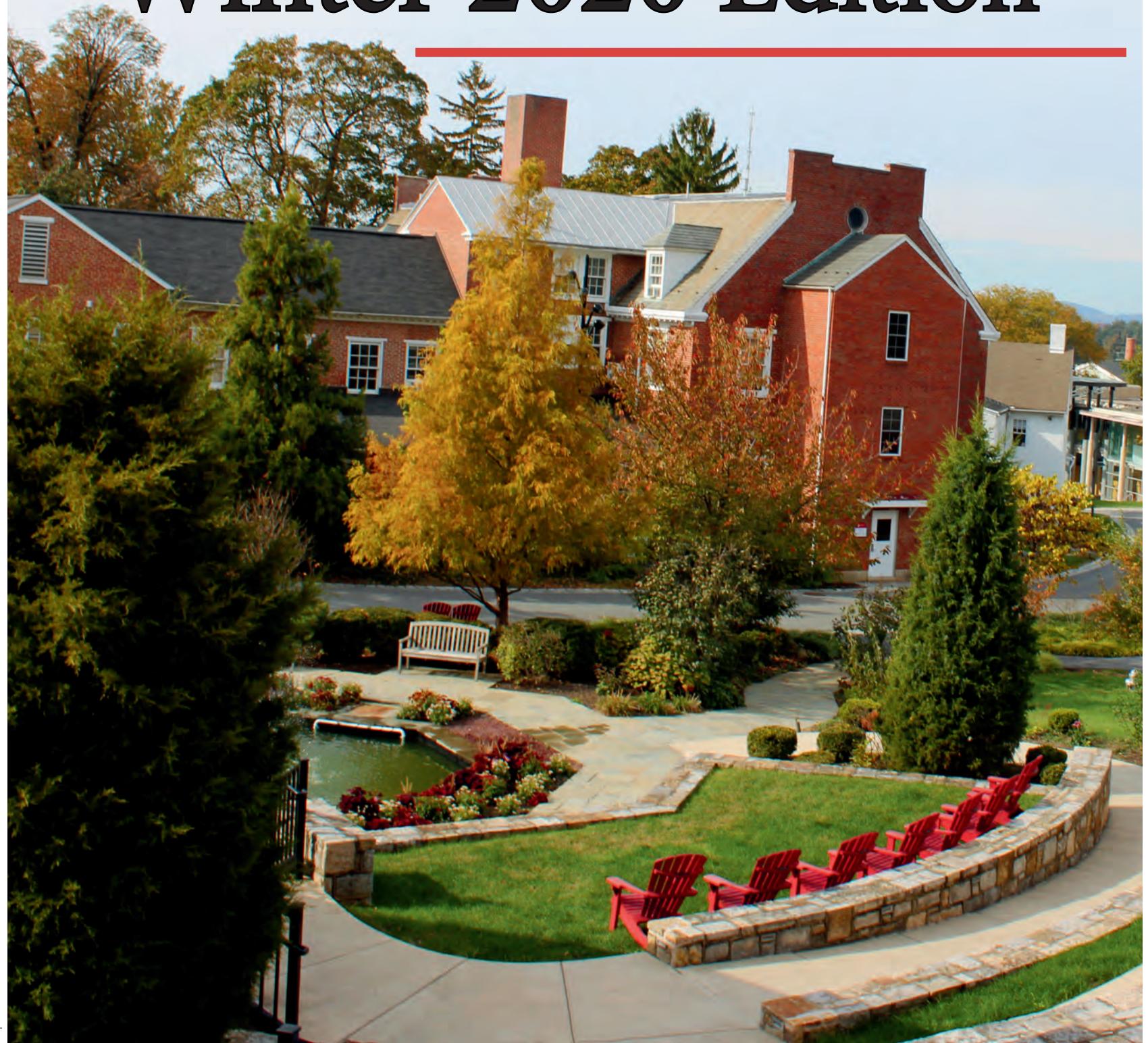


albright
am
waking up the arts

Winter 2020 Edition



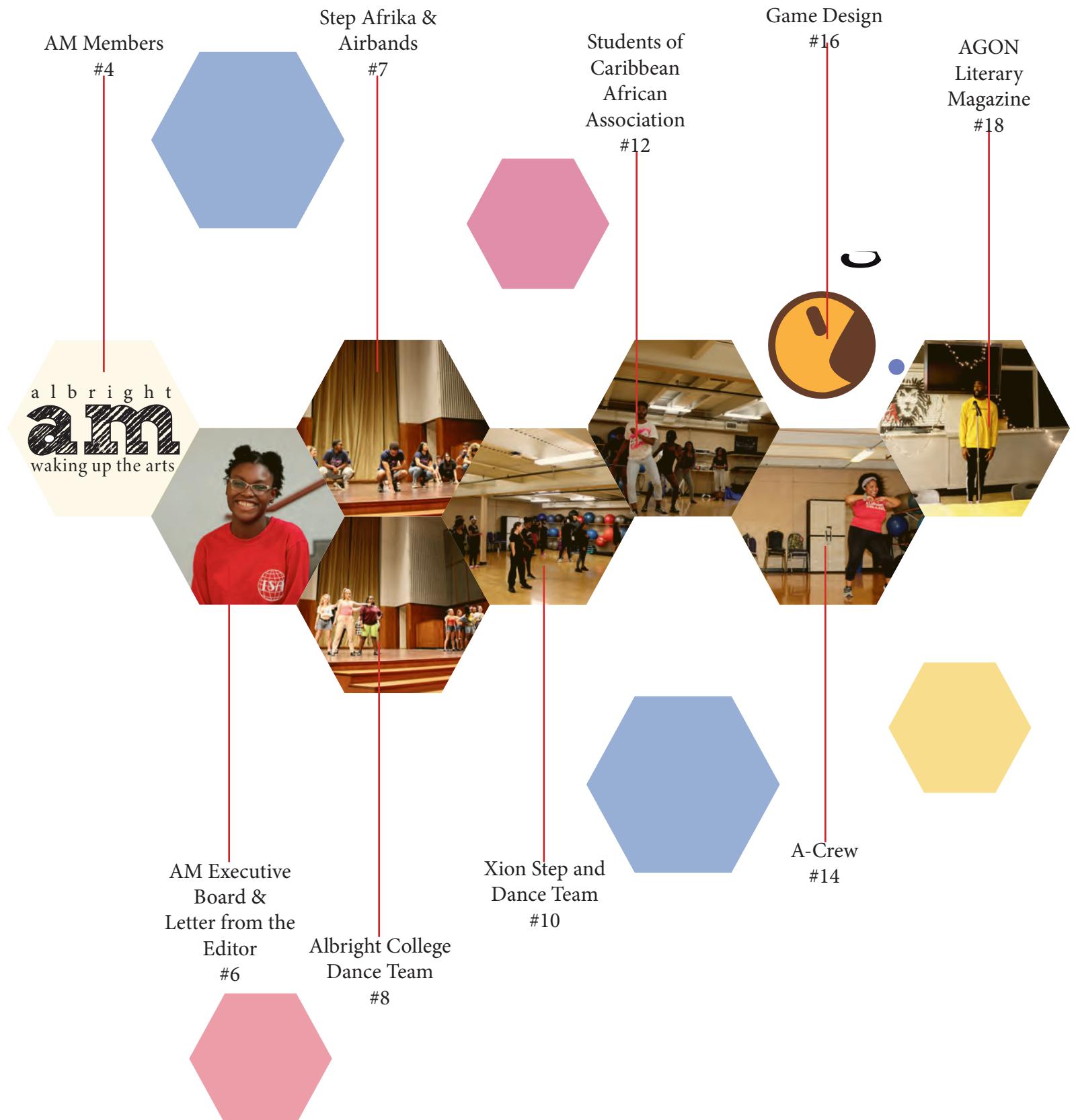
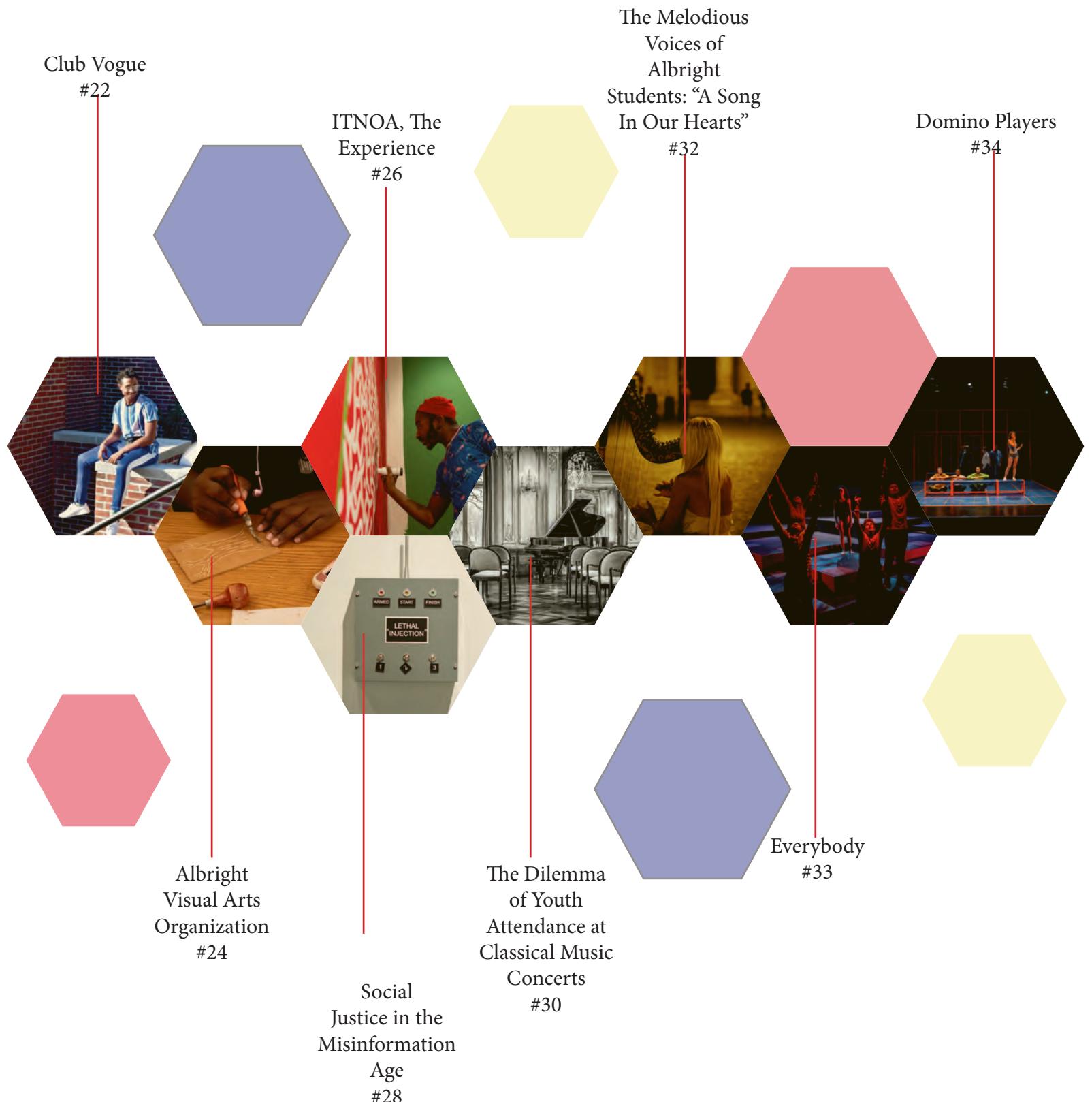


