



Geneseo partners with Letchworth State Park

Graduation tickets to be distributed online

NICOLE SMITH
NEWS EDITOR



SEAN RUSSELL/ASSOC. PHOTO EDITOR

Geneseo became the official academic partner of Letchworth State Park as of March 12 in an effort that has been in the works since fall 2013. As part of the agreement, a nature center will be constructed at Letchworth, and Geneseo students will have preferential use of one of its two classrooms. The partnership aims to create internship, student research project and programming opportunities.

JUSTINE TALBOT

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Geneseo is now the official academic partner of Letchworth State Park. The partnership was formalized on March 12 as a result of the efforts of an advisory committee, which included both members of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and Geneseo students.

The agreement involves the creation of a nature center at Letchworth—which the state will fund along with contributions from Geneseo—as well as new opportunities for student and faculty engagement and research in the park.

Assistant professor of geography James Kernan has been instrumental in promoting this agreement since the fall of 2013. According to Kernan, Geneseo students will benefit from

the creation of the Letchworth nature center and students' research and other academic activities will in turn benefit the park.

"The expectation is that in the future we'll do things like coordinate internships, pitch ideas for student research projects, ideas for programming," Kernan said.

According to an article in the *Democrat and Chronicle*, Geneseo will have preferential use of one of the two classrooms in the nature center, designed to "promote educational and research activities."

Though construction on the nature center will not begin until May, the signing of the partnership agreement will have an immediate impact. In the past, students and faculty who had projects in the park had to go through an approval process as well as check in and pay an admission fee each time they entered the park.

"Now, everything is fast-tracked," Kernan explained. "The student researchers basically put their names on a checklist and when they go to the park to do work, they just drive right through the gates. They don't have to stop and check in and pay the fee."

Several student projects have already centered on Letchworth. Kernan himself headed a field study of 11 students in spring 2014. Students have also received funding to study deer populations, invasive species and stream quality in the park.

"I've had at least a dozen student volunteers that have worked with park managers to do invasive species monitoring," Kernan said.

This new partnership will not only benefit geography students, however. The advisory committee that helped precipitate the partnership included

students studying biology, geology, education, anthropology and history—many of whom are interested in the cultural and historical aspects of the park.

"It's cool to be able to research all the stuff in our backyard," sophomore Laurel Linde said. Linde is an anthropology major who is also interested in geology. "Letch is very interesting. I really like the park, and free is always good. I'm a big fan of free."

Kernan is also looking forward to the new possibilities that will come with this agreement.

"We've had students already taking classes and volunteering and doing research there, and the partnership wasn't even formalized until just a week or two ago," Kernan said. "So it's just very exciting. [There are] lots of opportunities."◆

Although commencement will continue to be held in Kuhl Gymnasium after speculation that it could be moved to the new athletic stadium, distribution of commencement tickets will change this year with the introduction of University Tickets. This follows the illegal sale of tickets by students that the college addressed with a cautionary email in April 2014.

University Tickets is a website which distributes tickets electronically to students. According to Director of Campus Scheduling and Special Events Andrea Klein, eligible students can log on and claim their four tickets.

"What will happen is beginning April 13–17, any eligible student who has filed to graduate and indicated that they're participating—those are two distinctly different things—will be able to log in using their Geneseo network username and password and go through the process claiming their four e-tickets," Klein explained.

Once students have claimed their tickets, which have the student's name and a unique barcode on them, students have the option of printing, saving as a PDF or emailing their tickets to their guests.

Klein explained that in the past, students have had difficulty getting more than four tickets, but Klein expressed hopes that this switch to University Tickets will make obtaining extra tickets easier.

"We've never had a mechanism to manage that there are some students that that don't need four and some students who need five, or whatever variation you want to put to that," she said. "Committing to the e-ticketing system allows them to donate the tickets back into a pool."

Klein explained that shortly after the main distribution week, seniors can log

See [GRADUATION](#) on page 4

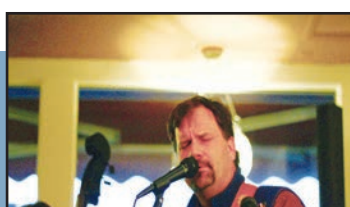
WHAT'S INSIDE?

OPINION



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GENESEO FORECAST

FRI. 34°/16°

SAT. 27°/15°

SUN. 44°/35°

MON. 44°/30

TUES. 46°/29°

WED. 56°/38°

SA Budget Review Committee releases preliminary budgets for next academic year

NICOLE SMITH
NEWS EDITOR

Student Association Director of Business Affairs senior William Fagan announced the 2015–2016 academic year budgets for approximately 60 SA funded organizations on March 6. Fagan and the Budget Review Committee—which consists of 10 other students and SA Director of Programs, Personnel and Finance Kate Rebban—decided the budgets. Of these aforementioned organizations, three filed for appeals.

“It was really great,” Fagan said. “Overall, people were pretty happy. A couple of the appeals are pretty quick fixes; it’s nothing major.”

Activities Commission Concerts Coordinator junior Gannon Andrews explained that he was pleased with the concert’s budget, which has increased for next year. The budget was cut from \$85,000 to \$51,000 in 2014. In 2015–2016 it will be raised to approximately \$67,000.

“It went really well for us this year because we’re traveling on the momentum from Walk the Moon,” Andrews said. “Because Walk the Moon went so well, we asked for

more money. We got a raise in our budget, which is awesome, so I hope next year to go back to one concert in Kuhl Gymnasium because we have a little more wiggle room with our money now.”

SA Director of Student Programming senior Alexis O’Hara agreed that based upon the recent changes to the concert budget reverting back to one larger concert is the best option for Geneseo.

“Getting a certain genre in the budget amount we had this past year is really, really difficult and we can only reach so many people with that amount of money, especially when it’s such a small venue concert,” she said.

After the budget cuts, AC decided to host two smaller concerts—one each semester—in the College Union Ballroom, which has a capacity of roughly 700 people, instead of in Kuhl Gym, which can hold 3,000.

While last semester’s Walk the Moon concert sold out all 700 available tickets in under a week, ticket sales for the Mary Lambert concert on Sunday March 29 have been low.

“The first concert worked really well. Mary Lambert hasn’t sold

See **BUDGET** on page 4



ZOE FINN/PHOTO EDITOR

Walk the Moon performed in the College Union Ballroom on Nov. 16. Activities Commission Concerts moved the concert to the Ballroom from the Kuhl Gymnasium to address its decreased budget, which was reduced by about \$30,000 for the 2014-2015 academic year. Earlier this month, Student Association announced preliminary budgets for approximately 60 SA funded organizations, including Activities Commission. SA Director of Business Affairs senior William Fagan said that many clubs’ budgets remained the same, although the concerts budget noticeably increased for the 2015-2016 school year.

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Referendum Results (out of 1,535 students who voted)

For referendum: 1,230
Against referendum: 305
For increasing referendum by \$5: 1,090
Against increasing referendum by \$5: 445

Great Clips franchise opens in Wegmans Plaza

EMMA BIXLER
ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

The Geneseo community welcomed a franchise of Great Clips hair salon into the Genesee Valley Plaza on Thursday March 19 with a private ribbon cutting ceremony and an official grand opening on Saturday March 21. It will join several other salons services in town, such as Main Street's Image Empire Salon and Envy Salon and Spa.

Great Clips franchise owner Sean Flint expressed excitement at expanding his business into Geneseo. He owns two additional salons in Brighton and Gates in the greater Rochester area. "The plaza is a terrific place to open a salon," he said. "Wegmans brings in a lot of traffic from a widespread area, not just locally in Geneseo. It provides year-round business."

The characteristics of a college town appealed to Flint as well, where the students represent much of the business success throughout Geneseo.

As for community involvement, Flint explained that he prides himself in keeping his salon staffed with stylists from Livingston County.

"It's a joy to have local people come in and see stylists they know or who have done their hair before," he said.

Up and running with this staff of local stylists, the business at Great Clips has been steady throughout the week—Flint noted that the Geneseo location superseded his other salons with the best four-to-five-day start.

Great Clips has now become one of the multiple hair salons already situated in town.

Image Empire Salon owner Angel Berry said that she likes the variety of hair services available.

"There are salons that feel comfortable to some, but uncomfortable to others," she said. "They fit people differently, so having more than one actually benefits the community."

Berry added that she prefers to look at her fellow hairdressers as business peers rather than competitors.

"At times, there have been six salons open right here on Main Street, but that has never affected my usual business," she said. Subsequently, Berry explained that she finds no reason to worry about the opening of Great Clips.

"There are plenty of customers to go around," she said.

Envy Salon and Spa manager Pat Mendoza had a similar take on the array of hair services.

"Hair styling is an industry and with that, you have to have many options and avenues," she said. "There are so many different types of people looking for different things. Great Clips will be great for families and convenience. At Envy, we like to offer a salon experience that combines the convenience of a walk-in to the styling expertise seen in big cities."

Flint emphasized his personal belief that competition is inevitable, but he will face it regardless of the type of markets in which he opens a business.

"Every salon has specific attributes," he said. "Great Clips is unique in that we like to provide a great overall experience beyond just a haircut, from when the customer walks in to when they walk out."

"We all cater to a different type of person," Mendoza said. "I think that's why all the salons in one town work. We can be comrades. A little healthy competition is good—it ultimately benefits the client."◆

Luxury apartments to be built behind Valley Liquor



ANNA SAMSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Owner of the Valley Liquor Shop Teri Thielges will open three high-end two-person apartments in fall 2015 behind the Valley Liquor Shop that will be available for students to rent for the 2015-2016 academic year.

EMMA BIXLER
ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

Owner of the Valley Liquor Shop Teri Thielges has expanded her business horizons with the construction of high-end student apartments to be located behind her storefront. After presenting alongside O'Donnell & Associates for approval from Geneseo's Zoning Board of Appeals, Thielges expressed hopes to have completed the apartments by fall of 2015.

Prior to construction, only a mini storage unit sat behind Valley Liquor, which Thielges decided to eliminate in order to create room for 3 small apartments. She said that this project is the brainchild of her son, a recent Geneseo graduate. Each unit will be created for two roommates and will be equipped with a custom kitchen, two bedrooms, a bathroom and unique additions such as fireplaces.

The exterior of the apartments will include stone

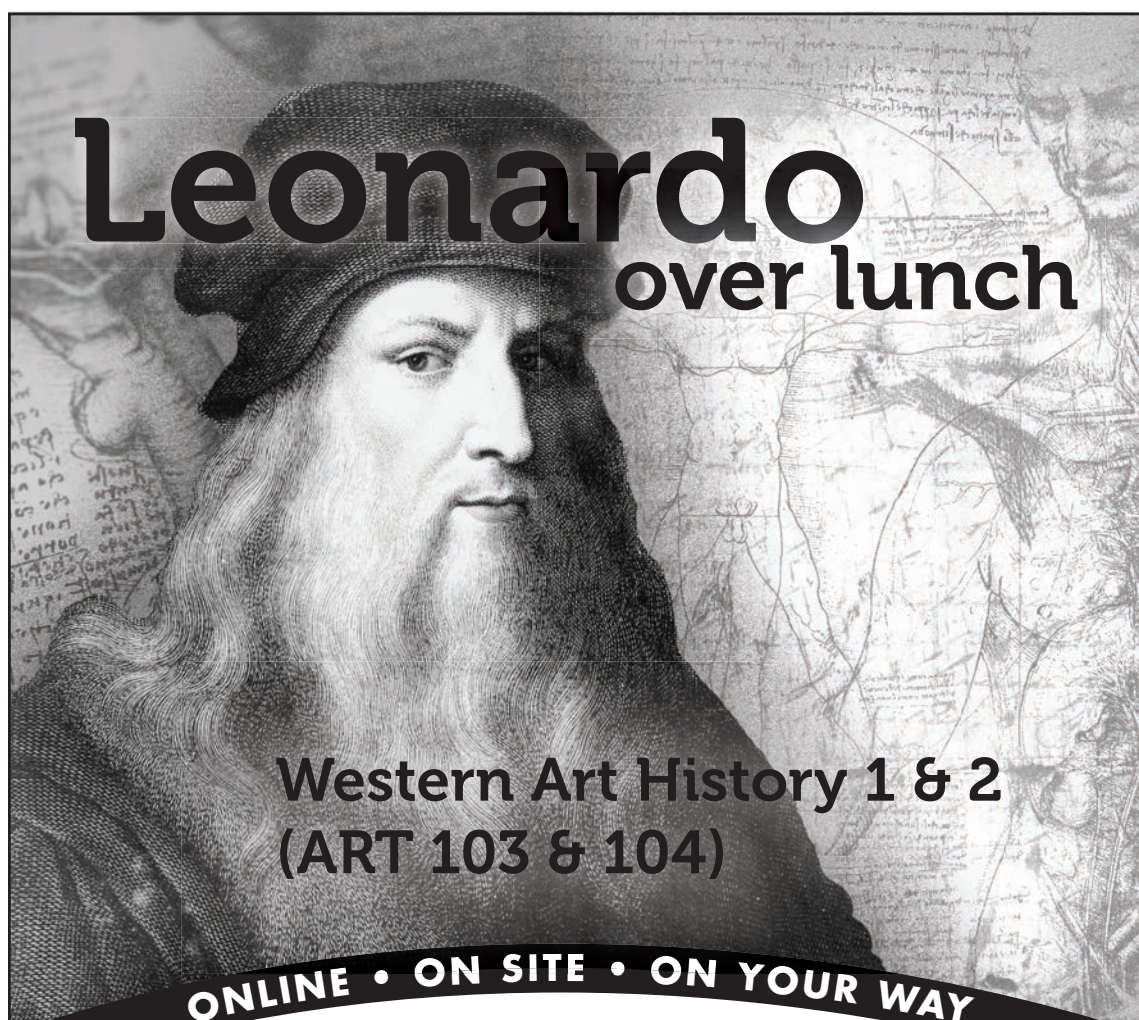
landscaping and greenery, which Thielges hopes will give the location a "cool, downtown" atmosphere.

