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# the Bates Student

est. 1873



On Feb. 21, Douglass Morency had his last day at Bates as Director of Security  
THEOPHIL SYSLO/BATES COLLEGE

## Doug Morency Leaves Bates College

Christina Perrone, Editor-in-Chief

After serving two years as Director of Security & Campus Safety, Douglass Morency has left Bates College to pursue his new position as Director of Safety & Security for the District of Columbia's 26 branch Public Library System where he will be overseeing a 40 member armed special police force.

Affectionately referred to as Doug by students and colleagues, Morency has achieved much in his short time at Bates. Before leaving, *The Bates Student* had the chance to speak with him about the role he has played in the campus community as well as discuss his future hopes for campus security.

When Morency came to Bates in November of 2017, he saw a need for change in the narratives surrounding Bates Security and its role on campus. Since his arrival, Morency has worked toward moving Security away from a law enforcement structure to one centered on customer service. As he put it "I think we are an office that intersects with everybody on campus. We're not just siloed to where we just support one and one group, but anything that happens on campus we support. So everything from summer programs, to athletics, to Commons, to regular you know, ongoing classes, events, obviously, safety and security for our students, faculty and visitors and staff 24/7."

In addition to serving his team, Morency has also taken strides to improve Security's image. "[I have also had to] lead my security team to move forward and to be progressive in the sense

of not being a punitive or enforcement piece of campus but just to be more supportive and to have a more of a customer service lens and also to make sure that students feel like when they're dealt with respectfully and they have their dignity intact when we walk away from them... So, you know that's worked for us. It's made it easier to, to navigate, I think to connect with the students... I've heard that since me being here, a lot of the culture of security and also just the vibe and everything that we do has changed which is very positive and helps you sleep better at night."

In order to enact change, Morency has invited speakers to come in and talk about dealing with positions of power as well as biases and what they look like. According to Morency, "My background in policing is really centered on community and building community and community policing. And so I've been able to deliver that to my folks and they've been able to, to grasp onto it and accept it and go that direction with me. The ones that have not are no longer here, you can say. But yeah, since being here, just having that support and that mindset of togetherness and knowing individuals for who they are as individuals, whether they're students or staff or whatever. When you deal with security, you deal with feelings, you deal with people's kind of histories and where they come from."

"And, you know, we're in Maine," Morency continued, "and we know we have a student body that is different from what it was 40 years ago, even 10 years

ago, 15 years ago. So we have to be aware of that. We have folks from different communities, folks from all over the country here, more so than before folks from the Midwest, the south, you know, some folks from other cities it's not just a New England school anymore, you know, international students."

During his time at Bates, one of Morency's favorite aspects of the job has been interacting with the Bates student body. Despite all expectations for Security members to be distant from students, Morency has been able to foster many relations with students: "I make it a point to not just work in my office. I don't even know why I have an office because really and truly I like to be out and about and to be interactive and be at every different kind of programming or event. So I like to interact with students whether it's in Commons at breakfast, or at a play, at VCs, or, you know, one in the morning in the den after partied a little bit and they're coming back for the mozz sticks before they go to bed."

He continued, adding, "It's almost like the job, you know, to keep that up. There's no secrets or weird interactions about trying to downplay how we live. I tried to get out there a lot. So I really enjoy that aspect of my job and being able to-- even though don't know everybody's name or at least know a face or at least even if I don't know you whatsoever-- look at you and give you a smile and nod my head and say 'hi' and getting a response and having students know from any walk, say 'that's Doug Morency: he

always sits the middle of Commons he's always around... He's a security director. Yeah, okay, but that doesn't mean that you can't interact with him' which is what's been happening and what I totally enjoy."

As far as advice for the next Director of Security, Morency advises that they figure out what a Security Director at Bates looks like, and what their approach to Security will be as well as how they intend to lead the team. "They're going to have to work hard at changing the narrative of security, even on campus. Historically, there's been certain narratives that security is x, y, and z. Personally, I think, since being here in my eyes, that narrative has changed. Unfortunately there are some folks that want to hold on to the old narratives which is not helpful, but I say that they got to work at really, you know, partnering up and working hard themselves and having the team work on keeping that narrative going in the right direction instead of historic narratives."

Currently, the process for choosing someone to replace Morency is underway. The Bates Student reached out to Senior Associate Dean of Students, Carl Steidel for more information on the selection process. According to Steidel, the search committee is looking for someone who possesses leadership and management experience, community engagement experience, and preferably someone who has had higher education.

**MORENCY**  
CONTINUED ON PAGE I

## Dancing Around White Supremacy

Alexandria Onuoha, Co-President of Women of Color

*"Their core and foundations for the teachings of modern dance are based upon Eurocentric history instead of including and having the inclusion of African dance within modern dance"*

*"I never felt like I belonged"*

*"I am not equipped enough to comment on a body on stage that looks like yours"*

*"You need to tone it down"*

*"She basically called me fat"*

*"There's been some good times, but that's only when I am dancing"*

These are just a few of the statements from students who are women of color, students who have thicker bodies, and students who are first years who have had interactions with the Bates Dance Department. In this article, I will be discussing some of the problematic issues I've witnessed the Bates Dance Department perpetuating: cliques, the white gaze, and the lack of protection for black women.

**DANCE**  
CONTINUED ON PAGE IV

## Bates Perspective on Fulbright Awards

Eliza Fisher, Contributing Writer

Bates College has been named the top producer of Fulbright Student awards for the second out of three years. This prestigious award was originally created by Senator J. William Fulbright in 1945 to promote international goodwill by sending talented and driven U.S. students abroad. Yet, one may wonder why Bates is one of the top producers of Fulbright student awards, and what the whole process is really like?

To begin, students are encouraged to start thinking about their application as early as six months in advance of the early October application deadline. One Fulbright recipient is Sarah Rothmann '19, who is teaching English in the Czech Republic. She said that it is "never too early to start your application!" When asked what her advice would be to prospective appli-

cants, she said that she would recommend allocating plenty of time to the application and to "research your country thoroughly before applying." Furthermore, she emphasized that "if you have never been abroad or don't have much teaching experience, still consider applying."

In addition to the challenge of curating the application, applicants need to prepare for an interview in the early fall. These interviews are conducted by the Campus Committee Evaluation (CCE) in early September to both evaluate students and prepare them for the final stages of their application.

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# BCSG Increases Access to Security Reports and More

Vanessa Paoella, Managing Editor

The Bates College Student Government (BCSG) has continued to pursue new initiatives and organize events for the benefit of the student body into the second part of the academic year. Below is a brief summary of BCSG's activities during the first half of the winter semester.

## Upcoming Elections

General information meetings on the upcoming BCSG elections for the 2020-2021 academic year will be held on Monday, March 2:

12:30-1:30 p.m.  
Upstairs Commons 226

6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Upstairs Commons 201

## Security Report Transparency

Until this semester, students were not directly informed when their name appeared in a campus security report. Coaches and administrators might receive these reports and call meetings with students who were unaware that they had even been written up. BCSG encouraged the administration to change this policy, and now students will receive a notification when their name is mentioned in a report through BatesReach.

According to the Bates Today announcement, this notification will contain basic information about the type of report filed

and the following steps which must be taken. It will also detail who to contact to request the full report.

Students written up for student conduct violations will also have the option to submit a statement via Bates Reach to the Office of Student Support and Community Standards before their required meeting.

## Fem Folx Fitness Night

Davis Fitness Center is the only weight room on campus; all students share this space regardless of their gender or involvement in varsity athletics. One of the primary goals of BCSG Athletics Committee this year has been to make this space more inviting and inclusive to all students.

The BCSG Athletics Committee and Weight lifting club, in conjunction with the Department of Athletics, hosted the first Fem Folx Fitness Night on Saturday, Feb. 1. Organizers reserved Davis that evening for the exclusive use of female-identifying and gender non-conforming students. Experienced lifters assisted newcomers in navigating the weight room, teaching exercises and correcting form.

Julia Pinepinto '20, one of the organizers of the event, said that the event was well received, with the number of attendees tripling from the first to second event.

"We went from having ten



Attendees at the second Fem Folx Fitness Night celebrate their strength  
HANNAH FITTS/COURTESY PHOTO

people the first week to 30 the second week," Pinepinto wrote. "I have received multiple texts, emails, and in-person testimonials about how sore people felt the following days, and how excited they are for the next one after the break."

Additionally, Pinepinto has been working with Bates Strength and Conditioning Coach Mike Seltzer to contact professional trainers in the area to come in and assist with the program.

This is a recurring weekly event which will take place every Saturday night from 5-6:30 p.m. in Davis.

## Town Hall

On Feb. 11, the Tuesday be-

fore February break, BCSG held a town hall encouraging students to stop by, voice their concerns, or suggest new project ideas. This event was poorly attended with only two first-year girls taking advantage of the opportunity.

Ella Lungstrum '23 and Lucy Sherman '23 stopped by to discuss a proposal for more public art on campus. BCSG referred them to the Arts Collaborative Committee at Bates.

"The purpose of hosting a Town Hall was to address concerns that arose during the campaign season last spring when students [requested a forum to] complain about issues important to them," Lizanecz said. "In the past, town halls had almost zero

attendance despite mass marketing efforts. This time we saw a similar result."

## Feminine Hygiene Products

Currently, BCSG is researching the possibility of eliminating fees for menstrual hygiene products in academic buildings. Some students argue that basic hygienic necessities should be available to students at no cost.

This project is only in the early stages of development and the Student Affairs/Life Committee is investigating whether other schools have a similar program in place. Additionally, they are looking to potentially partner with Bates clubs and outside companies.

## MORENCY CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

"The next Director must have experience as a leader or a supervisor within an organization. As the leader of an organization of nearly 20 staff members, the Director must be able to lead and inspire those individuals to excel while creating a culture of community engagement and trust,"

said Steidel.

Steidel also added, "Doug [Morency] has successfully led the department from focusing primarily on policy enforcement to a more balanced approach with a focus on community engagement and while addressing high risk and disruptive behaviors. We

hope a new Director will continue to refine this culture within the department so that Security personnel are engaging with students and other community members outside of just the policy enforcement context."

Near the end of the interview, Morency reflected on his time at

Bates: "First of all, I love being here. I love the students. I love my role here. You know, it's challenging to be a new face in Maine. It's challenging to be in the role of Director of Security because of what the title holds and what people's perceptions are.... So that's a challenge but I've enjoyed every min-

ute of it. It unfortunately was a kind of a short go at it. Sometimes you come to an intersection in life and you have to kind of weigh where you are, what you've done, and figure out kind of what's best for you and how you're going to move forward and that's kind of where I am."

## FULBRIGHT CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

Robert Strong, the Director of National Fellowships at Bates, explained that these interviews are conducted so many weeks in advance because they are meant to be a tool to strengthen applications rather than an attempt to weed applicants out. Strong explains that at Bates, the interviews are meant to be a positive opportunity where "you could ask a question of someone on the committee and keep working on improving your application."

Rothmann said that her interview was "a bit intimidating but extremely helpful," and that it helped her "feel as confident as possible about becoming a finalist."

Part of the interview's effectiveness comes from the exceptional professors that comprise it. Selected from a variety of disciplines, these professors work closely with students throughout the application process.

Strong highlighted that the "thesis culture" at Bates is one of the many factors in Bates student's success with Fulbright applications.

In addition to Bates' exceptional mentoring relationships, Strong commented that the emphasis on community engagement in Lewiston, a surpris-

ingly international city, gives Bates students an edge.

Rothmann commented that in her time at Bates, she spent a large portion of time at the Lewiston Public Schools as part of her many education courses. This experience helped her decide to pursue teaching, and she used her other extracurriculars to construct a compelling application.

Overall, the entire process of Fulbright is extremely rewarding for both professors and students. Strong explained that many professors find working on the committee gratifying because "you work with students who are going after a goal, and [who] are self-motivated."

