New agreement guarantees transfer to UAlbany

By: Setodzi Avoke
Junior Copy Editor

Hudson Valley and State University of New York at Albany held a joint ceremony in recognition of their new transfer agreement on Feb. 24. UAlbany is the most popular transfer destination for Hudson Valley students with over 240 matriculating to the institution in 2016. The agreement guarantees credit transferability from Hudson Valley to 34 Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degree programs at UAlbany.

Transfers to UAlbany’s colleges and schools of arts and sciences, business, criminal justice, education, engineering and applied science, and more will now have an uninterrupted degree track between the two institutions from their associates program to their bachelor's degree.

Hudson Valley President Andrew Matonak and University at Albany’s Dean of Undergraduate Education Jeanette Altarriba met to speak and sign a document that affirms the joint measure between the two colleges.

“We've had a long-standing effort where we provide opportunities for our students, “ said Matonak.

At Albany and this is just one new agreement to UAlbany

Before

"Elevated." The 25-year-old has been playing guitar for nearly half of his life. At the age of 12 Szalkowski picked up the instrument on ice

By: Julie Rodriguez
Creative Editor

“I feel like people look down on me because of my identity,” said business administration major Zaish Sadiq about not wearing Pakistani clothing after her move to the U.S.

Sadiq stopped wearing her Pakistani clothes after moving to America because they made her feel out of place. Sadiq found this to be one of many reasons her move from Pakistan to the U.S was fast paced and discriminatory.

“All of the sudden we got this call from the embassy that we had our interview on Jan. 27, 2013, and we had to be there or we would not be considered for visas,” said Sadiq. “We applied ten years ago, and then we got our visas – it was very unexpected,” she said.

It was a long road before Sadiq’s family was allowed to leave Pakistan for the U.S. After their approval, Sadiq’s family had to uproot their lives and rush to the U.S.

“After the interview was done, we got our medical done in March, and we left on the 24th,” she said.

Sadiq was about to graduate high school and was one month away from finals before moving out of the country.

“Suddenly I couldn't go to school anymore because we were moving,” said Sadiq.

Sadiq quickly became aware of her differences when she received unwanted looks and comments from strangers.

“I would not wear Pakistani clothes outside - even today I do not wear them,” she said. “It’s not that I’m embarrassed, it’s just that the way people look at you, it

SEE ZAISH PAGE 13

Pakistani immigrant recalls struggle to assimilate

By: Jenny Caulfield
Editor-in-Chief

Dropping out of his four-year university to pursue his dreams, Tyler Szalkowski created what has now become one of the most popular pop-punk bands in the country.

State Champs, the Albany based pop-punk band created by Szalkowski, has grown in rapid popularity since the release of their first full-length album, “The Fishe Things.”

“My dream was to be able to see the world while playing music, [and] I think it's safe to say that the dream has been obtained,” said Szalkowski.

The album landed State Champs a number two spot on Billboard's Heatseekers Albums chart, and included State Champs’ breakthrough singles that put them on the map, “Simple Existence” and

SEE TRANSFER PAGE 5

ALUMNUS REDEFINES ‘SIMPLE EXISTENCE’

By: Jenny Caulfield
Editor-in-Chief

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SEE TRANSFER PAGE 5

INSIDE NEWS:
Senator Schumer awards local hero

INSIDE SPORTS:
Vikings score final goal on ice

INSIDE CREATIVE:
Student publishes autobiography

PAGE 5
PAGE 8
PAGE 16

PHOTO BY VICTORIA CREW | HUDSONIAN
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PHOTO BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER | HUDSONIAN

GRAPHIC BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER | HUDSONIAN

GRAPHIC BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER | HUDSONIAN

GRAPHIC BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER | HUDSONIAN
SUNY realizes Rockefeller’s “greatest achievement”

By: Zoe Deno
Staff Writer

SUNY’s founders could never have expected they’d be planting a seed that would grow into the largest public university system in the U.S.

One out of every three New York State high school graduates attend a SUNY school with approximately 3 million living alumni around the world.

President Harry Truman was the first president to issue a report on the state of higher education within the U.S. in 1946. The report revealed that New York State had no public education system for higher learning.

N.Y. Governor Thomas Dewy had ambitions to run for president and knew that signing legislation to create a higher public education system could cause him to lose popularity among key voting groups.

Truman’s report put pressure on New York to create a schooling system for higher education. After many negotiations, the bill passed through the state legislature while Dewy was campaigning in Iowa during the presidential primaries.

Dewy paused his campaign in order to fly back to Albany and sign the documents that would create the State University of New York, and eventually Hudson Valley Community College.

On April 4, 1948, the SUNY system became the 48th state-funded higher education system and contained 29 unaffiliated institutions which would be incorporated within the system.

Between 1957 and 1968, SUNY was able to take part in research. They had no public education system for higher learning.

SUNY was also forced to completely rely on an uncooperative state legislature that banned it from raising funds privately.

Despite such challenges, SUNY would still move towards elevating tensions between the Board of Regents and SUNY.

SUNY schools were unofficially banned from liberal arts and the training of secondary teachers, with the exception of Albany. The system only had the approval to teach engineering at the Maritime Academy. None of the SUNY schools were able to offer doctoral programs.

SUNY was also forced to completely rely on a state legislature that banned it from raising funds privately.

Despite such challenges, SUNY would still move towards its goal of providing a public education system to New Yorkers.

In 1959 Nelson Rockefeller was elected governor of New York, and favored the SUNY system. During his time in office, he worked closely with SUNY chancellor Samuel B. Gould to improve the system.

Rockefeller reshaped the SUNY system, and personally supplied some of the funding. He encouraged the teachers’ colleges to become liberal arts colleges and for community colleges to expand. Students also started to pay for their own tuition.

Under Rockefeller and Gould, SUNY schools were now able to take part in research. They opened the door for four-year institutions to offer doctoral programs.

Between 1959 and 1973, SUNY grew from 29 campuses and 38,800 full-time students to 72 campuses and 232,000 full-time students. This period is often referred to as the “golden age” of SUNY.

Rockefeller would later call SUNY his, “greatest achievement.”

Over the next few decades, SUNY’s enrollment would mostly level off due to fluctuations within the economy.

Today, SUNY includes 64 schools. SUNY’s goal of accessibility has resulted in 100 percent of New Yorkers living within 30 miles of a SUNY campus.
by: Setodzi Avoke  
Junior Copy Editor

The college will be offering an associates degree program in cybersecurity in fall 2017. “The security of sensitive data will have a rising demand in the increasingly internet dependent parts of government, business and private communications,” said Ann Geisendorfer, department chair of criminal justice and politics whose mission is to promote an accountable democracy by tracking campaign finance data.

The cybersecurity A.S. program demands a blend of computer science and criminal justice related principles. “You really have to know how [cybersecurity] will fit into the criminal justice system,” said Geisendorfer. “What is evidence? What is forensic evidence? What are some of the principles governing evidence as far as chain of custody goes?” she said.