The demand for high quality, off-campus living from students has motivated Thielges to provide this different type of atmosphere. The two-person offerings will provide options in addition to the two-person apartments currently available elsewhere in Geneseo.

"This will definitely increase some of the consumer traffic up on Main Street," Main Street Manager senior Lauren Hollasch said. "It will also give students a really 'off-campus' environment. There currently aren't a lot of students living on that side of town."

"I have a vision for better student living," Thielges added. "I take pride in Geneseo, which has motivated me to invest in this nicer space."

The apartments will be available to rent upon completion.◆



Leonardo over lunch

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THE MONITOR

Campus Police Log

Mar. 6- **Criminal Mischief**, Newton Hall, 12:20 a.m.

Mar. 7- **Criminal Mischief**, Merritt Athletic Center
12:24 a.m. Arrest- Adult

Mar. 8 - **Falsely Reporting an Incident**, Ontario Hall, 3:15 a.m.

Mar. 10- **Unlawful Possession of Marijuana**, Ontario Hall, 8:05 p.m.

Mar. 12- **Petit Larceny**, Onondaga Hall, 3:00 p.m.

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

Budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

as well as we hoped," Andrews said. "I think it's because students don't realize Walk the Moon was half the concert's budget, so we're not working with the full budget [this semester] like we normally are. So, it's not someone huge; it's somebody who's a little less expensive but still out there and popular."

O'Hara expressed hopes that next year's concert will reach a larger portion of the student body.

"We reach the most people on campus collectively—in terms of Activities Commission—and especially the concerts—so that was our main argument," O'Hara said. "We could go back to the one system and be able to have more people on campus attend the concert."

Fagan explained that the passage of the SA referendum earlier this month in which students voted to increase their mandatory SA funds by \$5 next year affected the amount of money the Budget Review Committee could allocate to organizations.

"With the bigger organizations that have the bigger budgets—especially like Activities Commission that really need the budgets to thrive—just making sure that they have enough funds to thrive [is a challenge]," he said.

As far as the budget review process goes, Fagan explained that he starts at the beginning of the spring semester by sending each organization a memo outlining the budget review process and highlighting important dates, such as when budget review hearings will be conducted and when the preliminary budgets will be available.

Fagan and the Budget Review Committee chair the budget review hearings held for two weeks in February, and the organization presidents and treasurers are asked to attend.

"We ask the clubs to tell us a little bit about them, why they benefit campus, why they should continue to be recognized by SA; give us a breakdown of what changes they want to be

made to their budget and then we would open it up to question and answer," Fagan said.

The budgets announced on March 6 are preliminary budgets and Fagan noted that they could be subject to change, if necessary. The budgets will become official after they are passed by the SA Executive Committee in a two reading process. Fagan will present the readings on April 15 and 22.

Fagan added that the Budget Review Committee made decisions expecting the referendum to pass. Had it not passed, cuts would have had to be made after preliminary budgets were announced, something he explained in the packet distributed to all organizations at the start of the budget review process.

"It was nice, a lot of the budgets stayed the same this year," Fagan said. "We looked at the budgets on their own, isolated them and tried to eliminate any bias. We really thought, 'Ok, what is fair for this club in order for them to succeed?' Because that's what we want." ♦

Graduation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on and get an extra ticket on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"We're hoping to ask students to just be good citizens standing for good values and donate their tickets back," she said. "Tickets are unique by a barcode and have the student's name on them, so if you print a ticket out with your name and the unique barcode on it and sell it to another student, now there's a way for us to identify where the ticket came from."

This introduction of an electronic ticketing system is vastly

different from the way tickets were distributed in previous years.

"In the past, what we did was we had a printed ticket system where students would go to the registrar's office the 3 days prior to commencement—Wednesday, Thursday and Friday—and pick up their paper tickets and sign for them," Klein said. "Anyone who couldn't make it during those three days could pick up their tickets in the gym with their ID an hour before the ceremony."

While tickets have not been distributed yet, Klein noted that

she has seen a different "tone" surrounding graduation tickets.

"Now that there's a mechanism for there to potentially be extra tickets, people seem to be a little calmer about the situation, which is good," she said.

Commencement Intern senior Cassidy Lester said she feels positively about the change.

"I'm excited about the new ticketing system because I think it will expedite the process and provide the opportunity to get more than the previous four allotted tickets," she said. ♦

Longtime political science professor dies



GENESEU.EDU

Professor of political science and international relations Kenneth Deutsch is remembered by his colleagues and students after his passing on March 16.

TAYLOR FRANK SPORTS EDITOR

Professor of political science and international relations Kenneth Deutsch died on March 16. Deutsch had been teaching at Geneseo since 1973.

Deutsch served as the political science department chair from 1979–1984. He received a Fulbright award after teaching and researching in India in 1979. He specialized in political theory, constitutional law and comparative political systems. Before his death, Deutsch was writing a book about free speech and the promotion of violence in constitutional democracies.

Professor of political science and international relations Edward Drachman viewed Deutsch as a tremendous educator and mentor to many students.

"He's old school, but in the best way," he said. "Old school in the sense of being demanding of students—of maintaining rigorous standards without wavering in any way and trying to get the best out of each student."

Deutsch had a reputation of being a tough teacher, but senior Patrick McCormick said that he made students better members of society.

"You can't not pay attention [in his lectures]," McCormick said. "He's too engaging, he demands too much out of you and I think that helped make me a better student and challenged me to really succeed at Geneseo in all of my classes."

Political science major junior Harrison Hartsough, who was a teaching assistant for Deutsch, echoed this sentiment.

"He took me under his wing," he said. "It wasn't a relationship just centered on [academic rigor]; he also ultimately taught me how to be a good citizen." ♦

Deutsch was known around the Geneseo community as an exceptional conversationalist.

"I always enjoyed our conversations," Drachman said. "They were always stimulating, provocative and contentious, but memorable."

Conversations with Deutsch went beyond politics for students like Hartsough.

"We were able to have a really fruitful conversation about something that we shared an interest in: classical music," he said. "Getting to engage with him on a personal level was very meaningful because I got to see the scope and sheer depth of knowledge he had in such a wide variety of areas."

Drachman said that he will dearly miss his weekly lunches with Deutsch, something they have done every Monday together for nearly 20 years.

"We always—in addition to sharing the meal—we shared good conversation," Drachman said. "We discussed politics, books, movies, education and there was never a shortage of ideas or topics. My intellectual batteries were charged each time."

"There are countless lawyers and professionals out there who are proud Geneseo alumni who can attest to the fact that Deutsch is the type of person who drives you to be the best you," McCormick said. He added that although Deutsch was not always a student favorite, he always made a positive impact on students' lives.

"Whether you liked him or not, he makes you a better you," he said. "We should all be grateful that Geneseo had a professor for over 40 years who did that."

Deutsch is survived by his sister Bonnie Mund who lives in Queens, New York and his friends in and around the Geneseo community. ♦

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OPINION



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STAFF EDITORIAL:

After five years, Obamacare still offers useful benefits for students

The Affordable Care Act had its fifth anniversary on Monday March 23. Better known as Obamacare, the plan has divided Republicans and Democrats ever since its passage. Republicans have tried and failed to repeal the law dozens of times, and even the Supreme Court ruled on the constitutionality of Obamacare, upholding the law by a vote of 5-4 in 2012. United States Sen. Ted Cruz—who recently announced his candidacy for president in 2016—expressed his goal to see Obamacare fully repealed despite also announcing that he would be signing up for the exchange after falling off of his wife’s plan.

On the fifth anniversary of Obamacare, it is instructive to look at what the law has actually accomplished, especially for students. Most notably, the law allows students to remain on their parents’ plans until the age of 26. For students whose parents do not have insurance, however, the law has also regulated student health plans across campuses nationwide.

According to U.S. News & World Report, Obamacare requires student insurance plans to offer preventative care, prescription coverage, access to Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptives, increase coverage caps and stop denying coverage to students based on pre-existing conditions. Student health plans—upon which over one million college students rely according to the American Council on Education—are essentially being subjected to the same standards as regular health insurance plans.

This is incredibly important for many reasons. Previously, schools that required students to have some form of health insurance—38 percent of public four-year colleges, according to 2008 survey by the American College Health Association—forced students to buy into plans that would not even cover their maladies.

While Obamacare has bolstered student insurance plans, there is no evidence to suggest that premiums have uniformly increased. Schools that introduced the ACA-mandated reforms gradually, focusing on encouraging enrollment and utilization of on-campus resources, actually saw a slight decrease in premiums.

Without the regulations and benefits mandated by the ACA, schools essentially had license to rob students via health insurance premiums that did not buy them comprehensive coverage. Schools should not be allowed to force students to pay into plans that will either exclude them from coverage based on pre-existing conditions or cut off care based on arbitrary coverage caps. If the supposed increase in premiums forces schools to abandon their insurance plans rather than abide by the new mandates, then students will be better off not paying for ineffective coverage.

Amid all the partisan fervor surrounding Obamacare, it is clear that students have benefitted from its rollout and will continue to—as long as the GOP continues to be unsuccessful in dismantling it. ♦

Beef vs. tofu: Vegetarianism a more eco-friendly option



ERIK MEBUST
COLUMNIST

If asked to name the most significant things people do in their daily lives that have a negative impact on the environment, it is doubtful that many would mention eating lunch. Depending on what this theoretical person eats, however, his or her lunch could do more environmental damage than the drive to work or the energy expended heating their home.

Eating meat has far worse environmental implications than most people realize. We need to do more to promote vegetarian eating habits in the United States.

Due to global warming, choosing among food groups is actually a life or death decision for our planet. Animal agriculture produces 18 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions; 4.5 percent more than the emissions of the entire global transportation system.

This occurs partly because animals produce more damaging forms of greenhouse gas. Livestock-produced nitrous oxide is 300 times as damaging to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. Methane is 23 times as powerful a greenhouse gas as carbon dioxide, and cows and sheep account for 37 percent of total methane produced by human activity. That’s right—the flatulence of domesticated cattle is actually a serious threat to life on earth.

The environmental impact of livestock is twofold. By choosing to devote 70 percent of the world’s farmland to animal agriculture, we pay an opportunity cost of not using that land to grow crops. Plants

are constantly conducting photosynthesis, which binds free-floating carbon in the atmosphere into a less environmentally-harmful form. If we were to use that land for plant agriculture instead, not only would we eliminate some of our most harmful greenhouse gas emissions, but we would also be actively reducing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Apart from the effects on global warming, there are land usage implications of a carnivorous diet as well. The average diet in most developed countries requires the use of 2.5 times as much land as a vegetarian diet and five times as much as a vegan diet. Not all land used to raise livestock is suitable for plant agriculture, but one third of farmable land is used to produce feed for livestock. We should use that land to grow food to eat ourselves.

