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Suffolk: A Democrat Stronghold?

Republican Corruption May Lead to Changes in Suffolk Coutny Legislature

By MARC NEWMAN Statesman Edito

On May 22, Patricia Strebel, Brookhaven highway superintendent and a prominent area Republican, was arraigned on charges of grand larceny, perjury and campaign finance violations. She had cheated Brookhaven Town taxpayers out of an estimated \$88,000. Prosecutors allege that she worked with Stephen Milvid, owner of the Long Island company Debut Concrete Construction, to embezzle money from taxpayers in what is the latest scandal in the "Crookhaven" Milvid owns Debut Concrete series. Construction, a Long Island company, and was indicted in March on charges of grand larceny and falsifying business records.

It makes perfect sense that the Town of Brookhaven, with one of the largest scientific labs in the country, would have something in common with a Stony Brook University, a renowned research institution. Both the towns of Stony Brook and Brookhaven work in tandem to create the epicenter of Long Island jobs and growth.

What makes less sense is this: while the town of Brookhaven has been a Republican stronghold in Long Island for as long as anyone can



Recent scandals in the Republican Party have opened the doors to office for Democrats like Christopher Hahn.

remember, just a few miles away the townships that surround Stony Brook are overwhelmingly Democratic. With the political spotlight now focusing on this new Republican scandal, one Brookhaven town Democrat is hoping to put some more sense into this discrepancy between science and politics.

"I think I have an excellent chance, and I'm confident about this," said Christopher Hahn, a life-long democrat running for the First District Brookhaven Town Council in 2003. "You pick up any local paper and you can read about Pat

Continued on Page 2

Nobel Reserves a Seat For SBU



By Michael Nevradakis Statesman Editor

Lawrence was one of eighteen outstanding American research participants selected by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) to attend the 53rd international convention of Nobel Laureates. Lawrence, who is conducting research at the DOE's Brookhaven Labs, attended this prestigious event

which took place in Lindau, Germany between June 30 and July 4.

"I'm overwhelmed and excited about this remarkable opportunity to interact with Nobel Laureates and to meet other graduate students from across the United States and around the world," said Lawrence before departing for the convention. "I'm very grateful to the Department of Energy for offering me this incredible experience."

Lawrence, a Ph.D. candidate in molecular genetics and microbiology, is investigating various types of protein-protein interactions under the guidance of Paul Freimuth of the Biology Department of Brookhaven Labs. These protein-protein interactions are hoped to yield new approaches for protein imaging or drug delivery in the future.

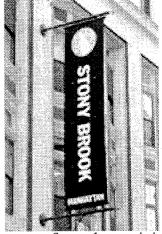
"Paul has a lively and inquiring mind," said Stony Brook University graduate student Paul Freimuth, who insisted that Lawrence was the perfect candidate to attend the Nobel Laureates' meeting. "He is a representative of the very best young scientists anywhere that are involved in DOE-supported research."

Continued on Page 2

New Master's Programs To Begin at SBU Manhattan

Statesman Staff

The Stony Brook philosophy department will be offering two new master's programs in its Manhattan campus this Fall: Philosophy and the Arts, directed by Philosophy Professor Edward Casey, and Gender, Race and Ethnicity, directed by Associate Philosophy Professor Eduardo Mendieta.



The Philosophy and the Arts master's program will focus on painting, sculpture, music, dance and architecture, and the Gender, Race and Ethnicity master's program will be of particular relevance to people living in the city, according to Casey.

"The masters program is especially well suited for city dwellers because it contends with issues that are part of their lives," Casey said.

"Both foci are attractive, useful and relevant to the kind of urban dweller that seeks to enhance their credentials and intellectual life," Mendieta said. Both Casey and Mendieta stated that no similar master's programs exist in New York City or Long Island, and Mendieta added that these two programs are mostly tailored for students who have finished their undergraduate education.

