the students' interpretations of works such as Vincent van Gogh's "Starry Night" and Georgia O'Keeffe's "Deer Horns." This piece is the only one in the concert conceptualized by Lancos.

Dancers of the next piece, senior Megan Killea's "Filtering Light," resemble a ballerina

forest in their turquoise dresses. They act as elegant trees shedding scattered light onto the stage. As the piece progresses, light becomes more pronounced. The ladies conclude in joined stance, their unified figures receding with the lights.

In a bold switch of attitude, senior Ashley Palacios' "She Is..." expresses feminine vigor by way of dauntless poise. The piece opens with the fierce beat of a brass band and silhouettes standing against a red backdrop. Performers execute high leaps, sassy shoulders and unapologetically confident circling of their hips. At times, the dancers strike vogue poses, all separate but in saucy concordance with one another.

The audience is then transported to a dream-like state induced by junior Michelle Graham's "Talking in My Sleep." Exemplifying a bad dream, the dancers adopt nightmarish motions. The music then becomes more ambient, prompting performers into peaceful pirouettes, kicks and

somersaults. Viewers are not left sleepy but rather in trance.

Because the program, according to Lancos, was organized to build "in energy and choreographic diversity," the final piece acts as a sendoff that unifies the entire concert. "Kwaherini," choreographed by student assistant senior Emily Wagner, begins with a tune and mood similar to the first performance. *Kwaherini* roughly translating to "goodbye" in Swahili, the piece pairs energizing music with joyful cartwheels and jumps. The dancers' enthusiasm, however, serves to effectively convey the true significance of the Swahili word, which means "go well."

"46Live: Songs of the Body" motivates viewers to discover the emotionally unifying medium of dance. The concert runs Thursday Dec. 5 to Saturday Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. in the Alice Austin Theatre. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Student Association Ticket Office. ♦

SPOTLIGHT ON:



JAMES MATTSON/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

CYNTHIA HAWKINS Director of Galleries

Director of Galleries Cynthia Hawkins organizes exhibits in art spaces across campus. She is currently pursuing a museum studies-focused Ph.D at the University of Buffalo.

LUC MAKOWSKI

ASST. ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Between curating art shows at Geneseo's three major campus art spaces, handling gallery budgets and maintaining Geneseo's art collection, Director of Galleries Cynthia Hawkins has become an expert when it comes to on-campus art programming.

Hawkins is responsible for filling the Lockhart, Lederer and Bridge Galleries with thought-provoking exhibits each semester. She said the goal of Geneseo's art collection is to ensure that those works have meaning in an academically curricular setting. As a curator, finding this meaning often involves investigative research and experimentation.

Hawkins has found recent success in attributing value to Geneseo's collections. The college's Wescott Collection is an incomplete late 19th-century collection that was very obscure, until she stumbled upon more of the works at the historical society in Seneca Falls, N.Y.

Similarly, Hawkins couldn't locate information on a mysterious collection of folios full of prints of Roman architecture. The only evidence to their history was an Italian text accompanying the collection. She initiated an effort by professors in the department of languages and literatures to translate the texts, and they are currently uncovering the collection's entire history.

"Now you have a whole new attitude toward it, a whole different

historicism belongs to these little etchings, from which you can get a really interesting story," Hawkins said. "You have to spend time with these objects in order for them to speak to you."

Of the several exhibitions put on this semester, Hawkins said that "Customs" is the one that stands out most to students, crediting its community involvement as something that makes it delightful to people.

Hawkins began art directing when she was an adjunct professor at SUNY Rockland Community College, where she would host exhibitions in the college's library. Hawkins joined Geneseo seven years ago while she was working

See **HAWKINS** on page 8

MOVIE REVIEW: *Catching Fire*



Hunger Games sequel goes up in flames

THOMAS MCCARTHY
STAFF WRITER

Katniss Everdeen and her competitors do not disappoint in *Catching Fire*, the second installment of the *Hunger Games* trilogy, but the film doesn't burn much brighter than any other flashy book-to-movie adaptation.

In *Catching Fire* Katniss is forced to face the horrors of what she experienced on a tour through each of Panem's 12 districts. She has earned food and wealth for her family at the cost of the death of other tributes. President Snow, dictator of Panem, realizes Katniss' act of defiance is the previous film – attempting suicide with her fellow competitor Peeta to skew the games – has sparked revolution among the districts. A special anniversary games is set in place called the Quarter Quell to squash the hope of freedom from the capital, and Katniss, Peeta and a group of other previous victors are forced to fight one another for survival.

These films are clearly crafted to be adaptations of the novel rather than offshoots or reinterpretations, and *Catching Fire* proves to be a better movie than the first. The franchise continues to expand the *Hunger Games* universe cleverly by giving the audience perspective outside Katniss' point of view that

is missing from the book. This film should be the standard for novel adaptations.

The initial shots of the film are nearly gorgeous. Dialogue-focused shots rapidly cut not only the shots but also the tension, reducing the impact of the scene. Other elements such as special effects or impressive scenery make up for this deficiency.

The Capital contrasts the quiet and dreary nature of the districts, which does wonders for creating and often expanding the world of the novels. Costumes paint the portrait of Capital culture colorfully just as the first film did.

Nearly each role is properly cast; Jennifer Lawrence makes a convincing Katniss. Both Peeta and Gale return for the more-complex-than-usual love triangle, and both deliver a compelling but not overly impressive performance. One scene with Gale and Katniss when she leaves the district borders on trashy romance, but Liam Hemsworth makes for a convincing stubborn and headstrong Gale, as Josh Hutcherson makes for a vulnerable and conflicted Peeta.

Minor characters carry the movie. Effie continues to be a fan favorite with outrageous behavior and an almost campy level of comic relief for the audience. Caesar functions as a horrific satire of

popular reality TV hosts, glamorizing and obscuring human suffering and the death of children in favor of functional celebrity gossip.

Unfortunately, Finnick Odair's character is drastically miscast. In the novel, he is a tragic, emotionally vulnerable Romeo-like persona with a softer, boyish appeal.

The film portrays him physically and emotionally as a hardened, macho tough guy, which is problematic for future plot points and exposition let alone composition in the present film.

The tragic moments of the film are the strongest. The audience relives the horror of the reaping. The scene in which Katniss apologizes to Rue's family and district is the most powerful and poignant in the franchise so far as a holographic floating effigy of Rue brings forth all the pain from the first film to get the audience back in the headspace of the characters.

This sequel is likely to be the best of the films in the series, for its compelling emotional appeal and lore related expansions. The greater moments in the film remind us that the technical elements could have much more finesse. Overall, *Catching Fire* is only slightly above average, sprinkled with a few compelling moments, as a two-and-a-half-hour blockbuster. ♦

WINTER MOVIE PREVIEW

Talented directors define upcoming dramas

TYLER THIER

ASST. ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

AND

GIOVANNI ALFONZETTI

STAFF WRITER

Inside Llewyn Davis – Dec. 6

From a different generation of film legends, the Coen brothers have produced oddball black comedies like *Fargo* and *The Big Lebowski* and award-winning dramas like *No Country for Old Men*. They are extremely versatile in style and genre and masters of dialogue in their screenwriting. There is no doubt that this next feature will add yet another layer to their body of work.

This minimalist dramedy stars Oscar Isaac as the titular lead character, a fictitious folk musician who makes his way through that specific music scene in New York City during the 1960s. *The Great Gatsby's* Carey Mulligan and music legend Justin Timberlake take on supporting roles and contribute to the film's awesome soundtrack with some great folksy rhythm.

Out of the Furnace – Dec. 6

Previews for the film *Out of the Furnace* convey a typical action-adventure film, but it definitely has more to offer.

Out of the Furnace is the story of Russell Baze, played by Christian Bale, and his attempt to seek justice for his brother who disappears into a ruthless crime ring after returning home from a tour in Iraq. The film also stars Woody Harrelson, Casey Affleck, Willem Dafoe and Forest Whitaker.

The prominent appeal of the film is the raw, gritty and utterly realistic acting performances. Early viewing critics say the essence of Bale's performance is bare and haunted and the film is one of the best acted of the year.

Out of the Furnace is directed by Scott Cooper who, despite his diminutive filmography, garners praise for his 2009 film *Crazy Heart*.

American Hustle – Dec. 13

American Hustle is founded on more than just its all-star cast – it has an all-star director too.

American Hustle is the story of a clash between a brilliant con man and his partner, an FBI agent, a politician and his wife during the execution of one of the largest scandals in fictional history.

If it's not the cast, which includes Bale, Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper, Amy Adams and Jeremy Renner, that sells you on seeing *American Hustle*, then surely director David Russell is the straw that broke the camel's back.

Russell doesn't have a single "rotten" film, according to Rotten Tomatoes, in his career.

The Wolf of Wall Street – Dec. 25

Martin Scorsese's newest classic opens Christmas Day. Based on the memoirs of Jordan Belfort – a real-life investment banker convicted of stock market fraud and manipulation – it stars prolific Scorsese collaborator Leonardo DiCaprio as Belfort, and follows his exploits in the high-profile banking world.

The *Goodfellas* director has a knack for grand stories about power, money and corruption, and this dark comedy with a 179-minute running time and a stellar cast that includes supporting actors such as Matthew McConaughey, Jonah Hill and *The Artist's* Jean Dujardin, looks to be another masterpiece for the Scorsese canon.

