“Cult-like” Atmosphere at University Summer Program

By STEFAN LENZO-STOLBA

Quietly governed by strict rules and draconian punishments, the mandatory summer orientation for the coveted Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) stands out as a startlingly repressive feature of one of the University at Albany’s most acclaimed programs.

Before being admitted to the university, academically and financially disadvantaged students applying through the EOP program must first graduate from a five-week orientation, structured by a system of strict rules, which if violated result in punishments referred to by EOP officials as “lockdowns,” “bed rest,” and “isolation.”

Some of these rules and punishments interact with national definitions of non-constitutional living and raise questions about how much personal freedom disadvantaged students must relinquish in exchange for an opportunity to attend a public university. In the words of one EOP student who wished to remain anonymous the summer program was like, “dangling meat in front of a hungry dog.”

In addition, much of this code of conduct — which governs almost every aspect of student life down to the undergarments they wear — is not made known to students after they leave home, arrive on campus, and sign a contract with the university.

UAlbany officials defend the strict program as necessary to prepare incoming EOP students for a college environment and attribute much of their success to the program and its strict code of discipline.

RULES

As students arrive in Albany, EOP director, Maritza Martinez, distributes a “participation contract” outlining basic rules for attendance and behavior.

But not until their first night on campus, after signing the contract, are students out for an intensive information session in which they learn the true demands of the summer program.

All of the EOP students the Albany Student Press interviewed for this story said that during their first night, officials split the orientation group by gender to explain additional rules and punishments not covered in initial meetings.

The ASP obtained a copy of the document given to students at this first-night meeting through a Freedom of Information Law request. The document defines “lockdown” and a punishment called “room confinement,” and it spells out other core policies that the students must follow to remain in the program.

The document instructs women to keep their shoulders covered at all times, as well as to make sure they wear a bra. For men, “wilde butters,” suspender pants, and swim trunks are not allowed outside of dorm rooms.

Many students opt to wear these shirts at the end of the summer program. The shirts highlight the fact that the summer program is considered a hardship that must be endured.

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DEFINITION

“The college education is never worth less than your cell phone,” the document warns, indicating that students found in violation of program rules face the possibility of dismissal.

The orientation’s most onerous policy — which governs almost every aspect of student life down to the undergarments they wear — is not made known to students after they leave home, arrive on campus, and sign a contract with the university.

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Questionable Policies Revealed in UAlbany Opportunity Program

Dr. Helene Hedberg and Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner, both of whom have been closely involved with the program or other SUNY EOP professors, instructors, and program administrators.

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Although no one standard for educational policy in schools across the country.

budding college freshman.

and integration, he said. “Not separation or mainstream pedagogy is wavering from in foreign communities, explained that integrating English language learners is cited on Stophazing.org, the website as a resource for information on the ASP.

Although the intent of the program is humorous acknowledge the demands of much of Oliveira’s research experience is under graduate population.

Not only do the EOP’s restrictive policies mirror some common hallmarks, born or education. The “SA would sit in the classes to make sure everything was fine,” he said. “At college, no one is going to sit there making sure you do all the things you need to do.”

This meme was posted on @EOPUALBANY, the official Instagram page of UAlbany’s EOP. The meme makes light of the onerous cellphone regulations of the program.

The core policy of restricting EOP students’ communication to within their group implies that the summer cohort associates with some and not with others.

The caption written by the EOP says: “The SA would sit in the classes to make sure everything was fine,” he said. “At college, no one is going to sit there making sure you do all the things you need to do.”

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Khan's opportunities to speak and lead expanded. In the past Khan has secured four university awards for her work in campus life and academics. "The way I see it is that I apply for everything," she said. While applying "for everything," Khan's opportunities have grown over the last three years. This August, Khan was selected to speak in front of over 4,000 students at the University at Albany’s Opening Convocation in the SEFCU arena. Being selected out of thousands of students by the university was not new to Khan. In the past Khan has secured four university awards for her work in campus life and academics. Throughout a typical week, along with being Perpeil & Gold ambassador, Khan balances leadership roles in Residential Life, the Student Association, UAlbany’s ISACA chapter, and most recently, the pledge class of Alpha Phi Omega. Outside of working with students across campus, she manages internships as a web developer and works on a faculty research project for the computer science department.