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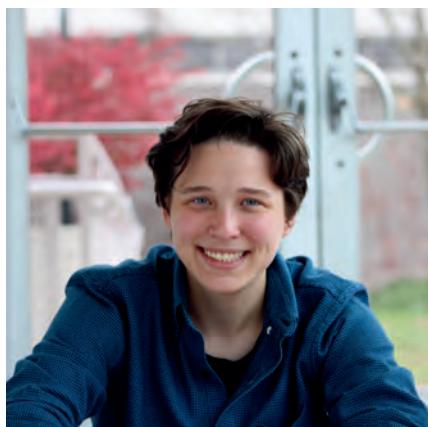
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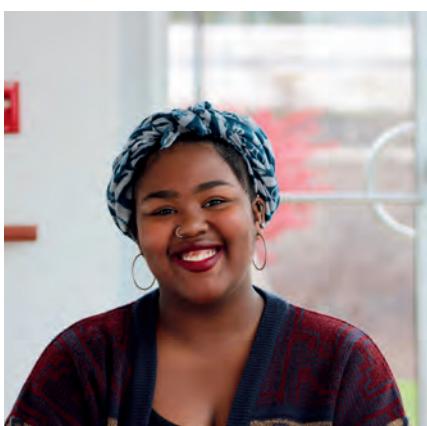
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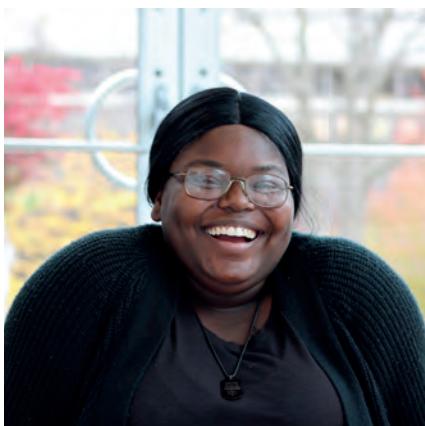
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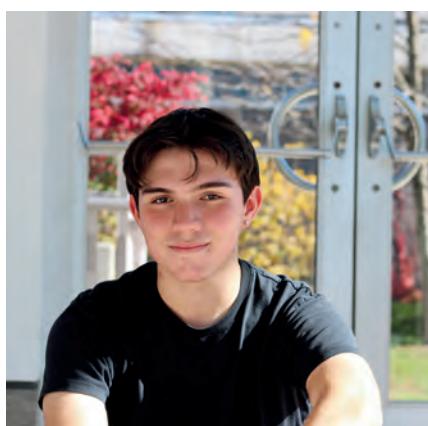
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AM Executive Board

Photographs by Deborah Afolabi and Heidi Hernandez

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Professor of Digital Communications



Heidi Mau
Faculty Advisor
Professor of Digital Communications



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Heidi Hernandez '22
Vice President
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Dear Reader,

We live in a society where the arts are not as widespread as I feel they should be. Children are learning that it is more important to get good grades and study the sciences, and less about ways to express themselves. Mental health issues are more on the rise today than they've been in years. Youth and young adults are focusing more on school than about taking care of themselves. Sports and STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — receive more funding than the arts, and as a result, the arts are often overlooked as a career, craft and way of life.

Art is more than just a craft and means to an end. It is one of the best forms of expression, of letting out your emotions, of showing the world who you are. In our world where there is so much hate and devastation, being able to express your emotions can create connections and bring a light into the darkness.

Albright College has many organizations on campus that continue to use arts as a way of expression and to fight the mindset that they are not as important as other majors. They span from dance, fashion, music and literary, performance and visual arts.

In addition, campus and continue to that make known the community hold events that the arts can

by the choir and other musicians, art is shown to be not only beautiful, but life changing.

I cannot thank my AM members enough for giving me a great first run at an amazing publication. To Heidi and Mia, my vice president and treasurer, thank you for the late nights of laughs, food runs and complete craziness. To my writers, photographers, and artistic advisors, thank you for bearing with me and giving amazing content to pay homage to these amazing organizations and events. To AM's faculty advisor, Heidi Mau, thank you for always believing in us and giving us the motivation and assistance to keep this going. Lastly, to my past AM leaders, thank you for bringing this organization into existence and making sure it kept on going through the years. Thank you for believing in us and continuing to support us from where you are in your new careers.

As for you, my dear readers, thank you for bearing witness to the amazing things that art does. So, grab a friend, sit back, and read about how Albright is Waking Up the Arts.

~Deborah Afolabi, President and Editor-In-Chief

Letter from the Editor

spread many important messages. From the exhibits in the Freedman Gallery to the shows put on by the Domino Players to concerts held

Step Afrika!

Step Afrika!, the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping, came to Albright College on September 28 to perform. Founded 25 years ago in 1994, they rank top ten in the country in African American teams.

In 2016, Step Afrika! Performed at the White House for the former president Barack Obama and his First Lady for the Black History Month reception.

The group consists of professional college graduates and are an amazing inspiration to students everywhere. They promote stepping as an educational tool for youths, focusing on teamwork, academic achievement and cross-cultural understanding. Each year they perform on a 50-city tour of colleges and theatres as well as perform globally as a cultural ambassador.

It is amazing that after 25 years, this team is still together and teaching others about the history of step and black history.

Throughout their performance, they engaged with the audience, introduced and concluded with step scenes and performed other little skits that told stories.

In the beginning, they educated the audience on the history of step. The dancers came out in formation, stepping and grabbing everyone's attention with their energy and charisma. The audience was captivated.

Step Afrika! weaved storytelling, humor, education and audience participation into their performances, along with teamwork, energy and technique.

On September 27, Albright College Greek Life and the dance teams brought back the 90's and early 2000's with their performances. The groups encouraged excitement and increased energy from the audience with their outstanding dance moves, bringing back beloved childhood memories. Each group brought something new to the stage, showing off their organizations. For the dance teams this was a chance to prove to the audience that they are one the best. It's also a time for them to recruit students. For Greek life it isn't just a competition. It's a night where they can show the unity they have in their sorority or fraternity and why it's good to be involved. It was a close call, but Albright College Dance Team came in first place, Zion Step and Dance team won second place, and SOCCA won third place. Great job to all organizations!

By Heidi Hernandez and Deborah Afolabi

Airbands

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Albright College Dance Team

The Albright College Dance Team is a performing group of dancers that have studied a variety of dance backgrounds including ballet, jazz, tap, pointe, lyrical, hip-hop, contemporary, modern, and more. They perform on-campus at events such as football games, basketball games, and at their annual showcase. Annually they attend a competition to compete against other college dance teams. They are also holding fundraising events, as well as participate in other events within both the on-campus community and Reading area.