With a script by *Boardwalk Empire*-creator Terence Winter and a cinematic legend at its helm, *The Wolf of Wall Street* has virtually no potential of falling short. ♦

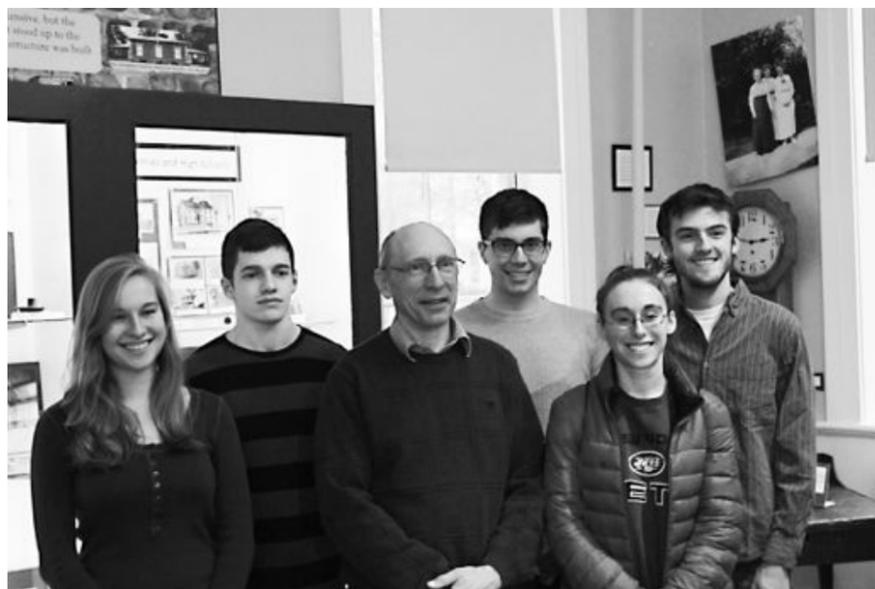
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Engaging children at Keyboard Kamp

Geneseo students teach free music lessons to local disadvantaged children



EVAN GOLDSTEIN/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

Left: Livingston County Keyboard Kamp volunteers with program founder Geoffrey Clough at the reception on Nov. 24 at the Livingston County Museum. Right: Clough recognizes junior Caitlyn Edwards and her pupil Regina Cucchiara for their work.

ANTONIA MARIC

STAFF WRITER
AND

CHELSEA BUTKOWSKI

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Ten local children are preparing for their holiday piano recital, practicing classics like “O Come All Ye Faithful” and “Jingle Bells.” These children might not have had the chance to perform their favorite Christmas tunes, or even pursue music at all, if it weren’t for 10 Geneseo students donating their time and talent as volunteers.

Geoffrey Clough organized the program, called Keyboard Kamp, 13 years ago with support

from the community and local figures like Geneseo historian David Parish.

The program started as a summer camp and for the children of Livingston County, ages 8 to 15, who had interest in playing piano or the keyboard. The camp was free of charge for students who might not have had the means to take piano lessons otherwise.

In 2003, Clough extended the summer program and created a partnership with Geneseo students. If music students wished to continue their summer camp experience, they could do so throughout the school year with private

lessons given by Geneseo student volunteers. In the past three years, Clough added the option of guitar lessons to the summer and full-year programs.

Clough also created a system in which the families and the child can meet with their prospective student teachers before the lessons begin to see if the match will work.

Student-to-teacher compatibility is important in Keyboard Kamp. Clough recounts the program’s successes with a clear sense of pride, citing four-year-long student to pupil partnerships and students who overcame difficult situations to achieve huge successes.

“The music lessons are used as a tool to build the bridge between teacher, student and family,” he said. Over the years, Clough has seen a variety of close connections between the county families and Geneseo students.

For two years junior Caitlyn Edwards has taught through Keyboard Kamp, mentoring 9-year-old Geneseo Central School student Regina Cucchiara since spring 2012. Edwards, a psychology major, has been playing piano for 14 years, and she said she works hard to communicate her passion for the instrument to her pupil.

“It’s a learning process to figure out how you can effectively communicate something to someone who hasn’t necessarily had as much experience as you do,” she said.

Cucchiara’s mother Joahn confirmed that lessons with Edwards have ignited a passion for music in her daughter, who sees Edwards “like a big sister.”

“Regina doesn’t want to disappoint [Edwards], so I don’t even have to ask her to practice.” Joahn Cucchiara added.

Most children are beginners, so a student does not need to be an expert on their instrument.

Senior Nathan Trombley hadn’t played the piano since sixth grade when he signed up to volunteer with Keyboard Kamp at Geneseo’s Volunteer Fair. He said that, while he was able to teach his student to read music and play some basic songs, one of the greatest benefits of the program was connecting with the community.

He understands that teaching piano through the program is about more than playing music. It’s about “making a connection – being there as a resource if they ever need any help. Using music to facilitate that, it’s pretty cool,” Trombley said.

The students participating in piano lessons have a recital at 3 p.m. on Sunday Dec. 8 at the St. Timothy Lutheran Church. It is open to the public. ♦

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Music ensembles perform festive repertoire at holiday concert

FRANKIE MANDRACCHIA
KNIGHTS' LIFE EDITOR

Members of the Geneseo community – students, residents and professors – crowded into Wadsworth Auditorium on Nov. 24 for the Geneseo Symphony Orchestra, Festival Chorus, Chamber Singers and Spectrum Women's Ensemble performance.

Adjunct faculty member in music Jim Tiller conducted the first part of the program, putting on Giuseppe Verdi's "Overture to Nabucco" as well as Kirke Mechem's "Seven Joys of Christmas." Throughout the concert, there was a festive holiday spirit in the air alongside the performances, with the crowd sitting in the mounds of their shed outerwear, while the female members of the choir donned red gowns and the male members wore tuxedos.

Brass was implemental to the performance of the overture, often alternating between playing solemnly, harmonizing with the woodwinds and bombastic runs, heavy on the percussion, especially the tympani drums. The piece almost had the feel of Charles Dickens, with a slightly more theatrical flair, especially with the vibrancy of the brass section.

The Spectrum Women's Choir joined the orchestra to perform "Seven Joys of Christmas," containing seven movements, each with its own distinct flair. Much of the piece was light and airy, even whimsical, with a spirited oboe among other woodwinds.

After intermission, professor of music Gerard Flo-

riano conducted Chamber Singers' performance of Mozart's "Requiem," composed of eight movements. This piece was more solemn in tone, dramatic in feel, reminiscent of the time and place it came from: 18th-century Europe. The strings, along with the heavy vocal tones, created movement.

Junior Jane Coons has been in Chamber Singers for three semesters and was a soloist featured in the *introitus* and *tuba miram* and *benedictus* movements of "Requiem."

The group's hard work was apparent; it was clear that the singers just put on a concert in October. Around mid-October, the group began preparing for the Nov. 24 concert. Chamber Singers met three times a week for approximately four and a half hours

in addition to soloist rehearsals outside of that time.

The orchestra performed alongside the choir, adding another element necessary to rehearse. Coons noted the difficulty of orchestrating several performance groups under one piece.

"We had two rehearsals with the orchestra and had to put all of the voices together. It makes it more difficult because it is more parts that have to be going at the same time. We had extra rehearsals with them [as well]," she said.

Festival Choir is composed of students and community members.

Coons, a vocal performance major, enjoyed being a soloist, especially as there have been hired performers in the past to fill the position. This year, the Festival Chorus featured nine soloists, a majority of whom were students. ♦



JAMES MATTSON/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

The Geneseo Symphony Orchestra performed with Festival Chorus, Chamber Singers and Spectrum Women's Ensemble on Nov. 24 in Wadsworth Auditorium.

Hawkins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

on her master's degree thesis in museum professions at Seton Hall University.

Hawkins is currently working on her Ph.D. in American studies at the University at Buffalo, with a focus on the history of the museum and how it intersects with citizenship, race and identity. According to Hawkins, the Western conception of the museum came from the French Revolution as a

way to redistribute art from the royalty to the people.

"Some people don't want to even talk about the museum in terms of its educative roots," Hawkins said. "In Egypt, the pharaohs had little rooms with collections of objects that were used to teach the pharaoh and the children about themselves, their culture and their environment ... I don't think that should be brushed off."

Hawkins also has an artistic career of her own. She originally

went to school to study painting at Queens College and received her Master of Fine Arts degree from Maryland Institute College of Art's Mount Royal School of Painting.

Hawkins employs color field abstraction techniques, which are bright and often focus on patterned geometric shapes within. Her frequent illustration of arrows creates a sense of motion, giving her work a branded appearance. ♦

THEATER PREVIEW

Spring performances explore psychological themes

MAYA LUCYSHYN
ASST. KNIGHTS' LIFE EDITOR

"Seussical" – Jan. 24 to 26

"Seussical," with its energetic music scores and loveable characters, is guaranteed to bring energy to the first weekend of the spring 2014 semester. Directed by professor of theatre Melanie Blood, the musical involves both students and a local children's choir as the Who Chorus. "Seussical" is written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, and follows Horton the elephant as he hears a Who, guards a nest and interacts with characters from over eight Dr. Seuss children's books. Blood described it as "very high energy, very fun and very fast-paced."

The Puppet Plays – Jan. 26

This one-of-a-kind performance directed by professor of theater Crystal Ferrell is a compilation of four short plays using numerous intricate puppets and a heavy dose of creativity. "The Jabberwocky," "The Scorpion and the Frog," "The Myth of the Phoenix" and "A Sock Puppet Song" will be performed using sock puppets, bunraku puppets like those found in Japanese theater, shadow puppets and the "hand-and-rod" style made famous by The Muppets. This 30 to 45 minute production is "something that's not normally seen on the Geneseo campus," Ferrell said. A small cast of 17 students, three faculty members and one staff member will produce the plays.

"Wit" - Feb. 13 to 15

"Wit," presented by Cothurnus and Veg S.O.U.P., is sure to entertain all who attend with its internal drama and thought-provoking plot. Directed by seniors Kate Mandracchia and Meg Sexton, "Wit" is funded, run and produced by students. It follows the life of an English professor who finds out she is dying of cancer. As Blood explained, it "follows her intellectual life and how she deals with limitations of her body." It is the first of two Veg S.O.U.P. productions in the spring semester, but the time and title of the second production remain undecided.