And with less than two years left on campus as an undergraduate student, she wants to do more. "Any opportunity that comes to me I say yes, and sometimes more than I should," she said. Managing her time with a loaded schedule, Khan has given up much of her leisure time, dropping previous indulgences such as reading. Growing up in New Delhi, Khan spent her comfort zone upon entering the Capital Region. In New Delhi, Khan took advantage of living outside her dential Life, the Student Association, UAlbany's ISACA chapter, and most recently, the pledge class of Alpha Phi Omega.

"I just always had my head in the books and never thought I would be good at interacting with the outside world," Khan said.
Looking to study away from home, Khan went through several choices across the globe before picking UAlbany. Despite the $15,000 grant she received from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Khan declined the offer due to the school’s overall tuition cost. While applying for everything, Khan’s perception of the world had changed, dropping previous indulgences such as reading. Growing up in New Delhi, Khan spent her comfort zone upon entering the Capital Region. In New Delhi, Khan took advantage of living outside her comfort zone upon entering the Capital Region. While lacking to break away from her lack of involvement back in high school, Khan discovered the Emerging Student Leaders Program tabled at Danetopia. On the same day of Danetopia, applications for the program were due. "They told me, ‘Unfortunately, the deadline is tonight and there’s a lot of essay questions’ and I told them, ‘No problem, I work well under pressure,’” she said.
After being accepted into the program, Khan quickly became involved with clubs and organizations across campus. By the end of her first semester, she eventually became one of the founding executive board members of the Cultural Connections Club. Gaining confidence from her work as a student leader, Khan started applying for more leadership positions. She not only aimed to become more involved on campus, but as a computer science major and business minor, she also helped to learn how to learn professional skills for the future. "I want to be the type person who can go to any interview and do well regardless of whether I know about the job or the topic well or not,” she said. “It’s all about building your personality.”

45 DEGREE PROGRAMS IN
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016
ALBANY STUDENT PRESS

Type A+: How Madeeha Khan Does It All

By TYLER MCNEIL

Last fall when Madeeha Khan applied to become a University at Albany Perpeil & Gold ambassador, she did not know what the position entailed. Within a month she got the job.

"Now when people ask me, I tell them that the best thing I do on campus is being a Perpeil & Gold ambassador," she said. "Back then, I didn’t know what it was.

Like her pursuit of becoming a student ambassador, much of Khan’s involvement has been prompted by efforts to seek as many opportunities as possible, regardless of credentials. "The way I see it is that I apply for everything," she said. "And I mean, everything.”

While applying “for everything,” Khan’s opportunities have grown over the last three years. This August, Khan was selected to speak in front of over 4,000 students at the University at Albany’s Opening Convocation in the SEFCU arena. Being selected out of thousands of students by the university was not new to Khan. In the past Khan has secured four university awards for her work in campus life and academics. Throughout a typical week, along with being Perpeil & Gold ambassador, Khan balances leadership roles in Residential Life, the Student Association, UAlbany’s ISACA chapter, and most recently, the pledge class of Alpha Phi Omega.

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Places to de-stress, not distress during midterms

By LAUREN NAVRATIL

During the fall semester at college, it’s sometimes a challenge to let go of that lingering, laid-back summer vibe and really start to focus on schoolwork. But there’s nothing like midterms week to hit us college kids like a cold splash of water to the face, making us alert and conscious of everything we need to accomplish.

No matter what you’re working on, whether you’re studying for exams, writing essays, working on hands-on projects, or anything else, the best thing to do is to find a reliable and valuable spot to get your work done. My biggest suggestion would be to find a work space suited to your needs and make it your own for the rest of the semester. Make it the place you go to whenever you need to channel your mind into completing academic tasks. The more you go there, and walk away having successfully completed something, the more you will associate that place with success and achievement.

If you enjoy studying and doing homework in your dorm room or wherever you live, and that works for you, then all the power to you. Personally, when I used to try doing work in my bathroom, I would end up telling myself I could do it the next day, then ordering food and watching Netflix — not good!

I’ve discovered many places on and off the UAlbany campus, and it worked well for me, so I’ll share my insight.

**Main Library**

This is the obvious location and, nonetheless, probably the best environment to be in when trying to get work done. The library is quite extensive, however, so navigating to get everything done. Think about what inspires you at this stressful time, and to pinpoint a plan of how you’re going to get your work done, and the Capital Region becomes hubs for young people to bring their laptops and work, while maybe socializing and engaging in activities outside of school.

If you think this sounds like an ideal spot for you, then I highly recommend The Hudson River Coffee House, located on the corner of Quail and Hudson Streets. They offer free Wi-Fi, plenty of places to sit and work, and a wonderful selection of coffee, tea, sandwiches, and other goodies.