Committee members and students engage in deep conversations that can be beneficial even if the student does not receive a grant. The rigorous process of identifying and articulating one's passions, goals and skills is an invaluable experience that can aid in graduate school applications, or even applications to other scholarships and awards.

Strong has found that for him and other professors on the committee, working with students towards the goal of a Fulbright award is extremely fulfilling, because "you get to work with them in this magic moment. And then, if they're successful you get to see their joy at getting the grant."

# "Break Out this February" Encourages Outing Club Diversity

Georgina Scoville, Assistant News Editor

The short duration of February break means that, unlike many other school breaks, many Batesies stay on campus for the entire week. The limited activities and lonely nature of the week are helped by a saving grace: The Outing Club's "Break Out this February" initiative. All week, Outing Club members Ronan Goulden '22 and Jin Wei '20 led students on trips across Maine, such as relaxing on the beach in Shortridge or learning to ski at Lost Valley.

According to Goulden and one of the trip attendees, Maddie Feldmeier '22, one of the best aspects of these trips is that they help to combat the exclusionary nature of the Outing Club. In the past, the club has been criticized because it can unintentionally exclude marginalized groups such as racial minorities or low-income students. Goulden recognizes that, "the outdoors is naturally an exclusive place for many groups", and notices that the exclusion is often based on class and social capital in the outdoors. Feldmeier has also observed a similar problem, expressing that "there are certain types of people who tend to be attracted to outing club activities and events".

Goulden explained that many of these problems stem from lack of gear and experience. Typically, the Outing Club does not rent out gear such as gloves

and snow pants, which means that many students are reluctant to head outdoors. Trips can also be intimidating to students for two major reasons. First, many trips take place overnight or for entire days, which can be a time crunch for students already struggling to balance work-study positions and schoolwork. Second, according to Goulden, "the outdoors has historically been a privileged space", which means that many people do not have the outdoor social capital necessary to make them feel comfortable in Outing Club meetings and trips.

"Break Out this February" attempted to combat this exclusion by providing a comfortable space for students of various backgrounds. They prioritized inclusion by ensuring that all trips were at a beginner level and not more than 5 hours, covered all costs so that the trips were financially accessible, and included meals - which means that attending the trips was sometimes cheaper than eating at the dining hall, which requires students to pay for meals over break. Additionally, the nature of the trips occurring over break meant that the trips included a more diverse group of students.

Feldmeier attended a trip to the Bates Shortridge house, where she hiked with other students through Morse Mountain and the local beach. She has at-

tended other Outing Club trips in the past and explained that she enjoys trips over break more than the ones during the school year "because of the smaller groups of people and more diverse levels of experience". She went on to explain that on these trips, there is less pressure to be experienced, and the community is more relaxed and welcoming.

Goulden agreed that the vibe of the trips is relaxing and friendly, and especially appreciates that many of the people on the trips were first timers in the activity that they were partaking in. He shared his favorite memory of the week, which took place on the Salt Pump climbing trip. "Everyone was supportive of each other and cheered for everyone's climb", a celebratory atmosphere helped by the opportunity for students to share their experiences during a shared meal later that day.

As described by Goulden, the Outing Club is "all about the memories made by collaborative experiences outside of Bates, something which we want as many people possible to both experience and be the creators of". "Break Out this February" both actively encourages this while also admitting the exclusion and privilege embedded in the Club, showing that much more has to be done before the Club can live up to its collaborative goal.

# Coding Club Aims to Fill in Curriculum Gaps

Madeline Polkinghorn, Managing News Editor

Bates Coding Club – which stands today at only two months old – was born out of necessity. The club, which appeals to programmers and non-programmers alike through weekly all-level coding sessions, aims to provide Bates students a survey-level knowledge of coding that, its co-presidents Kenza Nadifi '21 and Sam Goldstein-McGowan '21 argue, is not provided in the current Digital and Computational Studies (DCS) program.

“Coding Club,” started Goldstein-McGowan, “is a place for people to either begin learning how to code or to hone their skills. We also offer support for all DCS classes and other courses that involve coding.”

For Goldstein-McGowan, starting Coding Club was a means of providing a low-stakes outlet for mastering digital skills. “I wanted to create an inclusive environment for people of any skill level to show up and be able to code. I feel that some people see coding as something that is really difficult to learn. But it’s not! I want to foster an environment where people can learn coding at their own pace, with no fear of getting a bad grade in a DCS class.”

Nadifi gained interest in the club out of her own desire to learn a fundamental computer science skill she felt was neglected by the curriculum: coding. While she maintains faculty put forth an

enormous effort to relay information to students; the classes, she says, seemed more geared toward themes of the humanities rather than mastering the finer technical points of coding. “I have taken three years of DCS classes and actively did not know how to code. And I was like, I guess I have to teach myself... I’m gonna start a club so that I can teach myself and so other people can teach themselves and we can all learn together. So it was very much out of necessity, I felt.”

Goldstein McGowan, an experienced coder, echoed these sentiments, remarking that “I have had a fairly good experience with the DCS program, however, I have felt that some of my classes did not focus enough on the coding aspect of the course. This made these articles feel more like a sociology course with a coding component than a real coding class.”

Nadifi herself has a more unconventional background when it comes to programming. “I’m a politics major, and I’m not a math person at all. I just think coding’s really fascinating, and I don’t necessarily want to [code] as a career, but I think it’s a skill at this point that like, people need to know. Also, I want to know what the computers are up to. I don’t understand them – I want to know what they’re up to!”

The necessity of developing a coding club, however, was



Members of the newly formed Coding Club  
JAMES MACDONALD/THE BATES STUDENT

not born simply out of a desire to expand the breadth of skills developed by the school’s curriculum. It is necessary also, Goldstein-McGowan says, because many companies see a base level knowledge of programming as an expectation for employment.

“Coding is important because it is involved with almost every field at this point. My sister, who was a sociology major and works at a company that doesn’t do programming at all, had recently asked me to help her learn how to code because it was desired even at her job. As technology advances and becomes even more involved in our daily lives than it already does,

programming will be even more important for getting a job.”

The establishment Coding Club on campus also serves the important social purpose of promoting inclusion into the field of groups who have traditionally been left out, like women.

“[Coding] is obviously a male dominated field. But I think that’s also a major opportunity, because they’re looking for women who code now. And it’s definitely a major challenge, but at the same time, there’s a need there and an urgency to have more women... A lot of the people that show up for the club are women... In the coming years it’s going to be very fascinating to see how the field changes,

because there are so many girls I know that are so motivated to learn how to code.”

Goldstein-McGowan urges students who desire coding to relinquish any preconceived notions about the skill. “I think the hardest thing about learning how to code is starting it in the first place. To a lot of people, programming seems like a foreign concept that only some people can do... I would just advise people to give it a try and take it slow. No one learns a language in a day, it’s usually a long process that naturally happens over time.”

# Water Outage Interrupts Everyday Routines

Vanessa Paoella, Managing Editor

Last Monday, an unexpected water outage in numerous buildings on campus surprised members of the Bates community. The shutdown, running from approximately 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 24, occurred as the Water and Sewage division of Lewiston Public Works (LPW) replaced a broken water main along Central Ave.

LPW detected a problem in the water line, located near the intersection of Central and Campus Ave., some time last week, per LPW. However, replacing the pipe was put on hold for a few days while they took care of other more immediate issues in Lewiston.

While the exact reason for the water main break is undetermined, LPW said that repairs like this are common, especially during the winter months when the ground freezes and thaws.

According to an email sent by Bates Housing, the water outage was unexpected: “Original reports from the City of Lewiston indicated we would not be experiencing any disruption in service,” it read.

Originally, only Commons, Alumni Gym, Grey Cage and John Bertram Hall were affected.

“The City gave us short notice on the outage, so students in JB Hall may have had to cut their shower short [that] morning,” Director of Facility Services Operations Jay Phillips wrote.

After recognizing the is-

sue, LPW initially estimated the shutdown to last for one to two hours. However, LPW determined that they would have to isolate an additional water line than previously expected, increasing the duration of the project.

By the time water was restored to campus buildings had been running without water for more than five hours by the time water service was fully restored to campus.

Buildings connected to the Central Ave, Campus Ave. and Franklin St. water lines experienced the water outage. In addition to the buildings initially left without water, Ladd Library and many academic and residential buildings also experienced the water loss.

Students were unable to use the restroom, showers, water fountains or laundry facilities in the buildings affected during this time. Facility Services also found itself responding to numerous issues across campus.

Plumbing, he noted, is of specific concern.



Lewiston Public Works replaced the broken pipe on Feb. 24  
JAMES MACDONALD/THE BATES STUDENT

“There is a sense of general disruption for something like this...It also entails extra work for our custodians and plumbers to check fixtures on campus when water is restored and make sure things are working properly,” Phillips wrote. “Generally our plumbers have to go fix something. In this case we needed a contractor to help us rest the fire sprinkler system in Gray Cage to normal operation.”

However, Commons was hit particularly hard as many of its basic functions rely heavily on water availability.

Without water, the dish washer can no longer run, nor can the drink dispensers. By the time the water had gone out, much of

the food preparations for breakfast and lunch were well underway. However, some platforms such as the pasta bar require a continuous source of water.

“Having no water is absolutely a challenge! Cooking, dish washing, beverage dispensing and even restrooms are all dependent upon it,” Director of Dining, Cheryl Lacey, explained.

Nonetheless, Commons continued to function by implementing a predetermined backup plan.

“When something like this happens, we put the appropriate plan into action to deal with the situation and our entire team works together to keep diners fed with as little disruption as possible,” Lacey wrote.

Paper and plastic utensils were brought out for use, and when the water outage stretched on, bottles of water were also available for students to grab. Commons staff melted ice from the large ice machines in the back and collected portable beverage dispensers from other buildings on campus to aid with cooking. The pasta bar continued to operate by using stored jugs of water.

“As much as we hate having to use disposables in Commons, not having a dishwasher necessitates this,” Lacey wrote.

Additionally, after the Den lost water, it was temporarily closed and staff were reassigned to assist with Commons operations.

## The Bates Student

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## About Us

The Bates Student is a biweekly student-operated newspaper produced for the betterment and knowledge of the Bates and Lewiston/Auburn community.

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## DANCE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I will be referring to the Bates Dance Department and not the Bates Theater because I am not a theater major and all of these interactions that I will be revealing are exclusively from the dance space. The goal of this article is to shed light on personal anecdotes and to provide solutions for the future of dance at Bates. Now, let me provide you all with two starting points.

First, I am currently a senior who is studying dance and psychology as a double major. I am of Nigerian and Jamaican descent, and my dance background is Hip-Hop, Liturgical, West African, and Dancehall. When I came to Bates College, I was introduced to modern dance and improvisation. The modern dance that I was shown was mundane to me so I decided that I would create my own movement material that infused modern dance and my personal cultural dance forms. I have created pieces that reflect this very fusion. Second, if you have any connection to the Bates Dance Department and you are offended by this article, you may want to consider your positionality within the department. This is my truth and the truth of many other students and alumni.

### The Cliques, Othering, & Favoritism

As I enter the dance studio for, let's say, a modern dance technique class, the atmosphere is not as competitive compared to other dance departments at other institutions, it is place where people are truly invested in learning how to be safe and effective movers.

I notice that there are two distinct groups. One group has white women who are quite frankly, the "face" of the department. Then you have the second group which consists of white students who do not feel as though they belong in the first group and students of color such as myself. Now, this is no different than what we see in social settings outside of the dance studio but the dance space can be more stigmatizing and isolating because of the proximity. What is even more troubling is that professors are aware of these groups and do absolutely nothing to disrupt them. Instead, they emphasize it more by allowing the same dancers to work together in groups and be assigned to take care of production items. Furthermore, the approach that the department uses when interacting

with black women is completely different than the department's approach when dealing with white women. As a result, favoritism and racist undertones arise.