"The Lost Women of Troy" - April 30 to May 3

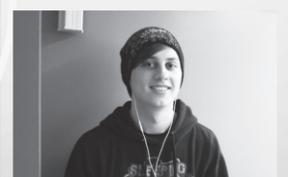
"The Lost Women of Troy" is an evocative and informational play depicting the horrors faced by women in times of war, from the Trojan War to modern times. Written by Hanoch Levin, this story is "a condemnation of all sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," according to the play's director, professor of theater Randy Kaplan. According to Kaplan, the performance will be an adaptation of this play but focus less on its "geo-political" standpoint and instead attack the broad issue of "how women and their children are not only appropriated but deeply violated by men during wartime." Geneseo's Asian American Performance Ensemble GENseng and the department of theater and dance are coproducing the play. ♦

LAMRON LISTENINGS:

Song to describe your 2013

SONG	ARTIST	SUBMITTED BY
"Unsatisfied"	The Replacements	Kevin Frankel
"Eyes of the World"	Grateful Dead	Frankie Mandracchia
"Turn Down for What"	Freddie GZ	Joe Leathersich
"Lose Yourself to Dance"	Daft Punk	Casey Larkin
"Between Two Points"	The Glitch Mob (ft. Swan)	Joanie Drake
"The Ballad of Love and Hate"	The Avett Brothers	Evan Goldstein
"I'm Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman"	Britney Spears	Maddy Smith

What's On Your iPod?



Mike O'Connor
Sophomore
Psychology
"Believe" by Cher

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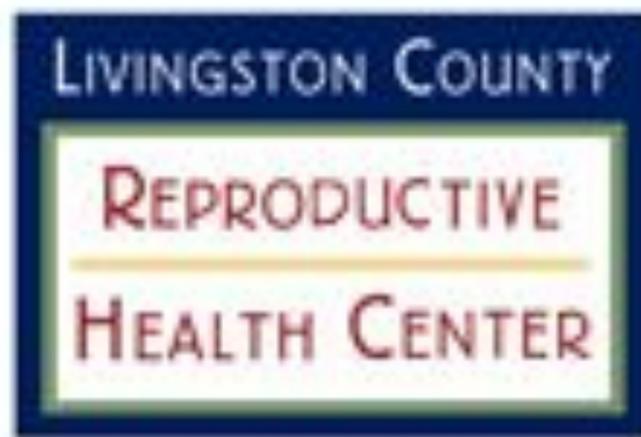
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KNIGHTS' LIFE

Keeping up with what students are doing at Geneseo

Invasion of Privacy

CHELSEA BUTKOWSKI

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Nik Varrone measures his life in computers. The walls of his office are a museum of ancient iMac monitors, and in the midst of conversation he pulls down an old computer from his wooden shelves to point out the lacking hard drive or a laughable design flaw.

meant to make using computers simpler by allowing control from one central hub to prevent widespread glitches and issues across campus. Varrone's current job at Geneseo promotes ease of use. It involves fixing computer issues for faculty and staff, particularly in Brodie Hall.

"I think it's understanding the customer more and under-

'Techie' browses life of leisure, computes sustainability



ZOE FINN/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

Computing & Information Technology technical support professional Nik Varrone collects previously used computers. The father of two also holds an undergraduate degree in horticulture, spending much of his free time running an organic farm.

"There are times when you just have to buckle down and work until the sun goes down," Varrone said. "You somehow mix that in with being a couple and being a parent and being a taxpayer and having a full time job."

As chairman of the operations committee of Geneseo's Environmental Sustainability Commission, sustainable initiatives are one of Varrone's proudest accomplishments on the farm. Varrone recently purchased draft horses to assist with plowing crops. In his commitment to avoid fossil

fuels, Varrone said the horses make short work of a task that once took him days to do by hand.

While Varrone added that he and his wife are "still kind of figuring [themselves] out" as farmers after growing up in Philadelphia, he said he hopes that the farm will someday indulge gourmet, sustainable tastes with a "fully diversified [and] biodynamic set of crops."

Immersed in technology during the day and plant life in the evening, Varrone is the first to poke fun at his contradictory passions, but he also acknowl-

edges their unmistakable balance.

"I have my really strong interest in tech and I want the fastest and best computer I can possibly get, and I prefer to plow with a horse, so it's like these two really opposite things, but somehow I make them manage to work the same - in my head anyway," he said.

Whether it's through the pastoral splendor of his crops or improving the usability of computers across campus, Varrone strives to communicate ideas with a universal clarity: to make people's lives easier. ♦

FAVORITES

TEA: Earl Grey

POKEMON: Snorlax

MAC MODEL: the original iBook

FRUIT: Raspberry

COMPUTER GAME: Second Life

MAC OS: Mavericks

Varrone, a Computing & Information Technology technical support professional, even reveals his first computer upon request, a bulky Commodore VIC-20 from the early 1980s that his dad brought home from work. Varrone describes himself as "a tactile learner," playing with computer programming toys and gadgets from a young age.

The evolution of Varrone's computer collection parallels his own personal growth from college student and computer specialist to Apple Store Mac Genius to Geneseo's resident desktop management enthusiast.

Desktop management is an innovation in tech support

standing the systems they use and just making it less annoying," he said.

Surrounded by aluminum monitors and floppy disk drives, it's hard to guess that Varrone is also an organic farmer.

He studied horticulture at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa. before moving to Geneseo to start up his own farm. Varrone wakes up with or before the sun each morning and works on evenings and weekends to maintain the 19-acre farm with his wife.

Together they care for an enormous variety of animals and grow organic crops from rapini to popcorn and beefsteak tomatoes - all while raising two children, ages 3 and 5.

Finals are inevitable, stress doesn't have to be



ZOE FINN/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

Healthguards hosted a "Stress Less" event (above) featuring a 'petting' dog as well as crafts. Ample sleep, breaks and planning are keys to minimizing stress during the finals season.

MAYA LUCYSHYN

ASST. KNIGHTS' LIFE EDITOR

Whether you're cramming or crying, no one is safe from the chaos of finals week. Luckily, a variety of tricks and school activities can help relieve the stress of these tests without sacrificing grades.

Starting before Thanksgiving break with a "Stress Less" night in the College Union, Healthguards work particularly hard this time of

year to offer relaxing opportunities and tips to Geneseo students. Among the Union's organized events, Healthguards had a table set up where students could write down their stressors, crumple up the piece of paper and throw it into a trashcan.

Geneseo Healthguards are trained students who raise awareness about college health topics, such as safe sex, responsible drinking and stress management.

Healthguard and Health Promotions intern senior Joanna Simone's number-one tip is to remain calm throughout the studying process - no matter what.

"Remember: Everything is not a crisis," she said.

While most of us have succumbed to the panicky six-hour study sessions at one point or another, Simone points out that these are actually harmful and unproductive.

"Make sure that, when you're studying, you take time to go and hang out with your friends," she said. Periodic breaks as well as ample amounts of sleep are as crucial to success as going over the materials.

"You need to sleep," Simone said. "No matter how late you stay up, you aren't going to take the information in."

Simone also recommends studying sitting up in a chair instead of lying down in your bed.

"Study in the position you will be in when you take the test," she explained. If possible, study in the room that the test will be in. This helps the brain remember facts on the spot, as it recalls the similar sensation of studying while taking the actual test.

Scheduling is also a key component of finals week.

"Google Calendar is my life," Simone said, and she highly recommends taking five minutes each morning to quickly plan out what you will be doing for the day, including breaks, meals and exercise.

She recommends sitting down at the very beginning of finals week and creating one universal to-do list

for the rest of the semester. She said that, while it may seem daunting at first, "it is such a relief when you are able to cross things off physically."

Melinda DuBois, administrative director of student health and counseling, seconds the importance of scheduling and taking breaks during studying stress.

"What I hear a lot of students do is sit for hours and hours at a time, and at some point that becomes useless," she said.

She explained, however, that not all breaks are equal. While many students party during finals as a reward or de-stressing technique, she believes that this actually puts excess stress on the body and mind and negates the hours of work that students put into studying.

Both Simone and DuBois highly recommend incorporating meditation into your finals routine, because it calms and awakens the mind and gives it a much-needed rest from the constant multitasking it's expected to perform.

So, when it comes down to it, the best thing you can do to this finals week is take a break. ♦

Picking Cotton authors cultivate unusual friendship through the years



ALEX LYONS/PHOTO EDITOR

Jennifer Thompson and Ronald Cotton (above) have maintained an enduring friendship and co-authored *Picking Cotton*.

FRANKIE MANDRACCHIA

KNIGHTS' LIFE EDITOR

Time moves people. In 11 years, you can fall in love, change careers, start a family – or spend that time in jail for a crime you didn't commit. Friendship from among those who convicted you is unlikely.

Yet, in the most of unusual of cases, Jennifer Thompson, the victim of an appalling crime, would eventually share an indescribable bond with the man who was wrongfully convicted.

In 1985, Ronald Cotton was convicted of first-degree rape and burglary. Two years later, he was retried and convicted for two counts of each crime.

Eleven years after his first conviction, Cotton was exonerated with DNA evidence.

The duo drew on their experience on campus on Dec. 4 in the College Union.

"My first response was fear – that [Cotton], after 11 years of being falsely imprisoned, would come after me and try to hurt me or my children," Thompson said. "Once you go through the fear, it's kind of a train wreck of emotion."

After Cotton's exoneration, about two years after he had been released, the two had separately participated in a documentary for the Public Broadcasting Service titled *What Jennifer Saw*.

"The last thing I say in the film is that 'I know [Cotton] is innocent but I still see his face in my nightmares,' and the last thing that [Cotton] said is 'I know she is sorry, but I need to hear that from her mouth,'" Thompson said. "When I heard that I realized I was never go-

ing to be able to move forward ... until I saw the man who was not the monster."

According to Thompson, friendship was one of the last things she had expected to come from this unexpected turn. In April 1997, the two met and shared emotional apologies and insights.

"We spent the rest of that meeting talking about ... the time we spent afraid, the losses we suffered – all at the hands of this serial rapist Bobby Poole," Thompson said. "We had both been victims of a criminal justice system that often doesn't get it right."

That afternoon started a very long, indefinable friendship. Thompson described the progression of their relationship as "organic," developing over time through an exploration of their "parallel" experiences. Slowly the duo grew into the role of advocating and teaching about subjects like eyewitness memory and race and class in the criminal justice system.