The president of the dance team, Allison Ulaky, knew during her freshman year on the team that she wanted to lead the organization. She became a Member-At-Large her sophomore year, and then junior year became vice president. She explained that she "wanted to be President because [she] wanted to be a leader for the dance team, further improve [their] technique unity as a team and get more involved in the community."

The team practices Monday through Thursday every week. Once practice starts, they usually take time to stretch and go over past choreography, explained Ulaky. Then, they either learn new choreography or continue rehearsing what they've already learned. They do this at every practice to prepare for upcoming performances. Choreographers work outside of practice to create their routines to then teach to the rest of the team. Frequently, they collaborate and work as a team to perfect their performances.

Maya Fares: "I like being able to learn new styles of dance and experience the different backgrounds other team members have come from."

Ulaky believes the dance team is important for the arts because dance is an important expression of oneself. Whether one is a professionally trained dancer, or simply loves going to parties with their friends, dancing is a way for people to relax and feel free. The dance team provides an outlet for students to take a mental break from their studies to work together as a team to create art.

The Dance Team uses a collaborative process in choosing music, creating choreographing, and selecting costuming for our performances. The team adapts to use differences spaces in creating their art and incorporates unique styles of dance and technique, while also having the opportunity to learn from other members on the team.

The organization gives students a creative outlet and an opportunity to express themselves. Being on the dance team gives students the ability to work with others towards an end goal, which would be having a successful performance. Because the dance team is a student run organization, every member can have the chance to choreograph and create art that the rest to participate in.

The Albright College Dance Team performs at athletic events, hosts their own showcase, and performs at other on-campus events such as ASTEP's First Friday, Relay for Life, Airbands, and more. They work hard to actively perform for the Albright community and do more besides just dancing at athletic events. Ulaky personally thinks that it is important to involve themselves on campus to promote art and to promote dancing, as well as to entertain the community and provide joy to other students.





Currently, the team is working on their upcoming basketball season, which involves choreographing multiple routines to perform at each home basketball game for the men's team. Once they are back for the spring semester, they will begin choreographing for their annual competition at Washington & Jefferson College, and then they use those routines and more for their showcase.

Ulaky sees the organization expanding not only in numbers, but in genres as well. In the four years she's been on the team, she explains that she has been exposed to new styles of dance that she'd never tried before because of the diversity of culture on the team. She hopes that in the future the organization will only grow and that members can all learn from each other, not only through dance but through acceptance as well.

Ulaky explains that the main way for the college to assist the team in promoting the arts is for the college itself to promote the arts more. There is an emphasis at Albright College on expanding one's interests and experiencing events that they normally would not, and Ulaky thinks that performances put on both by all the dance teams at Albright

— including the Albright College Dance Team, the Xion Step Team, SOCAA, and Praise Dance Team — are great examples of that. Dance is an interpretive and entertaining art, and by having the school promote it more and give them more opportunities to perform, Ulaky thinks that it would help promote the arts in general. Dance combines music, athleticism, costuming, lights and creativity, making it a huge contributor to the arts. Ulaky believes that by having more promotion from the school and more attendance from administrators at the school would show the importance of art in the community and to help keep art alive on this campus.

The Albright College Dance Team's only remaining performance this semester was at halftime at the men's basketball game on November 22nd. They hope you all continue to come out and support them!

Kelcie Coppa-Fritz: "I like how diverse the team is and how we are able to work together as one unit."

Xion Step and Dance Team is specialized in hip-hop and around Reading as well as

In Xion, they have and where they have their members a step, dance, or both. On Monday days which involves the entire team for conditioning days are to have stamina when performing. Members the team if they choose. It gives the different dance styles that they may

The president of Xion, Mackenzie executive board since her freshman Social Media Chair and worked hard media presence as well as their pole from there and is now the president of Xion.

Xion is important in the arts because they are unlike any other team on campus. They provide an inclusive dance environment by incorporating different dance styles. Xion uses the arts to unite the Albright community in celebration of dance while also having an important message behind it. Recently, they have collaborated with Maps Glover on his art exhibit here at Albright College and West explains that it was an eye-opening experience to see the two very different forms of art: one in dance and one in painting. They came together as one to showcase some important issues that surrounds society today. Xion also promotes art by showcasing their talents at all types of events on campus. The arts aren't as widespread or acknowledged in society, so they try to do all types of events, even those where they are the only step team because once people see what they do they can appreciate the art.

Xion believes that their organization is important for students on campus to be involved in because they provide a breath of fresh air on campus as well as an environment to express themselves through the arts. Stepping is a form of dance that had not been represented on campus before Xion introduced it and West feels that it has really made them unique. Xion has also participated in outreach programs such as volunteering at Olivet Boys and Girls Club. There they were able to work with children and teach them some dances and steps.

Xion would like to ask Albright they do and to promote and on campus.

In a few years, West sees Xion and having more opportunities to do have some sponsors.

Xion performed at the African fashion show on November 23 in the at a few basketball games during the

Xion is currently planning includes various teams from different also working on having some on they hope everyone will participate

an Albright College organization that step. They perform and do outreach other colleges.

three dance practices every week learn choreography, whether it be practices they have conditioning exercising. Their primary goals members stay fit and keep good can also make up choreography for team an opportunity to break out into not be used to.

West explained that she's been on year. She was given the position of to build the organization's social reputation. She moved up the totem

Nasir Brown: "Xion gives minorities the opportunity to showcase and express their culture. It diversifies the colleges art program."

Tyra Akoto:

"Being a part of a step team ties a lot of us back to our roots and some of the first forms of African dance."

College for more support in everything recognize them as an important group

being a premier group on campus more in Reading. Maybe they'll even

American Society (AAS) annual campus center. They also performed season.

their annual spring showcase which colleges and organizations. They are campus events and fundraisers that in!



Xion Step and Dance Team

By Deborah Afolabi

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SOCIAA

By Natalie Lua Lepiz

Photographs by Deborah Afolabi

Dajah Storm: “I like SOCAA because SOCAA gives a lot of positive vibes and they accept everyone that comes to the team and they allow us to be who we are.”



The Students of Caribbean African Association (SOCIAA), formally known as Caribbean Culture Club, is a club within the arts that caters to a mass majority of students on campus. The organization has been around for about five to six years along with their dance team which began performing in the spring of 2017.

This year's president, senior Anne Sara Bien-Aime, says the organization looks to "diversify the campus, making them aware of the different cultures and not just see us as African Americans." They hope to bring diversity in a fun and exciting way for all to enjoy, as well

as learn about the different cultures that make up SOCAA. The organization seeks to help others understand how to interact with these different cultures and hopefully carry on what they learn outside of college. "By making people aware and involving people in the cultural diversity of the arts, as well as learning different ethnicities, one can get a taste of what it's like to be a part of that culture," explains Bien-Aime.

SOCIAA holds events such as their festivals and annual Taste of the Islands week, which was held from November 4 to 8.



Trinity Peters:
“SOCIAA gives me the opportunity to be around people with similar but different backgrounds as me and to learn not only more about my culture, but other cultures as well. It’s always good vibes with the SOCIAA members and they’ve become like a second family to me, so there’s always a reason to come back every week.”

The first events during that fun and diverse week included a professional dancer coming in on Monday and Painting with a Twist with local Reading artist on Tuesday. The rest of the week included decorating for their Carnival party at the end of the week, as well as a talent show on Thursday open to everyone. Other events included a tattoo and piercing party on Halloween night which included a costume contest. A relaxation with SOCIAA is in the works for December.

Dance is a huge part of SOCIAA; it's where they get to not only showcase their moves, but also their music and culture. Bien-

Aime says that dance brings “a different aspect and diversity to the club.” This occurs as they try to incorporate a lot of other things within it as well. Dance is a way to represent the club while also acting as an inside look for those interested in joining.

SOCIAA showcases their importance and involvement to the arts through carnival and dance because at its roots, it's a part of their culture. The club's future looks to be promising and with so many members and busy agenda, Bien-Aime hopes the club goes on to survive and do great things long after she's gone.



“I like A-Crew because it’s like a little family. It’s a place to free your mind.”
~ Stephanie Nicasio



“A-Crew is low stress. Also, feelings are so hard to express and through A-Crew, I can express them.”

~Rosaly Diaz

By McKenzie Park

A subset of the International Student Association (ISA), A-Crew is a dance team that tries to represent a good amount of different countries from around the world through a form of expressive art. Leading the organization this year are Co-Captains Mia Hernandez and Destiny Webb.

A-Crew has been around for five years and meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays for two hours. At these meetings members dance and modify dance moves in a way that appeals to everyone's skill level. Hernandez explained that sometimes, before even thinking about dancing, they must find the music they want to dance to. The music can be from any country. They dance to K-pop, music from Spain, as well as songs from the Caribbean. The thought process for the dancing is primarily spontaneous, but through the movements the captains pick and choose what looks and fits in with the music the best. They also look at music videos for inspiration and ideas on what they think will look good.

According to Hernandez, A-Crew is important for students — both on campus and commuters — to join because, not only is there a no judgement policy on how skilled a dancer is coming in, but also, it's a place where students can express themselves through dancing.

While A-Crew doesn't have any upcoming events this semester, they are hard at work preparing for the ISA Festival happening in the spring.