On the computer science end, Looby requires that the program teaches students to understand technical computer terminology. Looby also wants students to know how to interact with a computer beyond the intuitive level and to become knowledgeable enough to know what to do if they’re tasked with searching a computer running an old or unfamiliar operating system.

“[Cybersecurity] has to be familiar operating system. We finish fall and spring semester with no issues. The program must maintain a yearly average of 60 percent or greater to keep a yearly average of 60 percent or greater to qualify for continuation.”

“[Cybersecurity] has to be taught on all platforms,” said Loo- by. “For example, you can’t have an investigator who’s been trained in PCs walk into a Mac lab environment that says, ’Sorry, can’t secure it, can’t investi- gate it’,” he said.

“If you were interested in the crime of human trafficking, then I might suggest introduction to family violence or children and the law,” she said.

Geisendorfer’s goal is to allow a student’s interests to guide them toward where they’d like to be professionally.
By: Anthony O’Connell
News Editor

Hudson Valley projects enrollment within the Advanced Manufacturing Technology program to double due to the construction of the new $14.5 million Gene F. Haas Center for Advanced Manufacturing Skills.

Also referred to as CAMS, the building will be constructed along South Road and be completed by summer 2019.

The second floor of CAMS will feature an overlook into the senior lab, a Computer-aided design cam simulation room with 35 seats, conference and faculty rooms and three classrooms with collapsing walls that turn into multipurpose rooms.

Hudson Valley is the only community college within 125 miles that trains machinists and programmers. CAMS will supply the additional lab space and equipment necessary to serve more students.

The Gene F. Haas Center for Advanced Manufacturing Skills will cost the college $14.5 million.

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The Gene F. Haas Center for Advanced Manufacturing Skills project is on track for a 2020 opening.

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The college is also in the process of developing a new program called operations management technology to go along with the new building. This program will prepare students for technically related jobs in management, sales, marketing, procurement and more.

“We're going to bring in two or four-year graduates and give them a one-year certificate, which is about 30 credits,” said David Larkin, electrical engineering technologies professor and head of the CAMS project.

“These students may [enter] with good communication, writing or computer skills but lack a technical background,” Larkin said.

Operations management technology will set students up with companies to directly enter the workforce. The skills gained through the program will prepare students for roles in positions such as industrial marketing and sales, in line supervision and quality control.

“One of the problems our country has is we can't supply enough machinists, tool makers, programmers and industrial maintenance people to fill the requirements that companies have in manufacturing,” said Larkin.

A major goal of CAMS and the new program is to fill the shortage of skilled craftspeople to local manufacturing firms.

“The only students who don’t leave the college with jobs are the ones that are moving on to receive another degree, which only sets them up further to succeed,” said Larkin.

By 2020, 220,000 new jobs for machinists and industrial maintenance technicians are estimated to be created in the U.S.

Public and private sector investments are vital for the CAMS project's existence.

“We're talking about a $14.5 million building, but that price is just the building. That doesn't count everything that goes inside of it such as machines and equipment,” said Larkin.

A capital campaign committee made up of industry partners and senior faculty was created by the Hudson Valley Community College Foundation to help with fundraising for CAMS. $2.8 million has been secured toward the $3.2 million goal which is on track to be met by spring 2018.

A further $1 million challenge gift was given to the Hudson Valley Community Foundation from the Gene Haas Foundation.

By 2020, 220,000 new jobs for machinists and industrial maintenance technicians are estimated to be created in the U.S.

New York State matched the Gene Haas Foundation’s donation with an additional $1 million grant, recognizing economic development potential and CAMS importance to the local workforce.

Haas Automation is a long-time partner with the college and supplies students with equipment to train with.

"Mr. Haas is very dedicated to furthering education in the field, not only to us but the whole country," said Larkin.

Other donations have came from GE Power for $25,000, the

See page 5 for more.

"We are not only educating students but we are giving them a career," said Larkin.

Heart Foundation for $100,000 and $125,000 from Simmons Machine Tool Corporation.

"We at Simmons and the NSH Group do not see this as a donation, but rather an investment in our future and the Capital District," said Simmons President, and co-chair of the CAMS Campaign Committee, David Davis.

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The agreement makes transferring to UAlbany a simpler transition.

**TRANSFER**

FROM PAGE ONE

education, engineering and applied science, and more will now have an uninterrupted degree track between the two institutions from their associates program to their bachelor’s degree.

Hudson Valley President Andrew Matonak and University at Albany’s Dean of Undergraduate Education Jeanette Altarriba met to speak and sign a document that affirms the joint measure between the two colleges.

“This will be the first articulation agreement that we have in the three areas, particularly when you consider our [new] College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity,” said Altarriba.

The College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity is an initiative developed under the governorship of Andrew Cuomo which UAlbany was “thrilled” to be named the home of.

This program, which offers graduate certification programs, bachelor’s degrees and associate degrees, is the first of its kind in the United States.

The goal of some students on Hudson Valley’s campus may be to increase their GPA in preparation for transfer or to take advantage of the affordable credits offered, so that general education credits can be accrued before a student pursues their more specialized courses.

The transfer agreement may directly help these two types of students, but even those pursuing certification programs and terminal associate degrees may end up having their options expanded.

“Computer information systems major Tyriek Barker said that agreement between both institutions is a ‘great move.’”

“It gives people an opportunity to start off at [Hudson Valley], get a cheaper education and eventually transfer on (once) they’re better prepared [for a university curriculum] as opposed to just going straight to [a 4-year college] after high school,” said Barker.

Early childhood education major Marissa Vaughn believes that the partnerships and agreements Hudson Valley has been making are great steps forward for the campus.

“We now [come to agreements] with Cazenovia College and SUNY Cobleskill and I’m interested [transferring to] Cazenovia, but this still opens up opportunities for other majors,” said Vaughn.

**HERO**

For surviving a shooting while on duty, officer Joshua Comitale was awarded the Congressional Badge of Bravery by U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) on Feb. 23 in the Bulmer Telecommunications Center auditorium, Comitale became the first New York officer to receive the Congressional Badge of Bravery.

Troy Mayor Patrick Madden, Police Chief John Tedesco, Hudson Valley President Drew Matonak and Senator Schumer addressed an overflow crowd. Congressman Paul Tonko was unable to attend the event, but sent a letter that was read which congratulated Comitale.

On Aug. 22, 2015, Comitale responded to a carjacking. Comitale was targeted for backup to arrive before approaching the suspect, Thaddeus Faison, who attempted to flee the scene once officers made their approach.

Officer Chad Klein was one of the backup officers who arrived to assist Comitale. While still in his vehicle, Faison shot Klein, hitting him in the shoulder. Officer Comitale witnessed the exchange and returned fire.

According to Tedesco, more than 20 rounds were exchanged between Faison and Comitale. Comitale was shot in both legs while Faison was shot five times during this exchange, but continued to resist arrest.

Faison was eventually taken by additional responding officers, but soon succumbed to his injuries. Toxicology tests on Faison revealed an “extraordinarily high” level of PCP in his system.

Comitale and Klein were transported off the scene for medical attention with Comitale being reunited with his pregnant wife at the hospital.