"[This] is really aimed at postgraduate students and continuing education students, that is, people

Continued on Page 2

Index

Republican Corruption	1,2
New SBU Masters Programs	
SBU Student at Lindau	
College News	
Commentary	
New Methods in Chemistry.	
Tanzania Study Abroad	8

SBU Master's Philosophy Moves to Manhanttan This Fall

Continued from Page 1

with a BA or BS who want to pursue a graduate degree, or who may be pursuing some sort of certificate to teach at the college or high school level," he said. Also, both professors hope those programs will bring much needed publicity for Stony Brook's Long Island campus.

"Our faculty, programs and degrees stand shoulder to shoulder, and sometimes tower over the same programs at Columbia, NYU, the New School and so on," said Mendieta. "Yet we seem to lack a presence or readily recognized identity. SB might as well be in a separate state. Being in Manhattan will without doubt earn SB priceless recognition in the area."

"We've got a very good response," Casey said.
"Not just in New York City and Long Island, but people in 8 to 10 states were interested."

Stony Brook's Manhattan campus opened in February 2002. Located at 401 Park Avenue South

(at 28th Street), it has graduate courses in social welfare, contemporary literature, Latin American studies, art, architecture and others.

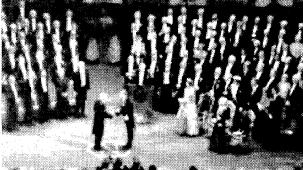
Stony Brook students offered mixed responses to their satellite campus in Manhattan. Lysana Fauvel, a Stony Brook philosophy graduate student praised the new master's programs.

"It's a great idea because it brings in funds and gives people opportunities," she said. "Also, people in the city can hear about Stony Brook. Stony Brook doesn't do enough advertising."

"I feel they should offer more undergraduate programs in Manhattan, not just masters programs," said Erica Rodrigues, a health science major. "When I went to Stony Brook in Manhattan, they didn't have the undergraduate program I wanted."

Anyone interested in either of the philosophy master's programs at Stony Brook Manhattan can call the Stony Brook philosophy department at (631) 632-7570.

Student Attends International Convention at Lindau



The 53rd Annual Convention of Nobel Laureates took place between June 30 and July 4.

Continued from Page 1

At the meeting, Lawrence interacted with the other American candidates representing such institutions as Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and the University of Arizona. In addition, 400 international students also attended the convention, where Nobel Laureates in chemistry, physics and physiology/medicine have convened annually since 1951, hosting an open forum with students and young researchers from around the world on topics relating to biology and medicine.

Participants first traveled to a meeting on June 27 at DOE headquarters in Washington, D.C., before departing for Germany. On June 29, students toured the historic city of Lindau before convening for the meeting the following day. Lectures were held on several topics, including biochemistry, biotechnology and biophysics, while informal roundtable discussions also took place. Closing ceremonies were held on July 4 on the Isle of Mainau, where the Mainau Castle is located. The castle is the residence of Swedish patron Count Lennart Bernadotte, who began the Nobel Laureates program in 1951.

Travel arrangements were administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, which is managed by ORAU in conjunction with the DOE. More information on the Nobel Laureates' convention, including photos and a summary of events, can be found at http://www.orau.gov/orise/edu/lindau2003.

Democrats in Suffolk County



Patricia Strebel pleaded not guilty to charges of grand larceny, perjury and campaign finance violations.

Continued from Page 1

Strebel. Do I think that everyone is corrupt? No. But I think we can make a more efficient municipality."

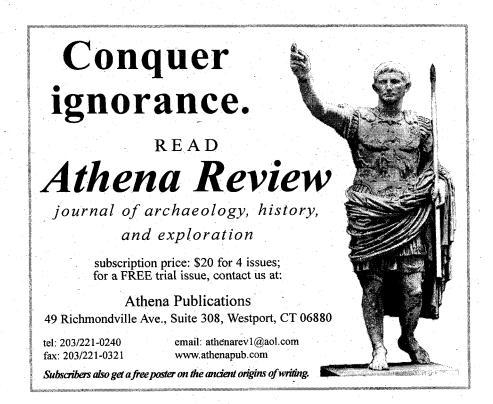
Hahn expressed his concern that taxes were extremely high in the Three Village area, and that traffic was extremely bad on the roads that separate the communities of Stony Brook and Brookhaven. Though Democrat Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld won the Democratic Party nomination in May, Hahn is comfortable with his ability to pull out a victory.