### The White Gaze + European Beauty Standards

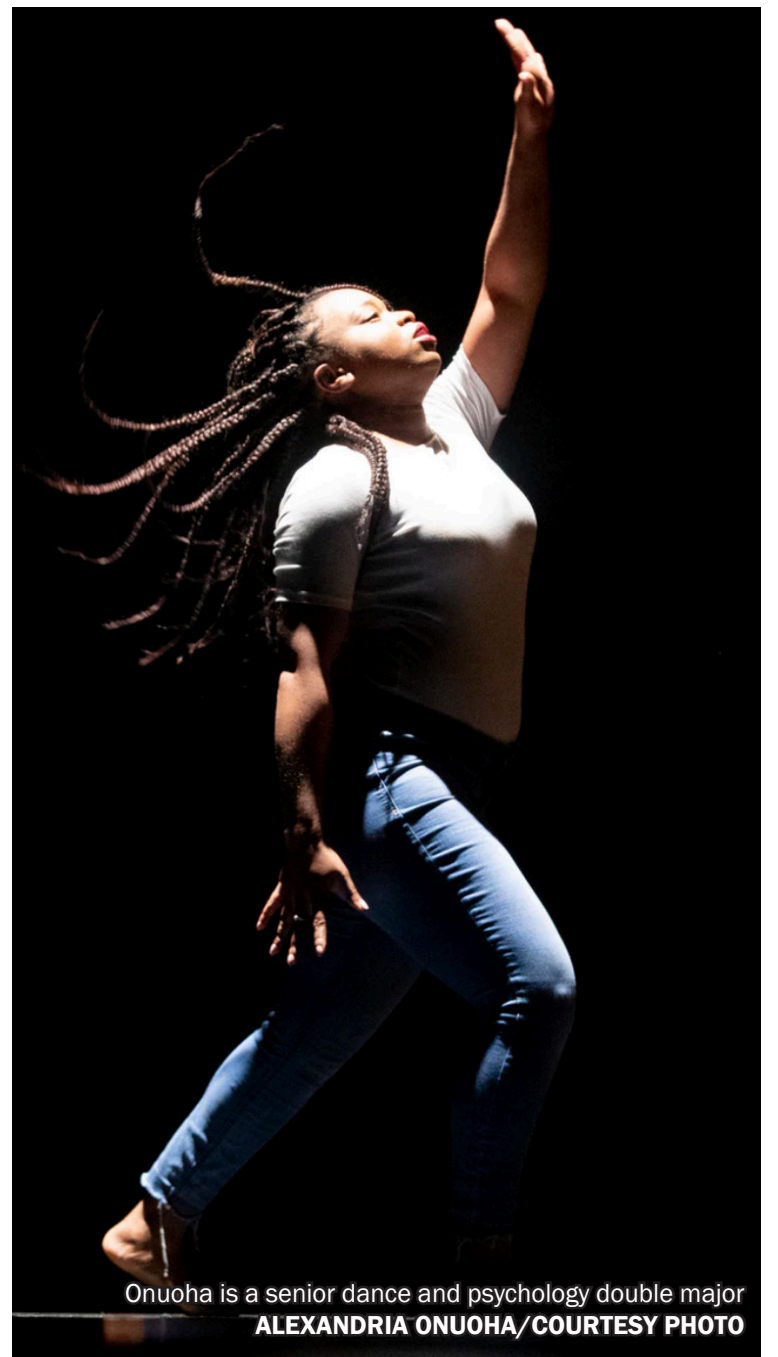
Favoritism is shown through the marketing materials that the production team comes up with. Ask yourself, who is usually on the posters when there is a dance event approaching? There is an unspoken preference for white bodies that are slimmer. If I'm wrong, then it's time for that to be reflected in the marketing materials, and I'm not talking about using a black student from several years ago. To continue, in western dance forms such as ballet there is a standard that dancers must be a certain body type. You would think that at a liberal arts college we would not fall into these expectations. However, there have been students who have expressed that their body shapes have been commented on in the most negative ways. Imagine being in a room where your body is under the white gaze that values Eurocentric standards of beauty. It's overwhelming. No student should ever leave a dance space feeling as though their body isn't beautiful. There are so many black students who dance on this campus, and when they don't see themselves represented of course they don't want to attend a concert let alone attend a dance class unless they desperately need it for the PE requirement.

### Lack of Protection for Black Women

My sophomore year, I took a class called Dance Composition. In this class, the main assignment was to create a choreographic piece that has more than one person in it, and that cannot include yourself. This was the first piece that I ever made in college! I was super excited because I knew this was going to be a piece that was going to incorporate the dance forms from my Jamaican and Nigerian culture which is lacking in the department. As the semester went on, it was time to show the department what we all had been working on in order to give us fruitful feedback. The department invited Bates alum Sara Juli who, along with the professors adjudicated the dance pieces. When it was my time to show my piece, I was excited! However, once my

piece was shown, Sara Juli made an insensitive comment. She said "I don't really understand what your piece is about, like I am kind of confused, like what's the point of having Bob Marley speak?" (which is really rich coming from her if you've seen her work). Sara was referring to a part where one of my dancers had a spotlight on her in the center of the stage, and they were moving fluidly around the space while Bob Marley talks about the importance of life and happiness. My piece was about celebrating black women and their bodies through the dance forms of West African dance, Soca, and modern dance. I am not surprised that she did not understand. She is a white woman who centers her work on white women narratives. I did not appreciate her comment because her delivery was nasty, and I stormed out of the theater and one of my dancers, who is now an alum, consoled me. I told her what was said and she understood what I was going through. She said "[Juli] said something insensitive to me as well a few years back." My dancer, who was a senior at the time, went with me to the professor, and we both told her about how we felt. And do you think I was taken seriously? Nope. The professor essentially told me to have thick skin and to tolerate it. Black women are usually always told to toughen up. At that moment I did not want to, my feelings were hurt as a younger student. I was not protected at all. They completely disregarded my feelings because in their minds, I was not capable of feeling any emotion or pain.

Similarly, last year the guest artist who the department loves so much, James Graham came to conduct a residency where he created a work that the dancers in the repertory class would perform for a particular concert. As a dancer, you are graded for your participation and effort with the guest artist. According to my professors, I am a resilient and hard-working student, so collaborating with others is usually never an issue for me. I treat every guest artist with respect and give my all in order to help their vision become a reality. Graham's piece was something I would never do again in my life because it is not my style of dance. Graham's piece was saturated with abstract content and I was not captivated by his work. However, I came to class on time every day, ready to work. Anything that I was asked



Onuoha is a senior dance and psychology double major  
ALEXANDRIA ONUOHA/COURTESY PHOTO

to do, even when I felt uncomfortable, I did because I knew this was a team effort. The grade I got for working with him was one that I did not agree with and I spoke my mind. Once I did that, I received backlash from the professors telling me that I did not put ANY effort into his piece and he thought so too. Interestingly enough, while we would be in rehearsals all his attention would be towards the white dancers, and none towards me, the only black woman. Was it really me who wasn't putting in enough effort, or James Graham who simply forgot I existed? We can agree to disagree, but what my issue was at the time was the fact that my professors did not believe me. They've known me longer than they knew him, and automatically that went out the window. Again, I did not feel protected. If this happened to some of the favorites of the department, the conversation would have been completely different.

### A Few Actionable Items

These are just a few experiences of mine and of others. Below are solutions that I think would help prevent these issues in the future.

1. Change the dynamics up in class (switch the groups up or simply call out the fact that there is clearly a divide).
  2. Change the marketing materials, representation matters.
  3. When approached by a student, listen to understand not to respond.
  4. Don't comment on someone's body whether it is positive or negative (focus on the dancing)
  5. Believe black women.
- Being a black dance major in an atmosphere filled with white dancers, race will always be salient for me. Being colorblind in dance spaces is invalidating my black dancing body. When you invalidate it, you are contributing to white supremacist ideologies.

# Literary Hegemony in a Nutshell

Carl Deakins, Staff Writer

After graduation, I found myself wanting to establish better habit of reading. In order to prepare myself to teach English to high school students, I thought it would be difficult, yet benefit for me to commit to my own independent readings. On top of that, I thought it would be a great opportunity for me to read just for the sake of reading.

Much of my college career I spent reading for the sake of response. This means I was trained to decipher texts for the goal of speaking in class

or writing a paper. And although I tried to intentionally stay away from jejune or pithy analysis of the assigned reading, I inherently kept gravitating towards reading for the sole purpose of getting the "right" answer for the class.

I admit this was a difficult process to stop because so much of my grade depended on saying the "right" thing in class. Often, I found classes to be a struggle between professors trying to valorize and legitimize the insights gave by students while also pushing them towards noting \*how\* they came to those perceptions.

This tension in part is a result of taking literacy for granted. At Bates, I frequently found

myself learning far more tangibly about a specific subject matter in 200 level courses than in seminars. Though I imagine that the mark of a good seminar is leaving questions unresolved, I have found seminars particularly to take for granted the capacity of the students and instructor to read critically.

Reading is difficult, but essential (some might even say fundamental). Additionally, the mark of a good reader is not just their ability to physically read words on a page but the capacity to understand the argumentative dynamics of interpretation. This skill is not one to be taken for granted. Practicing reading makes classes flow.

As a current teacher in

Philadelphia and a former student at Bates, I am readily aware of how imposter syndrome silences necessary work on basic skills. Students who feel confused on a subject or skill will regularly not voice a concern for fear that it reveals them as dilettantes. This will cause a room of silent students to passively listen while confident peers jump immediately to interpretation.

This so-called jump elides the lack of a common language. Patterns of behavior convince participants both that interpretations are the most worthwhile form of reaction to a text and that clarifying questions are not worth asking.

Class participation can

quickly erode to a stultifying hierarchy where students who can effectively receive praise, even if they talk to no one in particular.

These dynamics manifest with distinct subject tendencies. Despite protestations of professors, and at times students, discussions of literature can quickly move far away from text.

I'm not really sure what to make of it, but neither the putatively trite discussions of whether or not certain characters were appealing or formalistic explanation seem particularly popular in the lingua franca of literary hegemony in a nutshell.

# Thesis Spotlight: Ursula Rall

Kyle Larry, Managing Forum Editor

A new addition to the Forum section of the Bates Student is called “Thesis Spotlight”, and in these types of articles, I hope to use my platform to highlight the incredible research Bates students are conducting their senior year. I hope that these articles will not only motivate seniors to continue their work, but also encourage undergrads to start generating questions for their own senior research projects. The first ever thesis spotlight will focus on Ursula Rall. Ursula is a history major, and she sat down with me this week to answer some questions I had for her.

**So Ursula, what is the title of your thesis?**

Well, right now I have a working title, which means it will eventually change. But for right now my thesis is called “Shrouded Voices: The Social Networks Afro-Mexican Women in the 17th Century in Mexico and Veracruz.”

**What is your thesis about?**

The title kind of gives it away. I’m looking at the social networks amongst women of African descent. Basically, I’m seeing how race, ethnicity, and gender impact the lives of these women. I’m hoping this could contribute to this area of study considering how rela-

tively new this subject matter is.

**So, when you say women of African descent, are you talking about women of all ethnic backgrounds or are you focusing on one specific ethnicity?**

I’m looking at colonial Mexico, which has historically used multiple ethnic labels to describe women who are Afro-descent. I choose Afro-descent because it’s a bit more inclusive than the terms Black or Afro-Mexican. However, I will say that most of the women I’m learning about are racially categorized as Negro and Mulatto, with there being some more ambiguous terms in the middle.