“The heroics are well-defined that evening,” Tedesco said after the event. “What they did to come back to duty is even more heroic.”

“[This] award is important to me, but also to my family,” said Comitale. Comitale believes that despite his wounds, his family had a more difficult time dealing with the situation.

“I had some wounds, but I think it was a lot tougher for them,” he said.

According to Comitale, the award is more for those who stood by him during the recovery than for himself.

The award was established in 2008 with the purpose of honoring federal, state and local law enforcement officers who display exceptional bravery while in the line of duty.

As Schumer placed the medal around Comitale’s neck he said, “On behalf of a grateful city, state and nation, I thank you for your bravery Officer Comitale.”

“This is the kind of day that makes your job worthwhile,” said Schumer. “People who lose faith in America, look at this family!”

While speaking to the crowd, Schumer mentioned that his interest in law and order stems back to his days as an assemblyman who witnessed crime terrorize his own neighborhood.

In 1994 Schumer wrote and worked to pass a crime bill that would increase New York City’s police force to 100,000 officers.

He also drafted and championed the Community Oriented Policing Services grant program which works to ensure that police departments have the resources they need to keep New Yorkers safe.

**FROM PAGE ONE**

Individual studies major Amber Scottareggia isn’t personally concerned about her credits, but knows if it is a concern for other classmates.

“I think UAlbany is making a movement to get Hudson Valley students to transfer [to their campus] and that they want to ease the process of [student education],” said Scottareggia.

Biological sciences major Dante Hernandez likes the sense of comfort that assurance that his credits at Hudson Valley won’t end up “wasted,” because institutions like UAlbany will most likely accept their credit.

“I plan to transfer to Siena College after my two years at Hudson Valley and I’m concerned because I don’t want to waste money on classes and credits that don’t mean anything,” said Hernandez.

Although Hernandez hasn’t examined Siena’s transfer policy regarding his credits, the agreement between Hudson Valley and UAlbany has made him consider reviewing UAlbany and Siena College’s reception toward his major.

Individual studies major Justin Guy knows students who are concerned about whether their credits will transfer. Guy has encountered cases where an English credit from one college becomes an art credit at another.

Guy is considering transferring from Hudson Valley to UAlbany or Cornell. The transfer agreement relaxes his own concern about credit transferability to UAlbany. The agreement “edged” his decision toward UAlbany “a little bit,” but if Guy is accepted to Cornell, he will most likely transfer there.

Transfer agreements like these, according to Matonak, are one of the reasons Hudson Valley is a reactive institution that maintains a sensitivity toward student needs, and it’s place in the region’s education system.

“We really do appreciate all the great partnerships that [Hudson Valley] has and will continue to [negotiate],” said Matonak. A full list of included programs can be found in the Siek Campus Center, Suite 290 at the Center for Careers and Transfer Office.
New human resources director plans to re-energize department

By: Hunter Wallace
Staff Writer

Karen Paquette has been hired for the position of human resources director.

Paquette’s position makes maintaining peace among college staff and retaining a positive public image her new responsibility. Paquette is also responsible for 1100 employees, staff and faculty. “I oversee all grievances, title nine and affirmative action items,” said Paquette. “My role also includes compensation, civil service processes, training, re-employment, evaluations and employee engagement,” she said.

Paquette’s prior human resources roles have tasked her with leading employees within the hospitality, renewable energy and transportation industries. Paquette has also had HR responsibilities in every position she has held.

“In the past, my HR offices didn’t support me in the way I needed them to, so I usually just got over the HR functions and did myself,” said Paquette. “It worked for me and I gained the respect of the people I led,” she said.

Paquette believes the college will experience major changes this year, due to the retirement of senior staff members, but feels she is prepared to respond to the change while making adjustments as necessary. “I am already starting to make changes within the HR department, such as streamlining processes, more efficient ways to perform job searches and evaluating policies that reflect the current state of the college and its employees,” said Paquette.

Paquette plans to “re-energize the staff and faculty, engage employees to be involved, listen to employees and see what I can do to make their jobs less stressful.” Paquette main goal is to take existing procedures, build on them, then modify them in order to fit the college’s needs.

“I plan on taking all the wonderful ideas and procedures from the former director, which are many, and incorporate them in building a new direction for HVCC,” said Paquette. “I will strive to make positive changes that I truly believe embody our informal title, ‘Harvard on the Hudson,’ and will make our college more successful than it already is,” she said.

Karen Paquette, the new Human Resources Director, has already begun revising current Hudson Valley policies.

Viking Child Care Center: qualified, affordable, convenient

By: Setodzi Avoke
Junior Copy Editor

Hudson Valley offers parents on-and-off campus high quality childcare at affordable rates in the Viking Child Care Center. Fully licensed by the New York office of Children and Family Services and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, children between the ages of 6 weeks and 5-years-old can be cared for from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Viking Child Care Center’s services are offered to four communities on a first-come first-served basis. Students, faculty, staff and external community members are able to request full-time care. A tuition rate system based on a sliding scale that factors in a family’s gross income determines the price per student for utilizing the child care center.

The office of Faculty Student Association executive director Ann Carrozza oversees the care facility at the budgetary and administrative levels. Carrozza also writes and submits the paperwork for each grant or scholarship that the Viking Child Care Center makes available to students.

“We get grants from SUNY, from the Perkins Grant [and] last year I wrote a grant from the Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation,” said Carrozza.

The qualifications of the Viking Child Care Center’s staff are backed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and National Association for the Education of Young Children. “To maintain our accreditation we have to have a percentage of our teachers equipped with bachelor’s degrees and to be a teacher, it’s required you have an associate’s, bachelor’s, or master’s degree,” said Carrozza.

Staff with degrees below an associate’s are considered teaching assistants, however, some have achieved a Child Development Associate certificate. The facility director must have a master’s degree in education.

The Viking Child Care Center’s ten classrooms are divided by age group, with each room suited to stimulating and caring a particular age. A state mandated teacher to child ratio is also dependent on age.

For infants, it’s 4-to-1 with a maximum group size of eight. For toddlers, the maximum group size is 12 with 5-to-1 regarding children to teachers. The ratios and maximum groupings for preschoolers change based on the average age of a given class.

Of the ten available rooms, infants have two rooms dedicated to their care while toddlers and preschool age children each have four.

“The curriculum is based on the age of the child. In the infant room we do things that stimulate the child as it’s growing and developing,” said Carrozza. “In the toddler’s [room], in order to stimulate gross and fine motor skills, we have water tables where children might play with letter sponges which, by the same token, develop their familiarity with letters and education,” she said.

Carrozza stresses beginning the education of a child at their toddler stage is important.

“Toddler classrooms are also heavily labeled and teachers can point at things around the room, allowing toddlers through spell pronunciation and identification. In case of cold or rainy days, an indoor “gross motor room” allows teachers to take toddlers through gymnastic routines like tumbling. A child within the preschool portion of the curriculum will have more educational opportunities with writing, number and letter skills being developed over the course of their stay.

Two playgrounds for toddlers and one for preschoolers round out the curriculum with a breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack included in the tuition fee.