Thompson emphasized how crucial trust and respect were at every step of their relationship.

"Our relationship is very strange," she said. "He is a part of my family ... I protect him and I will always protect [Cotton]. And [Cotton] will always protect me. It's something deeper than a friendship. It's almost spiritual."◆

GENESEO CLASS OF 2014 Schoolteacher evaluates education, years at Geneseo

BENT TAYLOR

STAFF WRITER

For the past year and a half I've seen it. My "expected graduation date" was displayed every time I logged into myGeneseo: December 17, 2013.

Of course, the date always seemed incredibly far away. Now that there are only two weeks left, I'm finding myself feeling that nostalgia that I've been hearing about from my already-graduated friends.

What's different about my situation, however, is the fact that although I still have a couple of weeks left before graduation, I have been away from campus since the end of October. I have been fortunate enough to accept a full-time teaching position since then.

While I am ecstatic to have the fear of not being able to find a job upon graduating alleviated, I'm also a bit sad to have left the people and things I have come to love in Geneseo even earlier than I originally planned.

For me, there is no question: It is because of the connections with the amazing people I am fortunate enough to call my role models, as well as the challenging academics that pushed me to what I thought to be my limit, that I have been afforded the opportunity to demonstrate what I've learned.

A concept that pervades my thoughts lately has to do with making that final, "So was it worth it?" evaluation. Another question I've been asking myself lately is if I would "do it all over again." After reflecting on the good times, the rough times and even the times when I needed to go for a run for an hour and forget that everything existed, I am so happy that I was afforded the opportunity to make such memorable connections at Geneseo. The answer, then, to that question, is yes – it was absolutely worth it.

I find it a bit intimidating as a 21-year-old college senior to hold parent-teacher conferences, serve as a role model to students who are possibly only three years younger than me and remember to introduce myself as "Mr. Taylor" instead of "Ben" as I walk around my new school. With that in mind, I am also proud and incredibly thankful that I received such a high-quality education that has truly prepared me for all of this, and especially to have done so at a place that I know I will be visiting often in the future – and will think about every day until I come back to visit.◆

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Student writes off stereotypes



KENDALL FITZGERALD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GCCC's "China Night" provided junior Tom Kotak the opportunity to write and direct a performance, featuring an anachronistic story about a young girl battling bad grades.

JESSICA IRWIN

ASST. KNIGHTS' LIFE EDITOR

Though clearly a comedy, this year's annual "China Night" play about a young girl and her battle against failing grades also engaged in the diverse and complicated history of Chinese culture.

The Geneseo Chinese Culture Club's public relations manager junior Tom Kotak wrote and directed the performance, deciding to focus on Chinese history with a mix of historic, recent and futuristic aspects, all inspired by the sci-fi comedy *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*.

"In the past we've done Chinese folktales, but this year we wanted to take a more modern twist," Kotak said. "I wanted to write a compelling story that featured a lot of different characters and archetypes."

"We wanted it to be educational as well, since [*Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*] isn't actually about Chinese culture," the club's secretary junior Sihwa Choi added.

The play opened with high school student Erika, played by

freshman Anchi Friedman, being berated for failing a class.

In a last-ditch effort to save her grade, Erika's teacher offers an extra credit opportunity to create a presentation on three historical Chinese figures. Erika's trusty sidekick Ned, played by sophomore Aedan Brown, agrees to help her.

In a miraculous stroke of luck, the two soon find an abandoned time machine and decide to set off through history to research the historical figures firsthand.

Right away the play addresses multiple modern-day cultural stereotypes, including the idea of the model minority and the portrayal of a "tiger mom" – a term for an authoritarian, domineering parent – who voices her disappointment with Erika's grade as the stereotypical Chinese mother.

In the play, Erika and Ned encounter three very different historical characters: the strong and spirited Mulan, played by junior Zoe Chan, a particularly charming interpretation of the revered Chinese philosopher Confucius, played by junior Jonathan Zhu and the emphatic first Emperor of Chi-

na Qin Shi Huangdi, portrayed by senior Jason Huang. Each brings knowledge of different periods in Chinese history to the stage.

The performance also incorporated a fashion show of clothing from different regions and time periods in Chinese history to show the diverse nature of one of the world's oldest cultures.

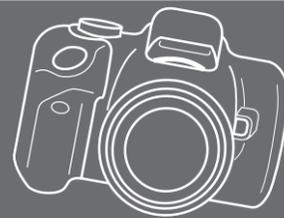
Kotak said the show's unique fusion of past and present was exactly what he was looking for and that he was proud of the cast's ability to unite the different characters in order to tell a story of broad cultural identity.

This story of diversity within one culture is reflective of the diversity within the GCCC itself, Kotak added.

As one of the largest clubs on campus, GCCC welcomes members of all ethnicities and nationalities, a factor that Choi says allows the members to share in each other's distinct cultures while still maintaining a sense of unity.

"Although [the club's] focus is celebrating Chinese culture specifically, we have a lot of different people who want to be involved in that celebration," Kotak said. ♦

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER



What is your family's crazy holiday tradition?

Jessica Goldstein

Freshman

Psychology

"We dress up as pilgrims ... and eat Indian food."



Kelsey Colberg

Sophomore

Psychology

"My mom gives my uncle socks."

Janelle Goeke

Sophomore

Biology

"Drink the biggest bottle of Bailey's we can find."



Patrick Lawson-Keister

Freshman

Physics

"My family hides a furby around the house."

JAMES MATTSON/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

Tweets expose student party life, opposing views

MARY AULD

STAFF WRITER

A boy jumping from a roof into a crowd of people, a slip and slide in a dorm hallway, a boy sipping beer in a classroom – these are just a few of the many activities photographed and posted on the Twitter account SUNYPartyStories (@SUNYPartyStory).

Each weekend the account receives submissions of outrageous party pictures from students at State University of New York schools and holds a contest for the one that people find to be the best entertainment. On Sundays, SUNY students can submit photos by tweeting them at the SUNYPartyStories Twitter account. Followers of the account vote for the best submission, and the school where the photo was taken is identified on the post. Photos from Geneseo have been featured previously by the account.

The account was started in April 2013 and is managed anonymously by a SUNY student.

"I took the initiative and created this platform for a way for SUNY students to boast about their social lives, vote for who is the best, and create competition among the most popular endeavor in college," the account operator said.



ALEX LYONS/PHOTO EDITOR

The Twitter account SUNYPartyStories chronicles the parties scenes at schools throughout the SUNY system.

The operator of SUNYPartyStories said he chooses to remain anonymous so that people will not assume that he is biased toward his own school in the competition. He also said he wants to keep his identity separate from the account for personal reasons.

"I am a student comedian whose career and reputation rides on my image, and since the press tends to write about party stories in a negative manner, I do not want those negative images about me on the web as a develop myself professionally," he said.

According to the account operator, only about 2,500 people followed the account at the end of the summer, but a huge increase in its popularity began in mid-September. In three months, the number of followers increased to over 45,000. Today, about 48,000 people follow the account.

"The popularity came about because everyone does it," the account operator said.

Wendi Kinney, the assistant dean of students for fraternal life and off-campus services at Geneseo, has a different theory about

why the account has gained popularity.

"It's a spectacle for people to watch, like reality TV," she said.

Bryce Wiley is a sophomore economics major at Geneseo. He has submitted a photo to SUNYPartyStories.

"It gives a glimpse into the nightlife at each SUNY school and shows some of the crazy and hilarious things that go on during the weekends," he said.

Kinney expressed concern about the fact that the people in the photos do not usually submit them.

"People forget how far-reaching social media can be," she said. "It's fun in the moment to the people posting and retweeting, but we forget that it's affecting a real person."

The account operator expressed that if someone in a photo on the account does not want to be featured, they can request for the photo to be taken down and it immediately will be. This happens regularly.

"I'm not here to deteriorate anyone's image or get people in trouble, just for good 'new-fashioned' fun," he said.

There has been speculation that the site could damage the image of SUNY schools.

Wiley said, "If people don't like the side of college the Twitter [account] portrays, they don't have to follow it."

The account operator said people should understand that being associated with a photo on the Twitter account is not meant to have a negative impact on the school's reputation, but that it is "just a reflection of what the tour guides are forbidden to say."

Kinney, however, said she believes that the account could affect impressions of Geneseo.

"We project an image, and this could impact what people think of the institution," she said. ♦

Turkey Trot distributes food, recognition



EVAN GOLDSTEIN/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

Sisters Making a Change accepted canned goods as a registration fee for their first annual Turkey Trot (above). The goods were donated to a food pantry in Mount Morris, reaching 10 to 15 families.

FRANKIE MANDRACCHIA

KNIGHTS' LIFE EDITOR

Despite the first snowfall of the season, rafters of runners came out for and contributed to Sisters Making a Change's first annual Turkey Trot on Nov. 24.

"As a new Greek organization, we really wanted to get our name out there," senior Michelle Walpole said.

This was not the first philanthropic event the organization coordinated. Last spring, SMAC also hosted the Out of the Dark Walk, which raised awareness about suicide and suicide prevention.

Within SMAC, committees were in charge of orchestrating the roles necessary to run the event. This included getting donations from the community, such as 100 cups of coffee and boxes of Timbits supplied by Tim Hortons.

Sophomore Jane Skinner helped coordinate the organizations that were involved in planning the event, including Campus Auxiliary Services, University Police and Inter-Residence Council, while Walpole contributed to the more creative aspects such as advertising and publicity.

While 70 students registered, 31 runners braved the frigid conditions that day. The course began at the KnightSpot, going through North Village and finishing at the track.

Each attendee brought along an unusual form of payment for the registration fee.

"Instead of charging college students, because college students often don't have a lot of money to pay for a registration fee, why not collect cans?" Walpole said.

The alternative means of fundraising was effective. According to Walpole, in total, the group gathered about six "hefty

boxes" – about 150 food items – ranging from cans of soup to jars of sauce and boxes of pasta. The food reached about 10 to 15 families.

"You don't realize how many people in the area don't have the means to have food during Thanksgiving, or the holiday season or at all," she said.