It is ridiculous to expect everyone in the world to give up meat completely. But eating

less meat would go a long way toward addressing the problems of our modern world. It isn’t enough to just ask people to do this themselves. Legislators should reduce subsidies on animal agriculture and increase those on plant agriculture. Restaurants that serve only vegetarian food or only vegetarian food certain days of the week should receive tax credits.

As many who frequent Letchworth Dining Hall can attest, vegetarian food can actually be quite delicious—eating less meat doesn’t have to be a hardship. Meat should be served as infrequently as possible in the cafeterias of schools and corporations.

If we are serious about reducing our impact on the environment as a society, reducing our meat consumption is a crucial step. ♦

TWEETS of the WEEK



“That Moment When Peeing Feels So Good You Start Crying.”

- @officialjaden

“started watching Mad Men now my sex drive is uncontrollable”

- @sean_butts

“i really hate it when people use zodiac signs to justify certain actions like i don't care if you're a pisces daniel ur being a dick”

- @granniewinkle

On music scene safe spaces

The importance may be lost on older generations



EMILY HOLDGRUEN
OPINION EDITOR

Music is a significant part of youth culture. I've been exposed to punk, emo and indie local scenes, all of which share a common characteristic: an increasing importance being placed on creating safe art spaces and enforcing and respecting consent within them.

From Rochester to Brooklyn to the local scene at Geneseo, evolving youth culture emphasizes and addresses the issues of masculinity and aggression in music scenes as

well as addressing what participants can do to make spaces comfortable for people other than white males. What I've witnessed and experienced within these spaces, however, is a potential generation gap between our youth generation and older, adult participants.

There was a casual, calm atmosphere at a recent rock show in Rochester. There existed a mutual understanding among the young crowd that this was the type of show where you may head bob while sipping a beer, but not push or mosh like previous shows I've attended at this exact venue.

There was a surprisingly large percentage of middle-aged adult audience members at the show, some of whom appeared to be as old as my parents. I couldn't help but notice the unspoken safe space and consent rules—understood by most respectable young people familiar with music scenes—

were violated by the older audience members.

One man—who I estimated to be in his late 40s or early 50s—reached over and smacked the back of the head of a young man in front of him whose arms were raised, taking a picture of the stage with his cell phone.

While they can be annoying and obstructive, cell phones are typically used during any kind of show—it's a big part of our generation's culture. It is never acceptable to touch, to be aggressive to or pettily assault a complete stranger at a show. As a close bystander, I was anxious about this man potentially touching me in a similar way if he didn't like something I was doing.

It seemed to me that this older man enforced authority over a young person, whilst not understanding typical show etiquette or appropriate consent.

Another man who looked about the same age caused disruptions during the show by heckling the musician and starting verbal fights with other audience members. During the encore of the show, this man came up behind me, put his arms tightly around my lower body, moved me to the side and pushed in front of me to jump and dance around the mostly motionless crowd.

Three years of attending shows leads to weird experiences—being kicked in the face, punched in the gut and even inhaling pepper spray. Obviously, unwanted touching was nothing I had experienced before in art and music spaces. It was not expected at such a calm, respectable show.

Safe space and consent just may not be something some adult audiences think about. It is often coupled with current and evolving feminist ideas, some of which older genera-

tions may not care about or take seriously. Safe art spaces are not new, but have evolved from previous music cultures and scenes. Its revival is becoming more prevalent in our youth music culture and may not be realized by older generations.

Alcohol and drugs may hinder judgment, but it is overwhelmingly possible that the importance of safe space education and enforcement at these music scenes is underestimated by older generations. No one should ever be denied entry to a music or art space because of age, but if this generational gap of knowledge and etiquette exists, more attention must be made to education at these spaces. Violations made by older men completely undermine the goals of the movement and culture. ♦

United States' embargo hinders potential wealth, relations with Cuba



TAYLOR FRANK
SPORTS EDITOR

The United States' embargo on Cuba is ridiculous and unnecessary. It may have made sense to put it in place at the height of the Cold War, but now it does nothing but hurt Cuban citizens and limit the freedoms of American citizens. President Barack Obama may have taken some steps toward rectifying the situation, but he needs to go further.

Cuban President Raúl Castro has made significant improvements to Cuba's economy since he assumed the presidency from his brother Fidel in 2008. Many sectors have been privatized to allow about 300,000 people to own their own businesses. Addi-

tionally, over 600,000 jobs have been eliminated from the federal payroll.

This is nowhere near enough change and Castro is still in no way a good person. But there have been some improvements; Obama opening up relations with the island nation is another step in the right direction.

An interesting step made in the private sector is the emergence of Netflix to Cuba. Fiscally speaking, there is no real boost to the company's bottom line—only 5 percent of the country has uncensored access to the internet and the service fee of \$8 per month is about half of the average monthly salary. If it were only about money, Netflix would expand to countries like Australia or South Africa.

Instead, this move represents the beginning of American investment in Cuba. Netflix is one of the first major companies to do business on the formerly embargoed island in nearly half a century. For Netflix, this means that they're the flag bearers for an entire movement that could soon

materialize. American cruise ships and travel companies could potentially bring a source of wealth to Cuba's economy that it hasn't seen in years.

Still, there is room to grow. Cuba has the potential to be a wealthy nation, yet its government denies it that opportunity. Many Cubans see that there is considerably more wealth to be found in the U.S. During the Caribbean Series—a baseball tournament for Caribbean nations—two Cuban players defected to the U.S. after leaving their hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The players, 30-year-old Daniel Moreira and 19-year-old Vladimir Gutierrez, are not top Major League Baseball prospects hell-bent on landing a contract. MLB rules even state that they cannot be eligible for free agency until they establish residency in a third country. This is because of a U.S. law that prohibits doing business in Cuba. Although this may change due to the normalization of U.S.-Cuban relations, it will still be an uphill battle for the players.

More importantly for Cuba, the U.S. needs to allow free travel to the country. Although celebrities like Jay Z and Beyoncé have been permitted to travel to the island under the "people-to-people" program, travel for leisure purposes is prohibited. I was presented with the opportunity to travel by boat to Santiago de Cuba from Jamaica last year. While I couldn't afford it at the time, I still regret not going to see this forbidden land.

The travel ban does nothing but limit the freedoms of American people and companies and hurt the economy of an already poor country. Lifting the ban is the next logical step in the process to normalize U.S.-Cuban relations.

Netflix has gotten in on the ground floor and hopefully, more companies will put pressure on the U.S. government by following suit. Obama was right when he said, "Fifty years have shown that isolation hasn't worked." Now it's time for him to show that he really means what he says. ♦

THE WAY WE SEE IT

 A six-episode "X-Files" revival will soon be in the works by Fox Network. The truth has been out there since the 1990s, and we can't wait to binge-watch and find it.

 Zayn Malik of One Direction officially quit the successful boyband. The rest of the band will continue and produce another album, but how will we survive without the hunky high tenor?

 "X Factor New Zealand" judge Natalia Kills bullied a contestant while essentially claiming her husband and fellow judge Willy Moon was the first man to ever wear a suit. We've never felt more second-hand embarrassment.

The Lamron wants you and your opinions!
Contact the opinion editor at
lamron.opinion@gmail.com

Oklahoma fraternity's actions symptomatic of systemic racism



KATHERINE ZITO
COLUMNIST

A 10-second video of Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers at the University of Oklahoma has been the center of a recent controversy. In the video, members of the fraternity could be seen and heard participating in a blatantly racist chant. With racial slurs and celebratory messages about lynching incorporated, the chant declared that there would never be a black individual in the fraternity.

In response to the video being made public, OU President David L. Boren did the right thing: he shut down the fraternity chapter immediately. His statement minced no words, calling the members of the fraternity “disgraceful” and condemning their behavior completely.

I applaud President Boren’s response to this blatant racist offense, but it definitely raises the question of why it takes such a vulgar, hateful act to prompt this kind of punitive action. I doubt that any group of people goes from being a paragon of acceptance to chanting about racist murder without any kind

of warning. I find it much more likely that earlier displays of racism were present, but reactions to them were labeled as “politically correct” overreactions.

If that was not the case in Oklahoma, it is certainly the case in many incidents in which actions that demonstrated bias and prejudice towards marginalized groups must be handled with great tact, lest one be accused of being too sensitive. This is compounded by a tendency to only see bigotry in forms that are not only the most obvious, but the easiest to distance oneself from.

It is not hard for the average person to admit that the Ku Klux Klan is racist or that the Westboro Baptist Church is homophobic. It is much harder, however, for the average person to look inside themselves for more subtle kinds of bias and reflect on it.

Racism and other forms of bigotry are not only present in the chants of rowdy fraternity brothers. They are present in the highest echelons of academia and society. Similarly, homophobia is not only present in the chants of the Westboro Baptist Church, and misogyny exists outside of conservative religious institutions.

I agree with President Boren’s harsh response to the racism exhibited by the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter. I believe that rather than just extending this response to those who are obviously bigoted, everyone engaged in higher education needs

to exercise this level of scrutiny towards our own behavior. Racism and other kinds of bigotry are not always as obvious as the drunken antics of frat boys yelling racial slurs. On some levels, racism is insidious, acceptable and institutionalized.

University of Oklahoma linebacker Eric Striker released a video on social media using profanity and aggressive language towards the racist behavior demonstrated by the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter. He also addressed the hypocrisy that becomes obvious in a system

that insists that “racism doesn’t exist” when events like this are made public. Striker apologized for his use of profanity in addressing this injustice, and it is in events like this that we need to examine our prejudices more deeply.

While the linebacker of a football team is representing the school and must behave accordingly on social media, there is nothing inappropriate about reacting to racism and bigotry with profanity. An apology from Striker is not necessary, however, an apology to Striker and every

student receiving their education within a system stacked against them because of racism is.

Responses to bigotry being aggressive and strict might not be pleasant, but they are necessary. They are necessary not only when the racism is as obvious as it is in the leaked video, but when it is subtle and ingrained into our culture. I hope that all institutions in higher education can follow Boren’s lead in reacting to bias-related incidents, both big and small. ♦



NICK OXFORD/AP PHOTO

Facility workers remove Greek letters from the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house at the University of Oklahoma. The administration was right to take action and shut down the fraternity after members were caught on video using chanting racial slurs.

The American Dream and the value of higher education



GRANT KUSICK
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

Self-determination is an attractive concept. The spaghetti western fantasy of the downtrodden individual making his or her way in the world is at the heart of American conservative discourse—and in many ways, political discourse—about our economy. After all, the Koch brothers are self-made; they started with millions and ended up with billions.

Even United States President Barack Obama—supposedly the most radical president in American history—has been

suckered into such wishful thinking. Though commendable, his plan to make the first two years of community college free reflects a worldview that is moving toward dominance: that education is at the heart of the pernicious inequality in the U.S. and abroad. In other words, fix the education gap and fix the income gap. Up-lifting as this idea is, it’s simply wrong.

Higher education is undoubtedly important; a degree is more or less obligatory to exist as an adult member of the middle class. In philosophical terms, however, a college diploma has become a “necessary, but not sufficient condition” for financial security.

Writing for *The New York Times*, David Brooks lambasted “redistributionists” like myself who believe that income equality requires more than improved education. “Americans with a four-year college degree make 98 percent more per hour than

people without one,” he wrote. This is unsurprising, considering that college-educated people are pre-sampled from higher income brackets and the income bracket you’re born into is an excellent predictor of your earnings as an adult. Brooks was forced to conclude that negative Nancy-redistributionists are so deluded because, “...their view is biased by temporary evidence from the recession.” This ignores the fact that wages for college-educated Americans have been flat for decades—which Brooks himself acknowledged.

Brooks’ colleague Nobel Laureate in Economics and “redistributionist” Paul Krugman provided a reasonable answer several weeks in advance of Brooks’ article. “Corporate profits have soared as a share of national income, but there is no sign of a rise in the rate of return on investment ... it’s what you would expect if rising profits re-

fect monopoly power rather than returns to capital,” he wrote. A variety of factors—most notably outsourcing and the information revolution—have conspired to make jobs harder to come by at all skill levels, thereby increasing demand and desperation. As a result, employers can squeeze more out of their employees for less.