Hernandez wants A-Crew to stick around for a while and hopes “that it continues to flourish,” because she feels that it is important to “have a dance team that doesn't put so much emphasis on your skill level coming in as much as how far you come from first starting.”

Game Design

With all the clubs on campus, choosing which ones might be right for you can be difficult.



However if the artistic elements of the games that many play interest you, look further than the Game Design Club! Focused on everything from designing the own

games to the minuscule artistic aspects used in older board games, the Game Design Club draws from that same creative element almost everyone craves.

What is the Game Design Club?

The Game Design Club has been around for three years now and it's coming back stronger this year! With new leadership and the will to make themselves a known presence on campus, the club is introducing new

activities and style. In the Game Design Club (GDC), members focus on all types of games, but primarily board games. However, they

do more than just look into these games.

They also make their own games

starting from the very most basic plot to the artistic elements of the game.

game aspect is differently members of the has their own that they can

Every focused on through the club. Each member abilities and skills bring to the table. The GDC members feel that people don't focus on the art aspect of games anymore, but rather see that they're "pretty" and that's the end of it without reading into the actual art. This is where they come in to change this by making their own games. These include a board game currently in progress and also a digital game they're planning to make in the upcoming semesters.

show something new."

Why is the GDC important to the arts?

The GDC promotes art through visual and graphical artistic aspects, however they also provide the

written arts by paying close attention to their plot lines and stories to engage those that play them. Through these elements they hope that their players can gain an appreciation for those artistic elements. These elements are in almost all games, however, they are not as focused on in more modern games so they're trying to bring them back and show that older games and newer games can still incorporate the same artistic elements.

They accomplish this

by making their own games such as the board game they made for Halloween that was similar to Clue. With

all these projects, they are creating the club's end goal which is to have a portfolio of board games, digital games, and card games that they can make to represent the club and show off their work.

What activities does the club focus on?

It wouldn't be the Game Design Club without the creation of their own games. This is not an easy process yet the steps are meticulously done to achieve a good final result that the members and people of Albright can enjoy. The process they go through when creating their own games starts with the gathering of ideas and scoping out the project specifics. Then they start on the workings of the actual game and finish off with the arts and graphics. While this is one of the main projects the club focuses on they also dive into other games out there to look at their artistic aspects and see how the games of the present and past used their creativity so they can hopefully incorporate those same or similar aspects into their games.

How does the club Impact Albright?

Members believe that the GDC is important because a lot of people don't want to join clubs, however, it's important to have a club where people can contribute something and be themselves. The idea is that games are a universal language because everyone likes games which allows for connections between people from different backgrounds. The main impact is the social outreach and relationships made through the club. According to Colette Dellaquila, member of the club, "We're all a big family that easily accept people into their group and hope each person brings their own creative aspects making it a fantastic club to join."



Game Design Club

AGON

Literary Magazine

By Rachael Sullivan
Photographs by Carmen Johnson and
Deborah Afolabi

AGON is a student-run organization that produces, edits and publishes a magazine showcasing student work each semester. Students can submit short stories, poems, digital art,

traditional art and more to AGON's official email with the possibility of seeing it published. AGON also produces different events such as their coffeehouses every month, workshops, and release parties. They strive to conduct themselves as active members within the Albright College community and promoters of the arts organizations on campus.



Events

AGON puts on coffeehouses every month in Jake's Place. They are one of the organization's main events in which anyone — students, faculty, and those outside the Albright community — can come and showcase their artistic talents by singing, reading out an original poem, rapping, playing a musical instrument, etc. It provides an open and safe environment where people can show the world their artistic talent and it's a great way to meet new people with similar interests!

AGON also puts on a release party each semester, in which they try to involve all the Albright arts organizations on campus to celebrate the release of their issue and the hard work done to get it produced by celebrating the diversity in artistic expression.



AGON's Importance to the Arts

AGON gives students of any major a chance to show off their work and experience what it is like to get their work out there by publishing or performing in a safe, nonjudgmental environment. Many people do their first performances in AGON at the Coffeehouses, where students and faculty can perform their talents by singing, reading a poem, playing a musical instrument, etc.

This experience that AGON offers is meant to encourage students to continue their journey in art and reveal themselves to the world. It gives them the courage to come out and say that they are not just a specific major, but maybe also a part-time writer. It's a very powerful thing to be able to submit something even though a student is not an English or an Art major.

It is also a good way to practice public speaking, especially to prepare for a career that requires a student to work with people and talk to them. Students can learn to start with a smaller audience, gradually increasing the size of their audience as they develop their public speaking skills.

How AGON uses the Arts

Through the publishing of the magazine, AGON uses art works submitted in the formatting of the magazine in a way that is visually attractive, but also does not ruin or take away any



artistic freedom. The only edits AGON makes to submissions are grammatical or visual mistakes, which they confer with the artist about.

One of the many unique aspects about AGON compared to other such magazines is that they do not only take certain kinds of art. Other magazines may only accept poems and short stories, but AGON tries to allow any kind of submission and further tries to format each art piece in the magazine to show the diversity of the arts.

AGON also takes care to respect the artists' privacy. For example, if an artist wishes to stay anonymous or have a fake name, AGON will keep that in mind while formatting.

What there is to do in AGON

Besides going through extensive editing processes to ensure that everything is formatted correctly in the magazine, AGON also tries to design and set up different events to assist the artist community. These are apparent in their events such as the coffeehouses, as well as workshops for different mediums, such as creative writing or short stories. They try to get people who work as artists or who are known as artists to lead these students so that the experience feels real and so the student artists feel their work is important.

Why Should Students Participate?

In a world where colleges and schools promote more funding for sports and sciences, AGON tries to make the wonderful art programs and student artists at Albright known. It is important for people to consider participating in AGON's events not only to showcase their artwork, but also to help AGON further find more ways to promote the art community. It is also important for students to consider submitting to AGON because it gives them confidence in their art and it also allows them to embrace constructive criticism. Joining AGON can also be beneficial to see what the editing process is like. The fact that AGON is a student-run organization can help connect students with fellow students and learn from each other. More members can encourage people to join the AGON.

How AGON Benefits the Albright Community and Beyond

AGON is not only for students. AGON tries to spread out to different buildings, so that people who are outside the Albright alumni and college community can come destress, meet new people and watch others perform.

While the magazine is a bit more sectioned concerning the different types of writing or art, the coffeehouse is a good way to just destress or release anything that is on someone's mind. For example, although AGON tries not to go into any sides or lean towards a specific political view, people can release their emotions by ranting about politics or religious views. By merging different communities and ideas into this event, people can learn from each other and develop their own personal talents or views.

How AGON Promotes Art in our Society

Since the arts are not as widespread or attended anymore, AGON is trying to use social media to get themselves out there and spread the message that the arts are still here. By allocating for and publishing the magazine, AGON is showing how different artistic talents can be recognized and how interconnected the community can be. One may discover that a student who sits next to them in class turns out to be an artist, just like them.

One of the reasons the arts are not as attended anymore in college environments is because students are very



busy with schoolwork and do not have as much time, compared to when they were in high school, to write a poem or draw a picture. AGON promotes the arts in this sense to reiterate the importance of the arts in one's life. The events and the magazine itself give students the break from their studies and work to just rewind and participate with other artists to share their work.

Release parties are also a huge deal, as AGON tries to connect with different art organizations, such as ASTEP, AM and other such clubs in Albright to get them in one place and celebrate the diversity of art. By remaining active on the Campus, AGON tries to make themselves known and actively involved with the community.

Dear Albright College...

Albright could support the arts a little better. Although the arts are thriving, they do let other events overshadow arts events. Even when events are officially scheduled, other events overlap. It would be helpful if they try to promote the organizations equally.

Certain clubs, such as the Domino Players program, have to fund many things themselves. It would be helpful if there were groups that specifically assisted in funding for these arts programs or if the college could come up with a way to fund all the groups sufficiently and equally.

Encouraging faculty to join these events would also be beneficial to the arts community and AGON. Faculty and teachers are artists as well. It would be a great way to get AGON more support and recognition in the school community if faculty members were also encouraged to go to such events.



“AGON is a lot of fun and it’s with a lot of really great people. It’s fun to be able to sit down and do the editing. Even when it’s frustrating, it’s a lot of fun. And I think AGON is really good way to express your writing...I think it’s really cool that we can reach out to different people.”

~Sierra Ptak



“I feel like it’s important for me to be in AGON because it gives me a chance to shed my ideals with other people. By participating in making the AGON magazine the way I do, I’m able to show my ideal that art is important, and that people’s voices need to be heard.”

~Brady Nemec

Out of all the art-oriented clubs Albright College has to offer Club Vogue, promotes the fashion aspect of the arts. This is a looked over part of the arts that doesn't usually get as much recognition. I was lucky enough to sit down and have an interview with the organization's President Bella Torres, and Vice President Ashley Hillegass, to discuss what Club Vogue is, where it's going, and what it hopes to be.

What is Club Vogue?

Club Vogue is a fashion club that meets weekly on Thursdays at 4 p.m. in Alumni 103. Their goal is to provide out of class experience for fashion students and students that see fashion as a hobby. A club wouldn't be complete without a motto and Club Vogue is no exception. Their motto is "Fashion for All." While the exact start date of Club Vogue isn't known, the club has been around for generations and has had its fair share of different names and phases.

