

# Statesman

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## Congratulations And Fond Farewells *Honors, Awards and Achievements at 37th Annual Commencement*

By LAURA LO  
Statesman Editor

Some smiled, some stared solemn-faced, as Stony Brook's 37th graduating class filed into the Sports Complex led by Senior Class Representative Abbey Nyamkeye and accompanied by the tune of bagpipes on Friday morning.

"Today's class includes the Educational Opportunity student who came here needing special help and who graduates today summa cum laude," University President Shirley Strum Kenny told the graduation candidates. "There is the student who began college 31 years ago and finishes today, a dream deferred, but only for 31 years. There are students from every corner of the Earth, some of whom have settled in New York and come to Stony Brook with other languages in their portfolios but with the need to learn English quickly and well, and they have with them today relatives from as far away as Argentina and China. So we have triumphs aplenty."

Kenny talked about the progress Stony Brook made in the last year. "Our University was ranked as one of the top three public research universities in the country," she said. "Our hospital ranked

fifteenth in the nation. The University received a \$25 million donation, the largest ever given to SUNY, from Charles B. Wang, CEO of Computer Associates." Kenny told the graduates and their families and friends about the opening of the new Student Activities Center, the opening of the India Studies Center, the start of construction on the Life Sciences Annex near the Humanities building and the 44 Green Teams of faculty, staff and students charged with beautifying the campus. Among its other achievements, Kenny mentioned that Stony Brook's faculty have discovered important news about breast cancer, located distant galaxies and mentored one eighth of the nation's Westinghouse semifinalists.

After her commencement address, Kenny presented honorary degrees to Norman Mercer, whose sculpture entitled "Why?" is displayed in the Student Activities Center, Myung Oh, a leading member of Stony Brook's Alumni Association in Korea, and Susie Orbach, a best-selling author on women's health issues.

Mercer was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters degree for his services to the University through his associations with the Honors College, Student Affairs

and the Department Of Student Union and Activities.

"This is a momentous moment in a long life," Mercer said. "I hope in the years to come you will remember what Stony Brook did for you as I remember what it did for me."

Oh also received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree. A resident of Seoul, Korea, he obtained a Ph.D in electrical engineering at Stony Brook in 1972. He has worked to arrange for corporate, governmental, and institutional grants and awards - donations that have been used to build Stony Brook's Korean Studies program. Oh, who is currently the president of *Dong-A Ilbo*, a prominent daily newspaper in Korea, said he had fond memories of his time at Stony Brook, among them, marrying his wife.

Orbach, a Stony Brook alumna, received a Doctor of Letters for her work in the field of feminist psychotherapy. Orbach wrote seven books including *Fat Is A Feminist Issue*, and *Hunger Strike*, both on women's eating disorders, and *Understanding Women*, a book about women's psychological development.

The most prestigious of Stony Brook's undergraduate



Statesman / Laura Lo

Graduates Jennifer Pilato, left, Enza Leone and Kristy Cimaglia

honors, the Ward Melville Valedictorian Award for the most outstanding academic record was received by Constantino Hadjiloucas, a member of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society.

Following the presentation of University awards, undergraduate Jamel Thomas addressed his peers. Thomas, who reigned as this year's Homecoming King, comes from a family of five brothers and sisters. He is the first in his family to graduate college. Thomas said that

graduation provided a sense of unity. In his speech, he compared the steps leading to graduation with the "essential elements of a house." Thomas said that education is like the foundation, family and friends provide the framework and the roof is a symbol of completion.

"When your house is complete," Thomas said at the close of his speech, "when your house is beautiful, open up your windows and let the light shine through." □

## Finding A Job Begins Before Graduation

By NATALIE CASALE  
Statesman Staff

Many students wait until they graduate to start their job searches. However, finding a job can take months or years. So, it is a good idea to begin your search as early as possible.

The most important asset in acquiring a job is experience. Even entry level jobs require some experience. The best way to get experience is through internships. An internship can help you learn about a potential career and decide if that is what you really want to do in the future. Most of all, an internship helps you gain experience.

SUNY Stony Brook has an internship office where you can be aided in obtaining an internship. All you have to do is talk to an internship advisor, get a faculty sponsor and fill out the appropriate forms to get

an internship for school credit. The requirements for an internship are a completion of 69 credits, a 2.5 Grade Point Average and completion of one semester at Stony Brook.