SMAC delivered the food the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Walpole noted just how grateful the Livingston County's Catholic Ministry Mount Morris healthy food pantry was for their donations.

"Thanksgiving was fast approaching, and they were running out of food," she said. "It's nice for them to see the Geneseo campus reaching out to the local community because often service organizations go to Rochester. They go farther away rather than [doing] something closer to home."♦

Drink up! Staying warm this winter

MADDY SMITH

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As upstate New Yorkers, we need something to help us in these coming months as a reminder that we're warm-blooded creatures. What's better than preparing a wintery drink to take away the pain that seasonal affective disorder and post-holiday boredom bring?

Knowledge of those drinks that are easily homemade – as both going outside and movement are painful experiences – will be crucial this winter. Consider yourself Don Draper with a greyhound; it's simply 2 fluid ounces of vodka mixed with 5 fluid ounces of grapefruit juice. Easy and classic, a greyhound is a dapper drink; at mediocre holiday parties, don't forget, "If you don't like what's being said, change the conversation."

Citrus drinks such as this one, plus the traditional screwdrivers and mojitos, place you on tropical sands far, far away, where it's always 5 o'clock.

Spiking heavier warm drinks is a really comforting way to celebrate the holidays or assuage stress. Explore with eggnog, hot cider, coffee, hot chocolate and even tea. A boozy mint hot chocolate calls for tequila and peppermint schnapps – it's a Girl Scout cookie with some beneficial side effects. The double whammy of rum and coffee might induce insanity, but it makes for an equally entertaining morning.

On a more elegant side, Nigella Lawson calls this one Christmas in a Glass. It's a mix of Prosecco or other sparkling white wine and gingerbread or cranberry-flavored syrup – that's all. If Christmas in a red Solo Cup is better fitting for this weekend, I assure you that the drink will still work its magic.

But a classic end-of-year holiday, winter or finals party, in my opinion, is not complete if it's missing a large bowl, bin or jug of punch, sangria or jungle juice. I prefer sangria because of its healthful addition: fruit. For festivity, mix apples, pears, cranberries, a sprig of rosemary, a bottle of pinot grigio, club soda, white grape juice and vodka, when necessary, in a deep bowl. Serve up, and watch your messed-up life or bum-filled house gloriously come to life.

In the end, what matters most is that you attempt to enjoy yourself, amidst the snow, slush and below-freezing temperatures. Whether it's board games or tequila shots – or both at once – do what you must to fight through what may be a lackluster six months.♦

Holiday gifting on a dime

MAYA LUCYSHYN

ASST. KNIGHTS' LIFE EDITOR

With Christmas break around the corner and the realization that meal plan money cannot be used at the Eastview Mall, shopping for presents for family and friends can be incredibly stressful.

Even gifting for your immediate family can be tough when your life savings consists of \$37 cash, the six-pack under your bed and however much your least-useful textbooks can sell for.

Luckily, just a few changes can make this year's shopping significantly less painful.

Baking can be a beautiful thing, especially for grandparents and distant relatives. Chances are you have everything you need in your kitchen and just need to buy toppings and decorations. For less than \$10 and a few hours of hard work, you can check your less personal friends and family off your list. They also work great for suitemates and friends – college kids and free food just work together.

Also, couponing is not just for the stay-at-home moms of the world. On tight budgets, every dollar counts, and coupon savings can add up over time. If you are truly dedicated, putting yourself on a company's mailing list gives tons of opportunities for deals, and they tend to reward people around the holidays.

If baking isn't your thing and you truly do not have a dollar to your name, there are dozens of free and sentimental gifts to try out. Go for a classic photo collage of family pictures, or pictures of you and your mom, sister or best friend growing up together. Assuming your home has a printer, this present is free and can be appreciated even more than an expensive but impersonal object.

Shopping online can also save money, as online stocks frequently have codes for savings that are not offered in stores. In addition, online stores such as Amazon offer discounts for spending over a certain amount of money in one shopping trip. Also, consignment online stores such as Etsy and eBay are stocked with cheap and quirky items that can be great last-minute presents for anybody you know.

And, if you just cannot make ends meet, write letters and lists to people. They are 100 percent free and honest, and anyone with a heart can appreciate the time and emotion that you put into it.

When it comes down to it, the holiday season is about quality time with important people, and it is easy to show them you care without spending a dime.♦


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STAFF EDITORIAL:

Retailers cash in on holidays while workers are left to suffer

It seems that the winter holiday shopping season starts earlier every year. There was a time when families would actually wait until the day after Thanksgiving to stab one another over discounted toys from Wal-Mart.

But when Black Friday inexplicably commenced at 6 p.m. on Thursday Nov. 28, that idea seems like nothing more than a quaint memory.

The progressively emerging holiday shopping season comes at a major cost to the employees, who are forced to work extended hours while paid minimal wages. Though many of these workers are employed seasonally and are just looking to pick up extra cash, it is important to keep in mind the year-round labor practices of companies that cash in on the holiday season.

Wal-Mart and Whole Foods workers staged protests across the country on Black Friday with demands for better pay and benefits.

In a press release, Colby Harris, a Wal-Mart associate from Lancaster, Texas, said, "Unfair labor is working full time and living in poverty. Unfair labor is seeing your health care premiums skyrocket year after year. Unfair labor is being denied the hours needed to support your family. Unfair labor is being punished for exercising your freedom of speech and association."

One would think that Wal-Mart, a company that made \$15.7 billion in profit last year, could afford to treat its employees at least slightly better.

It's not just big-box retailers that are guilty either. Amazon's working conditions are tantamount to sweatshops. Employees work 12-hour shifts in sprawling warehouses and are subjected to mandatory overtime.

In 2011, one worker in an Allentown, Pa. factory quit after witnessing numerous coworkers pass out from the heat inside the factory, which consistently surpassed 100 degrees. Furthermore, when a worker from a different factory was terminated for suffering heat exhaustion and missing work, an Amazon representative contested her case for unemployment benefits.

It is mildly understandable, however, that companies know that shoppers will always flock to bargains, so the fault is not all that of the companies; consumer demand allows for the trend to continue and develop as a necessary part of Thanksgiving and the holidays as a whole.

As consumers, our backs are up against the wall. Shopping ethically is simply too costly for the average American. Not to mention, most consumers don't think twice about patronizing companies that profit from child labor during the 11 other months of the year.

As long as our desire for cheap things supersedes concern for the welfare of the workers who bring them to us, companies will continue to cash in. Keep that in mind this holiday season. ♦

A divided city: Racial segregation continues to plague Rochester

Profiling, inequality pervade city



KEVIN FRANKEL

OPINION EDITOR

Three Rochester teens were arrested on Nov. 27 while waiting for a school bus to bring them to a basketball game at a nearby school.

Rochester Police charged the students, all of whom are black, with disorderly conduct on the grounds that they were obstructing the sidewalk.

Though it seems fairly obvious that this is another instance of racial profiling, it becomes even more apparent when one considers the city of Rochester's deep-seated racial issues.

In 2011, city councilman Adam McFadden was part of a 15-person commission to address racial profiling by the

Rochester Police Department. Rochester, which is 41.7 percent black according to the 2010 United States Census, maintains huge disparities in arrests for petty crimes between black and white males.

According to CNN, 104 black males between the ages of 16 and 30 were arrested for petty crimes in 2000, as opposed to 26 white males in the same age range. In 2010, the disparity widened, with 171 blacks and 20 whites.

When Emily Good tried to film three white officers abrasively interrogating a black man in front of her house in May 2011, she was arrested herself. Her charges were later dropped.

This recent incident is a reminder that Rochester is still struggling to redress its many racial issues, which extend far beyond racial profiling.

According to the *Democrat and Chronicle*, an as-of-yet unreleased report by the Civil Rights Project at the University of California, Los

Angeles found that Rochester's public schools are among the most segregated in the nation. In order for Rochester schools to reach ideal integration, 70 percent of the area's black or white students would have to move schools.

These divisions between Rochester's black and white populations are dangerous. Beyond promoting the type of economic isolation that can precipitate crime, the city's racial segregation must be taken into account when considering the rash of racially motivated crimes that have occurred throughout the city.

In 2012, vandals spray-painted swastikas and "KKK" onto the house of a Somali family in Rochester. It was the second such occurrence to have occurred in one year.

Racial segregation drives a wedge between the groups it affects. Familiarity breeds understanding and compassion. It is imperative that the city of Rochester takes steps to correct the fundamental inequalities

that exist at present within its schools and beyond.

Unfortunately, as of right now, Rochester seems headed in the opposite direction. Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks' proposed county budget for 2014 contains cuts to vital social services, such as childcare, that would help Rochester's black and Latino population, 32 percent of which lives below the poverty line.

Segregation persists largely due to the economic inequality that pervades Rochester. With segregation comes a host of other problems. The incident involving the teens waiting for the bus is just a glimpse into the city of Rochester's extreme race problem.

Fixing that problem involves reform at virtually all levels. The city's police department must thoroughly reexamine its rampant profiling, while local and state governments must support initiatives to sustain Rochester's most vulnerable populations. ♦

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“ Keep reading when we return in the spring! ”

Last week's question: What do you think the next big political scandal will be?

Our favorite responses:

- Dick Cheney's ties to Hallibur- oh wait
- Ted Cruz's past as a syrup bootlegger in Canada
- Ron Paul's Invisible Hand Massage Parlor

Tweet @TheLamron with #lamronquestion or comment on our Facebook page.

Religious limitations for hospitals harm patients



BRIAN DOLAN
COLUMNIST

In November, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit against the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The lawsuit argues that the religious constraints placed on medical professionals in Catholic hospitals result in negligent care for their patients.

The ACLU's argument is based on the fact that Catholic hospitals, by and large, bar the discussion and performance of abortions, even when not doing so could pose serious health risks for the mother.

There is no doubt that the ACLU has solid footing in its case. It is the obligation of medical professionals to make patients aware of all viable treatment options and then allow the patient to make an informed decision. It is impossible to make an informed decision if the options are not even available.