**Personally, I can’t speak on this as much as you can, but I heard that Mulatto is a derogatory term. So, why do you use it in your research? What are the implications?**

Mulatto is actually derived from the word “mule”, so it was obviously meant to be derogatory. However, according to my primary sources, it is the term that these women referred to themselves as, and it’s how they were classified in many official documents. You know if a white man called me Negro today, I would be like “excuse me.” But, it’s important to note that these

are some of the terms people used in a certain time period in the US and nowadays these terms wouldn’t be accepted.

**Why do you feel like this research is important?**

I feel like it’s important because, in general, Afro-Latin American studies is an expanding field, and the more we learn about the African diaspora, the more we can make sense of the various experiences Afro-descent people have in the Americas. I think history helps us bridge the gap between our numerous ways of understanding Blackness, and also lets you look back and say “hey, this person made a huge impact or was an active member of the economy.” And, although there are some race scholars looking at Afro-Mexico, it’s a relatively younger field. Not to mention, there has been little conversations surrounding gender as well. I mean I’m not so arrogant to think that my thesis will change the world and make it seem like people aren’t racist anymore, but I do think historical research can show how integral the Black experience is in Mexican culture.

**What specifically attracted you to this type of research?**

Before I started my thesis, I knew I wanted to focus on co-



URSULA RALL/COURTESY PHOTO

lonial Mexico because through the history courses I’ve taken, I noticed that when it comes to Latin America, it’s usually a tiny bit about Cuba and maybe some vague stuff about Mexico and a little bit about Brazil. I chose to explore Mexico more. I also think that being biracial, I had a unique journey in defining my Blackness, so I wanted to see how other people discover that identity or answers those same questions I had about racial and ethnic identity.

**What is one interesting finding?**

I don’t know how much of

this will be incorporated into my thesis, but one case was a woman who was born in Spain. Her mother was a slave born in Africa and traded to Spain, while she believed her father was a part of powerful Spanish family. She moved to the New World with her first husband, but after she was widow, she remarried an upper class gentleman (a Spaniard). I thought it was fascinating because all of these Spanish women accused her of witchcraft because they believed she used love potions on her husband to get him to marry her. This took place in 1627.

# In Sanders We Trust?

Miles Nabritt, Assistant Forum Editor

The Democratic nominations for the 2020 presidential election are in full swing now. Not only has it been an absolute mess, but many believe that there is no clear candidate to win. Until now, Bernie Sanders has been in the midst of allegations and criticism by fellow Democratic competitors such as Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren. Sanders is regarded as a passionate leader who is strongly against the power that corporations and other bureaucratic institutions have throughout the country. Many believe that Mr. Sanders, and his affiliation as a Democratic Socialist, is not enough to appeal to the majority of voters let alone win the Democratic nomination. However, according to recent polls, people now might have a change in heart. Over the past few weeks, Sanders has made leaps and bounds not only in terms of national polls, but public appeal as well. As the country continues to follow the Democratic nomination race with anticipation, let’s analyze the astonishing rise of Bernie Sanders.

Democratic Socialism? Yes, Mr. Sanders identifies himself as a democratic socialist. For a long time this was a subject of controversy and division amongst Democrats as it separated moderates from far-leftists. However, it seems as though voters have embraced Sanders and have looked

past the disputed “Democratic Socialism,” and focused on voting for the right candidate. Having just narrowly lost the highly disputed Iowa caucus to Pete Buttigieg, Sanders has had impressive results with victories in the New Hampshire primary two weeks ago and now in the Nevada caucus. Against all odds and predictions, political analysts and newspapers around the country are now picking Sanders to win the Democratic nomination. It is amazing to witness a candidate such as Mr. Sanders, who has struggled to be a front runner in several polls across the country, to finally be succeeding at such a high level. But why is Sanders succeeding so much right now?

First, the New Hampshire primary, was crucial for Sanders to win. In Iowa, after a bizarre situation with the voter turnout, Sanders saw his campaign lose to Buttigieg by .2% at an even 26%. Similarly, in 2016, Sanders was in the mix of competitive races with Hillary Clinton but was unable to surpass her in the majority of the primaries and caucuses. Despite winning the New Hampshire primary in 2016, in fact, Sanders was unable to continue his momentum in other highly contested states. However, with this new election season, Sanders looks to be making his stand and is making substantial strides towards the Democratic nomination. With the



New Hampshire primary, Sanders overcame Buttigieg to take the state by 26% to 24%. When Sanders won the primary, there was an automatic surge in national survey polls for his campaign. According to national surveys, Sanders, in a hypothetical general election, is beating Trump by 49.3% to 45%. In comparison to other Democratic nominees, no one has that substantial of a lead over Trump other than Sanders. Since national polls like these are supporting Sanders, many may believe that Sanders is the right candidate to take on Trump in No-

vember. However, we all should know, polls can be deceiving.

The 2020 election in November will be significant for many reasons as we brace for more historic moments in our nation’s history. If there is anything that the 2016 election has taught us is to expect the unexpected. Donald Trump’s surprise victory over Hillary Clinton ushered in a new age of politics for the country and for the rest of the world. Over the past four years, we have seen a rise in polarization, hate, and fear-mongering in several influential institutions and social

groups. Trump has become a catalyst for immense internal conflict within our country and external conflict amongst other countries. Our reputation as a country has been severely damaged by the antagonism that we have spread throughout the world. Many people believe that some of the consequences that have arisen from the Trump presidency will be irreversible. For politicians such as Bernie Sanders, he still has hope that a youth inspired revolution can overcome such strenuous odds. Only time will tell.



Having to wake up for class after break

8 a.m. hits differently after break



Two unrelated hatchet attacks in Lewiston

Yikes. And there was shooting at TJ Maxx to boot



Tropical Fruit Soft Serve in Commons

It almost makes you forget that it’s February in Maine



Finding out your whole class failed a midterm

Team bonding??

UP  
sumop  
↓



# March 3 Primary



## WHAT DO I NEED IN ORDER TO REGISTER?

All Bates students, currently registered or not, are advised to bring their **Bates ID** with them and to know the **last 4 digits of their social security number**.

**MAINE HAS SAME DAY REGISTRATION. YOU MAY REGISTER AT THE POLLS ON MAR. 3.**

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any US citizen who will be 18 by the November 2020 election. Please note: **Maine has a closed primary**. If you are currently unenrolled (not registered with a specific party) you can register as a member of a party when you go to vote and vote in that party's primary. If you are registering to vote for the first time, you can register in a particular party on election day and vote in that party's primary.

## WHERE?

The Lewiston polling place will be Longley School, 145 Birch St. open from **7 AM to 8 PM**. You can vote early by going to City Hall on Pine St. to fill out your ballot anytime Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4 PM, **before February 27th**.



## HOW DO I GET TO THE POLLS?

A van will be leaving the Central Ave. entrance of Commons **every 20 minutes** (across from Merrill). The first van will leave Bates at 7 AM and the last van will leave campus for the polls at 7:40 PM. Vans will pick students up at the polls every 20 min.

# Question 1: Repeal of Mandated Vaccination

### ~The Gist~

This resolution would repeal a law passed by the legislature and signed into law by the governor removing religious and philosophical exemptions to the vaccination requirement for students attending schools and colleges and employees of nursery schools and health care facilities.

### ~Ballot Question~

“Do you want to reject the new law that removes religious and philosophical exemptions to requiring immunization against certain communicable diseases for students to attend schools and colleges and for employees of nursery schools and health care facilities?”

#### YES means...

I want to allow religious or philosophical exemptions to the requirement for children to be vaccinated to attend school.

#### NO means...

I want to require all children to be vaccinated to attend school, except for those with a medical reason not to be vaccinated.

**You DO NOT have to be registered with a political party to vote on this question.**

### Pros:

The primary arguments for this veto are:

- Some believe that the government shouldn't intervene in medical decisions, and they shouldn't be tied to education.
- Some people think vaccines can lead to autism, but this has been debunked by the CDC.\*

\*For more information & references please visit: [maineballot.org](http://maineballot.org)

### Cons:

The primary arguments against this veto are: Immunization protects the entire community from diseases.

- Immunization only works if a majority of the community has the vaccine.
- Some individuals, such as those with diseases that compromise the immune system, can't receive vaccines, so they benefit if people they interact with have been vaccinated.
- Maine's opt-out rate is more than 3 times the national average. It was 5.6% of kindergarteners for the 2018-19 school year.\*
- Maine was the state with the highest rate (8 times the national average) of pertussis (whooping cough) cases in 2018.\*
- The American Academy of Pediatrics highly recommends states eliminate non-medical exemptions to stop the spread of diseases.\*

Information courtesy of the Harvard Center



Jack McLarnon, Staff Cartoonist

Studio Art majors held open studios in Olin Arts Center during festival  
MAC GAITHER/THE BATES STUDENT

## The Return of the Bates Arts Festival

Fiona Cohen, Staff Writer

The Bates Arts Festival returned to Olin arts Center on Feb. 7 after a two-year hiatus. Up until two years ago, Bates had hosted an annual art crawl in order to show student work. The current goal of the festival is to exhibit what is happening at Olin Arts Center in new and creative ways.

The festival was open to the Bates and Lewiston communities. Upon entering the building, visitors found students presenting their creative works. These works included acapella and spoken word performances, video presentations, plus photography and art open studios. Everyone was encouraged to wander through Olin and observe the exhibitions and performances of their choice.

The Bates Arts Festival team aimed to be open in terms of what types of art would be displayed during the event. As a result, there was a wide range of works presented. There were very few restrictions on who could present. Students of all grades ap-

plied, and applicants were not required to be fine or performing arts majors.

In Olin Concert Hall, the night was kicked off by the Robinson Players, who presented the opening act of their latest musical, *Spelling Bee*. The entire musical comedy was performed numerous times in Gannet Theatre throughout the weekend.

There was also a performance by Crosstones, Bates' oldest acapella group, who sang a wide variety of songs, including *Walk the Moon's Shut up and Dance* as well as *Sia's Elastic Heart*. Spectators also enjoyed a hip-hop dance performance by 2BEATS, which had initially been choreographed and performed at Bates' Sangai Asia Night. This list only begins to cover the works put on by Bates students.

Meanwhile, downstairs there were numerous visual art seminars and exhibitions taking place. Some of these included arts and visual culture thesis open studios.

Madeline Schapiro '20, a senior working on her art thesis, commented on the open studios. Per Schapiro, "I think it's important to have people realize what's going on in Olin."

This sentiment reflects the goal of Elizabeth Boyle, Bates' Museum Education Fellow, who played a large role in organizing the festival. While the entire festival was student-run, Boyle aided in the recruitment of student groups and in publicizing the event to the local community.

Boyle described the process of preparing for the event: "It was particularly difficult this year because a lot of it had to do with getting the word out about the event. When you have an event that goes on annually, people know that it is coming up." As the event had been on hiatus, one of the challenges of organizing was getting Bates students to submit their work.

Once student coordinators were hired in the middle of Fall

2019, the work began. Olivia Demerath '23, Olivia Dimond '22, Sanika Shah '22, and Kush Sharma '23 all served as the student coordinators of the event. Getting students to submit was difficult, and the arts festival team looked for many ways to promote the event. The team accepted submissions and reached out to different student arts groups to gain participants. They also got creative in terms of how to make the festival interactive. At the arts festival, there were here were numerous demonstrations and workshops such as *Learn to Juggle* (presented by Circus Club) or a "Poetry off the Page" Workshop by Khadeeja Qureshi '23. This allowed visitors to get involved with what they were viewing.

Marketing and scheduling were also tasks that the team took on. Every detail of the festival was planned with care. Boyle noted the efforts that went into this, saying, "We tried to make it immersive in the sense that there

was a lot of things going on at the same time, which also was really difficult when trying to schedule it."

One of the goals of the team was to introduce the community to Olin Arts Center, making it a place for students to know what is happening on campus regarding the arts. Boyle commented on the overall success of the festival, saying, "I think that the Bates Arts Festival is a great way to bring people all together to see what their friends have been working on or to show a different side of the student culture."