Another helpful tip is to start looking in the want ads as soon as possible. Begin skimming through the ads at least a year in advance to see what type of jobs are in the market. Look at the skills needed for the jobs that interest you and try to acquire these skills.

The most important skill in any field is computer skills. Learn a variety of computer programs such as Word Perfect, Microsoft Word, DOS, Lotus and more. Computer knowledge can be the difference between you and someone else with the computer know-how in getting the job.

After you know what type of job you are looking for and have the key skills, it is time to make up your resume. This can

be very difficult. However, Stony Brook's Career Placement Center can help you perfect your resume. Tim Luzader, the director of the Career Placement Center, explains that the department's counselors can review and give tips on how to put together a great resume.

The career center can also help with a variety of inquiries concerning job searches. "The center has a lot of resources for undergraduates and graduates," Luzader said. The counselors can help you decide which career you would like to pursue, how to get and choose the appropriate internships and how to conduct yourself during an interview. "We do mock interviews," Luzader said. "We also do interviews on videotape."

The Career Placement Center also has extensive information to guide you in your job searches. The department has

computer and library information on many careers and graduate school needs, internship and volunteer sources, individual counseling and a web site that links to internship and part-time job pages to help you through the often strenuous journey to earn your place in the work force.

Summer hours have been extended to meet the needs of the students. The center is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Thursdays, it is open from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

A job search is not easy so the earlier you start looking the better. Anything or anyone can be a source of information. Make contacts with the faculty, employers or friends. Look through various newspapers, not just local ones, browse web sites or check the Internet. All of this will help you find the job you want. □

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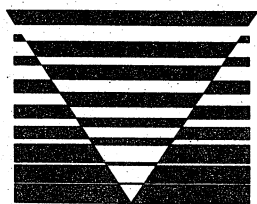
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# Editorial

## Play It Again, Shirl

On May 16, another class of Stony Brook seniors graduated from our University, and the ceremony to mark this event took place in the Sports Complex. With this said, we are beginning to wonder how much planning the University puts into the graduation ceremony, and in particular, the choice of the commencement speaker. While most colleges deliberate for a suitable person for the job, looking at politicians and artists of intellectual note, this campus can't seem to widen it's search beyond the confines of the University President's office. President Shirley Strum Kenny has been the keynote speaker at each graduation for the past three years.

Most readers are aware of the general format of most graduation speeches: a few words about the uniqueness and quality of the alma mater, followed by further remarks on the problems that students will face in "the real world." Of course, this part of the speech is usually wrapped up with euphemistic buzzwords such as "challenge," "new experiences," etc., this really means that all liberal arts majors in the audience should have spent less time reading books, (which the many science majors in the audience see as an antiquated notion anyway) and more time learning the intricacies of the relationship between a spatula

and a burger that a fast food restaurant will require them to know. Finally, each student is congratulated on the hard work that they showed in getting to this point in their lives, suggesting that the commencement speaker has conveniently forgotten that some of the graduates before him or her have either cheated on tests, or plagiarized others' works for use on their term papers.

We are proud of many of the accomplishments that these students had while attending here, and are saddened to see many of our favorite faces leave this campus community. It should not be suggested however, as most graduation speeches do, that each and every graduate was deserving and worthy of the praise lavished upon them at the ceremony held last Friday.

Some graduates, though, will continue to contribute to the Stony Brook community long after they have left the confines of University life here. Alumni such as honorary degree recipients Susie Orbach and Myung Oh have continued to encourage the academic atmosphere here long after their graduations. It is graduates like these that deserve to have a keynote speech from an individual who can

summon them to look beyond the dilemmas of everyday life that they will face and to look at the core values that a diverse education should have imparted on them. These include the ability to judge situations based not on dogmatic assumptions, but rather with an eye towards another point of view.

President Kenny, as is natural after three years in a row of these speeches, appears to have little left to say in this area. Her commencement address last Friday pointed mostly to the accomplishments of the Stony Brook community at large this year, including advances in cancer research, as well as a mention (yet again) of Charles Wang's \$25 million contribution to create an Asian Studies Center here. Students should, of course, be reminded that they should be proud of the education that they received here. Few graduates it would seem, though, were interested in hearing a commercial for this University. The graduates themselves were left as an afterthought.

