Newly-Elected Student Government Senators Ready to Lead

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Lake Forest College’s Student Government Senate Election results for 2019-2020 were announced on Friday, September 27 via a campus-wide email.

Addressing the fact that, compared to last year, this year’s elections had fewer students running for available positions, Zachary Jenkins ’20, Student Government president, stated that “there are two large factors that Student Government has to overcome every year when encouraging students to run: other commitments and the fear of losing an election.” Jenkins acknowledged that committing to Student Government is difficult and that “not everyone who can or would be a good senator wants to compete in what is sometimes a popularity contest.” However, Jenkins also mentioned that the students who “do take on the commitment are usually some of the campus’ most involved leaders” and noted that he hopes the newly-elected senators “actively try to better this campus we all call home, and . . . do[es] their absolute best to represent their constituents’ to the Senate as a whole.”

The new senators are from diverse backgrounds and have different interests, but all of them have one thing in common: they are all passionate about making a better Lake Forest College community. The newly-elected representatives decided to run for positions because they enjoy advocating for others, want to have meaningful contributions on campus, and are passionate about change and being the voice of students.

Representing the Class of 2020 are Senators Christine Hanna and Brent Brewer. While Brewer did not return our request for a comment, Hanna, a business major with a marketing concentration and an entrepreneurship and social justice minor from Wheeling, Illinois, shared that she would like to “implement . . . all-gender bathrooms and healthy vending machines, as well as a free food pantry for all students.” A fun fact about Hanna is that she “can do cartoon and celebrity singing impressions.”

Juniors Paul Nehring and Jay Ispas were elected to represent the Class of 2021, but as of press time, they did not return our request for comment. Senators representing the Class of 2022 are Emma Overton and Eddie Crummey. Overton is from Kankakee, Illinois, and is a double-major in environmental studies and political science. She noted that she “hopes to be able to represent all members of the Class of 2022 and to ensure everyone feels that their voice is heard.” Overton also shared that she “loves to travel and hopes to study abroad soon.”

Crummey is an international relations major and a legal studies minor from Studio City, California. In addition to being reelected as a Class Senator, he is the City P.O. Box Liaison representative for the Cleveland Young residence hall, noted that she wants to “[address] the concerns of the residents of Cleveland Young and improve their personal and community experience.”

In addition to serving on Student Government, she is also a robotics instructor for RoboThink where she teaches 6 to 12-year-olds the fundamentals of robotics and coding.

October Heffner ’23 was elected as a Residence Hall Senator for Lois Hall and stated that she “hope[s] to help make student life the best it can be and get to know my community better.” Heffner is a communication major and digital media design minor from Woodstock, Illinois.

As of press time, Commuter Senators Dayan Rajamohan ’21 and Anish Abeysirivardena ’23 and College Council representatives Jared Applegate ’20 and Paul Nehring ’21 did not return our request for comment. Additionally, as of press time, the Campus Sustainability Committee had the one available position unfilled and the College Life Committee had three available positions unfilled.

Sharing his goals for the new Senate, Advisor to Student Government Aldo Guzman stated that “the newly-elected Senators should lead with integrity and compassion. They should get to know their constituents and be actively engaged with students.”
Impeachment Inquiry Presents Learning Opportunity

BY EMMA OVERTON ‘22
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To address questions of Lake Forest College community, staff, and students over the possible impeachment of President Donald Trump, a panel of Lake Forest political science professors presented an event in the Skybox on October 11, entitled “Parliamentary Impeachment: What Is It?”

Professors Zachary Cook, Siobhan Moroney, and Evan Oxman from the Department of Politics provided explanations and fielded questions from more than two dozen of the College’s students and staff members in attendance at the luncheon event. Following the December 24, 2019 announcement of the formal impeachment inquiry of President Trump by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D),

According to the panelists, the formal inquiry is only one part of the larger impeachment process provided for by the Constitution, where the House of Representatives, through its Judicial Committee, determines if sufficient evidence of wrongdoing exists to bring the House to vote on charges of impeachment.

While Oxman noted that “impeachment is largely a political process, not a legal process, [that is] as much theater as anything else,” he explained that if a simple majority of the House votes for impeachment, the Senate then conducts a trial. A two-thirds majority in the Senate is required to convict and remove a president from office—which has never successfully been done at the College. All the panelists noted that due to the rarity of presidential impeachment in America only two sitting presidents, Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton, were impeached by the House; yet, these presidents were not removed from office by Senate action.

Explaining the possible outcomes of the current impeachment inquiry, Oxman noted that if the process reaches a vote in the House of Representatives, the “Nixon model of impeachment is more likely, where Nixon resigned before he could face the possibility of impeachment” than going to a Senate trial. However, Moroney stated that the “Clinton model is also possible, where Clinton survived impeachment and was not removed and the process actually allowed for him to gain popularity.”