## Dancing Will Save Lives At Upcoming Dance Marathon

Olivia Dimond, Staff Writer

It's that time of year again. Your fellow Batesies are posting on social media about the Dance Marathon for the children's hospital, and they're asking you to donate. You read the little blurb about the kids, think about the status of your bank account, and just when you think you're good to do it, you start to wonder. Yeah, you get that it's for the kids, but you're still a little fuzzy. What's a Dance Marathon, exactly? Will you have to dance? What's this about inflatables? If you feel equally as confused as I did, keep reading. I reached out to the Bates event's executive director Emily Bass for help answering some of my most burning questions.

First off, Dance Marathon is not unique to Bates. It is a nationwide fundraiser for hospitals within the Children's Miracle Network-- so if you've seen fundraising posts from your non-Bates friends, that's why. Within

the NESCAC alone, Bowdoin, Trinity, Tufts, and Wesleyan, all have upcoming events to raise money for their local network hospitals. This will only be our second year hosting an event, and all proceeds raised will go to the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Portland. The money helps fund programs like their car seat program, which provides car seats for children with medical needs that prevent them from using traditional ones, and allows the hospital to invest in new technology, like MRI machines where patients can watch movies during the process.

Now, you're probably thinking that's awesome, and I'd love to donate and attend the event, but what if I can't dance? That's okay! This event is still for you. You don't even have to dance if you don't want to, but if you think you do, take comfort in this Dance Marathon saying:

"Bad dancing saves lives." Video Game Club will be facilitating Just Dance and 1 2 Switch, and there will be built in Zumba and yoga classes you can opt-in to, but it's not a requirement. This year's event will also feature performances from 2BEATS, Bollywood, ManOps, and Crosstones, plus inflatables, food, and raffles with gift cards to Lewiston and Portland restaurants up for grabs. If you arrive before the 4 PM Opening Ceremonies, you get 10 free entries, and if you're one of the first 25 people to arrive, you're in for a free sweet treat. I know what it is, but I guess you'll have to get there early to find out, huh?

See, I've learned the point of Dance Marathon is not to dance as long as you can to make the most money for the hospital, which I thought it was up until I started writing this article. Your donors may give money on your

behalf, sure, but you don't have to fight for it; once they've donated, that's that. The only "fighting" that may occur is amongst teams for who can raise the most money. Sailing Club were the inaugural winners, and I'm told they're determined to stay on top. Teams aren't required, either, but several organizations on campus have them set up. You can also start your own, too, and it doesn't have to be through your club(s). Friends, residence halls, athletic teams, etc; anything goes!

Instead, Dance Marathon is a great way to come together as a community to raise money for the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, the only place for children to get world-class care in Maine. Three kids from the hospital and their families will be celebrating with us this year, and along the way, they'll share their stories about how the hospital saved their lives. Last year, with

250 students registered (Which you can do at the door, FYI!), we raised \$19,500 for the hospital. By donating and/or registering, we get to directly help children receive life-changing care.

The Dance Marathon will take place in Memorial Commons from 4-8 PM on Saturday, March 14th. Remember, 4 is the Opening Ceremonies, so try and get their early for special rewards. To register as a fundraiser as either an individual or part of a team, sign up at <https://events.dancemarathon.com/event/Bates2020>, and follow @bates-dancemarathon on Instagram for fundraising tips and tricks! In addition to participants, the event also needs volunteers. Reach out to Emily Bass at [ebass@bates.edu](mailto:ebass@bates.edu) if you're interested.



# An Interview with @batescommonscrushes

Amisha Kalra, Contributing Writer

There are many ideas that make Bates a small, tight-knit community. Some are perpetuated by the faculty, some by the administration, and some (arguably the best) by students. Things such as the Puddle Jump, Newman's Day, Bobcat Den Delivery, and many more unify Bates students together. One of these ideas are meme accounts such as @therealbatescollege and @batescommonscrushes. A couple weeks ago, I had the pleasure of interviewing the owner of the account @batescommonscrushes. As a first-year when everything on campus is new, one of the things we hear about is 'commons crushes'.

One student their freshman year thought the same thing. As a first year, they heard about the idea of commons crushes, and thought it might be fun to create an account that allows people to submit their crushes. Through their Instagram page (@batescommonscrushes), people can DM their latest common crush. Whether it's a

joke concerning a friend, or a real crush, it allows people to foster a sense of shared humor around campus.

Sitting at almost 900 followers, C has a wide reach to the school's students. When I asked what exactly led to the beginning of the account, they revealed that it was around Valentine's Day of their freshman year when they got the inspiration to start this account.

C tells me that they never really expected the account to take off, and for the most part, its success has been unprecedented. "For me, the most surprising thing about running this account is that people actually submit", C confessed, "And they have continued to submit". Two years ago, C thought that this account might die out over the summer, especially since people wouldn't have seen each other for a few months. But indeed, it continued throughout the season, and has progressed for the past couple years. C elaborated that it's a "sweet surprise whenever

a new freshman follows the account".

When I asked about why they started this account, they explained that it is a fun concept and it "adds a bit of spice" to their life. Another reason for the account, they said, was because "Freshman year sometimes made [them] feel out of place, so having something that made [them] integral or a big part of the Bates experience allowed [them] to contribute to the community around them". As a first-year, I can attest to the fact that this new change in surroundings, classes, friends, and really just your lifestyle can make one feel lost. Running this account (and several more) allowed C to feel more at home at Bates, and continues to foster a sense of community for them and for a large part of the student body that follows this account or direct message submissions to it.

Bates is about the people, and @batescommonscrushes definitely flourishes through that idea. But, C also ex-

pands that although Commons Crushes is a fun idea to joke around with, having this account allows them to have a "secret power" of their own. "Sometimes it can definitely be a good way for students to get their actual opinions out there... that might help contribute to a sense of communi-

ty", C adds, "there really is not that many other ways to have that wide of a reach, so having a platform where I reach a thousand odd people is kind of cool you know? I could make a post about an issue and people would see it, people would have an opinion."



## Who Will Sing for Lena?

Ellie Boyle, Staff Writer

"He raped me. He raped me. He raped." These lines are repeated throughout the short play "Who Will Sing For Lena?" which was presented February 12th at Bates College. The play relays the story of Lena Mae Baker, the only woman to be executed by the electric chair in Georgia. Lena tells her moving story of how she grew up in Cuthbert, Georgia and eventually tried and executed, to the audience. She addresses the audience several times which makes the play all the more personal. Lena's story is especially relevant in today's time of the MeToo movement for the reason Lena was executed was due to the fact that she, in self-defense, shot and killed the man who repeatedly raped her as she worked for him for several years.

An especially poignant moment in the play is after Lena is raped over a table. Lena is quiet, she grabs the edge of a chair she clutches her abdomen and lets out a scream that can only be described as bone-chilling. It echoed throughout the theatre. Imagine the scream you might make if you suddenly came across your murdered family. It is a scream of a woman who has been defiled, taken advantage of, and raped. It is the scream of a woman who can't go on any longer, but must because dying isn't an option. It is the scream of a woman who is alone at the moment. Lena returns home the first day after she was raped and her mother tells her that she better get back to her employer Mr. Knight for Lena has three small children to take care of. And that's what Lena does. She continues to work for Mr. Knight as he repeatedly forces himself on her. One night Mr. Knight comes to Lena's house and eventually forces her to stay

in a mill that he owns. A fight ensues between the two of them and in an act of self-defense Lena shoots Mr. Knight. A jury of all white males convict Lena to death after four and a half hours. The play ends moments before she is to be electrocuted.

"Who Will Sing for Lena" is one woman play and the actress was none other than Bates very own Jessica Washington '13. Washington is currently getting her MFA at the Actor's Studio in New York, a notable graduate being Bradley Cooper. The play is especially hard for Washington which could be seen once the play was over and she was in tears. Her acting and the production of the play as been noted as it has won the National Overall Outstanding Production by the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT): Outstanding Achievement in a Leading Role by Jessica Washington by (AACT) national competition: The Outstanding Theatrical Moment by the (AACT) national competition, and the Audience Choice, People's Choice Favorite Actress by (AACT).

After being asked in the Q&A how to take what was learned from the play and continue the conversation Washington answered that "Conversations only go so far... a conversation is just brainstorming." Washington then explained how she was a founding member of the popular Martin Luther King Jr. Day performance of SANKOFA after noticing that there "wasn't much going on on campus as it related to diaspora... and [she and her friends] wanted to introduce culture... it started as a conversation, but [they] didn't just leave it there."

The way to make change, Washington is saying, is to actually act in some way. Conversing isn't enough anymore. If you want to make change: make it.

## VCS Student Showcase Wows

Chase Crawford, Contributing Writer

As expected, the Thursday before break seemed as if it would drag on forever. Thursday is never my favorite day of the week. It's the day before Friday, the last real day, in my opinion, and as I go throughout Thursday, it seems as if my body freezes in the time of the day, as the clock continues to tick on in an impermissible slowness.

This is why, on Thursday, February 13th, the VCS Student Showcase in the Benjamin Mays Center was a good idea. Free pizza, cookies, and chai on little cocktail tables spread throughout the room made me feel like I was in some alternate Thursday universe. Inside that echoey dome room was a pocket of relief from midterm week, and as I settled in I kicked myself for not going to VCS more often to lighten my Thursday blues.

Astonishingly, I was content before anyone even started to sing. When there was singing, however, I was immediately amazed by the amount of talent contained in the faces of people I see every day. My peers were performing, when before, all I had known them as just people before me in the omelet line.

To start the night off, Tom Hennessey '21 and Anaïs Ranque '21 provided the audience with a guitar and singing duo. Starting with the Arctic Monkeys' "Do I Wanna Know", slowing it down with John Mayer's "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room", and ending with Gary Clark Jr's "When the Sun Goes Down", the two were a soulful couple, and it was fun to watch them slowly become more comfortable in front of their peers. Hennessey '21 states, "I'm really grateful for the opportunity Bates provides us with to share the music we love, and it's great that so many people pack themselves

into the Benjamin Mays Center each time to support their fellow students." The two warmed the students up with such positivity, and by the end I was at the edge of my seat.

Following this act was Kautia Ryan '23 at the mic and Olivia Cuneo '23 at the keyboard, covering "Stay" by Rhianna and Mikky Ekko. To lighten the mood they went immediately into "ROXANNE" by Arizona Zervas, stopping abruptly because "they accidentally started the wrong song." Ryan '23 remarked that they were singing "ROXANNE" at a wedding next weekend, gaining a few chuckles from the audience. When they settled into "Stay", the whole audience was encapsulated into them. Cueno's '23 voice was strong and deep, as if it was built up in the center of her chest. When Ryan '23 joined in, her sweet voice shook her when she sang, and we all sang with her, if not physically than in some type of shared--alternate--space.

Next came Grace Biddle '23 with spoken word poetry. Before the show, I sat next to her and her roommate Joanna Cloutier '23, where Biddle told me, "I'm the only person not doing any music, so I'm a little bit nervous." Regardless of her anxiety, she read the poem off in clarity, bringing a "face to the issues that are out there today." Overall, she spoke towards the ignorance of people who fail to put themselves in the shoes of those who suffer on the outskirts. To no surprise, the impact of her words showed in the applause when she finished.

Bryce O'Brien '20 was afterwards, with an amazing smooth and raspy country voice paired with captivating stage presence. Seated on a stool at the mic, he strummed his guitar and sang Bob Dillon's "I Was Young When I Left Home"

wearing crocs and mismatched socks--one of which seeming to feature a sasquatch. When he called out Andrew Collins '20 to play guitar alongside him, the two brought an electric energy to the stage as they were completely lost in the music.