"I worked with Chuck Schumer representing Long Island and listened to the community here," Hahn said. "I will work for what's best for them."

Hahn's July 15 financial filing totaled \$54,000 \$51,000 of which came in since the first filing in January. Currently, he has \$47,000 on hand. Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld filed with almost \$18,000 total and \$14,130 on hand.

Democrats are hopeful that the political corruption that has recently beset the Republican Party in Brookhaven will be the catalyst that will end Stony Brook's reputation as the only Democratic stronghold in this area of Suffolk County. More information on the Democratic Party's bid to shake-up Long Island politics can be found at www.brookhavendems.com. For more information on Hahn's campaign, visit www.votehahn2003.com.





Increased Funds for NSF and Americorps

Chronicle of Higher Education

A House Panel approved increased funds for the National Science Foundation and AmeriCorps but not as much as some had hoped

A U.S. House of Representatives appropriations subcommittee on Tuesday approved a budget of \$5.6-billion for the National Science Foundation in the 2004 fiscal year, an increase of about 6 percent over the current year, and \$158-million more than the Bush administration's budget request of \$5.4-billion.

The subcommittee, which also sets spending levels for the Corporation for National and Community Service, the organization that administers AmeriCorps, approved a \$480.2-million budget for fiscal 2004 for that agency. That amount falls almost 20 percent short of the administration's \$598million request but is an increase of \$96million over the current year's spending.

While the increase in money for the NSF is substantial, it falls short of what



Americorps may not be able to pay for the 75,000 volunteers it had hoped to support.

many research advocates and some members of Congress had hoped for.

Last year, the House Committee on Science helped shepherd legislation through Congress that would allow the doubling of the NSF's budget by 2007. Congress authorized a budget of \$6.391billion for the agency this year. But even though President Bush signed the doubling bill into law, the administration's request fell far short of what Congress had authorized, sparking the ire of many lawmakers.

Rep. Sherwood L. Boehlert, a Republican from New York and chairman of the House Committee on Science, has been leaning on members of the Appropriations Committee to approve the full amount allowed under the doubling authorization. Earlier this year, he sent a letter to James T. Walsh, a fellow New York Republican and chairman of the subcommittee that appropriates money for the foundation, requesting the full \$6.391billion, about 20 percent more than the foundation will spend this year.

In April, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee criticized what they felt was a meager request from the Bush administration. Sen. Christopher S. Bond, the Missouri Republican who heads the subcommittee that sets the budget for the foundation, said he was "deeply disappointed" by the \$5.4 billion the administration had proposed.

Late last week, the Senate committee passed an amendment to a separate appropriations bill that would provide AmeriCorps with \$100-million in emergency funds for the current fiscal year. However, the House bill does not contain a similar provision, and the two houses have yet to set a date to work out their differences.

This was the first time that AmeriCorps had received an allocation from the House subcommittee. In the past, it was given funds either at the full committee level or on the floor. AmeriCorps has been the subject of public scrutiny this summer, after it disclosed that it would not have enough money to pay for all of the 50,000 volunteers who were planned for this year. The administration had hoped to support 75,000 volunteers.

The full House Appropriations Committee is expected to soon decide on the bill. The Senate appropriations subcommittee that handles both the science foundation and AmeriCorps has not scheduled a meeting to debate its version of the spending bill.

Tuition Rises for the

By SARA HEBEL Chronicle of Higher Education

Trustees of the State University of New York voted to raise tuition this fall by 28 percent for in-state undergraduates, the first time the system has increased the rate since 1995. Their action came one week after trustees of the City University of New York agreed to the first rate increase for that system in eight years, increasing tuition by 25 percent for in-state students at senior colleges and by 12 percent for in-state students at community colleges.