The campus and larger community’s response to the program pleases Carrozza, but there are still openings in the preschool program available.

“The center is well received and I know it’s valued highly by our students and community members,” said Carrozza. “They recognize the quality of care as well as the dedication that our teachers bring to the children every day,” she said.
Students ignore financial aid opportunities

By: Anthony O’Connell
News Editor

SUNY is pushing for greater completion of FAFSA. “Approximately 62% of our high school students complete FAFSA, we need to increase that,” said president Andrew Matonak during Hudson Valley’s All College Meeting.

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It allows students to apply for federal student loans, federal grants and federal work study to cover any expenses a student may have. “We absolutely encourage all students to complete the FAFSA and TAP application, even if they believe they may not be eligible,” said Krista Hamm, financial aid technical assistant.

Administered by The New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, TAP stands for Tuition Assistance Program which allows students to apply for a state grant that does not have to be repaid. After completing FAFSA, students are able to link their online TAP application at the end of the FAFSA session. The award is contingent upon the annual approval of the New York State budget.

The deadline for TAP is June 30. Factors including income, household size, assets, etc. determine eligibility for federal and state grants and federal subsidized loans. Even if the student is out of range for grants and subsidized loans students still qualify for unsubsidized loans as long as they have not exceeded lifetime borrowing limits.

Students are also able to apply for Hudson Valley Foundation Scholarships. However, a valid FAFSA application must be on file with the school to be eligible.

NSW

Unsatisfactory academic progress with a school may make student ineligible for any federal and state financial aid. All students must meet GPA and completion requirements for federal and state aid programs.

“If a student is not eligible for federal and or state financial aid, they can apply for scholarships, private education loans or look into employer tuition assistance to help cover expense,” said Hamm.

If a student is repeating a course in which they previously received a F, Z or W grade, federal and state financial aid will cover the course again as long as the student is in good academic standing.

If a student is repeating a course that they previously received a passing grade such as D, C or B, federal financial aid will possibly cover it again as long as the student receives a higher final grade than previously earned, and is in good academic standing.

As a Hudson Valley student, you also have the option to pay 50 percent of your total registration charges and defer payment of the unpaid balance until later in the semester. There is a $50 non-refundable payment plan fee, if a student chooses this option.

Financial awards are based on your total cost of attendance which includes tuition, fees, books and supplies, transportation, room and board and personal expenses. First, the award will be applied to a student’s tuition and fees cost.

The remaining amount will be refunded to the student at various times throughout the semester depending on the type of aid they are receiving.

FAFSA forms can be completed at www.fafsa.gov. The federal FAFSA school code is 002868 and the state TAP school code is 2080.

Speaker discusses Bob Marley during Black History Month

By: Setodzi Avoke
Junior Copy Editor

In recognition of both Black History Month and Bob Marley’s birthday, Hudson Valley hosted a lecture titled “Bob Marley & the Wailers.”

On Feb. 23, guest speaker Donald Hyman recounted the life, music and influence of Bob Marley, born Robert Nesta Marley. Hyman also touched on the history of those who would work with, influence and be influenced by Marley.

These people ultimately contributed to the globe spanning legacy left behind by Marley.

Hyman’s presentation opened with a history of “Bob Marley & the Wailers,” particularly the “lesser known” members Bunny Livingston and Peter Tosh, which quickly transitioned to the Trench Town municipality of Kingston where all three young men lived and collaborated at one point.

Hyman explained that Trench Town was constructed as a lower income housing development and the area began as a step up for the citizens of Kingston. Years later it would become violent as the People’s National Party and the Jamaica Labour Party would enforce discriminatory measures that turned housing and services into a partisan issue.

Hyman felt it was worth the diversions to impart a sense of context for the work Bob Marley and his acquaintances would create. “If you’re going to look at Bob Marley’s influence, you need to understand the man, the culture, [and] people culture,” said Hyman.

If a student is repeating a course that they previously received a passing grade such as D, C or B, federal financial aid will possibly cover it again as long as the student receives a higher final grade than previously earned, and

Hyman’s presentation urged listeners to understand the man before the “Legend.” “We don’t necessarily look at [Marley] as an entertainer, but as an entertainer, but as a messenger which is actually what his name, Nester, [means],” said Hyman.

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He's become youth culture and not over

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“There were plenty of times when I would feel suicidal,” said liberal arts major Elijah DeVivo about the hardships he navigated as a child. DeVivo released his autobiography, “Resilient: One Boy’s Story” in early January.

DeVivo used a marketing strategy to gain some early purchases. Due to the success of his sales, “Resilient: One Boy’s Story” was on Amazon’s best-seller list at number six around a month ago.

DeVivo believes that his experiences developed his ability to overcome multiple difficulties when the odds were stacked against him.

“The overall message focuses on the fact that you have to be your own superhero in life because no one else is going to do it for you,” said DeVivo. At a younger age, DeVivo felt he had to learn this lesson the hard way. “I didn’t have anyone to save me,” he said.

DeVivo’s story focuses on his family’s own struggle to function. His parents were unable to provide for him and his siblings, so the bulk of the responsibilities fell on him.

“As a young kid, I had to try to deal with taking care of a mom when I should have been the one being taken care of,” he said.

When DeVivo was one, his mother had a brain aneurysm. “She wasn’t around for most of my childhood,” he said. DeVivo’s father was there to care for him, but he suffered from mental illness.

“The combined stress of taking care of my mom, and also taking care of me and my twin led to him having a nervous breakdown,” said DeVivo.

After his breakdown, DeVivo’s father became abusive. “I had to try to avoid my dad at all costs,” said DeVivo.

DeVivo writes about his father’s mental illness, and how it affected the people in his household growing up.

“My dad is bipolar, and not all bipolar people experience his symptoms. He has mood swings, and he can become very reckless,” he said.

DeVivo’s father would threaten him and his siblings as children, and would go into detail about what he was going to do to them. As a result, most of DeVivo’s childhood was fraught with fear that his father would act recklessly.

DeVivo remembers being frightened when he was younger, especially after his father purchased a gun. “That was not an appropriate thing to buy because he experienced episodes of depression and extreme happiness,” said DeVivo. “If he was having a depressed or manic episode then he could have taken it out on us,” he said.

After multiple stunts of violence, DeVivo took matters into his own hands with his father, and acting as a parent.

“As I grew older, my mom had two more kids, so I kind of became the father-figure,” said DeVivo. Although his father was present, DeVivo felt he had to do more to help his family.

“When I was about 14, things started to become really bad,” said DeVivo. “That’s when I decided, ‘Okay, I can’t just wait around and hope for things to become alright. I actually have to do something even though I was just a kid,’” he said.

Around the same age, DeVivo started homeschooling so he could spend more time caring for his family.

“I got two jobs, and all of my money would go towards managing our lives,” said DeVivo. “At some point, we couldn’t handle it anymore, so we put our house up for sale.”

Taking on more responsibilities at home, DeVivo’s father showed signs of behavior that put their entire family at risk.