This is all completely independent of rates of college education, which have risen continually. Underpayment and underemployment for college graduates aren’t just byproducts of corporate greed, however. Adjunct instructors at Geneseo are told to be grateful for the privilege of doing extremely skilled work for slavish hours and miserable pay, simply because they have a job. The ‘adjunctification’ of higher education is evidence that, if anything, there are more college grads than the market can—or is willing to—employ in good jobs.

Whatever the injustice of the current situation and its causes, we have to learn to exist in a market where even people with terminal degrees are undervalued. The common wisdom is that science, technology, engineering and mathematics degrees will guarantee a stable and well-paying career. As with the equivocation of education and success, the common wisdom is incorrect. Very high salaries in the technical disciplines are mostly limited to engineering, medicine and computer science, and competition is fierce everywhere.

Whether your major is physics or philosophy, success depends on tireless effort to build connections and develop skills that separate you from the pack. In the words of author Cal Newport, being “so good they can’t ignore you” is the only option in a career landscape where everybody is disposable. ♦

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Contact: Marilyn • 585-738-5736 • marilyn@geneseorentals.com

Students Eight bedroom. Across the street from campus. for the school year: **2015-2016**

Rent includes all expenses: Internet, electricity, heat, hot water, water, sewer, trash, off-street parking, snow/salt, maintenance.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Singer-songwriters serenade in Kinetic Gallery



JAKE WADE/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

Folk-pop musician MaryLeigh Roohan performed at the Kinetic Gallery on March 6 in the third installment of Geneseo Late Knight and Activities Commission's coffeehouse series. Sophomore Ella Mosco opened for the Albany native, who plans on releasing a live EP this summer.

CLAYTON SMITH STAFF WRITER

Geneseo Late Knight and Activities Commission hosted a night of music in the Kinetic Gallery on March 6 as part of their collaborative coffeehouse series. Sophomore Ella Mosco of slackjaw opened for MaryLeigh Roohan, a singer-songwriter from the Albany area.

Mosco warmed up the audience with a repertoire of ukulele tunes. The set included a mixture of slow, heartfelt songs as well as some catchier, upbeat tunes.

Mosco played several covers, like Bright Eyes' "Lua" and Radiator Hospital's "Cut Your Bangs," but also introduced emotional original songs that touched on personal experiences; taking listeners on an introspective, yet enjoyable journey. Many of the audience members sang along to her take on the Destiny's Child hit "Say My Name" at the end of her set.

Roohan then stepped into the spotlight to fill the Kinetic Gallery with her assortment of slow jams. Armed with just a microphone and an electric guitar, the solo artist pulled off a surprisingly dynamic performance.

Roohan offered a musical experience that seamlessly blended indie pop, Americana and soul. Her style is one that would fit in just as well at a summer music festival as it would at a roadside bar in the South. Between her hypnotizing guitar riffs and her calming vocals, her songs were mesmerizing—and sometimes nearly trance-inducing.

Roohan delivered sad songs with a soothing finesse, proving that she can make melancholy themes into widely accessible tracks like her pacifying 2014 single "Oh, Brother." She also proved to be adept at crafting

lighthearted and memorable ballads like "Candy Man."

Roohan explained that when she was a freshman in high school, she had an unexpected entry into playing guitar. During a dreary winter break, all her friends went away on vacation and Roohan was left alone at her house, stricken with boredom. Her mother had a bunch of classical guitars sitting around, so Roohan picked one up and started teaching herself the craft.

Beginning with Weezer covers, she eventually transitioned into writing her own

songs. "I feel like a lot of the time I'm just kind of putting myself in a zone, like a stream of consciousness in a way, where I'm just singing words and sometimes they make sense and sometimes they suck," Roohan said. "I keep the ones that make sense."

The artist will be recording a live EP this March and plans to release it this summer. She also has a busy tour schedule of shows at various colleges and venues and will be all over the Northeast and Midwest this spring. ♦

Student director stages absurdist drama



KENNETH SANTOS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Josh Shabshis directed a staged reading of Eugène Ionesco's "The Bald Soprano" in the Robert E. Sinclair Theatre on March 5. The audience got an extra dose of absurdity when the cast ran through the play a second time with reversed roles.

NIC SORICE ASST. ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

This semester's first staged reading was held on March 5 in the Robert E. Sinclair Theatre. The reading, directed by sophomore Josh Shabshis, was Eugène Ionesco's absurdist play "The Bald Soprano." The play ex-

plores communication—or lack thereof—as well as deep struggle, and Shabshis and his cast captured this feeling perfectly.

Ionesco based his play on a French-to-English phrasebook that he found to be absolutely ridiculous. Many lines of dialogue—especially the climactic argument—are ripped directly

from the book and include phrases such as, "Don't say they're there, I hear they're here," and "The floor is down, the ceiling is up."

The nonsense of these phrases presented an interesting challenge to the actors, who had to figure out how to derive meaning from the mean-

ingless—which is sort of the point.

During the talkback after the performance, Shabshis explained, "As the actors soldier on to get to the end of the play, it's almost a metaphor of how all of us soldier on to get through life, because it's so hard and confusing, and we tend to get lost." This confusion doesn't end with the mostly gibberish dialogue the actors exchange, but extends to the audience as well.

After the play was finished once, the stage cut to black. The play was performed a second time—but with the actors playing opposite roles. Sophomore Oliver Diaz and junior Samantha Clowes started the play as the intentionally generic Mr. and Mrs. Smith, but on the second run-through, the parts were played by the original Mr. and Mrs. Martin—juniors Jordan Keane and Nolan Parker. The cast was rounded out by sophomores Robbie Held and James Fenimore Cooper III as the Emcee and the Fire Captain, respectively, and senior Jes Kirkpatrick as Mary the maid.

It's tough to sit through a play that doesn't make sense once, but the second time was even more difficult—especially now that the novelty of the non-sequiturs had worn off. Just ask the guy next to me who mumbled under his breath, "Oh god, no," when a particularly long monologue by the Fire Captain was about to begin. Or ask the 15 people who streamed out of the theater when they realized what was about to happen. Luckily, Shabshis was prepared for this.

"I told [the actors] to just keep going no matter what," he said. "I chose this [play] because it's a challenge for the audience as well ... You can't just stand up and say, 'Screw this.' Well, some people did, but that's not the point."

While it may have been tough for the actors to figure out how to play their roles, Shabshis' ability to figure out how to communicate to the audience—and even just for the audience to stick around—really did reflect the struggles of life. As absurd as "The Bald Soprano" was, there was a method to its particular kind of madness after all. ♦

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Cricket's brings open mics back to Main St.

NIC SORICE

ASST. ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Open mic nights have returned to the former Muddy Waters Coffee House space, which is now home to Cricket's Coffee Company.

Part of an effort to keep the Geneseo performing arts scene alive with open mic nights both on and off campus, Cricket's open mic nights—which started back up on March 4—prove accessible and enjoyable for student musicians.

The general consensus among performers is that Cricket's open mic nights are much more formal affairs than those at other venues around and off campus. "I feel like the sense of pressure almost helps my performance," freshman Noah Elias said. "It helps me try and do better."

It's possible that house shows could use a little more of this kind of pressure. While some very cool experimentation is allowed, I once saw a performer simply fill out Mad Libs with audience suggestions. Cricket's provides a space for more serious performances. It seems like this is a sentiment that Steve West,

who runs Cricket's open mics, holds as well.

West has been running open mics in the former Muddy Waters space since it opened almost six years ago. He described Cricket's as "neater" than Muddy Waters, and he thinks people appreciate the "cleaner, friendlier vibe." He welcomes musicians of all sorts, along with some poetry—though there may be a separate night for poetry in the future—but comedy isn't currently allowed at his events. "It usually doesn't go over well," he explained. "People aren't expecting it here."

The professional atmosphere within Cricket's doesn't only exist for the performers, but also for the audience. Though Mics and Mochas provides a space for performers to get up and showcase their talents within the Starbucks at the MacVittie College Union, the audience tends to be far less attentive at these events—people are constantly wandering in and out and chatting with each other. On the other hand, customers at Cricket's are focused, keeping their chatter to a quiet hum and giving supportive applause.

Though Geneseo's arts community gathered together



JAKE WADE/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

Cricket's Coffee Company held its first open mic show on March 4. The cafe now holds the shows each Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the space formerly occupied by Muddy Waters Coffee House to supplement similar shows held both on and off campus.

after the demise of Muddy Waters to find a new outlet for performance, something still felt missing. It turns out it was the professional atmosphere of Cricket's that was needed.

Open mics at Cricket's will happen every Wednesday and will be hosted by West, except for the last Wednesday of every month when senior Tom Kohn will take over. It's

definitely worth stopping by—and trying one of their blueberry bagels with butter when you do. ♦

Hips 'n Harmony holds charitable a cappella invitational



SEAN RUSSELL/ASSOC. PHOTO EDITOR

Geneseo a cappella group Hips 'n Harmony held an invitational show alongside Exit 8 on March 7 in Newton 202. The show included The Enchords of University at Buffalo and The Riveters of SUNY Fredonia. All proceeds benefited the charity organization Give Kids The World.

JULIA MORRISON

ASST. ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Geneseo's Hip 'n Harmony hosted an invitational a cappella concert for charity on March 7. The show featured performances by Hips 'n Harmony, The Enchords of University at Buffalo, The Riveters of SUNY Fredonia and Geneseo's Exit 8.

The show was held in Newton 202 and featured arrangements of songs from a variety of genres and styles. Proceeds from ticket sales benefited the nonprofit organization Give Kids The World, which hosts children with life-threatening illnesses in a theme park and resort for five days, free of charge.

The setting was casual and friendly as students and parents filled the seats of the lecture hall. The show started off with the all-female group Hips 'n Harmony. The group's performance began with a cover of Ella Henderson's "Ghost," featuring a soulful performance from soloist junior Julia Shea.

Co-ed group The Enchords took the stage next with a captivating arrangement of Gavin Degraw's "Not Over You" which featured layers of complex harmonies while still maintaining a very clean sound. Their second song—a mash-up of Sara Bareilles' "Kaleidoscope Heart" and "Bluebird"—was equally enchanting. Soloist senior Elisabeth Grueniger

stunned the audience with crystal clear vocals that made the piece feel like something from a fairytale.

Exit 8 was next, performing one of the best arrangements of the afternoon. Their combination of The Jackson 5's "I Want You Back" and MKTO's "Classic" was filled with energy. The performers radiated enthusiasm as they bounced to the melody.

After a brief intermission that featured a beat boxing competition among members from each group, the show continued. Every group performed two more songs, starting with The Enchords' rendition of Hozier's "Take Me To Church." The arrangement was

more intriguing as a result of their incorporation of the opening guitar riff from Nirvana's "Come As You Are." This added a layer of complexity to the piece and the sounds worked together surprisingly well.

The Riveters' final song was a Pat Benatar medley that was clearly a favorite among group members. Each singer was dancing and jumping while belting Benatar's most popular songs, including "Hit Me With Your Best Shot." Exit 8 followed, ending with a cover of Florence and the Machine's "Drumming Song" that featured intense beat boxing and a solo from senior Jenna Cechini that sounded impressively reminiscent of Florence

Welch's huge, gospel-esque voice.

Ending the show was Hips 'n Harmony. Soloist senior Emily Rittenhouse led the group in a cover of Etta James' "At Last," with appropriately jazzy vocals. Their final song was ZZ Ward's "Put the Gun Down." The stomping beat and powerful lyrics made for a strong, fun finale.

Overall, the invitational was an entertaining way to support a great cause. The audience was engaged from start to finish, singing and clapping to match the enthusiasm of each group of performers. ♦

Wind Ensemble, Clarinet Choir impress with joint concert



KATI BUCK/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

The Wind Ensemble performed alongside the Clarinet Choir in Wadsworth Auditorium on March 6. The concert included a wide range of genres and styles from lullabies to marches.

SHANNON GALLAGHER STAFF WRITER

The Wind Ensemble and Clarinet Choir began their March 6 concert promptly at 8 p.m., greeting the audience with scales and tuning before jumping into their first piece.