Colins '23, who performs with the Crosstones, could strum to the guitar like no other. His fingers danced, all the while he wore a "Bates Mom" hat, which he made sure to let us know that "if anyone lost it...this is yours." These two seniors were my favorite to watch, simply because of the fun they had on stage, as if the crowd, to them, was nonexistent.

Robin Moss '20 then came up and sang an original song with an Indie style and a sultry voice. Alongside her voice were her friends, who provided almost as much entertainment by shouting from the crowd, "Robin take your top off!" as she giggled and replied, "Only if you ask nicely." With original lyrics like "Maybe if you drink you can learn how to flirt" and "maybe after college I will hit my stride" her song "What's Good" casted a spell on the crowd. Ending her set with "Strawberry Fields Forever" by the BeachBoys, we "enjoyed at our own freewill" just like she asked us.

To end the night, the band Sent Straight to Voicemail came on to sing a few songs we knew, asking us to sing along with them. The full band, complete with a saxophone and a violin, gave us a pure amount of dad energy...and I really loved it. Sending us off into the night with warmth in our heart and the Shrek Soundtrack in our heads, they truly ended with a "Hallelujah," and I decided that if my Thursday ever drags on, I'll look forward to 9pm at the Benjamin Mays Center.

# High Times: Where to Buy Weed in L/A

Anonymous, Contributing Writer



Thanks to the Marijuana Legalization Act which took effect in Maine in 2016, there has been a plethora of new marijuana dispensaries popping up in the Lewiston/Auburn area. Although marijuana is not legal on the Bates College campus, this article aims to be a source of information for those who enjoy Cannabis away from Bates College. The author of this article interviewed an anonymous student with a medical marijuana card who has experienced shopping at multiple Lewiston/Auburn dispensaries.

## Cure Cannabis Co.

32 Riverside Dr. and 134 Main St.

<https://cure-cannabis.com/>  
(207) - 241 - 7328  
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

This dispensary is a popular one for Bates students due to its proximity to campus. There is one location in Auburn, about seven minutes away, but another even closer in Lewiston above the restaurant Pedro O'Hara's. The atmosphere was described

by one customer as "inviting and pretty laid-back. The workers are extremely nice and approachable and give good recommendations." Cure Cannabis Co. offers both bud and edibles. One gram of bud from them costs ten to eleven dollars, and an eighth is thirty to thirty-five.

## The Healing Community MedCo

40 Lisbon St.  
<https://www.thcmedco.com/>  
1-866-42MedCo  
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

MedCo is a Lewiston based dispensary which draws customers from across New England. It has a pretty good reputation among students for its quality and service. On its website you can find prices for bud and edibles, as well as deals for the upcoming week. They offer THC candies, baked goods, and even beverages. A student said that they were "overwhelmed by all the [edible] options" the dispensary offered. One gram of bud is thirty-five dollars, and

an eighth is twenty five to thirty five. MedCo also offers small 20 and 25 mg edibles for three dollars.

## Treeline Cannabis Company

806 Sabattus St.  
<https://treelinecannabis.com/>  
(207)-689-3188  
Monday through Friday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Like most of the dispensaries in Lewiston, Treeline offers quality cannabis at a pretty good price. Treeline also has the added benefit of student discounts. They do tend to be more stringent and less casual about making sure everyone has a valid med card when compared to some of the other options around town. One gram is priced from seven to twelve dollars, and an eighth from twenty to thirty-five dollars.

## Sinsemilla

117 Middle St.  
<https://sinsemilla207.com/>  
(207)-241-2381

9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

One student-customer of this dispensary reported that Sinsemilla used to offer "hash-oil so saucy it looked like honey." This student then said they had seen a decline in the quality of the dispensary over the past year as the business has undergone managerial shifts. At peak hours this dispensary can be extremely busy with waits occasionally exceeding an hour. One gram is ten to twelve dollars, and an eighth is thirty to forty.

## Crystal Springs Healing Alternative

675 Main St.  
<https://www.crystalspring-ha.com/>  
(207)-241-2590  
9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

One student who frequents Crystal Springs Healing Alternative stated that the dispensary cast "outdated, stereotypical sketchy storefront vibes. The aesthetics are not great." The

student also said the flower and vape cartridges they tried were below the quality they had found at most other shops. However, the student did say that their \$125 ounce "Thankful-Thursdays" proved to be a good deal. One gram is ten dollars, and an eighth is twenty-five dollars.

## Cworx and Co.

946 Auburn Rd.  
<https://cworxandcompany.com/>  
(207)-312-3128  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

About a 15-minute drive from campus, Cworx and Company offers a great value proposition for students looking to get their medicine in a discreet and secluded shop. Their eighths are defined as 4 grams, more than the normal 3.54 grams. Great for a first-time patient or someone looking for a nice drive. One gram is ten dollars, and an eighth is twenty-five to forty dollars.

# The Instagram Thrift Store Taking Over Campus

Ellie Wolfe, Staff Writer

Megan Lacey '23 and Alice Cockerham '23 had no idea what would happen when they created their online thrift store @CampusAve.

"I kind of went into it with no expectations," Lacey said. "We thought it could work but we didn't put like millions of dollars into it, so we had the mindset of whatever happens, happens."

Their decision to create the business paid off handsomely. Currently, the account has 135 followers and only one piece of clothing (out of the 21 advertised) has yet to sell. Clearly, the clothing that Lacey and Cockerham like are popular with the Bates community.

Lacey and Alice, both first years, met during track practice. They became fast friends, and when Cockerham mentioned her idea of an Instagram thrift store, Lacey was immediately interested.

"I'm from Maine, so I kind of know the area and I know there's a lot of thrift stores around Lewiston and in my town," Cockerham said.

Cockerham couldn't go to a track meet in Boston because of an injury, and on a whim decided to buy the first batch of clothing for the account.

"I ended up finding a lot of good stuff," she said. "I think from now on, we will go together, because it is a very collaborative process."

Both Lacey and Cockerham thought it would take a while for clothing to sell, but in a few minutes, they received DMs inquiring about pieces. Every single piece of clothing in the first batch posted sold within a day.

The business offers free dorm room delivery, an especially popular feature. With every purchase they include a personalized note about the item of clothing.

They both initially bonded over a love of thrifting and are most excited about the environmental impact it has. Campus Ave wraps its clothing in recyclable paper, making sure to be as sustainable as possible.

"It's cheaper, obviously, and better for the environment," Lacey said. "Right now there is a lot of fast fashion that is not sustainable, so even doing a little bit to help that is important."

Cockerham added that one of the thrift shops they shop at donates its profits to a local food pantry. "It's just really good to put money back into the economy," she explained.

One of the most important things about creating their own brand was the marketing and design. On Instagram, Campus Ave has a very clear aesthetic.

"From the beginning, before we even got the clothes, we knew we needed to have a way to show the clothing in the right way," Lacey said.

They believed their Instagram design was key to selling the clothing.

"The account had to look good and catch people's eye," Cockerham explained. "We bought a big white cardboard thing sitting in my dorm room to take pictures."

Cockerham and Lacey also focused on the name of their business for a while in order to curate the right brand. They relied on their friends on the track team.

"We wanted it to relate to

Bates in some way," Cockerham said. "We just didn't want it to be too much or too tacky. One night we were trying to think of names and pulled up Google Maps. We were talking about all sorts of names but ultimately Campus Ave really worked, and our friends liked it."

Creating the business has made them think more about the Bates community and what students want.

"Starting this really opened my eyes to what people wear on the day to day," Cockerham said. "We sit in Commons now, looking at what people are wearing and try to get stuff like that for the account."

Lacey added that they originally focused on mom jeans and oversized sweaters, however they are trying to expand to other pieces of clothing as well.

"We want to expand our size range and what pieces we offer," she said. "I am definitely interested in doing more pants, shoes, and belts—that kind of stuff."

Another goal that they are focusing on is reaching more upperclassmen. Currently, their audience is mainly first years. As first years, Lacey and Cockerham mainly promoted their account by following people they knew. Besides upperclassmen on the track team, many non-first years are not aware of their business.

One challenge that they are facing is balancing their newfound success with schoolwork and track practice.

"We have school all day,

practice for like three and a half hours, and then packing and delivering our clothing," Cockerham said. "The time crunch is a time risk we wanted to take, and it is something that we need to take our time figuring out."

Lacey added that they haven't set an exact schedule and are testing out options.

"As of right now deliveries are on Sundays, but we don't have a set time of when we shop because we have meets on Saturdays. We need to find a specific time."

that much stuff, but I've seen people wearing what we have sold. It's nice that people like what we're selling. That's honestly better than the money."

Lacey added that she's just excited to see where things go.

"More is coming," she joked. "A lot more is coming!"

Check out @CampusAve for the latest batches of clothing—the business normally drops new items about once a week. Their pieces are available for purchase by DM and payments are usually through Venmo.



Despite the challenges, the process of creating this business has been extremely rewarding for the friends.

"Seeing people wearing our clothing is awesome," Cockerham said. "I sit in Commons and look around and we haven't sold

## Simmons and Berube Shatter Bates Pole Vaulting Record

Jack Howard, Staff Writer

Sophomores Lily Simmons and Lauren Berube do a lot together. They are both math majors, roommates, and teammates on the women's track team. And following the Maine State Invitational Meet, both Berube and Simmons now share the Bates Women's pole vault school record.

Three quarters of an inch is what separates Berube and Simmons from the rest of Bates Women's pole vault history. Simmons first broke the school record of 11 feet, 1 inch, and in less than two weeks time, Berube matched Simmons's vault of 11 feet, 1 inch and three quarters. "If it stands at the end of the year, both of our names will go up side by side," said Simmons.

This marks the first time either Berube or Simmons achieved a personal pole vaulting record since high school. "It's been two or three years since I've gotten a PR," said Berube. Simmons experienced a similar time gap between personal records. "It was the same for me because I jumped 11 [feet], 1 [inch], and one quarter in high school so this [difference between records] was a half an inch," said Simmons. "So I waited a long time for that."

Though Berube and Simmons share many commonalities, they discovered their love for vaulting differently.

Simmons started pole vaulting her sophomore year of high school. She was introduced to the sport through her best friend on the swim team. "His sister vaulted, and I watched videos

and I thought that it looked like a lot of fun," said Simmons. "My dad found out that we had a vault, that there was a vault on the [high school] track team, and I just kind of gave it a shot."

Berube was a competitive gymnast until the age of 12. After a few years off from gymnastics, an unexpected opportunity arose. "When you turn 14, the 14-15 age group for summer track, you can do pole vault," said Berube. "So my coach said, you've done gymnastics before, you need to vault to get points for the meet." Berube obliged, and has continued to pole vault ever since. She credits her middle school track coach for introducing her to the sport. "If she didn't suggest it, I probably wouldn't have ever tried," said Berube.

Since coming to Bates, Berube has enjoyed the luxury of not having to wear a helmet while vaulting. "In high school I actually had to wear a helmet, and I think it's about five states in the United States require helmets," said Berube. "I loved coming to Bates because I didn't have to wear a helmet. It's like a bike helmet we had to wear, and so I thought it was the silliest thing because I would watch Olympic people vault and they wouldn't have a helmet."

Before coming to Bates, Simmons recalls being scared watching a video of Berube vaulting for her high school team. "I was like, oh, she's from Maine, am I

going to have to wear a helmet?"

Luckily, Simmons and Berube don't need to worry about the embarrassment of wearing bike helmets anymore. Instead, the vaulters are free to focus on more important things, such as their pre-vault routines. "I think every vaulter has different pre vault rituals once [they're] on the runway," said Simmons. "When I get on the runway, I put on chalk on my hands and then sit on the runway, and then I close my eyes and I think about the jump."

Berube prefers to use Stickum spray before vaulting. "I always stand, spray my hands [with Stickum spray], clap my hands together, and then I get my grip, and then I feel the bend of the pole, and then I go," said Berube. "It's so addicting, I can't go away from it, I have to spray my hands before every single vault."