The focal point of the ACLU's lawsuit is the treatment of Tameisha Means, whose water broke just 18 weeks into her pregnancy. She got a ride to the only hospital within a reasonable distance,

Mercy Health Partners. Based on her report of events, she was given medication and told to wait for the pain to stop. She was neither offered the option to induce labor or to terminate the pregnancy nor was she even told that the fetus was unlikely to survive.

In an interview with *The Washington Post*, Means said, "The pain was unbearable, I told them, 'I need you guys to help me.' They told me there was nothing they could do."

In fact, there was plenty they could have done for Means but nothing they could do within the religious constraints placed on them by Mercy Health. Means' pain could have been alleviated by procedures that are very common for women in her circumstances.

Unfortunately, the religious directives of the Catholic Church put the medical professionals at Mercy Health in a bind.

According to *The Washington Post*, Catholic health care providers are given a list of guidelines meant to "provide authoritative guidance on certain moral issues that face Catholic health care today."

Medical sociologist at the University of California, San Francisco Lori Freedman said of the Means case, "They frequently bring up this exact scenario, where a woman is suffering premature rupture of membranes in the second trimester. In a non-Catholic

hospital you would talk about various options: If you want to miscarry naturally, induce labor or do you want us to do a surgical removal."

On her third visit to the hospital, Means delivered her baby, stillborn.

Means said, "I still had no answers as to why they did nothing to help me, why they didn't go ahead and induce labor if they knew my baby wasn't going to make it. They left me in pain for those days."

The doctors at Mercy Health allowed Means to suffer in pain for two days, a clear violation of the Hippocratic Oath: to care for patients honestly and to the best of your ability.

While many staunch Catholics argue that if you do not like the way Catholic hospitals are run, you should go to a different hospital, the reality is that the number of Catholic hospitals is increasing. Additionally, many of these Catholic hospitals are located in rural areas of the South and are the only hospital within a reasonable distance for patients.

Means is just one example of the way Catholic dogma is affecting how health care is administered in hospitals across the nation. Without the religious directives of the Catholic Church, patients would be better informed of their treatment options and would be able to make decisions about their own health. ♦

Intersex designation carries ethical concerns



JESSICA HEPPLER
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

A new law in Germany allows babies to be identified as a third gender if they are born with a body that is neither wholly male nor female; this is referred to as intersex.

The Intersex Society of North America estimates that as many as 1 in 1,500 to 2,000 babies internationally are born as intersex.

Typically, if babies are born as intersex, they will undergo surgical and hormonal sex reassignment, misleadingly called "normalization." With the new law in place, which allows an X instead of M or F on legal documents, parents have time to decide the sex of their child. Germany is the first European country to allow such a designation.

While Germany has been praised for this law, it is far less progressive than it appears. Children can only be entered as male or female once they have undergone "normalizing" genital surgeries. This law seems to allow parents and their children the choice to decide on M, F or X, but X is meant to be a temporary designation.

Even though plenty of people are content identifying as intersex and other countries have taken steps to make X a legitimate gender, those who do not opt for dangerous and often unnecessary surgeries will face hurdles and discrimination later in life.

According to the Intersex Society of North America, there is no evidence of psychological damage for intersex children who do not receive "normalizing" surgeries. The biggest harm of being intersex is the shame unnecessarily imposed by the medical community. Or, rather, by those who are uncomfortable with questioning their presumptions of what "normal" means and, further, why they care so much about the appearance of someone else's genitalia.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture has condemned such "normalizing" surgeries. An international group of endocrine societies have also elaborated on the dangers of these procedures.

While ambiguous genitalia rarely pose health risks, the irreversible – and primarily cosmetic – surgery and involuntary sterilization certainly can pose risks. Such surgeries are often done even without the parents' consent.

According to the SRT, risks could render a potentially healthy adult with irreversible infertility, a permanent loss of sensation, scarring, incontinence and psychological harm. This damaging obligation is all in the name of reinforcing the restrictive binaries of M and F.

Aside from the disturbing effects of mandatory sex reassignment surgery, the third gender option is an illusion that there is a choice in the matter. Being that X is present on official documents such as licenses and passports, intersex children could face even more discrimination and vulnerability. This puts further pressure on parents to opt for surgery as soon as possible.

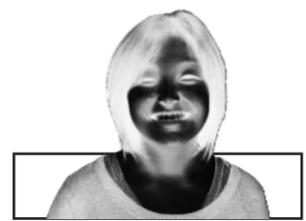
Even if someone chose to keep X designation into adulthood, marriage rights and basic health insurance are currently denied to intersex people in Germany, which again would make surgical reassignment mandatory even if it was not medically necessary.

Rather than a law creating an illusion of choice, Germany ought to have such a third gender designation for those who choose so in adulthood, similar to laws in Australia, which encompass anyone who falls outside binary labels.

If an intersex child wishes to lead a life like those with an M or F designation, parents are practically forced to choose dangerous surgery before the child can even consent to such a decision.

Ultimately, the choice – the legitimate and informed choice – of whether or not to receive sex reassignment surgery should be up to the intersex individual, not a society which values binaries over human well-being. ♦

Women in sports journalism limited by double standard



REBECCA FITZGERALD
MANAGING EDITOR

Women have come a long way since fighting their way into sports journalism. Still, the struggle continues and sports networks exploit the obvious commonality among the field of female sports journalists: They're all conventionally "good looking."

Most notable is former ESPN sideline reporter Erin Andrews, who left the network for Fox Sports last year. It seems that there are female journalists like Andrews everywhere: Rachel Nichols, Michelle Beadle, Hannah Storm and Samantha Ponder; the list goes on. Unfamiliar with the names? Thankfully, Bleacher Report and Complex magazine offer photo galleries of the hottest and sexiest women that have graced the sports broadcasting world. Because we only know these women by their looks anyway, right?

Somehow women have settled into a niche in sports broadcasting with exactly that: their beauty. Sure, it's opening doors for

female journalists. Forty-one years after Title IX, we can celebrate having women in leadership positions, establishing the Association for Women in Sports Media and bringing in more women into sports as players, journalists and fans.

But we need to keep progressing.

Because, really, male sports broadcasters are not held to the same image standard. Instead of their good looks – and let's be honest, those are pretty scant – men are actually hired based on their knowledge and sports expertise. ESPN even hires former athletes, and some professional leagues facilitate this by hosting seminars for players interested in pursuing careers in broadcasting.

Women shouldn't have to think about their attractiveness if they're interested in becoming sports reporters. It shouldn't matter. We shouldn't have to settle and hide our faces behind our words in print newspapers just because we aren't gorgeous. It's hard enough to come by a talented woman interested in sports journalism. It's how we've become the minority.

Still, anchors are split between two roles: men as reporters and women as entertainers. As with any broadcast, viewership is key. But it seems that men can only tolerate a female sports broadcaster if she's

attractive. That seems to be our only value, since we are supposedly unable to offer any valuable information as it pertains to sports.

While the men get to do the real thing, women are left as the "Sideline Barbie" or "Sideline Princess" as Andrews was dubbed in her early years. But women can do the same thing: We can interview, talk, write, analyze, manage – the whole deal. Given the opportunity, we can prove that we offer something similar, maybe even better.

Moreover, we'll bring a different perspective on sports and athletes. Like any topic – politics, education and religion – certainly men and women will offer contrasting insight given their own experiences. While women remain the minority in the sports journalism field, we still represent half of the population in the world. Let's hear from the other half of the human race.

We'll know when we've reached true equality in the sports journalism field: When women aren't questioned on their knowledge of sports, when we aren't butting into sports talk because it's "guy time," when we aren't belittled for our lack of athletic participation, when a female can proudly host her own show on ESPN or call a NBA game and is as nonchalantly recognized as Andrews on a NFL sideline. ♦

THE WAY WE SEE IT



R. Kelly's new album *Black Panties* is currently streaming online. Don't call it a comeback, Kells has been here for years.



Jacoby Ellsbury agreed to a seven-year deal with the New York Yankees. Shades of Johnny Damon?



The NSA is reportedly tracking the locations of 5 billion cell phones worldwide. How long until they start spying on people who haven't been born yet?



Amazon is developing drones to deliver packages in 30 minutes or less. It's been a while, but isn't that the plot of *Terminator*?

What many are unable to grasp about the less fortunate



MADDY SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a country with an ongoing debate over minimum wage levels, food stamp provision and universal healthcare, taking a step back and attempting to empathize with those directly impacted by their changes is necessary. An understanding of engrained structural inequality is crucial to rebuilding impoverished communities and populations.

It's unfortunate that the myth that still needs to be debunked is that of the lazy poor. The label of "welfare queen," or those accused of collecting excessive welfare through

fraud was once common in the 1960s and serves as a symbol of the present-day binary discourse surrounding poverty. That is, the unsettling idea of "us" and "them."

Anti-poverty activist and professor of integrative studies Paul Gorski calls this the "deficit ideology." In his 2010 paper, "Unlearning Deficit Ideology and Scornful Gaze" Gorski writes that deficit ideology "is a worldview that explains and justifies outcome inequalities ... by pointing to supposed deficiencies within disenfranchised individuals and communities."

In a loose colloquial generalization, we too often use "they:" they don't value education, they choose to use drugs, they don't know how to eat healthily, they all choose to have children at young ages and they are all disposed to take advantage of government

welfare programs. The list goes on.

While easy enough for an explanation of inequality, deficit ideology leads to assumptions that are ignorant of the sociopolitical context that surrounds and impacts disenfranchised communities. It instead relies on the idea that problems spawn from within – it's the same thing as blaming the victim.

This dogma allows for a continuance of quick-fix remedies as problem solvers: low-cost fruits and vegetables, free parent mentoring, assistance for teenage pregnancy. In a display how out of touch policy-makers and outreach organizations can be, we see a way of fixing inequality with a focus on problems within communities, rather than those that weigh upon them.

In her viral Gawker piece "Why I Make Terrible Deci-

sions," Linda Tirado provides an eye-opening adventure into the decisions of those low-income individuals that academics, politicians, journalists and more speak about, and often shame, on a daily basis.