The Wind Ensemble began with Joseph Rauski's "French Military March," a forceful selection that utilized the percussion and brass sections to drive it forward. Conductor and professor of music James Walker introduced the ensemble and described the pre-existing concordo of the pieces as the common thread of this concert.

Later, Ralph Vaughan Williams' bright and cheery "Folk Song Suite" combined the strength of the brass section with the gentleness of the woodwinds during the first movement. Vaughan Williams' second movement lengthens the piece, while the third movement emphasized the percussion section. The clarinet and flute sections excelled, with glorious runs and articulation throughout.

William Schuman's "Chestnut Overture for Band" contained phrases and melodies exchanged between the groups of instruments. The brass section set a solid foundation while allowing the woodwinds

to stand out. The trumpet section soared at the end of the piece, with the percussion adding dramatic fanfare.

The highlight of the night was the Clarinet Choir directed by adjunct faculty in music Ernest Lascell. The chosen pieces were melodious and emphasized the range and creativity of the clarinet. The selection began peacefully with Maurice Ravel's "Pavane Pour Une Infante Defunte."

Afterward, the Clarinet Choir gained momentum with Warner Hutchison's "Suite for Clarinet Choir" before slowing it down with another lullaby. Steven Langren's arrangement of "Deir'In De (Traditional Irish Lullaby)" was notably tranquil and made the differences in the clarinets apparent.

The Clarinet Choir ended on a high note with Gordon Jacob's "Introduction and Rondo." The Wind Ensemble returned with Haydn Wood's Mannin Veen "Dear Isle of Man" before continuing to their final selection. Chosen because of its delightful pun, Don Gillis' "The January, February, March," was an active piece highlighting the importance of the wood block. It kept the audience on their toes with its sudden changes in tempo and was a wonderful way to end the concert. ♦

ART FROM Abroad

ALLYSON PEREYRA / COLUMNIST

Ciao da Europa! It has been almost three months since I left Geneseo to spend my spring semester studying and living in the beautiful city of Siena, Italy. Like many other European countries, Italy is full of museums, galleries, cathedrals and much more. If you're studying art or simply appreciate it, this is the place for you! That being said, you don't necessarily have to love art to appreciate the rich history and various activities this continent holds. It's a sin for one to travel and miss some of Europe's most popular destinations.

In Italy itself, there is almost too much to see and do. While I am still traveling and studying art, I want to share some of the best art I have seen thus far in Italy and beyond, as well as some must-see places with tips and dos and don'ts for students who are considering studying abroad.

Siena, Italy

Siena is the concentration of Italy's finest medieval art, pre-Renaissance art, sculpture and Gothic architecture. Unfortunately, I have found that it is rare for churches and museums to grant free entry to students. One little-known fact, however, is that all of Italy opens its doors to museums, galleries and churches free of charge on the first Sunday of every month. But if you can't make it during that time, attend mass for a few minutes on any Sunday morning to see the inside of a church without any cost.

The Museo Civico and the Museo dell'Opera Metropolitana del Duomo are two museums worth a visit and they are both within walking distance of the Duomo di Siena—or Siena Cathedral—whose majestic architecture is worth a Sunday trip.

Situated in the heart of Siena's main square Piazza del Campo, you'll find the Museo Civico's main attraction: the frescoes of Ambrogio Lorenzetti's "Good and Bad Government." These frescoes are filled with symbolism and images that depict what both good and bad government look like. It fills walls of a whole room, so make sure you take your time looking at the social ideals of the time depicted through art.

The Museo dell'Opera Metropolitana del Duomo has to be my favorite of Siena because inside you'll find Duccio's majestic "Maestà." Hopefully, most students who have at least taken an introductory art history class will recognize this enthroned Madonna. Have a seat on the bench in front of it to admire Duccio's brilliant use of gold and religious iconography. Sneak a picture—without flash, of course, because photos are not allowed. Before you leave, make sure to go up these stairs that lead to the top of the museum to find a spectacular view of the city from high up.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLYSON PEREYRA

Florence, Italy's famous Duomo di Firenze reveals the artistic architecture of a city that is itself brimming with art. One of Florence's most respected museums is the Uffizi, which houses nearly priceless works by painters like da Vinci, Botticelli and Rembrandt.

Florence, Italy

Once the thriving center of all of Italy, Florence remains the heart of Italian Renaissance art and architecture. It's only an hour away from Siena, and I find myself spending most weekends here—Florence requires more than a day to see and experience everything it has to offer.

The Galleria dell'Accademia should be your first museum stop because the line will take up most of your day—trust me. The museum itself is surprisingly small. It's basically a home for Michelangelo's "David"—a giant, towering marble statue that leaves you speechless. Photography is permitted here.

Another famous museum is the Uffizi Museum, where you will find splendid works by Caravaggio, da Vinci, Raphael, Rembrandt, Rogier van der Weyden, Cimabue and many more. Some of my personal favorites are Botticelli's "Primavera" and the "Birth of Venus," as well as Simone di Martini's "Annunciation with St. Margaret and St. Ansanus." The symbolism and story behind "Primavera" will show you just how powerful the Medici family—the family in which Florence flourished under—was. Even as you walk around the Uffizi, you'll notice how much the museum bears some relation to the Medici.

After the Uffizi, a visit to Florence isn't complete without climbing the Brunelleschi's Duomo of the Florence Cathedral. The 500 or so steps you have to climb will be worth it when you reach the top and overlook the entire city. ♦

ALBUM REVIEW: *To Pimp a Butterfly*



Kendrick gets complex on third LP

SEAN RUSSELL
ASSOC. PHOTO EDITOR

Hip-hop phenomenon Kendrick Lamar released his third studio album *To Pimp a Butterfly* on March 16 to rave reviews from audiences and critics. The album marks the rapper's first release following his breakthrough 2012 LP *Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City*.

Despite critical acclaim, Lamar's newest effort has had a polarizing effect on fans due to its less-than-conventional musical direction and raw, sometimes jarring lyrical content. Regardless of its reception, the album is undoubtedly a pivotal installation in the rapper's career.

TPAB opens with the song "Wesley's Theory," a brooding amalgam of jazz and funk influences. The song features contributions from celebrated Los Angeles producer Steven Ellison—A.K.A. Flying Lotus—his partner in crime, bassist Stephen Bruner—A.K.A. Thundercat—and American funk icon George Clinton, whom Ellison had joked about featuring on the beat when he first played it for Lamar.

It is immediately clear that Lamar has deviated from the musical tendencies of his past records, which were significantly more on par with the contemporary rap landscape. The heavy involvement of jazz-fusion elements throughout *TPAB* serves as a breaking-off point from this earlier aesthetic.

TPAB also sees Lamar pushing the lyrical boundaries of his previous work. This can be seen in the song "u," the most emotionally powerful track on the record—and the most impressive vocal performance as well. Serving as a counterpoint to the album's first single, "i," "u" is a painful look into the period following Lamar's rise to fame. He role-plays figures from his past in Compton, California to illustrate the guilt that he feels having escaped and left his family to pursue his career. He shouts and growls and his voice breaks as he pleads with

the listener to understand the pain that haunts him.

"I remember you was conflicted, misusing your influence," Kendrick speaks solemnly at the end of the album's third track "King Kunta." His words are uninflected—which is rare for the rapper—and his tone is narrative rather than lyrical. The question arises: To whom is he speaking? A first listen might suggest he is addressing himself in third person in a kind of reflective monologue.

Like a memory that becomes more lucid as time goes on, the monologue evolves as its context within the album changes, and it becomes clear that Kendrick is speaking to someone very specific. It ultimately serves as a narrative guide through the extensive subject matter of the record. On the final track "Mortal Man," the person to whom Lamar is speaking is revealed to be the late Tupac Shakur. Lamar uses an old interview recording with Shakur as a means of holding a conversation with the rap legend about current racial turmoil in the United States. What's old becomes new.

This kind of vision is something seldom associated with contemporary pop music. Mainstream hip-hop is particularly cluttered with single-mindedness and self-absorption, characteristically sacrificing message for remix-ability and radio appeal. That's just the way the genre has evolved to meet the demands of the market. The subject matter of those songs that perform best in the market rarely extends beyond a shallow preoccupation with sex, drugs and ego.

In this way, Kendrick Lamar is a visionary. Where other popular artists rely on the petty struggles of our generation to form a connection with audiences, Lamar concerns himself with the eternal struggles between generations, races, factions and social classes to create meaning and emotion out of conflict. ♦

Key tracks on *To Pimp a Butterfly*: "King Kunta," "Institutionalized (ft. Bilal, Anna Wise & Snoop Dogg)" and "i."

MOVIE REVIEW: *Insurgent*



Dystopian sequel entertaining, but uninspired

JULIA MORRISON
ASST. ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Upon hearing the plotline of the *Divergent* series, it's hard not to be immediately reminded of *The Hunger Games*. After watching *Insurgent*—the second film of the series based on Veronica Roth's trilogy—it becomes even easier to see why many viewers feel this way. Starring Shailene Woodley, the film follows Tris Prior as she struggles to overthrow the corrupt dictatorship that has taken over a dystopian Chicago.

In a genre that is usually dominated by men, it's refreshing to have a series where a young woman saves the day. Unfortunately, Woodley portrays a fairly two-dimensional character.

Tris is brave, athletic and tough. Still, she is attractive and shares a relationship with her equally attractive male

counterpart Four—played by Theo James—which comes as no shocker. As in the *Hunger Games* movies, this uninspiring romance between the attractive female lead and the brooding man who keeps her grounded is one of the main draws.

The similarities between the franchises do not end there. The dialogue follows the formula for nearly every dystopian story. This is most notable in the leader of the oppressive faction headquarters Jeanine Matthews. Played by Kate Winslet, this villain is a beautiful, blonde and somewhat unoriginal evil overlord. She is monotonous, cold and businesslike—like nearly every female villain in a Hollywood film.

Certain aspects of Woodley's performance are redeeming, however. In one of the most climactic points of the film, Tris gets injected with a

truth serum, causing her excruciating pain every time she lies. The agony and emotion Woodley portrayed were so believable, the scene was nearly impossible to watch.

As in most science fiction films, the physical setting of the film was of high importance. The set and visual effects were striking. The film began in a lush, utopian forest and transitioned into an urban wasteland destroyed by years of violence and warfare. The aesthetics alone made *Insurgent* extremely engaging.

Although I was disappointed in the lack of originality, *Insurgent* delivered exactly what I expected. There was certainly no lack of action, romance or awe-inspiring scenery. Audiences will undoubtedly be entertained, but those expecting a groundbreaking feminist story will leave unsatisfied. ♦

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KNIGHTS' LIFE

Keeping up with what students are doing at Geneseo

Invasion of Privacy

Genesee Sun editors hope to affect change through journalism



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONRAD BAKER

Conrad Baker '14 and Josh Williams work to deliver news to the Geneseo population through the online publication, the Genesee Sun. They believe that journalism can improve the community by bringing issues to light and encouraging positive change.

KEVIN FRANKEL
MANAGING EDITOR

Co-owners of the Genesee Sun Josh Williams and Conrad Baker '14 are seeking to revolutionize the way news gets delivered to the people of Livingston County. After an earlier print version of the Genesee Sun went under in 2008 in what Williams called a "business failure," the Sun reinvented itself as an ever-expanding online publication. For Williams and Baker, their presence as an up-to-the-minute source of

news for Livingston County is not without its challenges, but is ultimately rewarding.

Williams, who grew up in Caledonia, New York, has seen firsthand how the county has changed over the years. "There's always been a need for content and coverage here in Livingston County and I thought there was a necessity to address some of the issues we have," Williams said. "Just in the past two years, we're starting to see increased visibility and accountability in local government and police forces."

The Sun's efforts have led to breaking coverage in 2013 about a controversial plan to shut down the AkzoNobel desalination plant in Cuylerville. More recently, the Sun found itself in hot water with some Geneseo students over what was perceived to be biased coverage of an alleged underage drinking incident that occurred at the Phi Sigma Xi fraternity house. Still, Williams stands by his coverage of the events.