“After putting the house up for sale, my dad became more abusive than normal,” said DeVivo. Due to the violence, DeVivo had to file for a restraining order against his father at 15-years-old. Despite the order, his father would attempt to break into their home.

“I would walk downstairs and discover the lock broken,” said DeVivo. “He would break in.

“...when I was around 15 I had to go to court and get a restraining order against my dad. I had never done anything like that before.”

- Elijah DeVivo

“Absolutely brilliant! Elijah took my breath away from such experience with life. I’d recommend anyone to read this masterpiece!”

-Raphael Mataev, Amazon

“An inspiration.”

- Kindle Customer, Amazon
DeVivo came out at bi-sexual to his family, and his mother disapproved due to her religious beliefs.

“I had to deal with losing my dad, and then I had to deal with losing my mom as well,” said DeVivo.

DeVivo believes that anyone in a situation similar to his own should look to the future for inspiration, and look for strength.

“When it comes to life, nothing stays bad forever,” said DeVivo.

DeVivo believes that those who push through hardships will be satisfied by the end results.

“If your situation is pretty bad, it probably isn’t going to stay that way,” said DeVivo. “Just ride it out to see what’s in store for you along the way.”

DeVivo went to court, and received the restraining order against his father. The order included a 30 day period where his father could not come into contact with DeVivo.

“It was a 30 day period, and then they would have a court date to hear the grounds for filing the restraining order. After that, they would decide to keep it in place for a year,” he said.

During the period that the restraining order was put in place, DeVivo’s mother decided to file for a divorce, finding it safest to file for a divorce with him unable to be in contact with the family.

“If we had told him we were filing for a divorce when he was living with us, he probably would have tried to kill us,” said DeVivo. “He was pretty unpredictable, so we couldn’t really guess what was going to happen,” he said.

Once DeVivo’s house was sold, the assets were split, and custody of him and his siblings was given to DeVivo’s mother.

Despite all of the negativity surrounding DeVivo’s childhood, he has come to a realization to forgive his father and have him be a part of his life.

“Surprisingly, now I have a relationship with [my father],” said DeVivo.

DeVivo sees his father periodically, and has taken steps towards forgiving him for his actions.

“I want a dad, or a father-figure, even though he has done some bad stuff,” he said. “I still love him.”

Besides these struggles, DeVivo also struggled with his sexuality. “I had to come out in a Christian home, and that was not the best,” said DeVivo.

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Physical education student Solomon Reed said his parents were pretty open and in agreement with his tattoos. "My father has tattoos, so I use that as my alibi. He expresses himself with his ink, so I do the same with mine. And my mom has one tattoo, but she doesn't want me to get too many. She does like the tattoos I have now," said Reed.

Forensic science student Marisa Heiserman said her parents are not as lenient as others. "My parents aren't really very fond of [tattoos]," said Heiserman. "They don't have any, and they kind of think that it's dangerous," she said.

Some students' tattoos represent an important milestone or event that has occurred in their lives. Physical education student Mia Murphy's tattoo displays the coordinates of her birthplace.

Tattoos are cross-cultural, versatile and heavily present in the daily lives of Americans. Construction and maintenance student Christopher Shea believes tattoos are a form of self expression. "[Tattoos] help show who you are, and share that with the world," said Shea.

Surgical technology student Oniel Barrett believes subtly is key with tattoos. "I think [tattoos] are okay if you have less on your body, and they're not spread all over," said Barrett. "For me, I think it looks nasty," he said.

Some students' opinions are shaped largely based on their parents views, while others form their opinions on their own. "Growing up, my parents would say, 'Hey, you know, we don't want you getting a tattoo so you shouldn't get one.' Obviously, you want to rebel against that, and go get one," said construction technology student Greg Moon.

Students shared their parents reactions when they first saw their own tattoos. Shea said that his parents liked the tattoo that he had done. "They liked it, and they thought it was really cool," said Shea.

Some students who don't have tattoos do not plan on getting them in the future, or aren't sure if they want any. "I personally won't be getting any tattoos," Barrett said.

Students with tattoos sometimes get them done to apply a meaning to them. Lopez said she had her tattoo of a purple flower done because of a condition she had. "The purple in [the tattoo] is the Lupus colors, because I have Lupus," said Mariah Lopez, a Surgical Technology major.

"My left shoulder is a memorial to my grandmother who passed away in 2005, and the one on my chest is overcome, so I overcome adversity and negativity," said Clark. "I have lavender on my chest, which is representative of peace and calm, and with crippling anxiety, I need all the calm I can get," said Piazza.

Physical education student Michael Jones likes tattoos and he wants to get more done in the future. Business administration student Maddie Gibbons believes people should be able to do whatever they choose to do on their own bodies. "Honestly, I think that it's your body and you should be able to do whatever you want with it," said Gibbons. "I personally don't really care if people have tattoos," she said.

Job opportunities are changing for people and employers are able to hire you based on qualifications, and not just on your appearance," said Piazza. Parents are also becoming more open to tattoos, and the idea of their children getting them.

Student share their thoughts on the significance of tattoos. Physical education student Solomon Reed said his parents were pretty open and in agreement with his tattoos. "My father has tattoos, so I use that as my alibi. He expresses himself with his ink, so I do the same with mine. And my mom has one tattoo, but she doesn't want me to get too many. She does like the tattoos I have now," said Reed.

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Champs: from page one

A guitar and found his passion for music.

In March of 2010, Szalkowski and some friends went on to create one of the most successful bands to come out of the Albany area. While still a student at Hudson Valley, Szalkowski had high hopes for his future with State Champs.

Szalkowski graduated in 2011 from Hudson Valley with an individual studies degree. He transferred to UAlbany, intending to achieve a degree in American history. At the time, Szalkowski felt both degrees would benefit his future, but changed his mind after reaching UAlbany.

“Id dropped out of my transfer school with only 26 credits to go,” said Szalkowski. Between semesters at UAlbany and debating on attending graduate school, State Champs landed their first record deal, manager and booking agent. “We had gone on a tour that summer and we all fell in love,” said Szalkowski. That small taste of what we dream made us want to push it as far as it could go, and experience as much of that feeling as we could.”

Szalkowski and some of his other bandmates had to decide whether they’d continue their education or pursue their dreams with State Champs. “We had our manager and label asking us if dropping out was something we considered, and of course it was,” said Szalkowski.

Szalkowski went to see his advisor at UAlbany for guidance on his future, with dropping out in mind. “[The advisor] supported the idea, and reminded me that school would always be here for me to come back to,” said Szalkowski. “He told me that he would rather see me succeed in one field, be it school or work, than half-ass both and get poor grades,” he said.

After clearing the decision with his parents, Szalkowski dropped out of UAlbany fully committing to State Champs. “It was a heavy decision, but I’m not sure when people’s perception of us changed, but for us, a lot of it goes back to that first time there,” he said.

Szalkowski started touring in 2012, spending four years supporting other artists. “When we got to enter that role of a headlining band with our own sold out shows, full production and [a] full touring crew all over the world, we started to feel more legitimate,” said Szalkowski. “The people in the room at our hometown shows there, ‘We had our manager and label asking us if dropping out was something we’d consider, and of course it was,’ said Szalkowski.