When an audience member asked if the evidence for impeachment really mattered if the impeachment process was solely political, Moroney said that it did, noting that the evidence against Nixon “turned the tide on him during his impeachment process and caused Republicans who previously stood by him to turn against him.”

In response to a student’s question about the effect of the impeachment inquiry on the president’s future, Moroney said that “if impeachment and removal occur, Trump would not be considered a criminal and would become a private citizen.” Cook added that “although [Trump] could not run for president again, he could run for other offices.”

Agreeing with Moroney, Oxman spoke to the paradoxical nature of impeachment regarding public opinion, noting that “the best way for Trump to get reelected is for him to be impeached because it will rile up his base to support him even more.”

Echoing Oxman, Cook told the audience to “not believe that Trump is still popular among the Republican base who will stand by the president, because even if they don’t like him, they will make sure that a Democrat does not get elected as president.”

Toward the end of the event, when a student asked whether the panelists thought the president was worried about the possibility of impeachment, Moroney, who said she did think the president was concerned, answered: “Yes, I think he is turned up to eleven right now.”

While Oxman noted that “part of the administration thinks the impeachment inquiry is [politically] good for [his supporters], but they are probably going back and forth.”

Addressing the early responses by Senators (who have yet to hear the findings of the House Judiciary Committee) to the impeachment inquiry, Oxman noted that “we don’t poll the jury before a case.” Additionally, Oxman recommended that the audience compare the flip-flopped nature of “the statements of Representatives Jerry Nadler (D) and Lindsey Graham (R) during the impeachment of Bill Clinton to the statements of the two men now to see the political nature of the impeachment process.”

Responding to questions regarding her prediction concerning the outcome of the formal impeachment inquiry of President Trump, Moroney said: “Today, I would say that impeachment and removal will occur, but who knows what will happen tomorrow?”

Summing up her impression of the event, Allic Caseky ’22 of New Lenox, Illinois, noted that “the event was informative [and] unbiased, [which] allowed me to walk away with a much better understanding of the impeachment process.”

Community Caucus encourages difficult dialogue

BY SANGIUNI HORNWERNER ’20
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Thirty members of the campus community came together on Thursday, September 26 for the first Community Caucus event to discuss the campus climate and how to engage students, faculty, and staff alike.

The event was led by Director of Intercultural Relations Claudia Ramirez Islas and Assistant Professor of History and African American Studies Courtney Joseph. The purpose of reintroducing the Community Caucus is “to empower the community to share information with each other.” Both Ramirez Islas and Joseph are members of the Intercultural Advisory Group, the organization that hosts the events.

According to the College’s website, the Intercultural Advisory Group’s (IAG) primary responsibility is “to provide an institutional forum to address issues of cultural diversity such as (but not limited to) race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, nationality, class, and religion.” This group that is responsible for consulting with various committees on the campus as well as providing counsel to President Schutt concerning the aforementioned issues consists of students, faculty, and staff in order to take into consideration a variety of voices and perspectives.

For instance, Liz Uihlein, co-founder and president of Uline, was invited to speak at a Women in Business event in mid-September. Students shared their perspectives and experiences, as well as experiences of their peers who attended the event, and expressed concern about Uihlein’s emphasis on her political views as opposed to her experience as a leading woman in the professional world.

On the topic of inviting speakers and guests to campus, President Stephen Schutt said, “I think the understanding that we need to have is that there are boundaries on this. It’s important to bring people to campus with different views, but they need to be willing to be interrogated about those views.”

The discussion at the Community Caucus centered around “how to encourage thoughtful dialogue when speakers come to campus.” Ramirez Islas said in a campus-wide email.

“Work in this stuff is messy,” Joseph said, as she acknowledged that dialogue about diversity and inclusion are not always the most comfortable discussions to have. “This is going to get messy, this has been messy, and we’re going to have to handle this together.”

For students, faculty, and staff who were not able to attend the first Community Caucus, the matters discussed during the meeting—referred to as “minutes”—were disseminated via a follow-up email sent by Ramirez Islas on October 16. Students, faculty, and staff are invited and encouraged to attend the two remaining meetings this semester, which will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 24, and Thursday, November 21, in Meyer Auditorium (Hotchkiss Hall). Community members may also send information to the IAG email address IAG2019-2020@lakeforest.edu and contribute to the conversation in that way.

Editor’s Note: Coverage of this event is part of The Stentor’s efforts to follow-up on events staff reported on in the Spring of 2019. The Stentor is proud to contribute to this ongoing discussion and others aimed at fostering inclusivity within the College community.