"The university community is very separate from the resident community," Williams said. "One

FAVORITES

JOSH WILLIAMS

ACTIVITY: Running

PLACE TO FISH: Oatka Creek

RESTAURANT: Yard of Ale

BEER: Caged Alpha Monkey

FAMILY ACTIVITY: Watching a movie

FAVORITES

CONRAD BAKER

BIRD: Eastern Bluebird

FOOD: Knight plates at Village Café

TIME OF YEAR: Spring

CANDY: Bite-size Three Musketeers bars

BEATLES SONG: "Yellow Submarine"

of our goals is to bridge that gap. Some of the students—mainly in the Greek community—feel slighted by that. I have received much more appreciation than I have criticism."

Williams added that the goal of his editorial, which called for the fraternity's immediate suspension, was to increase student safety and accountability.

"They're now looking at a social law that would provide for stricter penalties," Williams said. "We're having that conversation and people are being held ac-

countable. That's successful journalism and I would do it again in a heartbeat. If I had any regret over that article, it's that I didn't write it after the house was raided."

Baker added that reporting on unpleasant stories is simply a part of the job. "We just tell it as it is," Baker said. "From my standpoint, sitting in felony court, a lot of the stories are very unpleasant. Our idea is to follow up on everything that we start. As we follow these stories forward, we find that there may be a positive outcome."

See **INVASION** on page 16

Community volunteers recognized at award ceremony

MAYA LUCYSHYN
KNIGHTS' LIFE EDITOR

Campus and community volunteers were honored at the fourth annual Volunteer and Service Awards Dinner at Big Tree Inn on Tuesday March 24. Community members nominated the volunteers, who were presented with an award and recognition.

The purpose of the award is "to highlight the wonderful work that our students do and to thank people," according to Associate Dean of Leadership and Service Thomas Matthews. Students, faculty and Geneseo residents were invited to nominate anyone on campus with a commitment to improving the community through service.

This year, five students, one faculty member, three organizations and a community member were honored at the ceremony and dinner. Matthews noted that while dozens of awards are given out on campus for students who exhibit values such as leadership, this event has gotten excellent feedback for focusing exclusively on community service.

"Because community service is so important as part of our values, we wanted to do something to highlight the work that people—particularly our students—do in the community," Matthews said. "We

thought that having a nice dinner with nice awards, doing a first class event would matter and I can tell you that it has."

Held in Big Tree Inn, this swanky event had attendees dressed to the nines and mingling at small round tables. In addition to award winners and Geneseo faculty, Geneseo Mayor Richard Hatheway was also in attendance and opened the event with a speech.

The awards were chosen out of a pool of nominations, which anyone in the community could submit. It was also acceptable to nominate oneself for an award. The student recipients were seniors Nicholas Brancato, Tyler Brickler, David Ernst, Jennifer Grom and junior John Saugy.

Nominated by the local fire department, Brancato got his award for being a lieutenant EMT and first assistant chief for Geneseo First Response. Brickler advocated for awareness and fundraising through the county-wide "I Believe in Jack-Down Syndrome Awareness" campaign. Ernst, the vice president of Alpha Phi Omega, has volunteered for a variety of causes throughout his undergraduate career. Grom was a Youth Delegate at the 2014 World Conference on Youth and worked collaboratively on a number of international service projects. As philanthropy chair of the Sigma Nu Chi fraternity,



SEAN RUSSELL/ASSOC. PHOTO EDITOR

The annual Volunteer and Service Awards Dinner recognized five students, three organizations, a faculty member and a community member for their outstanding volunteer efforts in Geneseo. The dinner promoted service as an aspect of a well-rounded undergraduate education.

Saugy has participated in service trips and organized a number of projects through Sig Nu.

The faculty award went to distinguished teaching professor of mathematics Gary Towsley, who heads "The Philanthropic Chefs" which services homeless teens in New York State. This project serves hundreds of people each year and has also raised over \$250,000 to aid underprivileged youth.

In addition, Hippies for Hope, the National Residence Hall Hon-

orary and Sig Nu were recognized for outstanding volunteer efforts. Matthews said that the award is meant to honor students that are working according to the college's mission statement of creating socially responsible citizens, which these organizations accomplished.

The final award went to The Livingston County Office for the Aging and its director Kaaren Smith, who is retiring in the near future. "We always try to honor a community partner ... those who

do a good job embracing our students, giving them great experiences and so on," Matthews explained. The office worked closely with Geneseo to incorporate student volunteers into their projects.

The award highlights volunteering as character building and thus important to a liberal arts education. "Is it all about job training for a career? I hope not," Matthews said. ♦

Drag ball explores gender norms



SEAN RUSSELL/ASSOC. PHOTO EDITOR

Pride's annual Drag Ball featured a variety of performers from the Rochester nightclub Tilt along with student performers. The event is not only a fun night, but an opportunity for students to dress and act in ways that do not conform to societal gender norms.

EMILY RAMIREZ
ASST. KNIGHTS' LIFE EDITOR

Geneseo's Pride Alliance has hosted professional performers from the Rochester nightclub Tilt in the annual Drag Ball for over 10 years, with this year's event held on March 7. According to Pride president senior Bella Rabinovich, Drag Ball serves as an event where students can "play with gender."

Professional Tilt performer DeeDee Dubois hosted Drag Ball and livened up the crowd with a

witty running commentary. "You can tip us with dollar bills and put it anywhere. Tuck it anywhere as long as it's green and not forged, I don't need counterfeit money," DeeDee joked. "I need to buy my chicken McNuggets on the drive home and they're not a dollar anymore."

Rabinovich promoted the idea of campus community through to the students performing. "Drag Ball is a way for people to play with gender in a safe environment," she said. In light of Pride's efforts to push for an

accepting campus, Drag Ball provided a safe haven for students to express gender in any form.

"We want to encourage people to dress in clothes they wouldn't normally dress in," Rabinovich said.

Pride partnered with Geneseo Late Knight to create an accepting environment. "Say you are a dude; you can wear a dress and you can wear whatever you want," Rabinovich said. "That might not always be acceptable in Geneseo, but here, you can play around with that."

Pride and GLK pushed for gender-neutral bathrooms and encouraged the idea that students should dress up. They also provided outfits for people to try on. At one point, Dubois asked a student to go in the back and dress up as the opposite gender, encouraging participation from event attendees.

In total, eight students performed in the Drag Ball. "For some of them, it was their first time, and some were veterans and it was their last time," Rabinovich said. "It was nice to see the support."

As a performer herself, Rabinovich explained, "I've performed for three years now. It's really fun and silly, but the crowd is really encouraging. I performed 'Baby Got Back.' It's silly and over-sexualized, but it's fun because you know the crowd will cheer you on."

Pride also encouraged a safe environment for students participating by promoting an open attitude to everything. "Our staff was well aware that anything goes," Rabinovich said. "You won't go to Drag and ask, 'Why are men wearing drag?'"

THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

"If you had to wear one article of clothing for the rest of your life, what would it be?"

Maria Gershuni
International relations
Sophomore
"Not this apron."



Gregory Palermo
English/physics major
Senior
"This apron."

Lizzy Furst
Psychology
Freshman
"Logistically speaking, a dress. Not logistically, just pants."



Adam Visca
Biology
Freshman
"Socks."

SEAN RUSSELL/ASSOC. PHOTO EDITOR



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lamron.knightslife@geneseo.edu for more information.

RLK campaign encourages self-love

MEGAN TOMASZEWSKI

COPY EDITOR

Geneseo sorority Royal Lady Knights recently kicked off its second annual Body Image Campaign on Monday March 23. The weeklong event featured activities such as yoga and a slam poetry night with Geneseo Poets' Society that emphasized the importance of body positivity while addressing various societal pressures that can lead to an unhealthy self-image.

"In this day and age with so much social media, we are constantly subjected to other people's standards of beauty," RLK service chair sophomore Olivia MacDonald said. "It creates a really bad foundation for a lot of young men and women who are not happy with themselves because they're concentrating on Photoshopped images ... We want to create a strong foundation for mental, emotional and physical health; that's really important."

RLK members tabled in the MacVittie College Union all week, giving out free badges emblazoned with empowering messages promoting

self-love and body acceptance. They also encouraged individuals to have their picture taken with their own whiteboard messages about what body positivity means to them.

RLK publicity chair junior Rachel Winter explained that while many believe the campaign is only applicable to women, men struggle with and deserve as much support when it comes to dealing with body insecurities. "We have a picture that says, 'It's just as hard to be Ken as it is to be Barbie,'" she said. "It's not just about the struggles that women face with their bodies, we want support from men too."

"To be able to bring a lot of different people together helps to spread awareness," RLK service chair junior Lisette Smith added. "It's a way that we can reach out to the campus, actively instilling those positive vibes."

RLK service chair junior Stephanie Clookey expressed the idea that reaching out to all students—Greek or not—is crucial in order to help change their mentality on the control they have over their insecurities. She emphasized this in her performance on poetry

night; likening societal pressures and conventional beauty standards to a noose. "With every thought of inadequacy, the knot tightens," she said. "But the noose is a choice; to wear it or not is a choice that you have to realize you have."

While they acknowledged that it can be a struggle, the members placed an emphasis on celebrating and embracing one's uniqueness rather than comparing oneself to others. "You are allowed to be yourself," Winter said. "You should be happy with how you look; it's all one thing, just being who you are."

RLK will host a positive body image T-shirt making event in Newton 204 from 7-8 p.m. on Thursday March 26, and the campaign will conclude on Friday March 27 with a dinner and presentation from associate professor of sociology Elaine Cleeton entitled "Whose Body?" in the College Union Ballroom from 6-8 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$4 for faculty and staff with all proceeds going to the eating disorder rehabilitation clinic The Healing Connection in Fairport, New York. ♦



ZOE FINN/PHOTO EDITOR

Royal Lady Knights can be found tabling in the MacVittie College Union all week as part of their annual Body Positivity Campaign. This project encourages young adults to feel comfortable with their bodies and includes events such as an open mic night and T-shirt making.

the frugal foodie Egg-cellent edibles

LAUREN GRANT

COLUMNIST

I believe that eggs are under-appreciated—they come cheap and have great health benefits. At just \$1.99 per dozen at the local Wegmans, eggs are a great food for college students looking to save some money. In addition, eggs are a great source of protein, choline and vitamins, all of which are essential components of a healthy, well-rounded diet.

Eggs are an easy food to prepare alone or work with in a recipe featuring more food items. This is perfect for students who may not have extensive cooking skills or want a quick and easy meal.

Western Frittata (requires waffle iron)

Ingredients:

A dash of olive oil
1/4 of a potato, washed and cubed
1/4 of a bell pepper, finely sliced and chopped
1/8 of an onion, finely sliced
1 1/2 tablespoons black beans
1/8 of a tomato, finely diced
Two large eggs
A dash of milk
Salt and pepper to taste
1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
Salsa for garnish

Directions:

In a non-stick cooking pan, add a dash of olive oil and set on medium heat until warm. Add potatoes and gently stir until light brown for about one to two minutes. Turn heat to medium-low and add pepper, onion and beans and stir until softened for one to two minutes. Add tomatoes to mixture and gently stir until potatoes are completely browned.

In a separate bowl, whisk eggs, milk and shredded cheese until fully combined. Add salt and pepper to mixture as desired.

Pour egg mixture into pan and gently stir until all ingredients are incorporated. Cover pan and let cook on medium-low heat for five to 10 minutes until no visible egg liquid remains.

While mixture is cooking, preheat the waffle iron. Once mixture is solidified, remove from heat and gently break up mixture with fork. Completely grease the pre-heated waffle iron and add frittata chunks and heat until just browned all around. Remove from waffle iron and serve with salsa if desired. ♦

CAS encourages student input, increases vegetarian options

SARAH PRAY

ASST. KNIGHTS' LIFE EDITOR

Students gathered in Food Studio North to discuss campus vegan and vegetarian options on March 12 in a talk led by Campus Auxiliary Services Nutrition and Wellness Coordinator Cory Hancock.

First greeted with delicious homemade black bean brownies, the students assembled in the booths at Letchworth Dining Hall and began the discussion. "First, let's start with the things that you do like on campus," Hancock said. She emphasized seeking feedback about some of the newer vegetarian and vegan additions recently made to the dining hall menus.