Who Runs Club Vogue?

While Club Vogue is run by its President Bella Torres and Vice President Ashley Hillegass, but maintained by every member. Torres is a fashion merchandising major that wants to gain a lot of experience in the industry and eventually become a creative director

for a company. Hillegass is a fashion design major and political science minor. She wants to become the head of a design house or start her own brand, however she also wants to go to law school for fashion law.



Why is Club Vogue important to the arts?

Club Vogue, while not seen as an immediate part of the arts, is an extremely fulfilling aspect of the arts. The organization provides vast opportunities to its members, such as hands on experience within the fashion industry, a fashion show hosted by the club, trips to New York's Fashion Week, and the chance to meet with alumni that have advanced in the industry.

In Club Vogue one is also given the experience to work with current fashion students by working on branding and photography.

This year Club Vogue is trying to incorporate more of the arts into their experiences by hosting the Fashion Show in the campus' Center For the Arts (CFA) and doing a collaboration with the gallery showcase to intertwine the two different aspects of art.

What does someone do in Club Vogue?

Club Vogue members do a variety of different activities such as weekly meetings, workshops, screenings of fashion shows to discuss garments, and of course plan out their upcoming events. These weekly meetings take place on Thursdays at 4 p.m. and usually consist of one of the above activities.

At the time of this interview the organization was viewing the Fendi Fashion Show, hosted in Rome at the Temple of Venus and Roma, during their weekly meeting.

Club Vogue provides a good professional development experience for all members by hosting the fashion alumni panel which allows students to keep and create connections with alumni in the fashion industry while also providing

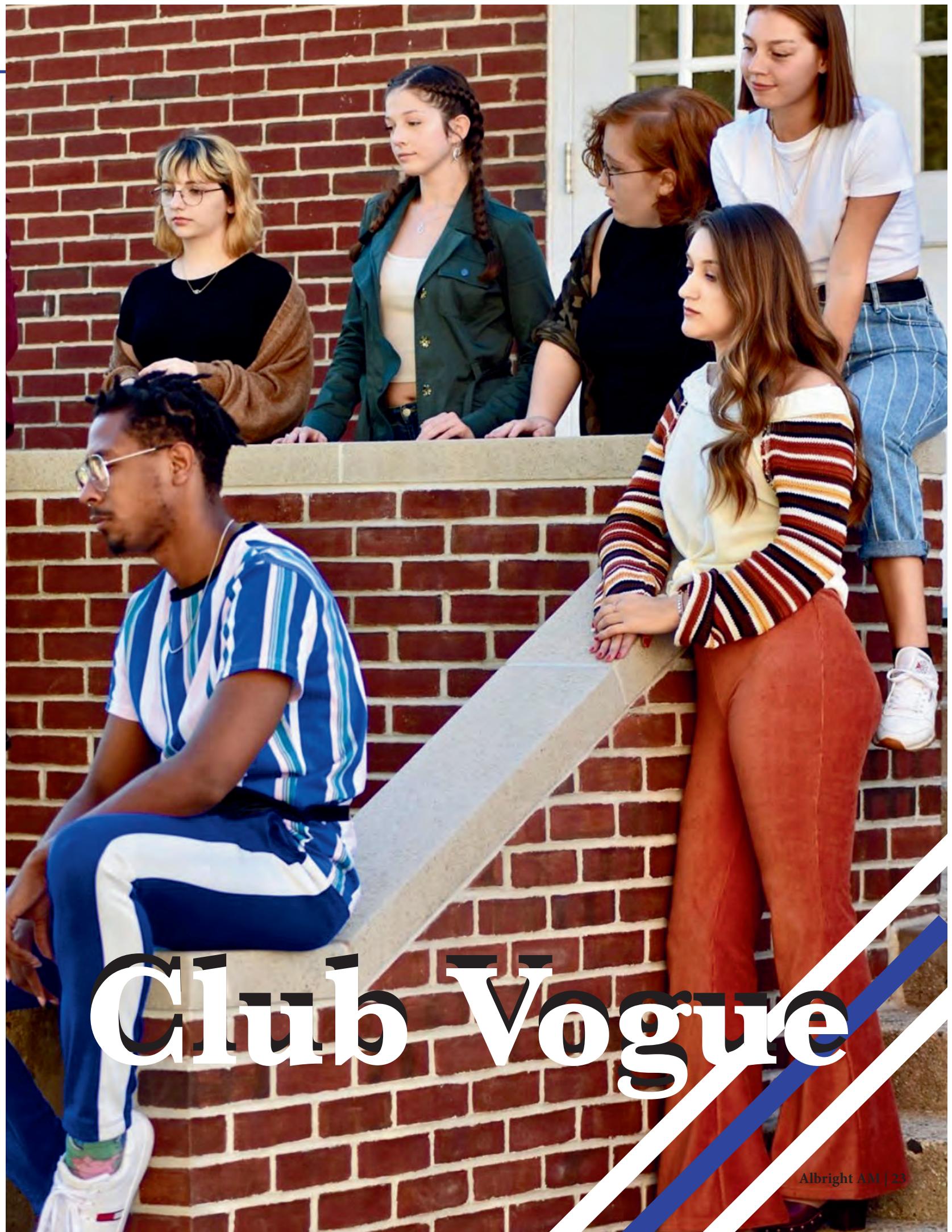
networking for members. The organization also volunteers their time to local companies that reach out to them along with donating to the Reading Opportunity House.

What's new and the hopes for the future of Club Vogue

Recently, Club Vogue has been working hard on its appearance as a club. They want to be fully recognized, not just a fashion club, but as a club of the arts. How could you blame them when they put an incredible amount of artistic value into their work?

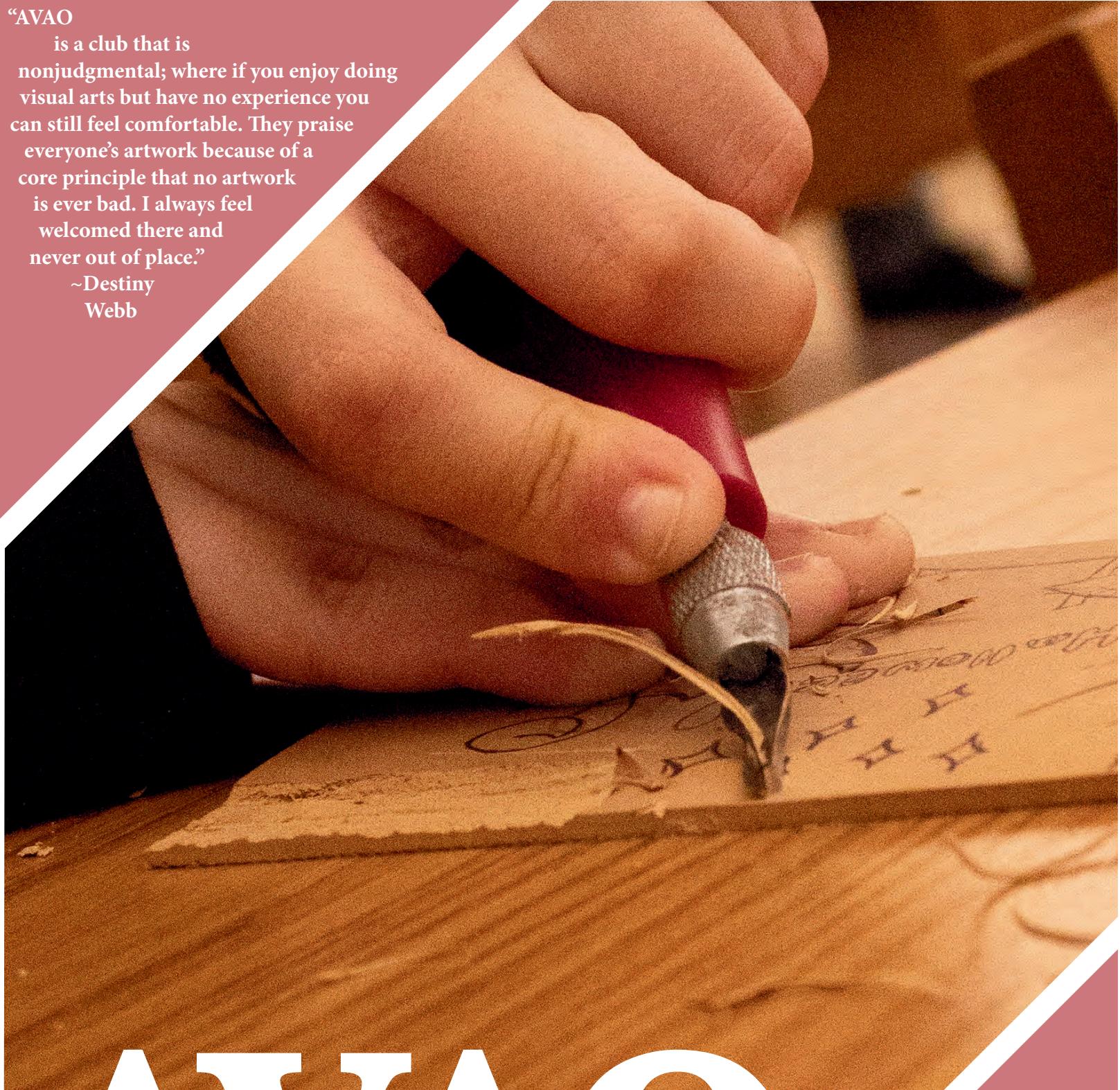
Something they are attempting to add for the organization in order to incorporate more of an artistic aspect is a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (MET).