While President Kenny has proven time and again to be articulate on collegiate matters, we hope that next year the University Administration can look beyond its own leadership for the graduation ceremony's commencement speaker.

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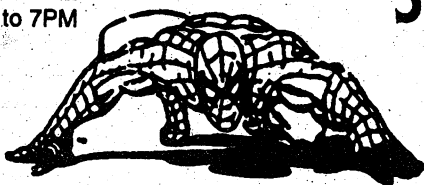
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# Oh, Those Senior Daze

## Barbecue, Buddies and Beer at Thursday Afternoon's Celebration

By NADIA PERSAUD  
Statesman Editor

As part of Senior Daze '97, the Student Polity Association sponsored a senior barbecue behind the Sports Complex on the student athletic fields last Thursday.

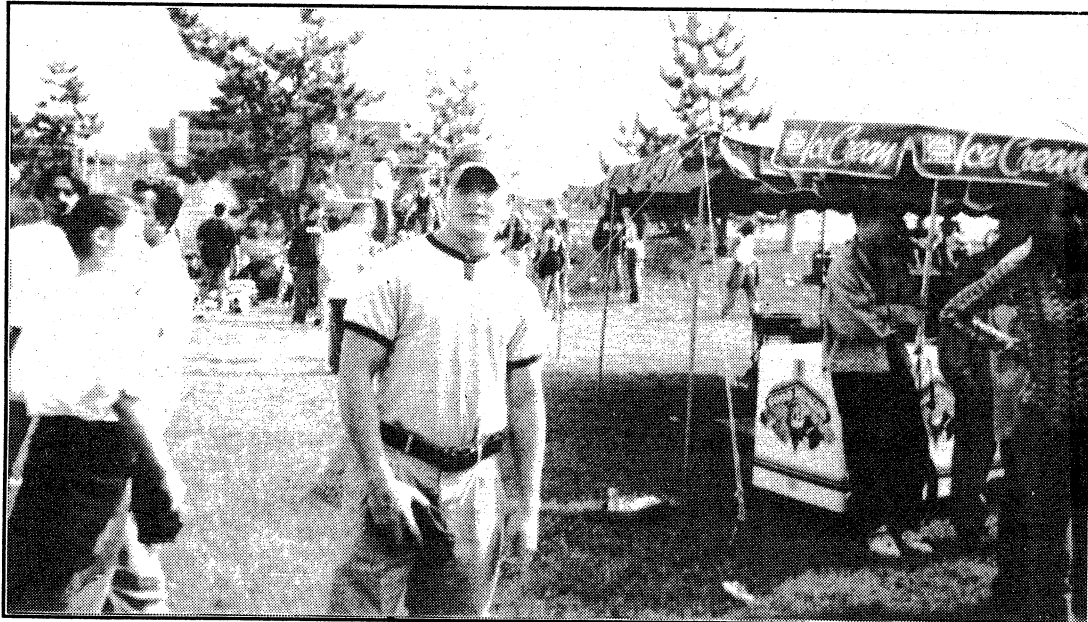
The event started at noon and ended at 6 p.m. Services and activities included a live DJ, games and food. In accordance with tradition, alcohol was served. According to Traci Thompson, assistant director for Student Activities, alcohol has been served at this event for as long as she can remember. The alcohol service lasted from 1 - 4:30 p.m. This was done, according to Dennis Lestrang, resident district manager of Campus Services, in order to allow sufficient time for students to sober up before leaving the event.

"It's okay to have beer served," said Monique Maylor, Polity's new president. "These are seniors. As long as they do not overdo it, it's alright."

The food was provided at a concession stand. Among the items served were hot dogs and pretzels. Tickets that could be traded for food and beverages were given out at prices of 75 cents for a complete ticket and 25 cents for stubs. Many students were misled by rumors that the event was free.

"We were just passing by and saw the crowd, so we joined. People said it was free, but it was not," said Diar Gasal, a junior.

"I have been here for five years and the barbecue has never been worse. It's also a shame that the food is not free," said Ryan Mitola, the '94 Homecoming King and the '93



Ryan Mitola at the Senior Daze Barbecue

Statesman / Laura Lo

Sophomore Representative.

Maylor, who attended the barbecue, said she thought

that students were probably confused because the buffet dinner held the night before

was free. Nonetheless, Maylor said she thought that the event went well. □

## Making It More Comfortable For Commuters

### Commuter Student Affairs Office Striving to Improve the University Experience

By LAURA LO  
Statesman Editor

Part of being a commuter student is coping with congested traffic conditions and long bus lines. It's a rough way to start the day.