This past weekend at the Bowdoin Invitational, Berube and Simmons yet again put up identical jumps, clearing 10 feet, 8 inches. This coming weekend, February 28-29, the teammates will travel to Middlebury College to compete at the DIII New England Meet. Following New England's, the Tuft's Last Chance Meet will provide, literally, a last chance to qualify for the NCAA DIII National Meet. On the thought of going to Nationals, Berube said, "I think we definitely want to try to get to 12 feet, because for Nationals they take top 20, and so it varies every year,



Berube and Simmons sit atop Bates Women's Pole Vault history  
MAC GAITHER/THE BATES STUDENT

but most of the time it's around 12 or high 11s where the cutoff is for nationals. That's a dream of mine to go to Nationals."

As both are only sophomores, there will be plenty of time over the next two years to chase and achieve that dream.

## Men's Squash Finishes 4th at NESCACs

Cameron Carlson, Managing Sports Editor

The Bates men's Squash team finished up conference play last weekend by participating in the NESCAC Tournament, hosted by Bowdoin. The Bobcats went in to the tournament as the number 3 seed in the NESCAC, behind just Trinity and Williams. This set up a meeting with number 6 Colby in the opening round – a team Bates narrowly defeated a few weeks prior.

Sophomore Jesper Phillips swept Colby's Alex Spafford in the number 2 spot, earning a big win for Bates after losing the 1 spot. Junior Omar Attia and senior Garon Rothenberg delivered, each with 3-1 victories of their own out of the number 4 and 6 spots, respectively.

Sophomore Peter Koenigsbauer and first-year Sultan Hashmi came through with huge victories out of the 8 and 9 spots, securing the win for Bates and sending them to a semifinal meeting with number 2 seeded Williams later that same day.

Bates and Williams met in Lewiston in early January and the Bobcats battled to a tough 5-4 loss in several very tightly contested matches. This gave hope for Bates as they prepared to take on the Ephs in the post-season, but unfortunately that hope did not last very long. The Bobcats were stifled by Williams at every spot, losing 9-0 over all and being sent to a consolation game the next day.

Rothenberg and fellow senior Graham Bonnell each fought to five games with their Williams counterparts out of the 1 and 6 spots, but there were few highlights elsewhere for Bates in this one. This set up a meeting in the third place game

with a Middlebury squad who fell at the hands of the Bobcats in another close 5-4 match-up just a few weeks earlier.

Bates came into the game as the 19th ranked team in the nation and 3rd in the NESCAC, while the Panthers were ranked 21st in the country and 5th in the NESCAC. All signs pointed towards this game being a very close one, but unfortunately the Bobcats lost their second straight game, this time 7-2 overall.

The only wins came from senior David Quintero out of the number 9 spot and Garon Rothenberg yet again out of the number 6 spot. Omar Attia and

Sultan Hashmi each battled to five games at the number 4 and number 8 spots, but ultimately they each came up a bit short.

By the end of the tournament, the Trinity Bantams had captured their 14th consecutive NESCAC crown, taking down number 2 seeded Williams 7-2. Bates finished 4th after Middlebury, followed by Bowdoin, Tufts, Colby, Amherst, Hamilton, Conn College, and Wesleyan at 5-11 respectively.

Fortunately for Bates, they currently sit at 20th in the nation according to the College Squash Association and they will appear in the CSA Team Nationals

hosted by Harvard, Tufts, and MIT this weekend. The University of Pennsylvania will also host the College Squash Association Individual Nationals the following weekend.

Last year at the CSA Team Nationals, Bates was entered into the Summers Cup, also known as the "C Division" in college squash. They lost their opening round match 6-3 to MIT, sending them to the consolation bracket, but picked up consecutive wins over Tufts and Amherst to grab the consolation bracket title and finish in 5th place overall.

The Bobcats will likely be sent to the Summers Cup again

this year at CSA Nationals, where they won the trophy in 2016. Bates took home the Conroy Cup or "D Division" championship back in 1998 and in 2008 they won the Hoehn Cup or "B Division" championship. Bates has never won a Potter Cup or "A Division" National Championship.

With 5 of the Bobcats 12 players being seniors, the team would love to finish out the year on a positive note and provide a happy ending for their careers. Confidence should be high given that the team has a plethora of experience after participating in the same event just a year ago. It all starts on Friday at Harvard.

1 Run 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core	2 XT 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core	3 Run 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core	4 XT 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core	5 Run 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core	6 Rest day	7 Run 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core
8 Run 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core	9 Run 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core	10 Run 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core	11 XT 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core	12 Run 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core	13 Rest day	14 Run 15 minutes in Zone 1 Core

ZONE 1: EASY/RECOVERY PACE. SHOULD FEEL EASY LIKE YOU CAN HOLD A CONVERSATION DURING RUN. HEART RATE OF LESS THAN 140 BPM

BEGIN TO GET MOVING ROUTINE: WEEKS 1 AND 2  
BY ALEX STIGALL  
DESIGNED BY GEORGINA SCOVILLE  
CHECK IN NEXT ISSUE FOR WEEKS 3 AND 4!

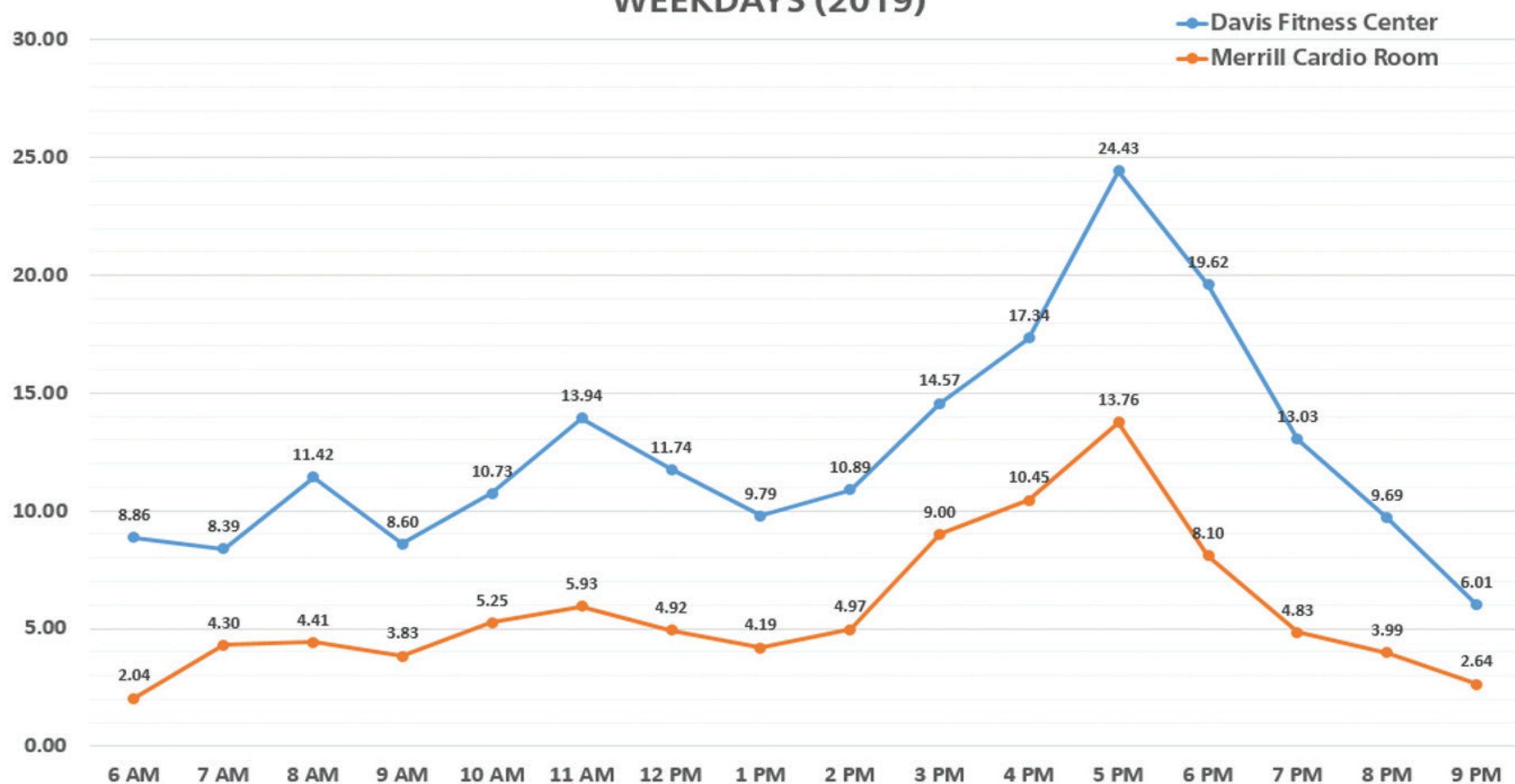
XT = CROSS TRAINING  
CAN INCLUDE BIKING, ELLIPTICAL, SWIMMING, OTHER SPORTS, ETC.



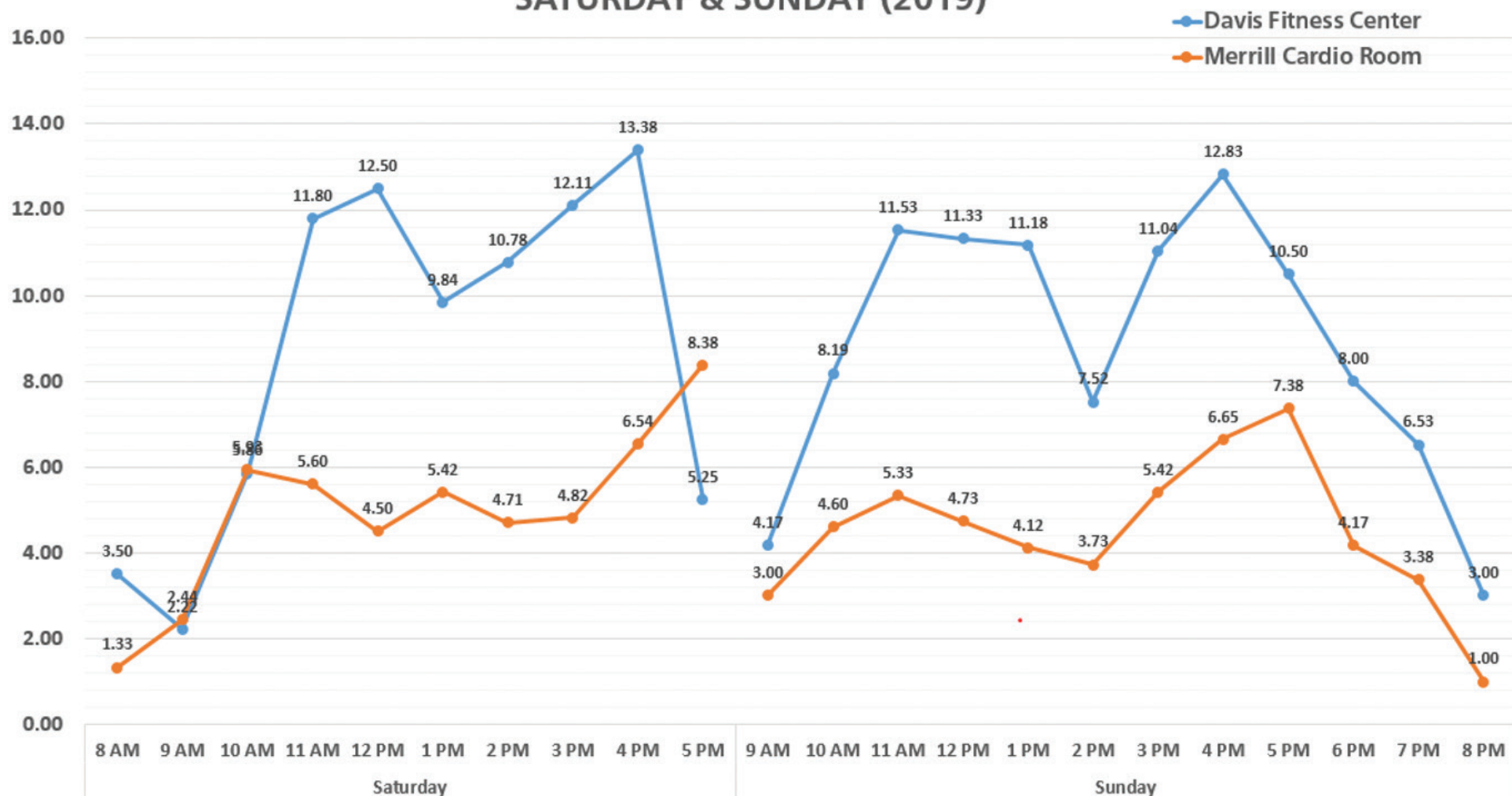
# Tired of Fighting for Equipment in Merrill and Davis?