Administrators and trustees of both systems said they need the additional revenues as they try to absorb state budget cuts in 2003-4. But SUNY and CUNY students have decried the large increases, arguing that they are likely to cause some

students to drop out and to prevent others from enrolling in the first place.

At SUNY, in-state undergraduates this fall will pay \$4,350 annually, a \$950 increase. Out-of-state undergraduates will pay \$10,300, a \$2,000, or 24 percent, jump. The trustees' vote did not affect community-college tuition, but the board's action did put in place a range of rate increases for students in the university's graduate and professional programs.

The trustees approved the tuition increases by a vote of 11 to 1, with the student representative on the board, Stephanie A. Gross, casting the only no vote. The increase for in-state students equals the amount that state lawmakers authorized in May, though it is less than the increases SUNY officials and Gov. George E. Pataki, a Republican, proposed at the beginning of the year.

First Time

Robert L. King, SUNY's chancellor, said that even with the new tuition revenues, the university system still faces \$36-million in cuts to operating funds. State lawmakers provided \$883-million to SUNY for 2003-4, a 19.7 percent decrease from the previous fiscal year.

But the chancellor said that the tuition increases, along with restrictions the university has placed on travel, hiring, purchasing and other activities, would help the institution avoid layoffs for now and would not require the cancellation of courses that students need to graduate.

King and other university officials also pointed out that tuition and fees at SUNY would still be lower than those at comparable public doctoral institutions in states in the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions. In addition, they said that increases in the state's Tuition Assistance Program would cover the costs of the tuition increases for families whose adjusted incomes are less than \$49,500, or about 60 percent of the university's undergraduate students who are eligible for the state program.

Nevertheless, George H. Pape Jr., a rising senior who is president of the State University of New York at Buffalo's Student Association, said on Monday that students and families already hurt by the struggling economy were likely to still have trouble coming up with extra money for tuition. He said that the timing of the increase, coming just a couple of months before the academic year begins, and the size of the jump, after so many years of a steady tuition rate, didn't give many families much of a chance to plan for the increase.

"It's sad, quite frankly," Pape said. "It's a horrible economy out there, and I just hope this doesn't hurt students as hard as I'm afraid it's going to."

Tuition at Bay

U.S. Senate:

By WILL POTTER Chronicle of Higher Education

Witnesses at a Congressional hearing on Thursday presented possible solutions to the problem of the rising cost of a higher education, but members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce kept returning to a controversial proposal by its chairman that would punish colleges for raising tuition beyond a certain point.

Under the plan, by Rep. Howard P. (Buck) McKeon, a California Republican, colleges that increased their prices by twice the rate of inflation or more for two years in a row would face penalties, including the possible loss of eligibility to participate in federal student-aid programs.

"There are some here in government and out in academia who will say that the federal government should not get involved in higher

to Keep Debating How education," McKeon said at the

hearing. "They say, We're doing a great job, and should do nothing but send more money."

The hearing was part of the committee's effort to draft legislation to renew the Higher Education Act, the law that governs most federal studentaid programs.

After Democrats on the committee raised a series of objections, McKeon said that the focus should not be only on his proposal, which has not yet be formally introduced as legislation.

Minutes later, critics alleged that the proposal would lead to decreases in need-based financial aid and to costcutting measures by colleges that would reduce the quality of education.

Experts on a panel selected by the committee to testify seemed divided on the proposal, voicing at best only cautious approval.

"It would hurt those students the

Sandy Baum, a professor of economics at Skidmore College. She added that tuition had increased much faster, relative to average income, for the neediest students.

"Twice the rate of inflation is pretty low right now," she said, noting that the annual rate of inflation is hovering at about two percent. If colleges increase tuition by four percent, a relatively low amount, they would be nalized under the proposal, she said.

Scott Ross, executive director of the Florida Student Association, said colleges should be penalized for increasing tuition. When Rep. Dale E. Kildee, a Michigan Democrat, questioned the negative impact such a policy could have on colleges in tight budget times, Ross said, "Students won't attend those colleges anyway" because of their high costs.

proposal is designed to protect," said focused on cost-cutting strategies for colleges, like using computer programs to replace traditional classroom exercises and coordinating with other colleges to save money on with other colleges to save money on things like health insurance.