The Commuter Affairs office, which opened its doors last February, works to make commuter life on campus a bit more comfortable. "We see our role as the advocate, the liaison, for commuters," says Commuter Affairs advisor and Associate Dean of Students Ronnie Paschkes. "Our job, our whole responsibility, is commuter life."

According to Paschkes, the commuter student population is increasing. Currently, commuters make up 50 percent of undergraduate students and 88 percent of the graduate student population. "The patterns of commuter students are changing," Paschkes says. "Many are returning students — single moms, older students. Economics is another reason. Many students can't afford to spend the money to live on campus or they don't want to."

Former commuter Jamie Martorana, 23, who graduated from Stony Brook in 1995, puts the situation in perspective. "If you're attracting commuters, students who want to go there want to know that the University is not going to neglect them," she says. "The commuter is still a student contributing to the University. They may not be paying for a dorm, but they're still contributing."

So the Commuter Affairs office

went to work. An advisory board, made up of students, faculty and staff members, formed to study commuters and make any necessary recommendations. By conducting surveys, the office found out commuter concerns included parking, auto maintenance, academic advising and stress management.

One of the big problems, according to Paschkes, is a lack of communication. Commuter Affairs began sending out *Roads Scholar*, a newsletter directed at commuters, as a way of getting information to them and keeping them connected with what's happening on campus. A new radio station, 1630 AM, was also added to inform Stony Brook students of traffic and weather conditions. And more space was provided for commuters to interact at the Commuter College in the new Student Activities Center.

To make the commuting experience less tedious, additional parking for commuters was added behind the Sports Complex as an alternative to the South P and North P lots. There are more buses to help shorten the long line of students that forms each morning. Also, the bus shelter was expanded at the South P lot.

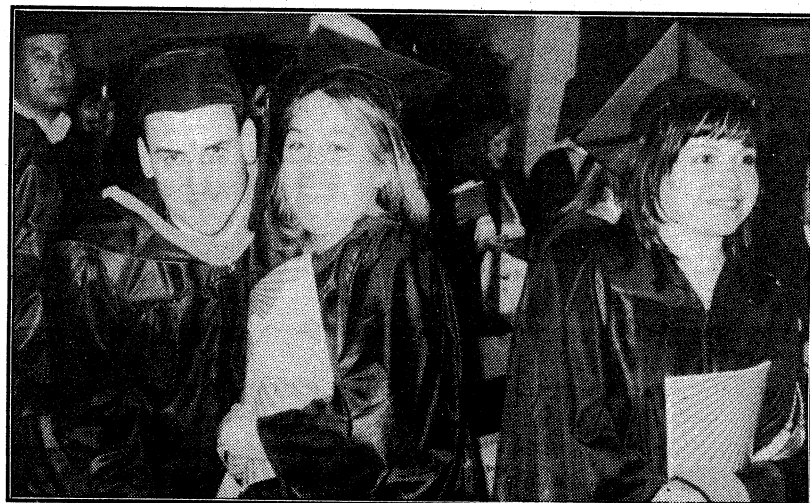
Paschkes stresses that Commuter Affairs is a joint effort — a collaboration with administration, departments, students and faculty. "We also have to do a lot of outreach with faculty," Paschkes says. "A lot of times that means bringing faculty up to date on who they're working with — the student today is not the student they remember from their

college days."

And students are noticing the improvements. "There's the advising office and more faculty members and professors trying to change things," says Jennifer Conefry, a recent graduate who commuted to Stony Brook from Oakdale. Conefry was the allocations chair of the Commuter Student Association for the Spring semester. She started getting involved with CSA last spring after

she attended one of their meetings. "I thought I'd go in and get things done," Conefry says. "I thought I could make it better."

Paschkes says students are feeling more comfortable because they are beginning to realize they have a place to go with their problems and concerns. "I'm proud to feel we're doing something," she says. "It may not be ground-breaking, but it's up there." □



Statesman / Alexandra Cruz

Graduate Sharon Erickson, center, mugs it up at Graduation last Friday. Erickson, 23, represented the School of Nursing in the Hooding Ceremony for Bachelor's candidates.

Look for The Statesman Bi-weekly This Summer