Tirado writes about fast food, a classic inferior good that is now stigmatized if used as a main source of nutrition: "Junk food is a pleasure that we are allowed to have. Why would we give that up? We have very few of them." Did that occur to anyone when they thought of farmers markets as a cure for malnourishment?

While a common and short-term cure for food access and insecurity is to throw fruits and vegetables in low-income areas, Tirado reminds us that this won't make a difference, as the action ignores the circumstances that brought her to where she currently stands and bind her to this

"hopeless" state, including terribly low wages and out-of-reach health care.

When fast food is a pleasure and access to health care is scant, what needs to happen is structural shift that allows individuals to enjoy healthful lifestyles without feeling pressed for time and money, something that we should all have.

Health should not be a priority only for the privileged. It should be provided for all, easily and conveniently. The idea that life is hopeless for so many people is frightening, and should remind those with power about the importance of government-funded services to those individuals that literally cannot provide themselves and their families with what they need in both the short and long term, at no fault of their own.♦

As tensions rise, territory dispute sets stage for potential skirmish

Conflict over Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands heightens



KYODO NEWS/AP PHOTO

Both Japan and China claim ownership of the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands because of their proximity to natural resources.

between the U.S. and Japan and repeated affirmations by the administration of President Barack Obama, a war involving Japan would likely draw in the U.S. military. Another war between China and Japan would be immensely destructive, especially given the prospect of American intervention.

Moreover, both China and the U.S. are nuclear powers, raising the specter of a thermo-nuclear holocaust.

The Chinese government is not solely – or even primarily – responsible for the escalation of tensions in Asia. One of Obama's chief foreign policy initiatives is the "pivot to Asia," whereby the U.S. would disentangle itself militarily from the Middle East in favor of countering Chinese influence in East Asia.

This has already resulted in the provocative shift of American naval power to the Pacific Ocean. According to CNN, 50 percent of U.S. warships are located in the Pacific, with plans to increase the amount to 60 percent.

The Obama administration has also aggressively backed the frightening rebirth of Japanese militarism under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Abe's bellicose remarks and increased "defense" spending are disturbingly reminiscent of the 1930s, with an Imperial Japan overrunning Korea, China and Indochina.

The U.S. Air Force also flew two nuclear-capable B-52 bombers through China's ADIZ the day after it was announced, despite the Chinese Ministry of National Defense warning of "defensive emergency measures," according to Time magazine.

The ultimate source of these tensions is that China and America seek to expand their influence in the region in order to attain hegemonic control over natural resources and markets.

At the same time, nationalist sentiment is whipped up to divert public attention from expanding chasms between the haves and have-nots in each country.

Experts and advisors know that the risk of a "miscalculation" that could lead to a military conflict only increases with each belligerent move by Washington, Tokyo and Beijing. No one taken seriously in these capitals, however, advocates de-escalation. The American, Japanese and Chinese ruling circles have no antiwar contingency and are leading the world to catastrophe.♦



JOSHUA DEJOY
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

Following years of increasing tensions with Japan, South Korea and the United States, the Chinese government proclaimed an Air Defense Identification Zone on Nov. 23.

China's establishment of an ADIZ is only the latest

in a series of provocative actions by Beijing, Tokyo and Washington over the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands. Reckless Chinese, Japanese and American actions threaten to erupt into a catastrophic conflagration on a scale that has not been seen since 1945.

Chinese and Japanese governments both claim a collection of rocky, virtually uninhabitable islets, the Senkakus – or Diaoyus in Chinese. Sovereignty over these islands would allow for control of vital fisheries and the Chunziao gas fields nearby.

Beyond the ruthless exploitation of natural resources needed by the world's second and third-largest economies, the islands are becoming the center of a new Sino-Japanese conflict since their "nationalization" by Tokyo in 2012 and Beijing's counterclaim.

Both China and Japan are using their competing claims to whip up nationalist sentiment under conditions of growing inequality and slowing economic growth.

Based on the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security

Contact the
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Rookie Ice Knights make immediate impact

BRIAN MCCORMACK
STAFF WRITER

In any sport, coaches and general managers will always rave about their team's youth. Youth translates to potential, to growth and to a bright future. In the short-term, however, it rarely translates to wins.

For the nationally ranked No. 12 Geneseo Ice Knights, their recent transfers and first-year players are arguably the reason for their 6-2 start to the season, the team's best in three years.

"The freshmen and transfers have made a dramatic impact for us," goalie junior Bryan Haude said. "Our defense core is one of the youngest in the SUNYACs, but they're extremely effective in shutting down the highly skilled forwards in this conference."

The Ice Knights defense was an area of concern going into the season, losing staples Colin De Jersey '13, Blake O'Connor '13 and Brandon Angotti '13 due to graduation and sophomore Alex Lubczuk, last year's freshman standout, leaving the program. Instead, this year's newcomers have solidified the team's defensive end of the rink and given the Ice Knights depth.

First-year Derek Stahl, last year's Defensive Player of the Year in the Eastern Junior Hockey League, was expected to step into a similar shutdown for Geneseo this year. He's been up to the task, playing a significant amount of minutes.

"He makes veteran plays and has adjusted the quickest out



KATI BUCK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

First-years No. 9 Connor Anthoine and No. 26 Jack Ceglarski both have one goal and three assists through the first eight games of the season.

of anyone," head coach Chris Schultz said. "He has a great hockey sense, and the game comes easy to him."

First-year Cam Hampson has been a revelation on the backend – arguably the Ice Knights' strongest defenseman through the team's first eight games.

"He's been very consistent. He's very intelligent, he's been responsible defensively and has a ton of offensive upside," Schultz said.

Offensive upside was what the Ice Knights were counting on from first-year Matt Solomon,

who transferred in from Sacred Heart University. Offense is exactly what he has provided.

Through eight games, Solomon has six points and has provided the heavy shot from the point the Ice Knights lacked on the power plays in the 2012-2013 season. This has freed up scorer senior Zachary Vit as well and given the Ice Knights two strong units. Geneseo is capitalizing on 27 percent of its power plays.

The Ice Knights have been an offensive powerhouse in the SUNYAC thus far, and first-year Stephen Collins is at the center of the conversation.

With 10 points in eight games, Collins is second in team scoring. His impact has been greater than his stats, as he showed with his highlight-reel overtime winner that lifted the Knights over Hobart College. Collins is a spark for the Ice Knights, one who can make something out of nothing.

With less flash, first-year Ryan Stanimir has been a model of consistency with points in six of the Ice Knights' eight games. First-years Jack Ceglarski and Connor Anthoine have been the team's best playmakers the past three games and have given

Schultz options shuffling the lineup with senior Garry Childerhose out of the lineup until after Christmas due to injury.

"They've been a great contribution to our program both as players and teammates," team captain senior Carson Schell said of the recent additions. "Each new guy has brought a different and unique component to our locker room."

Yet all these new parts, playing new roles with a new team, have bought into one Geneseo concept: to win now.

And they're a big reason why Geneseo is winning. Now. ♦

Blue Wave

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

been to the regional meet in diving."

The men also returned swimmers who are used to winning and made it to the finals last year, including sophomore Kristian Tialios, who is continuing his string of victories this season.

Just last season, the Blue Wave women dominated the competition in the SUNYAC championship, winning the 200-yard freestyle, 500-yard freestyle relay, 400 free relay, 200-yard medley relay and 200-yard breaststroke.

The men, unfortunately, suffered one of their only defeats by falling to SUNY Cortland in the finals. This year, they are looking for a different

finale in order to add another trophy to their already overflowing case.

It is through "hard work ... [and] being willing to go the extra mile in training and pushing yourself beyond any perceived limits," Dotterweich said. He added that this exceptional team has thrived and captured 21 SUNYAC titles in its history.

The women and men remain undefeated in SUNYAC meets and are on their way.

"How can there not be pressure [to win SUNYACs]," Dotterweich said. Fortunately, the members of the Blue Wave seem not to notice, as they are too busy winning. ♦

Indoor track looking to 'reload' this season

MIKE EISINGER
STAFF WRITER

Despite losing national championship-caliber runners on both the men's and women's sides, the theme of this year's indoor track team will once again be not to rebuild but to reload.

"You never replace anybody in this sport. You just simply [say], 'Next person up,'" head coach for his 10th year Dave Prevosti said. "Fortunately, we have a nice setup because last year we were pretty young, and we all got older and we have an amazing incoming class."

Arguably the biggest loss from last year's team on either side is Alyssa Smith '12, who won the NCAA Division III outdoor track and field steeplechase event in the spring 2013 semester as a graduate student. In indoor, Smith was a key part of the distance medley relay team that placed third at the NCAA indoor championships. Although Smith, who ran the 1600-meter leg, and Caitlin Kowalewski '13, who ran the 800-meter leg, are gone, junior Keira Wood and senior Allison

Hoh return to anchor the team and lead the women's side.

The distance running part of the team will once again feature many cross-country standouts, including senior Lauren McKnight, juniors Jacqueline Huben, Joanna Castrogivanni, Cassie Goodman and Alyssa Knott and freshman Sara Rosenzweig. The Knights' arsenal of sprinters is boosted by the return of junior Kristen Gottstine from injury and the addition of freshman Erin O'Connor, who starred on the soccer field this fall.

Jumpers will thrive from the experience of senior Carrie Levinn and the talent of freshman Joanna Heath, last year's New York State Section V long jump champion. Finally, junior Elyssa Slawinski, who is overseas until the spring semester, and senior Danelle Turney will look to improve on last year's solid throwing campaigns.

On the men's side, junior Cohen Miles-Rath is the only returning member from last year's distance medley relay team that also placed third at the national championships. Fresh off of a fifth-place finish in the SUNYAC cross-country meet, Miles-Rath

will have many cross-country teammates by his side, including junior Ryan Moynihan, brothers senior Patrick Wortner and sophomore Brendan Wortner and freshman Matt Jorgenson, to form one of the league's better long-distance groups.