Club Vogue is also currently pushing to be recognized by the college as a valid student run organization that should be taken seriously. Torres and Hillegass mentioned that both have high hopes and want to see the club succeed in the future. However, they both agree that this is the best Club Vogue has been since Hillegass's Freshman year.



Club Vogue

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“AVAO

is a club that is nonjudgmental; where if you enjoy doing visual arts but have no experience you can still feel comfortable. They praise everyone's artwork because of a core principle that no artwork is ever bad. I always feel welcomed there and never out of place.”

~Destiny
Webb

AVAO

By Mia Hernandez
Photographs by Heidi Hernandez

24 | Winter 2020

“AVAO is a place where I feel comfortable, where I can create what I want to create without any pressure. Our club is meant for you to come and just be yourself.”

~Dallas Roberson



To all the fellow artists and students who are timid when it comes to the subject of art, the Albright Visual Arts Organization (AVAO) is the organization that can break anyone out of their shell.

AVAO has been around campus for over 10 years and is now run by its president, Autumn Spears. Even though art may be viewed as very intimidating to students from an academic or formal point, the visual art organization is a place for all students — whether they be an art major or non-art major — to come together and explore different mediums of the visual arts. Many students may stray away from the arts because they believe that they have the inability to be creative. However, AVAO strives to express that this doesn't have to be the reason to stop people from expressing themselves. From print making, to origami, to learning to paint nature through a Bob Ross tutorial, AVAO allows everyone a chance to dip their toes in the arts without any intimidation.

AVAO promotes art by sparking creativity in others, while also emphasizing on fun and relaxation. Spears points out that "the arts are important especially when going to a liberal arts college." Here at Albright College, the arts are very valued by a variety of students coming from different backgrounds.

In a society where the arts are not as valued or expressed, AVAO brings this important way of expression to the forefront. By continuing to run and encouraging students to participate, as well as keeping its core value of nonjudgment, the organization provides an outlet as well as a fun way to teach others about the arts that society seems to be pushing aside.





Red, white, and blue. The same colors that paint the narrative of America and appear in the flashing lights of police cars. Do you feel safe when you see these colors?

By Autumn Spears
Photographs by Dr. Pankratz

ITNOA, The Experience

Maps Glover, a DC based African American visual and performance artist, explores the construct of this question through his artwork by demanding viewers to acknowledge the many deaths caused by police brutality. In the Name of Art (represented by the acronym ITNOA) is informative as much as it is transformative in the way this issue is discussed and remembered. Glover emphasizes the memorial aspect of this space and performs rituals to immortalize and pay homage to the numerous lives lost to senseless police violence.

Two by two, members of the Xion Step and Dance team make a slow procession into the Freedman Gallery, which has become an empty room. In the corners of the gallery red and blue lights are projected onto the walls. Dancers are dressed in all black with braided red and white rope tied across their chests and around their waists. In their hands they carry string, candles, and burning incense. After circling the main gallery once, they all come to a stand-still at the thick black

curtain that meets them.

Many screams trapped in a deafening silence lie behind the velvet curtain. Screams of injustice; silence as an act of protest. Suddenly, during a moment of the viewer's anticipation the curtain is peeled back, revealing the sanctuary that awaits them. And two by two the performers entered the space.

A giant paper plane mobile casted under red and blue spotlights meet viewers as they enter the space. It is the center of attention and is accompanied by a variety of fun abstract patterns decorating the walls and the floor. The smell of burning incense fills the room an eerie soundtrack mixed with wind chimes, names of victims slain, percussion instruments, and industrial sounds permeate the room. All the senses are engaged, and both performers and viewers enter a trance.

In unison, the performers did a variety of motions that involved them being seated on the ground or swaying back



and forth. Each movement resembled the fluidity of water. On several occasions Glover and other dancers waved incense around and kissed several of the planes hanging in the room.

Simultaneously two female performers circled the room with red and white string, entangling the performers and viewers. The entire performance followed a very ritualistic pattern.

The fluidity of this performance was inspired by the idea of a wave, symbolizing the Red Summer of 1919. This event is said to be the “great awakening” of African Americans. It started among World War I soldiers who

had realized that their lack of freedom within the United States contradicted with the idea of the freedom they were fighting for. This realization caused a grave disruption in society, resulting in many riots, and is visually translated into the giant wave drawn on a wall in the exhibit.

So much thought and symbolism had gone into this exhibit, and the hundreds of planes in the exhibit are the most profound examples of this effort. Glover explains that the idea for the planes come from his childhood. He grew up near an airport which influenced his sentimental value for them. The planes create a shared effect for tying the artist to this exhibit while simultaneously pushing forth his message about police brutality. There are exactly 675 planes within the exhibit, hanging from various structures to represent the growing number of deaths caused from police brutality. According to the Washington Post, the number has grown to 768 since the completion of this exhibit and is likely to have increased by the time you've read this. In the various shadows projected on the floors and walls, each life is immortalized, and the length of each string documents the length of each life lost.

The installation process took place over a ten-day period, and unlike many other shows that have graced the Freedman, this process has been both impactful and engaging for both faculty and students. Madison Johnson, a Freedman Gallery attendant who was very involved in the installation process comments on how Glover “was one of the first artists that really involved the campus into his installation.” The various mediums that Glover used in the exhibit allowed so many people to be involved, whether they were making paper planes, hanging objects, or gluing things together. It was a very consuming process that required a lot of attention to detail but considering that the community is not typically involved in the artist's process Glover wanted student input and for the process to be hands, explains Johnson.

From my own involvement with the exhibit, the sentiment of collaborating with

the Albright community was well received and fostered by Glover. He says that “watching everyone fold the planes was just like wow. It just felt out of this world and I felt so supported and seen.” He emphasized that he “didn't want to come into a space and impose [his] idea,” but instead “wanted the community to feel like this space was as much theirs as it was [his].”

The elevated transformation of common arts and crafts materials is what really sets this show apart from others that have entered the Freedman Gallery. Alana Coates, the former Freedman Gallery curator and who is also responsible for bringing Glover into the Albright community comments that what attracted her to Glover was the “fun, playful nature of his aesthetic... the fun façade... conceptually working in grave issues of society—both past and present.”

Glover's creative process and perspective has done so much already to engage the Albright community, and his approach to discussing grave issues will surely continue to engage even broader audiences.

Maps Glover

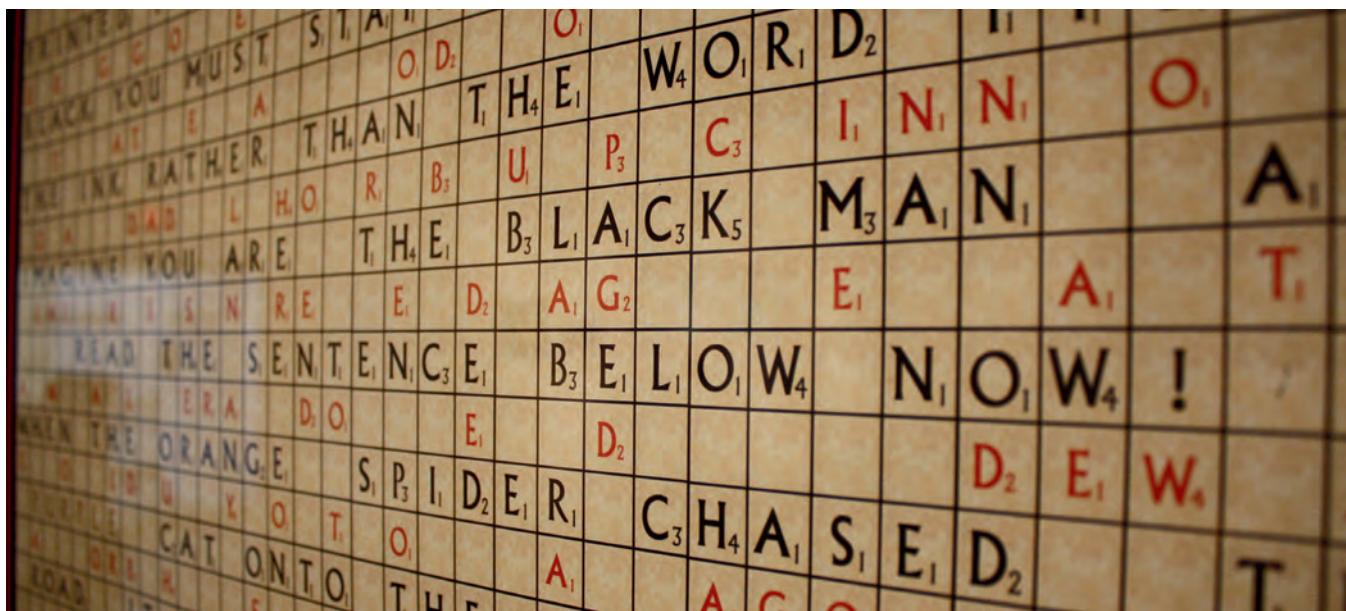


Social Justice in the Misinformation Age

By Autumn Spears
Photographs by Autumn
Spears and Dr. Pankratz

Social justice is a term that is becoming more familiar to the public. It is asserting itself into the vocabulary of everyday people and includes a variety of topics primarily focused on inequality: gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, education, child welfare, healthcare, etc. This sentiment has been the driving force behind many movements, has taken precedence in politics, and impacts much of the content we choose to digest daily. The artworks in this show discuss a variety of social justice topics, engaging viewers through education and reflection concerning

issues of the past and present. The pieces were selected by Susan Crile, a fellow artist whose work is also rooted in social justice. Her show Incarceration in the Era of Impending Fascism was shown in the Freedman last fall, and it seemed fitting to have her participate in this show.