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Errors

CORRECTIONS FOR VOL. 135 ISSUE 1
In The News article “Windows sealed shut to prevent mold growth,” Director of Residence Life Stacy Oliver-Sikorski’s first name was misspelled. The correct spelling is Stacy, not Stacey. The Stentor regrets this error.
Environmental justice after the ‘Red Summer’ of 1919

BY EMMA OVERTON ’22
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Lake Forest College hosted its first on-campus Humanities 2020 project event entitled “Environmental Justice After the Red Summer: Race and Urban Space in Chicagoland” in Calvin Durand Hall on October 11, 2019, making further use of a $1.1 million grant the College was awarded from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in February 2019. While Anna Jones, a professor of history and Humanities 2020 project director at the College, explained in a recent interview with Stentor that “the grant and its associated faculty have previously contributed to other events off-campus, this was our first campus event,” the event’s flyer focused on the “Red Summer” of 1919, where race riots occurred in dozens of American cities, including Chicago, and described the afternoon event as a performance and workshop followed by a panel discussion.

The event began with the College’s Associate Professor of Theater Chloe Johnston and the Lake Forest College Theater Department hosting a performance by the Free Street Theater company, entitled Parched, a creation of the organization’s youth ensemble, as a result of the ensemble’s investigation into the history of water injustices in Chicago and beyond. Commenting to Stentor staff, Humanities 2020 Project Grant Coordinator Ryan Walters observed, “I am very excited that the Humanities 2020 Grant is exploring issues of racial and environmental justice with such wonderful collaborators from the Chicagoland area. The panel discussion was very insightful, and I was impressed by Free Street Theater’s performance and workshop.” [in] point[ing] out to me how our personal experiences influence our relationship is to water, water rights, and the environment.”

The event concluded with a panel discussion entitled “Race and Environmental Justice,” moderated by Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Brian McCammack, who noted that “environmental injustice at its base is about inequality.” This discussion provided an opportunity for representatives from four environmental justice organizations in Chicago and Lake County to address ways in which Chicago’s racial history continues to inform present and future environmental justice struggles.

Panelist Edith Tovar, a community activist with the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO), explained LVEJO advocates for a primarily Mexican population in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago. She told of her group “shooting” down a neighborhood coal-fired power plant, and she noted that her group’s “next campaign will focus on diesel pollution of truck traffic from the influx of distribution centers for companies such as Amazon.”

Panelist and Clean Power Lake County Co-Chair Eileen Shanley-Roberts noted her group ‘covers an area 40 to 70 percent Latino and is home to five U.S. EPA Superfund sites.” Aiming to close of the Waukegan coal-fired power plant but wanting to ensure “a just transition for the workers and a movement toward clean energy,” Shanley-Roberts noted that “the best way to take down a polluting corporation is to figure out what is going to cause them economic pain.” Another panelist, Anton Seals, noted the mission of Grow Greater Englewood is “working with residents and developers to create sustainable food economies and green businesses to empower residents to create wellness and wealth [because] If you want to see what structural racism looks like, come to Englewood.” Stating “theater shouldn’t be restricted to only those who can pay,” panelist and Free Street Theater’s Katrina Dion described her company’s work as “… bringing its performances to communities on the South and West sides of the city.”

When McCammack asked another example of President Trump’s rash decisions lead to further devastation in Syria

BY MARYAM JAVED ’21
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The bloody civil war in Syria has been raging for almost a decade now. Tensions have recently escalated further since President Donald Trump withdrew American troops from the region of Rojava in Northern Syria, predominantly inhabited by Kurds and Assyrians, which paved way for Turkish forces to invade. Turkish military forces consider the Kurds in this region, the YPG, The People’s Protection Units, a defense group that formed as a result of the Syrian civil war as terrorists because they believe the YPG’s political party shares the same ideology as the PKK, the Kurdish Workers’ Party rebels in Turkey, which led Turkish military forces to invade the region and resulted in innocent civilian deaths. I think it was a horrible mistake on President Trump’s part to withdraw the troops from such a sensitive region in Syria, reversing years of American foreign policy plans in the country.

Conventionally, the US has always sided with the YPG and saw the Kurds as an important ally, especially against major threats like ISIS. The US allied with YPG because it was neutral between the rebels and Syrian president, Bashar al-Assad, and used this group to build an alliance with Arabs and fight ISIS. The American government then tried to use this new alliance, the SDF, the Syrian Democratic Forces, which is primarily composed of minority groups in Syria such as the Kurds and Assyrians to defeat ISIS. With this withdrawal of US troops, Turkish military forces saw a perfect opportunity to invade the region and carry out their military operations. They believe they are eliminating a major threat and do not care if they have the world’s support or not. President Trump does not support Erdogan, the leader of Turkey’s actions; however, he has said he would impose several sanctions on Turkey.