In the field events, juniors Luke Taverne and Phil Longo will again look to dominate competition in the high jump while welcoming freshmen David Pollock and Brendan Macey to the fold in a unit that Prevosti thinks is just as good as the distance runners. Sprinter freshman Austin Donroe should make an immediate impact in a needed area, and lastly, the throwing squad regained senior Zach Markel from injury, who Prevosti says has been the "anchor" of the team for a couple of years.

Both squads will look to assert their talents at the opening meet of the season on Saturday Dec. 7 at the SUNY Brockport's Early Season Run. The Knights will then be off for break before returning a week before classes begin in January to begin training for the spring semester. ♦

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Men's basketball down in Wendy's Classic

TAYLOR FRANK
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The Geneseo men's basketball team took on St. John Fisher College Wednesday Dec. 4 in the first round of the 48th annual Wendy's College Classic tournament.

The fifth-seeded Cardinals, who don't have a single senior on the roster, entered the game with a 1-1 record. Geneseo, at the fourth seed, looked to build off the win against Medaille College Nov. 25.

In the first half, co-captain senior Connor Fedge had five points in as many minutes off the bench while fellow senior Matt Curry made a much bigger impact, scoring 11 points to put the Knights up 38-33 at the half.

Geneseo came out of the locker room very strong, going on a 13-7 run to start the second half – a run that brought juniors Andy Drescher and Gordon Lyons into double figures and gave the Knights an 11-point lead.

St. John Fisher was able to climb back in it, however, and with just over 10 minutes to play, the Cardinals took the lead 55-54 on a 3-pointer from junior Stefan Bock.

From there, the game went back and forth until sophomore Tyler Hart made a jump shot for St. John Fisher as he was fouled. After completing the three-point play, the Cardi-

nals were up 71-69 with 4:04 left.

After that, St. John Fisher was in control. The team went on a 16-10 run to end the game at a score of 87-79. Guard for St. John Fisher junior Adam Ambielli was the leading scorer for either team with 21, and his Cardinals will play SUNY Brockport in the semifinals on Friday Dec 6.

Despite the loss, the Knights still have games to play in the tournament. Geneseo will head to the Rochester Institute of Technology on Friday Dec. 6 to take on the Tigers. After that game, the team will play either Hobart College or Nazareth College on Saturday Dec. 7.

"From that Friday game to that Saturday game, you have to completely change who you're scouting," Fedge said.

Luckily for the Knights, one of their biggest strengths is their depth. Nine out of 14 players on the roster are either juniors or seniors.

Geneseo had four players score in double figures: Curry, Drescher, Lyons and co-captain senior Thomas Decker. Fedge finished with eight.

After the Wendy's tournament, the Knights will play Alfred State on Monday Dec. 9 and then spend three weeks following without a game.

"[The players] try to get together while we're still on campus during finals week," Fedge said, "It's actually a



ALEX LYONS/PHOTO EDITOR

No. 44 junior Devon Anderson came off the bench for Geneseo and scored four points in the loss to St. John Fisher College.

nice break to study and to get together and work out and shoot and play."

Winter break will also allow Fedge to heal more from a stress fracture in his foot that

sidelined him for the first two games of the season. In January 2014, SUNYAC play starts and games will become even more important. ♦

Auburn

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

hung on throughout the game, tying it at 28-28 with just 39 seconds left on the clock.

Alabama was not about to concede into overtime. Running back sophomore T.J. Yeldon put the Tide in a position to attempt a 57-yard field goal to win with just a second left. Head coach Nick Saban sent out redshirt kicker freshman Adam Griffith to attempt the mammoth kick – after three failed attempts earlier in the game by kicker senior Cade Foster.

It fell short.

It fell into senior Chris Davis' hands nine yards deep in the end zone.

No one touched Davis for 109 yards. He scored. Alabama 28, Auburn 34. Final.

It was a one-in-a-million play. Again.

The win gives Auburn a chance to extend its season even further. The Tigers will play the University of Missouri on Saturday Dec. 7 in the SEC Championship. From there, the winner could go on to play in the BCS National Championship, pending the results of a few other games.

If Auburn wins the National Championship, it would truly be defying odds. If you put \$10 on the Tigers to win the championship last January, you would stand to make \$2,000.

I hope Auburn loses to Missouri by 50. I hope Marshall's former teammates at Georgia press charges against him for stealing their money. I tip my cap, however, to a great comeback season. I tip my crimson-and-white cap to the Tigers for grasping victory from the tightly clenched jaws of defeat – twice.

Congrats on the victory, Auburn. The Tide will see you next

W. B-ball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

against the Tigers. The Knights' up-tempo style of play proved to be too much for RIT, as the Tigers had seven turnovers, five of which were steals by Geneseo.

"We jumped all over them," Hemer said. "We looked like the team the coaching staff envisions them being."

Following a 23-7 scoring run, the Knights went into halftime up 49-25 – the first time all season the Knights closed out the first half with the lead. Hemer said the Knights have struggled keeping the pace of play for all 40 minutes, which explains why, even being up by 22 at one point, he was still expecting more from his team.

Twenty of those first-half points belonged to junior Shannon McGinnis, who had a career night with 30 points and 10 rebounds. Through the first four games, she

averages 20.5 points per game and 10.5 rebounds per game, good for a double-double each time.

Sophomore Dana Cohen also played a vital role in the game, supplying a career-high nine assists. She averages 4.8 assists per game, the most on the team.

Despite the big win, Hemer does not appear satisfied. Not to say that he is upset, but he said there are always things to improve.

"I am a perfectionist, and I have high expectations," he said. "If they didn't have the talent level, it would be a different story."

With the victory, Geneseo advances to the semifinal game against defending Wendy's Classic champions University of Rochester at 6 p.m. on Thursday Dec. 5 at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester. The No. 2 seed this year, Rochester defeated SUNY Brockport on Tuesday Dec. 3 with a score of 56-46. ♦



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ARTICLE
ON PAGE 18

Hockey
first-years
shine on
the rink

SPORTS

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ARTICLE
ON PAGE 19

Men's
basketball
loses in
Wendy's Classic

McGinnis' career game lifts women's hoops



No. 22 junior Shannon McGinnis leads the Knights in points and rebounds this season. McGinnis had a career high 30 points in the game against Rochester Institute of Technology on Tuesday Dec. 3.

KEITH WALTERS/COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHER

JOE LEATHERSICH
SPORTS EDITOR

The Geneseo women's basketball team has gotten off to a hot start this season. The third-seeded Knights' record remains without blemish after they defeated the Rochester Institute of Technology on Tues-

day Dec. 3 at the Wendy's College Classic.

The tournament is in its 48th iteration and looks to give area teams a chance to compete against one another, as many of the teams play in different conferences. Head coach Scott Hemer said that he likes to use this tournament as a

"measuring stick" to see what the team needs to do to get ready for conference play.

Against RIT, the Knights looked ready as ever.

From the get-go, Geneseo was clearly the dominant team

See **W. B-BALL** on page 19

Winning ways continue for Blue Wave

NICK PRELLER
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

There is a timeless expression in sports, "Winning isn't everything." Apparently, the Geneseo Blue Wave men's and women's swimming and diving teams haven't yet gotten that message.

The women of the Blue Wave have won six championships and are looking for their seventh title this season. Their success dates back decades as they've won an unheard of 15 SUNYAC championships in 17 years. There isn't a professional team that can even be used as an example against that.

But the achievements don't end there. The men are just as successful in their own right, as the team has won 12 SUNYAC championships in the past 13 years.

Though Geneseo is only a small public college in western New York, its accomplish-

ments in the sport are well noted across the nation as it has made multiple trips to the illustrious NCAA Tournament, which features the best teams in the country.

The team has thrived because of dedicated and motivated leaders. Head coach Paul Dotterweich acknowledges a few exceptional athletes who have been key to the recent success.

"We have several leaders on the women's team, hard to pick out a few, although [junior] Abby Max is the defending SUNYAC Swimmer of the Year and an eight-time All-American," Dotterweich said. "She is clearly a very talented athlete."

Dotterweich added, "[Senior] Lily Powell has been to NAAs on relays the last two years and has four All-American certifications as well. [Senior] Emily Wanamaker has

See **BLUE WAVE** on page 18

Out of Bounds

Crimson Tide fan on Auburn victory

TAYLOR FRANK
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

I hate Auburn University with every living fiber of my being. I hate head coach Gus Malzhan, I hate quarterback junior Nick Marshall and I hate everything about that "cow college" – as former head coach for the University of Alabama Paul "Bear" Bryant so eloquently put it many years ago.

Needless to say, I am an Alabama fan, even a previous student. Roll tide. That being said, the 2013 Iron Bowl was the greatest football game I have ever seen.

Auburn is coming off a season where it was the laughing stock of the Southeastern Conference. That season ended with a 49-0 loss to Alabama, a game I attended. There were supposed to be dark days ahead for the Tigers.

Then came Malzhan.

Malzhan was the offensive coordinator when quarterback Cam – also known as "Scam" – Newton was at Auburn. In Newton's only season with the Tigers, they won the Bowl Championship Series National Championship over the University of Oregon. Still, no one was

expecting Malzhan to win many big games in 2013.

But then Auburn started winning those big games. The only blemish on the Tigers' record was a loss at Louisiana State University.

That almost changed against rival University of Georgia – almost.

With just half a minute to go, down 38-37 at home, fourth-and-18 from the team's own 27-yard line, Marshall threw up a prayer of a pass that deflected off two Georgia defenders – into the outstretched hands of wide receiver sophomore Ricardo Louis. The Tigers won 43-38 in what was dubbed "The Prayer at Jordan-Hare."

It was a one-in-a-million play.

Still, Auburn was a big home underdog to two-time defending National Champions Alabama. Not only is Alabama the winner of the past two titles, it has won three out of the last four. The year Alabama didn't win it, the title went to – you guessed it – Auburn.

The Iron Bowl game was a thriller the whole way. The Tigers

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DAVID MARTIN/AP PHOTO

No. 11 Chris Davis returned a missed field goal to give Auburn University the win over the University of Alabama in the 2013 Iron Bowl.