Plan around the Crowds! Graphs Courtesy of Bates Athletics

AVERAGE COUNT BY HOUR BY LOCATION  
WEEKDAYS (2019)



AVERAGE COUNT BY HOUR BY LOCATION  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY (2019)



## Athlete Spotlight: Cal Schrupp '23

Vanessa Paoella, Managing Editor

This year, Bates Ski led off the season with a strong start, finishing sixth out of 15 teams at the Harvard Carnival, eighth out of 15 at the UVM carnival and seventh out of 15 at the Colby Carnival. First-years have been paramount to the success of the Nordic teams during the 2020 season, especially on the men's side where first-years Cal Schrupp '23 and Zander Martin '23 have been consistent point scorers.

Schrupp led the Bobcats in three classic ski races this season, scoring for the team in many others. While it may be reasonable to believe this initial success has been a mainstay in his skiing career before Bates, Schrupp said he almost dropped skiing during high school after years of competition.

Growing up behind Gunstock Ski Mountain in Gilford, N.H., Schrupp has been skiing since he was two years old. According to him, he hit his competitive peak around seventh grade. In the following years however,

friends and competitors that he used to beat were soon passing him by. He attributes part of this to burning out after years of skiing.

"It's a surprising amount of mental game that goes into endurance sports," Schrupp said. "You feel like you've trained enough, or...You've tried a ton and something isn't working. For some reason, you can't push yourself or you're pushing yourself and everyone else is just faster than you...To burn out for me would just be to think that I'm not gonna get any better."

However, when his brother began skiing for Williams College, Schrupp realized that he wanted that experience too. He didn't want his competitive skiing career to end after high school like it does for many athletes.

"When he made NCAA, I was a freshman [in high school] I believe, so I got to really see it. And it's a great environment, the carnivals are, and what I'm realizing now...I'm going to

be with at least all the freshmen [skiers in the northeast] for another four years and...It's like a whole group of friends."

While searching for a college, Schrupp said that Bates stood out in all regards. With excellent academics and a strong Nordic team that successfully balances athletic commitment and school work, for Schrupp the decision was easy.

"It was the only place I visited, the only place I applied," he said.

Since coming to Bates, Schrupp has been an important point-scorer on the team. However, Bates Nordic took a hit when many of its skiers, including Schrupp, became ill at the end of January.

Schrupp led Bates in the Classic technique at the Colby Carnival held at Quarry Road Trails in Waterville, Maine last month. This race, he said was particularly challenging due to the sharp, steep downhill curves on the course.

"What I like about nordic is you get rest, although in that

race you didn't really get to rest because the downhills were so scary that you got to be on your A game in order to not crash."

Yet, unlike typical races, some nordic races have interval starts where one athlete begins at a time. All athletes ski the same distance, but start at different times.

Because of this, it can be difficult to pace a race lasting almost an hour. When everyone starts at different times, skiers can't tell during the race how they compare to their competition.

His strategy: "Go out really hard. Lay off almost a little bit. And then you got to, at a certain point, you got to turn it back up. And just keep going until you cross the line."

His favorite technique to ski varies, but for now he said he's really enjoying Classic.

"[My favorite technique] changes," he said, "But this year it'd be classic. It comes easier and I can go much further...Skating is more fun. You know, you feel

faster, you probably look better to the viewer, you look more professional, but classic. Overall, I can I feel like I can move faster."

One of his best memories with the Nordic Ski team this year was a trip to Rangely, Maine during October-break. The Nordic team rented cabins and focused on training hard each day.

"It was such a small cabin and there's so many boys in there, it didn't smell very good," he said. "Time went by so quick. I knew everyone else is on break, but I was training really hard... We were having a lot of fun. We didn't have any WiFi or anything. And it was, yeah, it was great."

He said that he was particularly proud that his group won the pie-making contest.

# Alpine Skiing Speeds Towards the Postseason

Cameron Carlson, Managing Sports Editor



The Bates Men's Alpine team finished 7th and 9th at their past two carnivals.  
DAVID CHEN/THE BATES STUDENT

The men's and women's Alpine Skiing teams recently completed their regular seasons and now look to prepare for the NCAA East Regionals hosted by Middlebury College this weekend. They wrapped up the regular season with carnivals at home and at Williams College this month.

At the Bates Carnival, which took place at Sunday River, sophomore Tess Coutu '22 and junior Maex Schneider '21 led the way on the first day, placing 27th and 30th out of 74 total competitors. Sophomore Daphne James '22 and junior Hannah West '21 followed

closely behind Coutu, finishing 28th and 30th themselves. Junior Joe Gillis '21 was the only other skier on the men's side to finish both runs on the day and he ended with a 33rd place finish.

On day two of the Bates Carnival, sophomore Arie van Vuuren '22 led the men's team to a 4th place finish out of 12 behind his first career top-10 carnival finish. Joe Gillis '21 followed closely behind, finishing in 11th place and earning Bates 29 team points and 24 NCAA Championship qualifying points.

Rounding out the scoring for the men's team was first-year

Crawford Jones '23 who placed 26th – a personal best. This helped the team finish the day with 77 carnival points, outscoring 8 other teams.

On the women's side, Hannah West '21 helped earn the Bobcats a 7th place finish. She matched her best ever carnival finish, placing 11th out of 72 in the women's GS. Sophomores Tess Coutu '22 and Sarah Gillis '22 placed 21st and 33rd, respectively, earning 62 carnival points and a solid 7th place finish.

Just two short weeks later, Bates traveled to western Massachusetts to participate in the Williams College Carnival held

at Jiminy Peak. On the first day the men's team was again led by van Vuuren who placed 14th out of 70 after his two runs. He was followed by senior Michael Cooper '20 in 24th, Joe Gillis in 31st, and senior Ryan Clermont '20 in 33rd.

Hannah West '21 again led the women's team, placing 21st out of 74 skiers. First-year Grace Schierwagen '23 and Daphne James '22 rounded out the scoring for the Bobcats, placing 43rd and 44th, respectively. Coutu '22 led the way on day 2, claiming 26th place, while Schierwagen and James placed 32nd and 40th to earn points as well.

Arie van Vuuren '22 led the men again on the second day, earning 22 carnival points for his 22nd place finish. Michael Cooper '20 and Maex Schneider '21 each earned points for their 28th and 30th place finishes, putting Bates in 7th place to end the weekend.

This weekend the alpine ski teams will head to Vermont for the NCAA East Regional, an event hosted by Bates last season where they finished in 7th out of 14 teams. Two weeks later the Bobcats will send a few skiers to Bozeman, Montana to compete in the NCAA National Collegiate Championship.

# Bates Celebrates 34th Annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day

Jackson Elkins, Assistant Sports Editor



Mary Trafton '23 coaches local girls on the fundamentals of rowing.  
DAVID CHEN/THE BATES STUDENT

On February 8th, Bates celebrated the 34th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day by hosting a multi-sport clinic for young girls, encouraging them to express themselves and empower themselves through sport. With a number of Bates' female student-athletes in attendance, the girls received one-on-one instruction and coaching in sports like softball, rowing, volleyball, and numerous others. In addition to the free sports clinic, those who attended were also able to watch Bates Women's Basketball earn a huge win over Trinity. The Bobcats earned a hard fought 54-50 win, fuelled by 22 points from Meg Graff '22, as well as clutch performances from Ariana Dalia '22 and Mia Roy '22 down the stretch.

Mary Corcoran '22, a cross-country and track and field runner

(also a part of the school record holding 4x800m relay), was one of many Bates female student-athletes in attendance to help out with the clinic. In describing the celebration of NGWSD in her own words, Corcoran said, "I would say the goal of the day as a whole was to promote female participation and empowerment in athletics. The clinic itself was a great way to get local girls from the community together to connect both with female collegiate athletes and each other. It was awesome to see them try new things, learn about new sports, and just talk to and learn from female athletes to see all the possibilities they have to look forward to."

Senior Associate Director of Athletics, Celine Cunningham, added on the goals of the clinic and NGWSD as a whole, "The mission of NGWSD is to inspire girls and women to play and be active. The confidence, strength and character gained through sports participation are the very tools girls and women need to become strong leaders in

sports and life. We wanted to expose young girls in our community to Bates student-athletes so that they can see them as role models and something to aspire to...It was also important to have our student-athletes recognize the impact they have on young girls. We also wanted to be able to build community in our student-athletes to celebrate and support one another."

Cunningham is a former college athlete herself, and knows the importance of exposing girls to sports first-hand. On the subject, she said, "I strongly believe that sports give you skills well beyond the field/court/track that help define the person you are...I believe my experiences as a student-athlete have helped shaped me, and I am beyond thankful for the women that inspired me and were my role models in my athletic journey. My experiences definitely drew me to a career in athletics."

Having been an athlete essentially all of her own life, Corcoran also recognized the importance of being exposed to sports early in

her life, citing her family's athletic background as a motivating factor for her athletic career, "I grew up in a household where everyone played multiple sports and my mom was a three-sport athlete through high school and college so I always had her as a strong female role model to look up to. I do remember clearly staying after my brothers' lacrosse games to watch the older girls teams play, as I aspired to be like them and continue playing sports at a higher level when I got older. My youth soccer coach also used to bring us to Boston College women's Soccer games as a team in elementary school which definitely motivated and energized me to continue playing and planted the seed for my dream of participating in college athletics."

Corcoran was quick to note that being able to see women competing on some of the biggest stages, especially as a young athlete, was "super powerful...especially because most professional sports you watch are men's." She added,

"To think that my small interaction with those girls could have the impact that I felt when watching older female athletes play as a young girl is really incredible."

The ability for Corcoran and other Bates female student-athletes to serve as role models for younger girls falls directly in line with the theme of this year's NGWSD: Lead Her Forward. In providing both access to sports and coaching, as well as excellent role models, young girls are encouraged to 'achieve excellence and realize their potential' in athletics, as well as in life in general. By providing the platform here at Bates and in other places around the country, young girls are able to acquire the skills through sport that will allow them to become strong leaders in all facets of life.

Corcoran hopes that she and the women of Bates athletics were able to achieve just that. When asked about what she wanted the girls to get out of the clinic and game, she replied, "I hope that girls who attended this event were able to see the amazing opportunities that they have to participate in athletics and that they could see themselves in us in some way. I hope that they were able to connect with one another and bond over their excitement for sports and that they were given a new energy and motivation to continue to work hard and play!"

As a senior athletic administrator, Cunningham also had a similar vision for what she hoped the girls got out of the event, saying, "I believe if you can see it you can be it. Our student-athletes were excited to work with these young girls and I am sure they made a lasting impact - we hope to see some as future Bobcats but definitely future athletes! I am so proud of the work from our coaches and student-athletes - they made the day a huge success."