David Sheskin's "Voter Registration" is one of the artworks that strongly critiques America's past of denying African American's their 15th amendment right to vote. While this amendment was ratified in 1870 and clearly states that a citizen's right to vote "shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude," many obstacles were put in place to keep African American's from voting.

Literacy tests were used to disenfranchise prospective African American voters by asking them to perform strange tasks. Sheskin, in an ironic and clever fashion uses a Scrabble board to convey this struggle for equality, considering that some level of literacy is required to play the game. Viewers are invited to engage further with this artwork by being asked to read a brief sentence in ten seconds or less without making any mistakes. However, if one comes upon a word that is printed in any ink color other than black, they must state the color of the ink rather than the word itself. The sentence following includes the word orange, written in purple; purple, written in orange; yellow, written in red; blue, written in green; pink, written in blue; green, written in purple; and red, written in brown.

For this topic to really be understood, Sheskin intentionally and effectively places viewers in the shoes of a prospective voter when he says, "Imagine you are the black man."

Amy Martin's digital photo series "El Carpintero/The Carpenter," "El Abanil/The Mason," and

"La Limpiadora de Casa/The House Cleaner" all reference immigration, which has become a very controversial topic in current politics.

There are many stereotypes about immigrants, with some of the most ignorant and popular ones accusing them of being violent criminals along with them "stealing" American jobs. While a lot of immigrants do face hardships migrating and living in the United States, Hispanic and Latino immigrants continue to experience a lot of grief and torment from this country. In recent years, both immigrants and citizens of Hispanic and Latino backgrounds have been targeted by hate crimes and unexpected Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids, which have resulted in detainment, deportation,

and death.

In her photo series, Martin aims to dispel the various preconceived notions towards immigrants that regard them as "alien," criminal, and unworthy. Each person has their own photo depicting their occupation by the clothes they are wearing, in conjunction with the object they are holding. The carpenter holds up his tools in the shape of an "X" and wears a wide brimmed straw hat that hides his face, the mason in a long sleeved white shirt holds out his dirty hard hat that hides his face, along with the house cleaner wearing her bright green rubber gloves and holding up a heart shaped heirloom that also hides her face. Each person represents a career within the domestic and commercial industries that a lot of immigrants typically work in. While the photos literally visualize immigrants, it is representative of how immigrants are now becoming a part of everyday conversations, but the absence of their faces also convey how overlooked and generalized they are.

These are only some of the artworks that made

up this extremely powerful exhibit. Others included Rachel Breen's "Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, Evidence #1, 2015" and "Rana Plaza Factory Collapse, Evidence #3, Yellow Pants, 2016" making a commentary on the deadly impact of the fast fashion industry. David Weed's "Lethal Injection, 2017" makes a commentary on the death penalty and Chris Revelle's "Fallout, 2011" analyzes the effects of war and its baggage on civilians living in war torn areas. Jo Israelson's "Dovecot: 365 Prayer for Peace" appears to depict and make commentary on the effects of mass incarceration.

Art has the power to educate, inspire, ignite discussion, and spark change so it is no surprise that artists use their platforms to voice these concerns.



The Dilemma of Youth Attendance at Classical Music Concerts

By Wesley Cipolla

The audience at the Aletheia Piano Trio's concert in Reading on September 20 was as old, white and fussy as the decor of the venue they were sitting in. The Womans Club of Reading, a former mansion turned into a performing arts center, is flanked by a wall of shimmering mirrors on the right and frilly electric candle sconces on the left. It could be noon outside, but in here, it feels like you're in the dead of night. Everything is painted white, save for two potted plants on stage. Neoclassical friezes of dancing women and playful cherubs look down on the shuffling mass of doctors, lawyers and retirees, grabbing brownies and cookies on the refreshment table. This is hardly the hippest youth hangout spot in town.



Sure, the performance was marvelous, but even more miraculous was the fact that I, for once, was NOT the youngest person in the room who was there willingly!

"I think that it's important to understand where music comes from in a sense," said Sophia DeLong, 15, who has been playing the violin for 10 years. "Classical music is not the originator of all music, but it's definitely the inspiration."

DeLong knows one of the performers, Francesca dePasquale, a violinist who made her solo debut in Spain at the age of nine and has toured America to rave reviews.

"I love the intimacy of quartets and trios as opposed to orchestras," DeLong said.

Teenagers like DeLong are in the slim minority. A survey of that night's concert conducted by its hosts, the Reading Friends of Chamber Music, showed that of 55 survey respondents, only one was under the age of 18 and almost three-fourths were 60 and older. Almost one-fourth were over 80.

"I think young people aren't exposed early to this music," said concertgoer and lifelong classical musician Andrew Bader, 27. "And it can be alienating to try to appreciate something you don't understand yet."

The Reading classical music community looks too much like a country club. Insiders know that the regular attendees will soon die off (their words, not mine), and if younger generations of fans aren't there to replace them, the music may die off too. Tony Veloz, violinist and Treasurer of the Berks Sinfonietta, another local music group with a predominantly over-60 audience, thinks it's a cultural problem.

"I don't think kids nowadays get the exposure to classical music that people are used to," says Veloz, 27. At 27, he's on the younger side of the young demographic that he and other Reading classical acts are aiming for. "I think the other problem too is that it tends to be perceived as a stuffy sort of thing."

The stereotype is that the only people who would go to classical music concerts are stuck-up, snobby aristocrats.

"Part of it is perpetuated by the rituals," he said. "The suit and tie, you're expected to dress a certain way, you're expected to be quiet the whole time. That doesn't appeal to young people anymore."

Veloz started attending classical music concerts when he was 15, after an interaction with his school orchestra teacher. He has played violin since he was 10, taking up the instrument after seeing it in a school assembly. Veloz's experience proves that introducing classical music to schoolchildren is the path to creating lifetime aficionados.

"I think that Berks County is a great place for music education," he said, "the community really supports the arts."

Berks

Sinfonietta Conductor David McConnell moved to the Reading area from Philadelphia in 1996, and was also impressed.

"My sense is that Berks high schools are better off than many schools in the state," he said.

It's a Wednesday night in October at Reading's Christ Episcopal Church, where the Berks Sinfonietta is rehearsing for its performance of Mozart's Requiem. As the sun goes down, the elaborate stained glass images sibyls and saints fade into blackness. Christ Episcopal Church was founded in 1763. That year, an eight-year-old Mozart had already established himself as a child prodigy and was embarking on an international concert tour (See? Look what great things can happen when you introduce children to classical!) One of many musical geniuses gone too soon, he died at 35 in 1791, before he could complete his final masterpiece, the Requiem. Within the monumental nave of Christ Episcopal, two prodigious young musicians were continuing Mozart's legacy.

"I think if we introduce kids at a young age, they'll find something they're interested in," said 16-year-old cellist Danny Bishop. The cello bug bit him at a third-grade school assembly. He thinks there should be more assemblies like it.

"It's not as easy to understand," he said about classical music. "Most pop music is more simple than classical music."

"There's really not much exposure to it in my generation," said violinist Ryujin Jensen, also 16. His parents encouraged him to learn violin. "I mean, listening to classical music isn't really encouraged."

Jensen said that community outreach by local groups like the Berks Sinfonietta can turn the tide. He also referenced YouTube acts taking classical music to young audiences, such as TwoSet Violin, an Australian duo with over one million subscribers and 331 million combined views as of October 2019.

Many of the social factors that plague classical music attendance in Reading also plague the community itself. The

population at large is aging; between 2010 and 2016, the percentage of Berks County residents over the age of 65 increased by 15 percent, according to a 2017 U.S. Census Bureau report. There's also "brain drain," the phenomenon of educated young people leaving smaller towns like Reading to seek jobs and opportunity in big cities. The kind of young

person that would be interested in listening to live classical music doesn't stick around.

"I don't want to necessarily say it's about status," Veloz said, "but when you go to the concert, there's that idea that it's aristocratic. More educated people want to say 'oh, I listen to Mozart.'"

Veloz also blames a "narrative" that Reading is a place where things like Berks Sinfonietta don't exist, and never could. If you hear locals on social media tell it, there's nothing in Reading but crime. No opportunity, no culture, no community, nothing that could offset being the 38th most miserable city in the country, according to a recent Business Insider analysis of crime, addiction and poverty rates.