Szalkowski hopes that musicians in the capital region that look up to State Champs do not stop pursuing their own music goals. “Stay humble, make good songs, and if it’s meant to be it’ll all fall into place,” said Szalkowski.

“The failure rate is really high. The best part is that we get to do it,” he said.

State Champs performing on their sold out U.S. World Tour at Upstate Concert Hall in Clifton Park, N.Y.

When we got to enter that role of a headlining band with our own sold out shows, full production and [a] full touring crew all over the world, we started to feel more legitimate.”

- Tyler Szalkowski

For the largest traveling music festival in the country, The Vans Warped Tour. In February of last year, State Champs went on a headlining 2016 Alternative Press Awards, and was number eight on Rock Sound’s top 50 albums of 2015. Last summer, State Champs were one of the main stage bands more legitimate,” he said. Every show in the U.S. of the World Tour sold out, and State Champs felt their popularity grow exponentially.

“‘That was a huge moment for us as a band to be able to pull that off,’” said Szalkowski. “Growing up attending shows for us as a band to be able to pull that off, “ said Szalkowski. The acclaimed album won State Champs Best Breakthrough Band at the 2016 Alternative Press Awards, and was number eight on Rock Sound’s top 50 albums of 2015. Last summer, State Champs were one of the main stage bands for the largest traveling music festival in the country, The Vans Warped Tour. In February of last year, State Champs went on a headlining 2016 World Tour with pop-punk band Neck Deep. Szalkowski considered this to be his favorite tour, and a large part of their success.

“I’m not sure when people’s perception of us changed, but for us, a lot of it goes back to that first time there,” he said.

In comparison to other tours in and outside of the country, Szalkowski feels incredible pride when playing shows back home. “The people in the room at hometown shows are some of the same people that helped or watched us grow into who we are now,” said Szalkowski. “It’s very humbling and grounding. It’s a nice reminder of why we’re proud of where we came from.”

State Champs are currently on their 2017 European Tour which includes sold-out dates in Madrid, Spain and Vienna, Austria. The tour included State Champs’ second stop in Amster-

“I also miss how simple and easy life is in the Capital Region,” said Szalkowski. “I don’t get it wrong. I’m lving Los Angeles, but I’d be lying if I said I liked spending a couple hours of my day in traffic.”

Szalkowski hopes that musicians in the capital region that look up to State Champs do not stop pursuing their own music goals.

“Stay humble, make good songs, and if it’s meant to be it’ll all fall into place,” said Szalkowski.

Szalkowski didn’t believe State Champs would become as successful as they are today, and doesn’t want students to give up their dream of becoming a successful musician.

“Thanks to anyone who reads this, supports local music and art, all of our fans that help us live this dream, and Hudson Valley for being a great school,” said Szalkowski.
Students challenge
“Harvard on the Hudson”

By: Zoe Deno
Staff Writer

Was college everything you expected it to be when you moved in?

Hudson Valley students have come clean about their expectations as new students at the college, and what they are experiencing now as they are in the spring semester.

“I have a love-hate relationship with Hudson Valley,” said business administration major Dan Valentine who carries a mixed opinion about Hudson Valley.

Valentine decided to attend Hudson Valley because of how close it was to his home, and its affordability.

“Hudson Valley seemed like a reasonable choice for me,” said Valentine. “The campus also had a snazzy look that I liked.”

Valentine enjoys the academic offerings, but is disappointed by the social life on campus.

Human services major Adelaido Montresano believes there are many different sub-groups of people at Hudson Valley, and that those groups don’t always interact with each other.

“Demographics change sharply on campus and it all depends on your location,” said Montresano. “Students don’t really branch out of their circles to meet people from other groups,” she said.

Digital media student Logan Hicks said the best thing about Hudson Valley for him has been the people.

“It really surprised me when I first started school here – people actually hold the door for you,” said Hicks.

Client services major Tony Vadney said that one thing he finds frustrating is Hudson Valley’s IT handlings.

“Hudson Valley’s online services such as email and blackboard crash constantly,” said Vadney.

Vadney acknowledges there are better institutions he could attend, but feels other colleges can’t compete with Hudson Valley.

Computer science major Matthew Prouest believes that Hudson Valley is where you’re shipped off to if you didn’t do anything in high school.

Prouest also feels that Hudson Valley is filled with a mixture of poor and exceptional professors. Because of this, Prouest criticizes the idea that a class’s difficulty may change solely due to who is teaching the class.

Human services student Kathryn Legg is impressed with the aesthetics of campus. She wasn’t initially planning on going to college, but after accompanying her brother to his orientation at Hudson Valley, she changed her mind.

“I knew I was going to come here as soon as I walked on campus,” said Legg.

Ligg is looking to enjoy the warmer weather on campus as she feels excitement for spring.

“It’s just getting warm, and everyone is outside playing football – It’s really cheery, and it makes me happy,” said Legg.

Business administration major Samantha St. Germain planned to attend Hudson Valley to find and pursue a new career.

“Hudson Valley is great at providing students with opportunities,” said St. Germain. “It really gives you a gateway to try anything out,” she said.

Hicks, alongside many other students on campus, are using Hudson Valley as a transition to a four-year university.

“I came to Hudson Valley because I needed to get my grades up,” said Hicks.

Hicks said that before coming to Hudson Valley, he looked down at the school, but after enrolling, he found he enjoys the college.

Although his family was pleased with his attendance at Hudson Valley, Hicks’ friends attending other colleges and universities made fun of him attending a community college.
makes you feel like you don't belong," said Sadiq.

Sadiq experienced an unpleasant encounter when a man disagreed with her clothing choices at a YMCA sauna. Sadiq wore yoga pants in the sauna and was approached by a man who told her she wasn't supposed to wear what she had on inside the sauna.

"He said, 'What country are you from? Do you even belong here? This is not your country, and if you want to do this you should go back to where you belong,'" said Sadiq.

Sadiq was deeply hurt by the comments, but she's made a discovery about herself and her culture in the process.

In her home country, women are told to stay quiet, but Sadiq discovered as an American she shouldn't associate fear with standing up for herself.

"I experienced discrimination, and I didn't stick up for myself," said Sadiq. "It got stuck in my head that if you talk back, you're being disrespectful [and] that's changed with me since then," she said.

Since her move from Pakistan, Sadiq has transformed in more ways than one. Now, Sadiq is unafraid and more willing to defend herself in the face of discrimination.

Sadiq believes the immigration ban put in place by president Trump neglects to recognize the immigrants that contribute to the country's productivity.

"America is a land of immigrants. A lot of people have supported immigration to the U.S. I am one, and it's disturbing to see that America put a ban on immigration. A lot of countries idolize this country, and they look up to it," said Sadiq.

"The girl with the green passport has to stand in a different line to be processed," said Sadiq.

Sadiq describes her journey to the U.S. as fearful. Sadiq was forced to stand in a line with other green passport holders. Her family had green passports, and the British had blue.