On Thursdays the shop holds an open-mic night, open to anyone to perform songs, poetry, comedy acts and more. Maybe doing schoolwork in this kind of lively environment appeals to some people!

The key is to figure out what your needs are during this stressful time, and to pinpoint a plan of how you’re going to get everything done. Think about what inspires you to get your work done the most, claim your workspace, take a deep breath, and get going.

Milo Votava / ALBANY STUDENT PRESS

The enthusiasm of the participants and the quality of the products were well above the level of the week’s farmers market outside of the Capeus Center.
AN INTIMATE PERFORMANCE OF A SHAKESPEARE CLASSIC

By FRANCHESCA CAPUTO

Romeo and Juliet came to the Performing Arts Center Tuesday night from the American Shakespeare Center. Before the play began, performers played pop covers by artists such as Muse and My Chemical Romance consisting of acapella-like harmonization accompanied by instruments such as the bass, violin, flute, cello, drums, and banjo. As their final pre-show performance, the group composed in a rap battle reminiscent of the 80s, with a theme central to the plots Montague and Capulet rivalry. It’s safe to say the Montague’s conquered. Realistically, with a hook like “I thought I told ya, we run Verona” how could they do anything less than slay?

The cast’s process for preparing for the show is extensive, as each cast member has to come into the first day of rehearsal “off book, so we know all of our lines” Aleca Piper, tripling as Lady Montague, Balthasar, and Juliet’s nurse, said. “Then we spend three weeks working on them and do the play in its entirety without a director, then with a director, making adjustments according to what they say.”

In the opening set the two feuding families are seen brawling with swords, leaping and running through the streets of Verona. The entirety of the show was fueled by a vibrant energy as each character moved at a rapid pace, and acted on haste and impulse. Action and intimacy intertwine when Romeo, played by Josh Clark, refuses to speak to anyone due to his undying love to the never-seen-or-heard-from-after this-point Rosaline, but suddenly after a suggestion by Benvolio (Constance Swain), becomes utterly devoted to meeting, and then soon marrying Juliet (Zoe Speas.) This impulsiveness occurs again when Juliet’s father, Capulet, (J.C. Long) acts violently, screaming and striking Juliet after she professes her love for Romeo and not the Prince’s Kingsman, Paris (Kyle Powell.) And of course, let’s not forget about the unfortunate timing paired with impulse that ultimately led to Romeo and Juliet’s demise. Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the performance was how the stage set-up was incorporated into the performance. Surrounding the actors on audience members on each side on the stage. Throughout the performance, actors would interact with the stage audience while staying versed in Shakespeare. From handing off wine glasses to asking for a peck on the cheek, all the way to Benvolio suggesting a fairer lady such as so-and-so to Romeo. To see the actors and audience perform on an improv level was remarkable. The staging conditions mimic what Shakespeare would have done in his day. This includes universal lighting so the audience can see the performers and the performers can see the audience; doubling, or one actor playing multiple roles, and the set design, where the backdrop remains constant, only bringing in minimal props allowing the audience to use their imagination to interpret each prop’s function.

The American Shakespeare Center performance captures the timeless tragedy of Romeo and Juliet through impulse, excitement and ultimately intimacy. With each performer able to see the audience, and therefore interact with them, there is an electrifying connection that surges throughout each and every scene. “It reinstates how important love is,” Piper paused briefly, speaking about her personal connection to the play, and continued, only this time choking back tears. “It just reiterates how important love is, and how love can always win, if we just open our heart and our ears to loving, then maybe we can find a middle ground.”
By ANDY GALLA

A n d o t h e r s

positive outlook on life.

wronged by the system, desperate to be

to life the struggle of a woman who was

criminal stepped forward. Rolon brought

to tears.

performance was inspiring and left me near

Project, which will distribute the funds to

performances will be donated to the Culture

By ELENA POLLACK

TUESSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016

ALBANY STUDENT PRESS

by a cast of highly respected

acting in this film was great. Affleck

very believable as a truthful but
genuinely functioning autistic. J.K Simmons also

the most of his limited time, communicating

the most emotive moments in the film. In

Toby Maguire and Jon

In this way, the sound-editing crew deserves

punches. The use of guns is much the same.

flawlessly. The hand-to-hand fighting

rarer than the trailer made it seem, is done

cinematography, using shadows and

source for the crime. Max Conaway, a

in his own case. Dunn’s philosophical and

lied during the trial, hoping for leniency

hearing found in Witness to Innocence, a

helping those wrongfully convicted by

character who dedicated the rest of his life

Pole-Merchant captured a poetic, faithful

Gary Gauger was convicted of killing his

family.