Students spoke highly of Fusion Market's menu, praising the fact that tofu had recently been worked back in as an option for Asada's tacos, burritos and burrito bowls.

In addition, both Clío's vegan and vegetarian sandwich options and the tofu option for the stir-fry at Lotus were highly complimented by students. World Kitchen was also a favorite with to the availability of a different meal every day and almost every food having a vegetarian option.

After feedback of current menu items, Hancock opened the floor to suggestions. Students began by talking about

how they often feel that they are simply eating carbs as a substitute for what should be protein. They suggested rather than reverting to pizza and pasta for vegetarians, incorporating more dishes with beans, rice and legumes.

As far as grab-n-go salads go, students were concerned with the lack of vegan options. "There are no meatless or cheese-less options," vegan sophomore Jacqueline Christensen said. "As for the ones that do have cheese, it is almost impossible to just pick off because there is so much on the salad."

A few issues with general food preparation were also discussed. Attendees expressed concerns over carelessness in Fusion when it comes to mixing animal and non-animal products, specifically in the taco and stir-fry lines where ingredients are thrown into food quickly.

Students also spoke about how non-meat substitutes—such as rice and beans in Fusion and vegetables in Mary Jemison Dining Hall's salad line—are not taken into account as a person's main source of nutrition when it comes to portion size. Students often are served smaller portions of these foods, with the expectation that they are going to get some sort of meat or protein. In turn, they end up

getting less food than students with an animal product-inclusive diet.

"Sometimes, it feels like my lifestyle is not supported on campus when my lack of animal protein or any protein is not calorically compensated with more carbs and vegetables," Christensen said. "Just because I don't eat animal products doesn't mean that I'm not equally as hungry as someone who does."

In addition to expressing their opinions and ideas to CAS, students shared new recipe ideas and suggestions. Hancock was very open to implementing changes such as adding more menu options, one of the most immediate being the introduction of garden nuggets as an option at lower Letchworth.

As CAS's online Health and Nutrition page states: "We can only truly help the customers that reach out to us to discuss their needs." This forum promoted that discussion and students can look forward to many more in the future. ♦

Want more recipes?
Check out more of "The Frugal Foodie" online at www.thelamron.com

STUDY ABROAD

Semester in Paris broadens language, perspective

JOELLE ORECKI
COLUMNIST

“So where’s home home?” is a question we residential students hear all the time. Before spring of my junior year, my answer to this question was Syracuse. Thanks to my semester abroad through the SUNY at the Sorbonne program, “home home” now also includes Paris.

To many people, Paris means the City of Light, the Eiffel Tower, the home of famous artists and writers and the “Mona Lisa.” And sure enough, it is all of that. But for me, Paris means watching children sail tiny boats in the fountain at the Jardin du Luxembourg as I passed through on my way to class. It means listening to music soar through the impossibly high ceilings as the choir practices at Notre Dame. It means watching a ballet at Palais Garnier—the same opera house that was the basis for “Phantom of the Opera.” It means getting lost in the Louvre every Wednesday night. It means visiting a crêpe stand so frequently that Nicolas starts my order as soon as he saw me walking down the street.

My home in Paris was Foyer Didot in the 14th arrondissement. Situated next to a small park, my neighborhood included bakeries on every corner and cafés throughout. My building housed students from all over the world and young Parisians. We ate dinner together every night in the cafeteria in a broken mix of our common languages. The trash talk being thrown across the foosball table was an assortment of English, Spanish and French and turned into laughter as my French neighbor took to correcting my insults.

My classes had a similar mix of international students. Our professor took this into account as she asked us questions like, “What do you perceive to be the greatest problem in your country?” and “Is your country doing anything about climate change?” Practicing speaking in French had never been so interesting—there were perspectives from Korea, Mexico, Brazil, Japan, Romania, Turkey and the United States all in the same room.

As a French major, I went to Paris predominantly to improve



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOELLE ORECKI

Senior Joelle Orecki’s semester in Paris, France improved her language skills and fully immersed her in French culture. She had the opportunity to mingle with locals as well as other foreign exchange students, so she could learn about a variety of world perspectives.

my language skills. I remember thinking to myself that I was in over my head when my grammar professor spoke to us on the first day of class and I did not understand 90 percent of what she said. But after language class two hours every day and communicating around the city, I found that my French had improved a hundredfold without me realizing it. In May, I found myself carrying a conversation with a French

stranger on a train heading from the south of France back to Paris.

The SUNY at the Sorbonne program was the perfect way to improve my language skills and experience French culture while living in Paris. If you’re interested in making Paris your new home, head to the Geneseo Study Abroad website or stop by the Study Abroad Office to speak with a mentor. ♦

Invasion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

In a town as small and tight-knit as Geneseo, being a journalist is enough to make more than a few enemies. Aside from controversy over the Phigs editorial, Williams said that the website’s crime coverage sometimes leads to uncomfortable situations. “I can write a story about someone who was just charged or arrested and then I go grocery shopping at Wegmans and I bump into a family member,” Williams said. “It’s a very intense moment and sometimes it’s a threatening look.”

Williams and Baker explained they are striving to ultimately create a better-informed population of students and residents alike. “If we’re going to improve upon our community, there have to be people that are willing to take this risk and stick their neck out,” Williams said.

Going forward, Williams and Baker hope to expand their operation to a fully functioning multimedia platform for all of Livingston County. The plans are already in motion, with a green screen and recording equipment set up in their Main Street office.

“What really makes a difference for us is that we live here,” Baker said. “This is our county.” ♦

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SPORTS

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Men's Basketball
Tournament
thrills fans



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Freshman distance
runner nearly
breaks school
record

Men's lax returns from Florida

JAMIE LEVINE
STAFF WRITER

Coming off a successful week spent competing in Florida, the Geneseo men's lacrosse team has returned to Geneseo to continue its season.

While in Florida, the Knights put up a good showing in a 15-9 loss against Keene State University. Senior attack Steve Cregan helped the Knights with three goals, but it wasn't enough to overcome the offense of the Keene State squad which scored four goals in the first quarter to take a 4-2 lead and never looked back.

"We ended up playing a tremendous amount of defense in the game, more than we would have wanted to put on our defense," head coach Jim Lyons said. "Keene State is one of the best offenses that we're going to see all season."

Despite losing the game, the experience was not an entire loss. The Knights were able to shift in many more players than they normally would in a game in Upstate New York. The weather down in Florida allowed for the coaches to substitute in many more players than normal.

"We got game confidence and game experience out of more people now," Lyons said. "We're a much deeper team now."

One thing that the team will not be able to duplicate from Flor-

ida is the weather. With the unpredictable weather of Upstate New York, the team hasn't had many outdoor practices yet. The team has already had to move a number of its home games to neutral sites with fields that are playable. While down at Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, the Knights were able to practice outside for five consecutive days—something that will not likely happen for the rest of this season.

"Practicing lacrosse in a gym is like playing basketball in a garage—it's just not the same," Lyons said. "Being able to get outside and do real drills was great."

Looking ahead to the rest of their season, the Knights don't have any time to let up on the gas pedal. They need to be able to keep going at 100 percent for the rest of the year if they want to reach their ultimate goal of winning the SUNYAC Tournament and going to the NCAA Tournament.

Spring break couldn't have come at a better time for the Knights. Getting some time to relax and unwind down in Florida while also getting some outdoor practice under their belts puts Geneseo in a great position looking forward.

Sitting with four wins and two losses and just getting into the meat of their season, the Knights should be a force to be reckoned in the coming weeks. ♦

Women's basketball season ends in Sweet 16

BILLY BURNS
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The Geneseo women's basketball team advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament after winning both games of the tournament's opening weekend. The first round was an 84-40 domination on March 6 against Castleton State College from Vermont. The second win came on March 7 when Geneseo defeated Muhlenberg College 69-54. The wins secured the Knights' 14-0 record at home—winning 19 straight overall. The Sweet 16 is the farthest that a SUNYAC team has gotten in the NCAA Tournament since 2001.

In the Sweet 16, the Knights faced off against the 2014 champion Fairleigh Dickinson University-Florham. FDU-Florham had a record of 28-1 going into the game—the team's only loss coming against Eastern University by 1 point. Although no one on the school's roster stood over 5'10", what the team lacked in height it made up for in experience.

The Knights were outscored 48-20 in the first half

See **W. B-BALL** on page 18



KATI BUCK/ASST. PHOTO EDITOR

Senior All-American forward Shannon McGinnis attempts a three-pointer during the Knights' 84-40 shellacking of Castleton College on March 6. The Knights lost in the Sweet 16.

Surprising Hawks flying into playoffs

VICTOR WANG
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The Atlanta Hawks snuck up on the basketball world this season with an Eastern Conference leading record of 54-17. No one would have predicted this considering their record last season was an abysmal 38-44.

It's even more incredible considering they play a similar starting line-up. There are no big stars plying their trade in Atlanta, with center Al Horford being arguably the team's best player with three All-Star appearances. It certainly begs the question of why this team is special and how it had such a turnaround within a year. They've gone from a bottom dweller to a potential title contender.

Continuity is key for the Atlanta Hawks. When the Hawks could have signed an expensive player this past off-season, they went for forward Thabo Sefolosha and guard Kent Bazemore. Team chemistry is often underrated, yet highly effective. The San Antonio Spurs would probably nod their head in agreement with that statement as their big three of guards Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker and center Tim Duncan have won

four championships during their time together.

Continuity and team chemistry is probably what head coach Mike Budenholzer preaches, who—would you look at that—was part of the Spurs staff for 19 seasons, mostly serving as an assistant coach. It's no wonder the Atlanta Hawks are being pegged as the Spurs of the east. They are certainly playing like it.

Team chemistry is not the only thing playing in the Hawks' favor—they are simply playing great as well. They run the motion offense—which emphasizes ball movement—efficiently, with over 55 percent of Atlanta's shot attempts coming after zero dribbles, leading the National Basketball Association. The Hawks are averaging an Eastern Conference leading 25.4 assists per game, which is only two less than the first place Golden State Warriors.

While the Hawks' bench needs some work, they do have quality players as alternates. For each position on the court, they have a formidable replacement that can do the same work.

Point guard Jeff Teague's replacement is German phenom Dennis Schroeder, who currently

averages about four assists in less than 20 minutes of play per game. Guard Kent Bazemore has shown flashes of brilliance and can replace Kyle Korver. Workhorse forward DeMarre Carroll, arguably the Hawks' best defensive stopper, can be replaced by Sefolosha. Forward Mike Scott—who averaged almost 10 points a game as a substitute last season—is a capable replacement for forward Paul Millsap. And last but not least, Macedonian giant forward Pero Antic—a two-way player that can stuff stats in rebounds and points—is a capable player to fill in for Horford.

The Hawks have recently been in a slump, losing three of their last four games. The losses, however, were against quality Western Conference teams while some of their starters sat out injured. This would not be the time for the Hawks to panic, considering that they are leading their conference in about every statistic.

While they do not have a standout star on the team, the Atlanta Hawks have slowly and surely demonstrated their strong potential. A finals appearance would not be out of question, which is probably what the Hawks are looking toward this season. ♦



DANNY MOLOSHOK/AP PHOTO

Atlanta Hawks center Al Horford dunks during a win against the Los Angeles Lakers. The Hawks are currently in first place in the National Basketball Association's Eastern Conference.

March Madness excites every year



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP PHOTO

North Carolina State University senior guard Desmond Lee celebrates after the Wolfpack beat Villanova University to advance to the Sweet 16. NC State will play the University of Louisville on Friday March 27.

JAMIE LEVINE
STAFF WRITER

March is the best month of the year. It marks the beginning of spring, the weather starts to warm

up, the birds return north and basketball! Basketball dominates any sports-watcher's mind for the large majority of the month of March—and for good reason.

Softball finishes strong in Florida

NICHOLAS MAMATOS
STAFF WRITER

As students return from spring break, the Geneseo softball team returned from a trip to Florida that kicked off its 2015 season. Led by head coach David Sylvester, the Knights came back to Geneseo after compiling a 3-6 record against universities from throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic in Florida.

The Knights got off to a running start, beating New England College 11-3 on March 15 in their first game. The strong start did not carry over, as the Knights dropped their next six games before finishing strong. They shut out their last two opponents—Lancaster Bible College and McDaniel College—5-0 and 2-0, respectively.