I believe that Turkey’s invasion of the region was a completely avoidable crisis. If President Trump communicated his demands and plans to Erdogan, the leader of Turkey’s actions, he would have been better informed about the potential consequences of his actions. While President Trump communicated with the US military forces again because of this great betrayal. Even several members of the US’s military forces previously in the region expressed great disdain towards his decision. The current situation in Syria continues to worsen. President Trump should have considered the implications of the country and how much the people have endured over the last few years. With Turkey’s airstrike and ongoing violence, civilians grow more frustrated and are struggling to be hopeful for peace in the region.
Five reasons you should see Hamilton on stage

BY LAUREN GANTT ’21
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I’ve been lucky enough to have spent this semester studying abroad in London. It’s been a blast so far, and I’ve seen many theater productions already, with more on the way. Most recently, I had the amazing chance to see Hamilton at the Victoria Palace Theatre in West End. I first got into Hamilton in my junior year of high school, so it’s been four years of me waiting to be able to finally see this musical. I was so excited to book my ticket and I even splurged a bit on pricer tickets so that I could have a better seat. I arrived super early (oops) and since I was seeing it alone, I just sat there in awe staring at the stage while waiting for it to start. I had amazing seats, and I felt so connected to the story and musical the entire time. Though the American accents in the London productions weren’t always the best, seeing Hamilton live after listening to it before I leave, and I can’t wait to see it again. If you’re at all on the fence about whether or not to see Hamilton live in Chicago (or another city), here are five reasons why you should: The Hamilton Lottery: If you spend two minutes entering the lottery every day, you might end up winning front row seats for cheap. My best friend got the chance to see Hamilton front row for $20 last May and was close enough she made eye contact with one of the actors. Talk about great seats. Acting and choreography: add an extra layer to the story you might think you know from the soundtrack. Not only is there additional dialogue between songs, but the facial expressions, actions, and dance scenes add so much more depth to what’s going on. Everything will hit so much harder [I’m looking at you Stay Alive (Reprise)]. The humor. I didn’t expect to go into this musical and find it funny. I thought I knew what it would be like, but I was dying of laughter half the time. The final Chicago showing is January 5. The next closest showing after that date will have you either traveling to New York or San Francisco, or trying to snag tickets to one of the tour stops out of state. Basically what I’m trying to say is…go see Hamilton before it’s too late.

5 books that will get you into the Halloween spirit

BY LEAH MOSS ’20
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Give the Dark My Love by Beth Revis

Give the Dark my Love tells the story of an aspiring young alchemist named Nedra who must turn to the dark, forbidden world of necromancy when a deadly plague wreaks havoc on her island and threatens the lives of her beloved family. The novel is beautifully written and dives deep into human nature and the sacrifices someone might make in order to protect those they love. There’s political intrigue, a touch of romance, and plenty of twists and turns that you’ll never see coming. The sequel, Bid My Soul Farewell (which is equally as amazing and emotionally-impactful) came out in late September, so you can binge-read this beautifully dark duology all at once.

The Bone Houses by Emily Lloyd Jones

The Bone Houses is a novel like no other! The main character, Ryn, is a gravedigger in a world in which the dead don’t necessarily stay dead, so she is tasked with keeping zombie-like creatures called “Bone Houses” at bay, even as they grow more and more aggressive. The story is quite gripping from the very first pages and is absolutely perfect for the Halloween season.

The Cellar by Natasha Preston

Natasha Preston is known for her thrilling, creepy stories, and The Cellar is definitely one of them. Told in three alternating POVs, the story is about a girl who is kidnapped one night and kept locked away in a cellar with three other girls. The girls must band together to survive their captivity and escape. This book definitely isn’t an easy read and tackles some dark subjects; but in the end, it’s worth a read this Halloween season.

The Bone Witch by Rin Chupeco

The Bone Witch, like Give the Dark my Love, also tackles the subject of necromancy, but in a totally different way. The lush, atmospheric story is told in an interesting way, as the main character recalls her life’s story to a visiting bard. Chupeco shows her talent at writing as she creates a world that is as magical as it is dark, and then populates it with complex characters that you can’t help but care about. It’s so easy to get lost in the worldbuilding, especially as she develops it over the course of the trilogy.

Photo courtesy of ticketmaster.com

Five reasons you should see Hamilton on stage

Photo courtesy of amazon.com

The Bone Witch, for one, is known for its magical, atmospheric story.