# OAOA WHAT'S THE WORD?

Hey Everyone! Welcome to
OAOA's monthly newsletter. This
newsletter is dedicated to all
who are reading and we'll be
coming to you every month with
love, bringing you recaps of
events and the latest tea (info)
with the office!



#### MARCH 27, 2024 EDITION

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday: 8:30am-7pm
Tuesday: 8:30am-7pm
Wednesday: 8:30am-7pm
Thursday: 8:30am-7pm
Friday: 8:30am-5pm
\*No weekend hours this semester\*

#### EVENTS THIS MONTH

-OAOA Awards
Banquet

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Cook-out and Hoops

April 13th, 2024

#### FEATURES THIS MONTH!

Serenity Angrand
Eddie Santos
Shaunté Gregoire



## PRESENTING OAOA'S ANNUAL BANQUET











Every spring semester, the Office of Access, Opportunity, and Achievement hosts the Awards Banquet to celebrate the students of OAOA. This year's theme was Summer in Italy. Awards were presented to students that had exemplary academic performance and to student staff in the office, along with faculty who support our OAOA community!





### MORE FROM OAOA'S BANQUET



### STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

SERENITY ANGRAND

COMMUNICATIONS HEOP '27



## Allow yourself By Serenity Angrand

Loving is the art of allowing

Allowing yourself to be vulnerable, to feel deeply, and to give without expecting anything in return

It is the ultimate act of courage and strength, a beautiful dance of trust and surrender

May you open up to me and feel no danger
For in my arms you will find a sanctuary
where your heart can rest and your soul can
soar

Together we will navigate the storms of life,

hand in hand

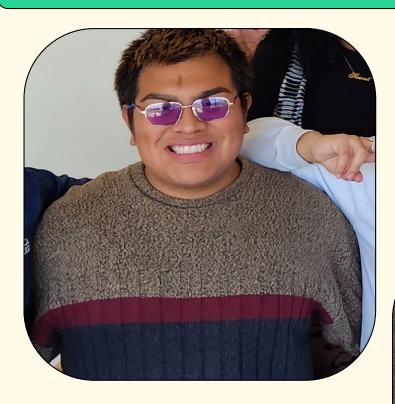
Fear no more

CONTACT INFORMATION: SANGRAND@ITHACA.EDU

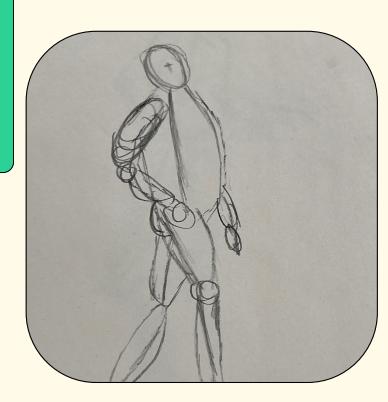
## STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

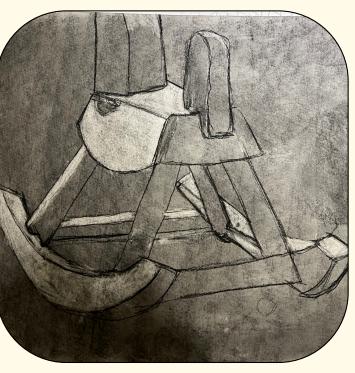
**EDDIE SANTOS** 

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE HEOP/LSAMP '24



This semester, Eddie has been taking "Intro to Drawing Triple Eye" and has been exploring his artistic abilities!





CONTACT INFORMATION: ESANTOS@ITHACA.EDU

## OAOA ALUMNI, WHAT'S THE WORD?

SHAUNTÉ GREGOIRE
CSTEP '23
MAJOR: CLINICAL HEALTH STUDEIES
DEGREE: BACHELORS OF SCIENCE
PURSUING DEGREE: DOCTORATE OF
PHYSICAL THERAPY



Q: How has it been navigating graduate school?

NAVIGATING GRAD SCHOOL MEANS LOTS OF TIME MANAGEMENT. THE WORKLOAD CONSISTS OF A LOT MORE STUDYING, WHICH MEANS YOU REALLY HAVE TO STAY ON TOP OF THE MATERIAL AND NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO REVIEW.

Q: Any challenges you have faced thus far?

I THINK ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IS FINDING A HEALTHY WORK-LIFE BALANCE. BEING A FULL-TIME STUDENT, WORKING PART-TIME WITH NUMEROUS JOBS, LEADING SEVERAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND BEING AN APARTMENT ASSISTANT ALL WHILST TRYING TO HAVE A SOCIAL LIFE AND MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE IS DEFINITELY NOT EASY. I AM SLOWLY LEARNING HOW TO PRIORITIZE MYSELF AS WELL AS MY PRIORITIES. HAVING AMAZING COUNSELORS SUCH AS THOSE IN THE OAOA OFFICE AND A SMALL TIGHT-KNIT GROUP OF FRIENDS HAS DEFINITELY MADE THIS PROCESS A BIT EASIER. I ALSO LIVE BY A WRITTEN WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND I BELIEVE EVERYONE SHOULD BE USING SOME FORM OF A PLANNER/CALENDAR!

Q: Anything you'd like to add?

IN THESE FEW QUESTIONS I SHARED WITH YOU ALL THAT POST GRAD LIFE/GRAD SCHOOL HAS BEEN CHALLENGING; THIS IS TRUE. HOWEVER, IF IT WERE EASY, THEN EVERYONE WOULD DO IT. IF SACRIFICING SOME TIME AND FUN NOW MEANS I AM BETTER SET UP FOR MY FUTURE, I WOULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN.

Q: Any advice for undergraduate students?

ONE PIECE OF ADVICE I WOULD GIVE TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IS THAT "YOU BELONG". WHEN SCHOOL GETS CHALLENGING, IT IS SO EASY AND QUICK FOR US TO BELIEVE THAT WE DON'T BELONG AND WE'RE NOT MEANT TO BE HERE, BUT I WOULD TELL YOU THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU BELONG. WHAT IS MEANT FOR YOU WILL BE FOR YOU. YOU HAVE NOT MADE IT THIS FAR TO STOP NOW. EVERY DOUBT OR CHALLENGE THAT MAY COME YOUR WAY IS JUST AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT YOU FROM CONTINUING YOUR DREAM. YOUR STORY IS ALREADY WRITTEN.

@OAOA\_IC\_

## OAOA WHAT'S THE WORD?



#### Words of Wisdom from

#### **Heaven Bandzzz**

Sometimes in life you just need to breathe.

Taking a second to breathe can make all the difference in anything you do!

SUBMISSION FOR THE NEWSLETTER

IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEWSLETTER, OR ANY FEEDBACK PLEASE FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT! AND ALSO FOLLOW ALL OF OAOA'S SOCIALS, AND SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!