"Coming here was painful," said Sadiq. "The way that people looked at us because of our green passports felt wrong [and] I didn't know what was going on, but when I arrived in the U.S. I learned about what happened to me. It was discrimination," she said.

Sadiq experienced racial discrimination for the first time, and she was shocked by the procedure to immigrate to the U.S.

"We went to Dubai [from Pakistan] and there was so much checking, I thought they were going to check my insides to see what I had to eat three weeks ago," she said.

Sadiq grew up with the idea that America put a ban on immigrants because of the differences in curriculum taught.

"I didn't know about slavery and I had no idea that people who were not white were discriminated against," said Sadiq. "I didn't know what the word segregation or feminism meant," she said.

Sadiq was ahead of the learning curve in certain aspects, but not others. Sadiq struggled in history because of the differences in curriculum taught.

"I started realizing that just because I was a girl, that does not mean I was not able to pursue certain things," said Sadiq.

Sadiq reminisces on the drastic comparison between education in the U.S. and Pakistan.

"We went to Dubai [from Pakistan]," said Sadiq. "We went to another country, and my experience at school was difficult.

"On the first day of school in America, I asked my teacher, 'May I come in?' She looked at me and said, 'You're already in, hon-ey,'" said Sadiq. "I got sick the first three days because I was so nervous [and] I didn't know what to say to teachers," said Sadiq.

Sadiq was ahead of the learning curve in certain aspects, but not others. Sadiq struggled in history because of the differences in curriculum taught.

"I started realizing that just because I was a girl, that does not mean I was not able to pursue certain things," said Sadiq.
Jones sees vikings off on high note

By: Josh McCart
Staff Writer

Sophomore center and business administration major Chris- tian Jones has helped lead the Vi- kings’ men’s basketball team to a record above .500. The Vikings maintained an 18 to 10 win-loss record heading into Sub-Regionals after defeating Fulton-Montgomery 82 to 75 in their final regular season game. Jones added five points to help the Vikings secure the victory against Fulton-Montgomery.

Jones started his basketball career between seven and eight-years-old. “I played for the City Rocks organization for four to five years,” said Jones about his time playing travel basketball. “I also played for Latham Press along with Team Not Even Famous in my senior year,” he said.

Jones played four seasons of varsity basketball at Water- ford-Halfmoon High School. At the small Section II Class C school, Jones led the team to the Section II semi-finals his junior year where they were defeated by Greenwich.

During his senior year, Waterford-Halfmoon made a run to the Section II championship game where they were beaten by Lake George.

After his high school career was finished, Jones chose to continue his academic and athletic career at Hudson Valley. He made this choice primarily due to it’s affordability and because many of his friends had played or currently play for Hudson Valley.

Men’s basketball head coach Mike Long believes Jones pushes his teammates to do their best, says Jones is, “One of the hardest workers on the team.”

Jones’ work ethic led him to a season best of 17 points scored in a loss to Herkimer earlier in the season. Jones went 8 for 12 from the field in this game and collected five rebounds.

“Chris was primarily responsible for a huge upset win we had earlier in the season against Fin- ger Lakes,” said Long. In the up-set, Jones contributed six points and ten boards in the Vikings’ victory.

The most memorable mo- ment for Jones’ season so far was his two dunks against Schenect- ady County Community College in the Viking’s 81-65 win. Jones scored four points, four rebounds and performed three blocks in the game.

Regarding the school-work-athletics balance, Jones does what he can to maintain higher grades. “It’s pretty much just what you put your time into,” said Jones. “You can either put your time into social media and going out, or you can focus on school and sports and what really mat- ters to you.”

“Jones is also an excellent student,” said Long. “Chris has represented Hudson Valley in the best way possible on and off the court,” he said.

Jones looks to continue his success in school at a four year insti-tution after his Hudson Valley career, with a plan to transfer to the Fashion Institute of Technol-ogy, SUNY New Paltz or SUNY Oswego.

Jones said that he hopes the Vikings will do well enough in the playoffs to have a chance to com-pete at nationals.

Vikings enjoy long history of championships

By: Skylar Blankenship
Sports Editor

The Vikings have a history of reaching championships at the national level.

Hudson Valley has compet- ed in intercollegiate athletics and has built a department of 18 men’s and women’s teams since 1953.

Currently competing in the winter season are the men’s ice hockey team, men’s and women’s bowling teams and basketball teams.

In 2001, the men’s ice hockey team continued onto the confer-ence Region III championships. They were named the national champions the same year, defeating MSU-Botteville 5-2 and 9-7. This year the men’s ice hockey team went to nationals win-ning against Mohawk Valley 8-4 in their final of the round robin tournament.

This year, Evan Perkins, a for-ward HVAC major, made the the all-rookie team. Taking spots on the all region team were Adam Hosmer and Kyle Constanty, a forward civil engineering major. Chris Reese was a forward criminal justice major, the second all region team.

Nate Muller, sophomore goalie, made the all tournament team and first all region team, ranking second in the nation with a 1.91 save percentage and ranked third in goals-against average.

Coach Lancto, the ice hockey team’s head coach, was named re- gion co-coach of the year.

The women’s bowling team has gone to the conference championships from 1986-87, 1992-93 and 1993.

The women’s bowling team has gone to the conference championships from 1986 through 2002. They were region-al champions in 2002 and 1993, with Lataasha Johnson named the national tournament’s MVP in 1993.

The women’s basketball teams from 1988-89 and 1992-93 were both inducted into Hudson Valley’s Hall of Fame in 1995 and 2003 with final records of 25-3 and 25-2, respectively.

Kevin Lenehan, an individual's major and center and Elijah Lott, a criminal justice major guard. Brandon Palmer, a guard and business major earned a place on the 3rd All-Conference team.

Lenehan also earned a place on the 3rd All Region team.
Vikings winter sports end with mixed success

By: Shelby Collins
Copy Editor

The Vikings are preparing to compete in their regional and national championships as the winter sports season comes to a close.

The men’s basketball team has a final record of 18-11. At the regional game, the Vikings lost to Onondaga by two points, with the final score at 97-95 (O). Prior to this loss, the team had high hopes for their chances at Nationals.

“One of the things we strive for is trying to make the regional tournaments,” said head coach Michael Long. “We would have loved to win twenty games, and we still have a shot at that at regionals,” he said.

Overall, the men’s basketball team has avoided things such as concussions, “he said. “We executed almost the way it was drawn up,” said Long.

The Vikings and SUNY Broome went into overtime, ending with the Valley winning by 13 points.

Onondaga was a challenging opponent for the Vikings this season due to the Valley’s double loss against the team.

Other teams, such as Columbia-Greene, Fulton-Montgomery and Clinton, were easy wins for the Vikings, with the team winning by a wide margin. These wins would not have been possible without the participation and dedication of the members of each team. Kevin Lennihan, Eliah Lott, Dave Reo, John and Brandon Palmer and Caleb Canty all made major contributions to the team’s effort.

“Jordan Holmes hasn’t gotten a lot of time but he’s always right there with the guys every day, he always works hard at practice, just without guys like that we don’t win,” said Long.