When I was a freshman at Albright, a student told me that the only culture in Reading is meth. That obviously isn't true, but given the way we talk about this city, I can see why he believed that.

There is classical music in Reading, and lots of it. The only problem is that nobody under the age of 60 seems to be listening.

The Melodious Voices of Albright

On October 5, students of Albright College presented a concert of "A Song In Our Hearts" in the memorial chapel.

The concert started off just as an experience event to me where I went to just go get my credit and then leave. However, it developed into a different meaning as the concert went on.

The meshing of harmonious voices and the beautiful choice of songs instantly pulled my attention into the actual performance.

The recital started with the Albright Angels coming from the audience and walking up onto the stage while singing. Sitting in the balcony ended up paying off because sitting up there allowed me to see from above the harmonious beginning in which the singers come from the audience from above.

Throughout the performance the movement of the different groups flowing from the stage to the audience was clean and allowed the announcer time to setup the next song. From my seat in the balcony, it felt as though I had a grand view of the performance which allowed me to become very in tune with their songs.

Overall, there were

By Derek Estrada

five different performing groups: The Mane Men, The Angels, The Woman's Choral, The Concert Choir, and The Mangels. Each group had their own unique aspect that stood out, however, when the groups started combining, they formed a beautiful mixture of song and harmony all together.

Despite all of this I would be doing them a disservice if I didn't mention some of the more unique aspects that really gave life to the performance. The Mane Men's use of deep and soothing melodies combined the a cappella component of their song was an interesting choice that really showed off and demonstrated their talent. The use of instruments in the song choice of the Woman's Choral made the music resonate throughout the chapel, especially with the African symphonies. When all of the groups combined to unify these already incredibly talented individuals, the result was an amazing, lively and vivid masterpiece that drew emotions from the crowd.

This performance really highlighted the talent and dedication that the Choir has at Albright and as I look forward to attending more performances in the future, I hope you do too.

Students: “A Song In Our Hearts”

Everybody

By Rachael Sullivan
Photographs by Dr.
Pankratz

As I sat in the middle back row with one of my friends, and the lights dimmed to signal the beginning of the show, I could not take my eyes off the actors, the incredibly built sets and the storyline behind the play. Before I stepped into the theater that night, I did not know what to expect. I have never heard of nor ever seen this play before but despite the play not being well-known in general, I highly recommend it to, well, everybody.

The play takes on a very abstractive storyline, with the characters playing specific concepts, such as Death, God or Stuff. It follows a young woman, *Everybody*, who is going to die and has a limited amount of time to choose someone to bring along, willingly.

First, *Everybody* chooses Friendship, thinking that since they are a good companion who has never left *Everybody*'s side, even when times have gotten rough, they will surely come with *Everybody* on their journey to death. However, to *Everybody*'s dismay, Friendship refuses and walks off stage.

Everybody then decides to ask Kinship and Cousinship, her family. Why would her family not come

along on the journey to death? After all, they've known her longer than she's known herself. Unfortunately, Kinship and Cousinship, too, leave *Everybody* behind, with the staggering truth that *Everybody* is being selfish for thinking someone is obligated to come along with her to death.

As a last resort, *Everybody* practically begs Stuff to come along, crying that she has no one else and Stuff is the only other person that's available for her. Stuff, rather harshly, declines and waddles off stage, leaving *Everybody* to realize that she is truly alone. She will die alone.

While *Everybody* is alone on stage with darkness surrounding her, out of the audience comes one more companion that *Everybody* has yet to notice: Love. Love explains that she has been there for *Everybody* this whole time and *Everybody* never noticed.

Feeling angry and betrayed, Love is about to leave *Everybody*, but *Everybody* begs her to stay and to accompany her. Love finally agrees after a minute of begging, but on one condition. *Everybody* must give up her body. Reluctantly and

embarrassed, *Everybody* agrees, taking off most of her clothes and then running around the entire theater area, chanting "My body is changing" and "I have no control!"

Love agrees to come with *Everybody*, proud of *Everybody*'s sacrifice. The audience is then introduced to five new characters right as *Everybody*'s journey to death begins: Understanding, Beauty, Mind, Five Senses, and Strength.

With the ingenious concept of one of the bottom planks of the set opening to reveal a steam-filled underworld, Five Senses, Beauty, Strength and Mind all leave, because, of course, with the death of the physical body comes the death of the body's functions.

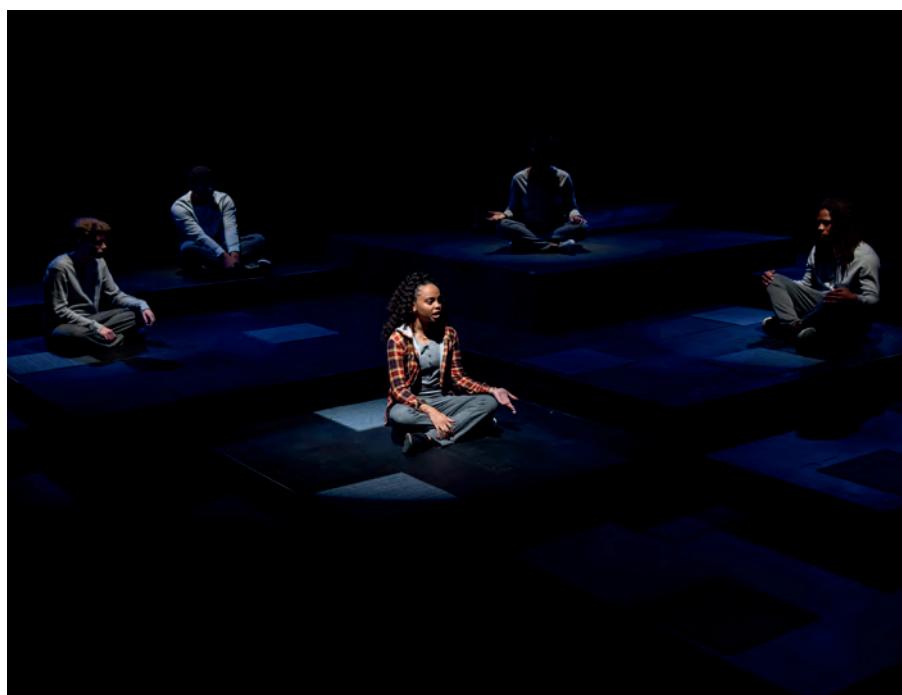
Everybody feels dismayed again but is reminded that she has Love and Love is never going to leave *Everybody*.

Unfortunately, neither is Evil, a character introduced to the audience rather excitingly yet suddenly. Evil describes himself as the Evil that *Everybody* has left behind in this world. With that, the three characters jump into the underworld and the initial actions ends.

After that, the audience is shown a scene with Understanding

contemplating Death and how little time people have to live to their lives to the fullest. The play then ends with a rhetorical question for the audience. How will they spend their time before death?

The play is very symbolic, and it can take a little while for the experience itself to sink in, but once it does, viewers realize the extent of the play's message and what it all meant. I encourage the readers to watch the play themselves to get the full experience.



"Everybody" was directed by Albright senior Joey Love '20

Domino Players

By Breiona Caldwell
Photographs by Dr. Pankratz

Not Just the Theatre Kids

The Domino Players is the student-run theatre organization on the Albright College campus, and they have been around for 100+ years. Each year brings new opportunities for students to express themselves through the four main productions and many sideshows that the Domino Players produce. I got a chance to talk to Allison Kephart, the Artistic Director of the organization, and she sheds light on the importance of theatre.

“The company provides you with opportunities. You get all the technical skills of a working thespian with all the support of a family.”
~ Autumn Blalock

“I love working with and for the Domino Players because we are bringing so many different stories and conversations into the student vernacular. Whether it's racism, gender discrimination, or any other inequality that we need to talk about, the Domino Players aren't afraid to start that conversation.”
~Joey Love:



Theatre is Just as Important as Anything Else

Theatre not only affects the humanities part of the world but also the scientific. It is a beautiful way to have expression while helping you to publicly speak. Theatre is not just a performance; it also educates an audience about a wide variety of issues going on in the world. Having a theatre company on campus lets students know that, whatever major they're in, everyone can come together and find a way to express themselves whether through acting, writing, directing, or designing. Creativity has no limit and that's why the Domino Players are so important: they give a space where creativity is endless.

When No One Else Will, the Domino Players Will

Social justice, sexual assault, and immigration are conversations that many people shut down. Those conversations can be difficult but are necessary to talk about. The Domino Players provide a way to discuss topics such as these and many more through events such as V-Day —the V standing for Victory, Valentine and Vagina — where they discuss sexual assault topics. These topics have also been addressed through productions such as “America: The Play About America” which covered immigration, social justice and more. The Domino Players bridge the gap between creativity and reality.

Uplift the Arts

As a freshman Allison worked on the production of “Almost Maine,” and when she walked across the stage and looked at all the hard work being put into action, she knew that this was where she belonged. She says that she didn’t just join an organization, she joined a family, and those feelings she had at that moment is what she wants everyone to experience. To accomplish that feeling she feels that everyone needs to know about the Domino Players. The communication between administration and incoming, prospective students needs to grow more as well. Everyone needs to experience the effect of the Domino Players.





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waking up the arts