Gary Gauger, a veteran reportering for

Gary Gauger, a junior reporting in

and engaging dialogue, you will find a bit

but a will often be under the asterisk

one movie, but a decent one at that. If you are an

Hollywood ending to a classic Hollywood

of the child of the James Bond movies combined

with Affleck (small spoiler alert: no sex),

the action fan with patience, this may be your

and battle for freedom. Delbert Tibbs’

and therefore inadmissible as evidence. He

family.

Spencer Dunn, a junior majoring in

and battle for freedom. Delbert Tibbs’

Time: One Woman’s Inspiring Story as an

and battle for freedom. Delbert Tibbs’

Innocent Condemned to Death, telling the

family.

Gary Gauger, a veteran reportering for

Gary Gauger, a junior reporting in

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A University at Albany student has been named one of 10 up-and-coming college feminists by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) National Council. Named the “Optimistic Advocate” on Oct. 17, Julia Allison became the first UAlbany Student Association in the spring of 2015 after electing her predecessor. A program that highlights young women to run for student government positions. Although the junior political science major is now the highest-ranking female student on campus, during her freshman year she was not happy at UAlbany and was considering transferring to another school. “I went through the Eliot process and was a really great motivator for me to learn that you were not supposed to unenroll on campus. So I decided that I would go and try to nominate myself and I am going to run in the election and if I don’t win, I’ll become president,” the junior who also double majors in English and philosophy said.

Julia Allison for president and Allie is still at UAlbany, and since then he has held many positions in SA. She sat on the Committee of Constitution and By-Laws as a second semester freshman, sophomore year, and also serves on the Committee of Rules and Administration. This year she was appointed to be on the new SA Senate and also serves on the Committee of Appropriations.

The SA Senate has had a controversial past on campus. Last year during the periodic Elections Task Force student began to question why SA is not more focused on how they choose to operate and what role it has in governing the university. The university has had a controversial past on campus. Last year during the periodic Elections Task Force student began to question why SA is not more focused on how they choose to operate and what role it has in governing the university. The SA Senate has had a controversial past on campus. Last year during the periodic Elections Task Force student began to question why SA is not more focused on how they choose to operate and what role it has in governing the university. The SA Senate has had a controversial past on campus. Last year during the periodic Elections Task Force student began to question why SA is not more focused on how they choose to operate and what role it has in governing the university.

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THE WORLD WITHIN REACH

ATTENDANCE: To entry attend a fall 2011 Danes, Dollars and Sense Financial Literacy workshops. Attendance throughout the entire duration of the session is required, along with completion and submission of the print and post-test. Students may attend each workshop topic. Limit six students per workshop attended. "Bring a Friend" service is available. "Bring a Friend" permits another student to the name of friends on their print-test which will be a non-competing round that heeft paid.
The name must correspond. The Office of Student Financial Services is responsible for verifying eligibility. The winner will be selected through a lottery drawing after the workshop series has concluded. Winners must agree to have their names printed and posted to a photograph for future promotion. Employees including students of the Office of Student Financial Services (EFS, SAG, & Banner, and STG) are not eligible. Previous winners may attend workshops but are not eligible for scholarship drawing.

Acknowledgement: Rene Podlaski of Story Book University, SUNY

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1
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OR

16
Lottery Ticket

Damien attends and brings 15 friends, and earns 16 lottery tickets for free tuition!

Attend Danes, Dollars and Sense Workshops

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we got it done today, but it is a testament to what they have done all season.” Tiana Rugar noted the eventual game-winner off a header from a Caroline Kopp free kick in the 55th minute. Alaina Schneider added an insurance goal seven minutes later from Mariah Williams. Chloe Borasky earned the win with five saves in 79 minutes, with Alaina Schneider finishing the shutout with the final 11 minutes in goal.

“We knew in the second half, we had to find the back of the net early,” said Rugar. “Caroline’s [Kopp] service was perfect and I early,” said Rugar. “Caroline’s [Kopp] service was perfect and I [Kopp] service was perfect and I

Noah Beadle / Albany Student Press

Some of the standout players who made the historic victory possible.

Before the game, UAlbany continued to push their season win streak to seven games, but UMBC, who last season knocked off UAlbany in the America East Tournament, played a strong game. UAlbany finished the regular season title for the first time with a 2-0 victory over UMBC on Senior Day.

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