The men’s basketball team finished their season with a final record of 18-11, ranked 45th by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and will not be continuing on to Nationals this season.

The women’s basketball team has ended their season with a final record of 4-20 blaz it.

The team has faced a lot of challenges this season including struggles with illness and injury. The team was frequently left with only a handful of healthy players for a game. The majority of players are freshmen at Hudson Valley and still adjusting to the new team.

The team played their final game against Fulton-Montgomery on Feb. 22, losing 81-55. In total, they were able to win four games against Rockland, Cayuga, SUNY Broome and Columbia-Greene.

Shelby Dugan and Kali Szczepanski were two of the top players on the women’s basketball team this season. Szczepanski led the team in points per game, with Dugan in a close second.

The team will not be participating in Regionals this season. They are ranked 41st by the NJCAA.

Women’s basketball coach Rob Coleman was unavailable for comment.

At the regional tournament in Utica, N.Y. on Feb. 19, the men’s team was ranked fifth out of eight teams, and the women’s team was ranked fourth out of six teams participating.

Overall, the men’s team is ranked fifth out of six participating colleges in Region III of the NJCAA, and the women’s team is ranked second out of three participating colleges in Region III of NJCAA.

The bowling teams will be continuing on to Nationals, on March 3-4 at Erie Community College.

Coach Joe Prest was unavailable for comment.

The men’s ice hockey team have reached the final game of their concluding season at Hudson Valley.

“It’s bittersweet,” said head coach Ken Lanco. “We played a lot of good hockey so it was good in that sense.”

The Vikings skated across many challenging opponents this season, including Erie, however, the Vikings were able to come out on top, winning one game and tying another.

“Beating Erie in Buffalo was memorable. They’re a team that hasn’t lost in the league in I believe three or four years, and we beat them three to one on the first night. We also tied them here. The team will remember those ones. So will I,” said Lanco.

The ice hockey team was also able to consistently beat SUNY Broome, Utica College, and Mohawk Valley throughout the season, leading up to Nationals. At Nationals, the Vikings won against Mohawk Valley 8-4.

Lanco contributes their success to the hard work, positive attitude and skill of the players, starting with the goalies.

“When you’re building a team you always want to look from the goalie out, we have a ton of second year guys and they have roles on the team,” said Lanco. “They work hard and do their jobs on and off the ice,” he said.

The ice hockey team also faced injury and illness throughout the season. Several players suffered from concussions, fractures or sprains and the flu. According to Lanco, the whole team was healthy and performing well going into Nationals.

Their win at Nationals wrapped up a successful season, and a successful end to the Vikings ice hockey team.

“It’s unfortunate that there are a lot of roster spots that will be no longer, that the opportunity won’t be there for the kids, so it’s sad in that way,” said Lanco. “A lot of our second-year guys are going on to play club, or somewhere else, and a lot of the first-year guys will find somewhere to play. I’m sure of that,” he said.

The team has concluded their season with a record of 13-12-2. They won out of three games at Nationals, ranking them second in the NJCAA.
Vikings score their final goal on the ice

By: Zoe Deno
Staff Writer

Hudson Valley’s ice hockey team fought for their final victory in NJCAA hockey history.

The top four teams in the NJCAA’s league, Erie, Dakota, Mohawk, and Hudson Valley, competed at SUNY Broome’s Ice Stadium for the final tournament on Feb. 24-26. Hudson Valley placed third overall in the tournament.

“I told my team to go out onto the ice and have some fun,” said Hudson Valley Hockey Coach, Ken Lancto.

“I told them to respect the game, school and other team but to finish hard,” said Lancto.

According to Chris Breault, a Vikings forward, his team’s nerves got the best of them and the other teams were able to take advantage of that in the first two games.

“Over the past few days we have been at each others necks,” Breault said.

The Vikings began the hockey tournament with a 6-3 loss to Erie Community College on Friday.

Erie scored once in the first period and made their next three goals in the second period. Kyle Constanty scored Hudson Valley their first goal. During the third period, Troy Bennett scored, quickly followed by another goal by Constanty.

Goalie Nate Muller blocked 41 shots on Friday’s game, and is ranked second in the nation with a .919 Save Percentage, and third in Goals-Against Average.

By the end of the game, Hudson Valley had over twice as many minutes in penalties as Erie. Hudson Valley ended with 63 minutes in penalties as Erie. Hudson Valley had over twice as many infractions.

According to Andy Roppick, an official working the penalty box, poor conduct was displayed by all of the teams in the tournament.

“A lot of the time when a player disagrees with a referee they come to a penalty box and they are dropping the f-bomb left and right,” said Roppick.

Coach Lancto had no comment about the claims of misconduct.

Hudson Valley goalie Jeffrey Smith said that he thought the referees were too hard on their team.

“There was a little unsportsmanlike behavior on our end. Some of the players lost their cool and it ended up costing us,” he said.

Hudson Valley Athletic Director Justin Hoyt said that he was unaware of any misconduct.

“I’m not going to talk about the negative parts of this weekend, or the way they lost,” said Hoyt. “No one was ejected from the game,” he said.

The Vikings hockey team ended their last season on a win with a victory over Mohawk Valley 8 to 4.

Sean Spohr made the game’s first goal two-minutes into the game. Hunter Craig, Tyler DeMarco and Breault also scored in the first period.

The Vikings as incurred 23 infractions and were down a player for 73 minutes of their game against Dakota. During the time the Vikings were down a player, Dakota scored six goals.

Dakota lost 22 minutes for 11 infractions.

“If they had kept the men on the ice and have some fun, we wouldn’t have been in another game,” said Bill Orr, assistant coach for Erie’s hockey team.

Orr said that player behavior isn’t always the fault of the coach.

“You try to reign your players in, but sometimes the emotions get the best of everyone,” said Orr.

Hudson Valley scored one goal against Dakota College in the next game of the tournament on Saturday. Evan Perkins made the game’s second goal.

“The game was more relaxed because there was less pressure on us to win this game,” he said.

Hudson Valley Athletic Director Justin Hoyt said that he was unaware of any misconduct.

“Over the past few days we have been at each others necks,” Breault said.

To win our last game of program history is pretty special to me and the guys,” said Lancto.

Breault does not want to be part of the last generation of hockey players at Hudson Valley.

“We really just enjoyed our last game together,” said Smith.

“This game was more relaxed because there was less pressure on us to win this game,” he said.

Unfortunately there is not enough interest in hockey,” said NJCAA chair Kevin Salisbury about the elimination of hockey teams.

According to Salisbury, five teams in the area still have a hockey team. “Hockey is an expensive sport and that is why a lot of schools are dropping it,” said Salisbury.

“Unfortunately there is not enough interest in hockey,” said NJCAA chair Kevin Salisbury about the elimination of hockey teams.

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“Hopefully they will get a club team eventually,” said Breault. “To be one of the last ones to wear the jersey for the next couple years feels good, if not a little sad,” he said.

Hoyt. “No one was ejected from the game,” he said.

The Vikings made a valiant effort at nationals.

The Vikings go face-to-face for win at SUNY Broome’s Ice Stadium.