Hailing from Canton, New York, senior infielder Samantha Brown is one of six seniors that

Sylvester will rely on to lead his team. Brown explained that softball has always been a part of her life.

"[I've played] for a long, long time—over 15 years," she said. Through hard work and dedication, she was named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association East Region All-Star team as a second-team selection two years ago. She also earned a spot on the SUNYAC All-Academic team as both a freshman and sophomore. Last season, she led the Knights in batting average at .326.

With regards to the team's annual Florida trip, Brown noted there were a lot of encouraging signs that she believes will contribute to a successful season for the Knights as they hope to make it back to the postseason.

"Our trip to Florida overall went well," she said. "We saw

The NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament started this year on March 15 with Selection Sunday. That gives us 22 days to take in all of the basketball that we could possibly want in the world. The tournament gives us some of the highest-grade basketball that you will likely see all year long, save for the National Basketball Association Finals.

This year, the University of Kentucky Wildcats are looking like the clear-cut favorites with no other teams on their level, which is unfortunate for hardcore basketball fans. At this point the odds for the Wildcats winning this year are sitting at 11-to-10. The odds of them versus the field as a whole are nearly 50-50.

They are 36-0 right now—the best start to a season in college basketball history. They are chasing the elusive 40-0 season. The last team that was able to go undefeated was the 1976 University of Indiana Hoosiers, coached by the legendary Bobby Knight. That team went 32-0, as teams played fewer games back then.

In that sense, the Wildcats are already better on a surface level examination than that Hoosiers team. So let me amend my previous statement: it's not unfortunate that the Wildcats appear to be clear-cut favorites to win the tournament. The fact that they are chasing history right now is more than enough of a reason to root for them.

Charles Barkley, Verne Lundquist and Marv Albert are just a few of the personalities and color

commentators that grace my ears during the tournament. Lundquist and Albert are two of the best commentators out there today and Barkley is just Chuck. He could read the phonebook for an hour and I would find it entertaining. His voice and method of commentary are unparalleled. I'm not one to question his knowledge of the game of basketball, but some of the things that he says are just so bizarre that you can't help but marvel at him.

One big thing that many people try and do each year is predict the perfect bracket. Thanks to the University of Alabama-Birmingham and Georgia State University—two 14 seeds that upset three seeds—many people's brackets, mine included, were dead in the water by the end of the first day. But I was strangely ok with that. My brackets hardly ever do well, so I've come to expect that they'll be done by the end of the first weekend and then I can just sit back and enjoy the tournament for what it is: a wonderful showcase of some of the most athletically gifted young men in the country.

The Wildcats have at least five future NBA players on their team. Duke University has at least three and so does the University of Arizona. The raw talent that many of these players put out is mind-boggling and that's why I watch. I watch out of self-interest—at least at first—but what I care about is talent. And there is no better way to see grade-A talent than March Madness.♦

fun being together. At the end of every game, we get into a little circle and yell, 'GSUSB woo!' and no matter how the game went—good or bad—we are still here for each other regardless of what just happened out there."

She also noted that the team has a good working relationship with Sylvester. "We like him," she said. "He pushes us to be our best and gets wins out of us—hopefully a few more than we got over the Florida break."

The Knights will hope to start to get those wins when they continue their season on Friday March 27 against SUNY Fredonia.♦

W. B-ball
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

and were unable to come away with a victory. Still, the team rallied to outscore FDU-Florham by 14 in the second half, only losing 68-54. As senior center Katie Peterson put it, the team just takes it one game at a time.

"At this point in the season, we are just looking to survive and advance. We just want to give our best effort and hopefully we can come out on top," Peterson said. "We have worked so hard this season and to see our efforts being rewarded as one of the last 16 teams in the tournament makes for a memorable season."

With the loss of five seniors, Geneseo is going to have some big shoes to fill—especially at the forward position. Although the Knights still have junior forwards Allison McKenna and Vanessa Wyckoff—both of whom are over 6'0"—Geneseo will lose 5'11" senior forward Lea Sobieraski and 5'10" senior forward Shannon McGinnis.

McGinnis—a Women's Basketball Coaches Association Division III First Team All-American—accounted for the bulk of the Knights' scoring and rebounding this season; averaging 15.7 points per game and 11.4 rebounds per game. She finished her career with 1,473 points and 1,011 rebounds, making her the only player in program history to reach 1,000 rebounds.

The Knights will look to junior All-SUNYAC selections McKenna and guard Dana Co-han, as well as sophomore guards Katie Durand, Bridgit Ryan and Kara Houppert to help balance their attack next season.

Geneseo closed the year with one of the best seasons in program history. The Knights will look to build on their success and continue the tradition of excellence that has been key to their stellar record this year. The Knights should be very proud of the great challenges they overcame to get to the NCAA Tournament. The Knights ended the season with a 25-5 record and a perfect 14-0 at home.♦

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Freshman runner makes early impact



SEAN RUSSELL/ASSOC. PHOTO EDITOR

Freshman Isaac Garcia-Cassani placed third in an All-American race in North Carolina on March 14. Garcia-Cassani will hope to add to his impressive track record during the spring track and field season.

MEGAN TOMASZWESKI COPY EDITOR

Many students come to college hoping to achieve something that they can be proud of for years to come. Men's cross country and track and field freshman distance runner Isaac Garcia-Cassani has embraced this mentality, racking up an impressive number of athletic

accolades in his short time at Geneseo.

His most recent—and perhaps most remarkable—feat was placing third in an All-American event with a mile time just over four minutes at the NCAA Division III 2015 Indoor Track & Field Championships in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on March 14. Among other career

highlights, he placed 12th at the 2014 SUNYAC Cross Country Championship meet. For Garcia-Cassani, commitment is key to his running success.

“Long distance running requires a lot of perseverance as well as a lot of dedication,” he said. “If you're not fully into it, then you might as well quit and go do something else. It's taught

me a lot of discipline to stay focused and to stay at it.”

Garcia-Cassani explained that he discovered his passion for cross country and track unintentionally. He began training to make his high school's varsity soccer team after initially being cut and discovered a natural talent and enjoyment in running. “I kind of had a knack for it,” he said. After he made the soccer team the next season, he quit to pursue cross country.

He received numerous honors in his high school running career—from being named Academic All-County for cross country, indoor and outdoor track, to being selected to the 2014 State Championship teams and holding the record for fastest mile in indoor and outdoor track for Sachem North High School in Holbrook, New York. Garcia-Cassani noted that his high school coach—a Geneseo alum—played a large role in helping him prepare for athletics at Geneseo.

“He took the intensity off just a bit,” he said. “When I came to college, it was a great transition because I had already done half the things they were doing.”

Garcia-Cassani explained that while he came to Geneseo primarily for its academic reputation, he was also drawn in largely by the camaraderie

on the men's cross country and track teams. “I visited a lot of teams ... all the schools were good, but no school had quite as much of a familial presence in the team as Geneseo,” he said. “Everybody sticks together, everybody has each other's back.”

Garcia-Cassani continued to stress the crucial role that his teammates and coaches play in his success. “If I didn't have the support of my coach and all my teammates, I wouldn't have made it far at all,” he said. “At some points I've just wanted to stop, but my coaches [Mike Woods and Chris Popovici] and my teammates are the guys who convince me to keep going.”

While he acknowledged that it can be stressful to maintain a successful academic and athletic career, Garcia-Cassani emphasized that his love of running overshadows the stress. “For most people, it's not worth it ... but the satisfaction that I get from competing and doing well is better than getting any good grade on a test,” he said. “It's the best feeling; it's truly euphoric.”

After graduation, the physics major hopes to enter graduate school to pursue a career in engineering. As demonstrated in his athletic record, Garcia-Cassani's determination and work ethic can certainly take him to great places. ♦

Women's lacrosse starts undefeated

BILLY BURNS ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The Geneseo women's lacrosse team is off to a hot start, winning five games in a row to begin the season undefeated. The Knights look to go into SUNYAC play undefeated, with hopes to secure their first SUNYAC title in program history.

Over spring break, the team traveled down to Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida to train. Head coach Carly Ritchlin said that the trip was a good bonding experience for her team.

“Chemistry-wise, it is more beneficial to us because the women get to have fun in Florida and we get to feel more comfortable with our overall game,” Ritchlin said.

The benefits go beyond team chemistry for Ritchlin, however.

“It's essential to be able to be down there in the warm weather,” she said. “Playing on a full field really helps us get our transition game down and prepare for our opponents.”

Winning the conference outright will be no easy task for the Knights, as SUNY Cortland has won the conference title every year since 1999. The Knights, however, have still had success—receiving an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament the past two seasons. Ritchlin emphasized her hopes that her team will be able to build on that.

“It is important that we put all the pieces together that we have built upon during the preseason and non-conference games, and that will help us advance and create opportunities to win in our tough conference,” Ritchlin said. “We haven't won the conference championship, so every game we play is key for us to get that at-large bid. If we keep learning and growing, we can put ourselves in a position to succeed.”

In women's lacrosse in the SUNYAC, the teams are very balanced. Much like “March Madness” in NCAA Division I men's basketball, any team can beat any other team on any given night. This makes the level of competition high; players and coaches must be on top of their game every night in order to come away victorious.

“We have a target on our back and we need to play with a mental toughness every time we step on the field,” Ritchlin said. “A win against us would help the other teams get that at-large bid ... We need to play to win and come out with the same fire and intensity that we coaches have seen all preseason and in our first games of the season.”

Geneseo is currently ranked 16th in the country by the IWLCA Coaches poll. The same poll has Cortland ranked sixth. The Knights will open SUNYAC play against SUNY New Paltz at the Rochester Institute of Technology on Saturday March 28 at 1 p.m. ♦

Tennis prepares for NCAA Championship

ALEXANDRA CIARCIA ASST. COPY EDITOR

After a long hiatus for the Geneseo tennis team, the Knights are back and ready to fight. The team traveled to Florida over spring break to face three difficult teams in preparation for the upcoming NCAA Tournament.

“It's fun to win 9-0, but it doesn't get us ready for the NCAA Tournament,” head coach Jim Chen said. “So I scheduled two Division II teams and a Division III team that is going to the NCAA Tournament. They were three tough matches.”

Winning is exactly what the Knights were doing. They went to Tampa, Florida with an undefeated record, dominating five teams with 9-0 wins in the fall portion of their schedule. But the Knights were not able to win with that same ease in Florida.

Geneseo narrowly defeated Savannah College of Art and Design Atlanta on March 17, but lost to Texas A&M Kingsville and Hope College on March 18 and Thursday March 19 respectively.

The Knights started with a 5-4 victory against SCAD Atlanta. Junior Cat Crummey and senior Amanda Rosati won in number-two doubles, putting them at 6-0 at number-two doubles since being paired together. Senior Dexuan Yuan, junior Mai Hashimoto and Crummey helped secure the victory by winning their singles matches.

“The fact that we won, we were really happy. And at that stage, we'd beaten every Division II team that we'd played,” Chen said. “Then came Wednesday. We played another Division II team—Texas A&M—and I think they were too much for us.”

The Knights lost to Texas A&M Kingsville 7-2, marking their first loss of the season. Crummey and Rosati paired again to win number-two doubles, but senior Minxuan Yuan and freshman Anika Pornpitaksuk lost at number-three doubles in a tiebreaker.

“That really was tough,” Chen said. “If [Yuan and Pornpitaksuk] had won, it would be 2-1 and we would be going into the singles really fired up. As is, we were down; we were not as

fired up to play the singles and we lost.”

Ranked 25th nationally in Division III, Hope College was the last team the Knights played. The Knights lost 6-3 to the Flying Dutch. Nevertheless, the team remains optimistic, using their experience in Florida to prepare for April and the NCAA Tournament. The team's goal is to get to midseason form and to learn to improve on weaknesses.

“We learned a lot. We're not disappointed in that we scheduled tough teams,” Chen said. “[The trip to Florida] was a success in many ways.”

Five matches remain in Geneseo's season before the NCAA Tournament. To learn and grow for the tournament, the Knights will face more tough competition, starting on April 9 when the Knights host the University of Rochester.

“[They're] a very dedicated team,” Chen said. “They know what's at stake. We don't just want to win one round. We have a blank page here and we hope to write down ‘win.’” ♦