Republicans and Democrats on the committee praised Patrick T. Kirby, dean of enrollment services at Westminster College, in Missouri, for simultaneously increasing enrollment and decreasing costs. The college cut tuition by 20 percent, hoping a rise in enrollment would offset any fall in revenue. It more than did, Kirby said, and the college will have a record enrollment of 820 students this fall. He said private colleges should use that strategy to "absorb students" from overburdened public institutions.

Many Democrats proposed, as an alternative to McKeon's plan, an increase in funds for Pell Grants. But they conceded that such a move is Other members of the panel unlikely, given the federal budget deficit.



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Editorial

Wisdom in Another's Eyes

By Emy Kuriakose Statesman Editor

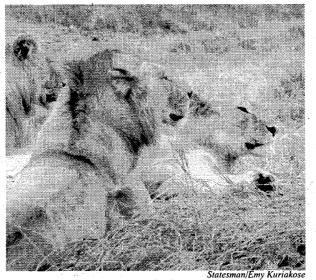
I sat in the dark van and listened to the rumble of dirt and rocks under the wheels. The sun had just set on the Serengeti and I wrapped my sweatshirt around me as the chill of a Tanzanian winter night settled in. I could still see traces of the bright orange sky through the acacia trees lined along the horizon. I wished then that I could sit there and watch this scene as it enfolded everyday, as it had for ages before then.

The same time next week, I would be sitting at home in New York knowing that the sun was setting in Africa, knowing that baboons would be sleeping on the trees I had just passed, and knowing that I would always miss being there.

As we rounded a curve in the road, our driver slowed to a stop and calmly said, "Look, simba!" We sat up to see 20 lions surrounding the car. They were nonchalantly crossing the road as if they hadn't even seen us. Our headlights lit their bright yellow eyes as they strayed from a dead carcass on the floor to our van. Ignoring the driver's order to roll up our windows, I leaned closer to the scene. Two of them were fighting over the kill, and a male leapt up and stretched his arm out to claw another female. I heard his cavernous roar, a deep, rich tone that ran through my blood. While the others in the car screamed, I sat down, speechless. Our campsite was only 75 yards away from them.

All night, we could hear roaring and fighting in the distance. Surprisingly, they never came by the site, and I later found that they rarely bother campers. Still, that roar still resounds clearly in my mind, and I know that my life was held only by the van I was in.

Three weeks before that, I was sitting in a bus staring up at the dim light above my seat to find about 50 mosquitoes eagerly nestled in its glow. I remember thinking that I had just taken my malaria medicine on the plane, and feeling a little safer. All I could see that first night were bushes and dim lights along the road, but I stared into that vast darkness surrounding the road





Statesman/Emy Kuriak

wanting to take in as much of Africa as I could.

The Tanzania Study Abroad program to me was a mystery then. I was to take medicine to avert a potentially fatal illness, learn Swahili, find an independent research project, climb halfway up Mt. Kilimanjaro and see the Serengeti--all in four weeks.

Magi ya Chai was the first village to greet our group of 15 Stony Brook students. Speaking Swahili with the proficiency of two-year olds, we ventured out into the town sporting our "hujambos" and "shikamoos" (greetings to equals and elders, respectively). Most people smirked appreciatively at our curiosity and attempts to communicate, and everyone was always willing to help. On either side of us stood deep green forests and hills spotted with rays of sunlight beaming through low-lying clouds.

In vain, I tried to imagine a life with mountains in my backyard and giraffes and elephants just a few miles away roaming freely at a national park. At the same time, I had to imagine a life with just one school uniform and a seventh grade education.

That week we met with students and children from the village who took classes at the community center we stayed at. Listening to Swahili rappers and dancing to African traditional rhythm and song, we spent the week sharing and learning from people we came to know as our friends.

That first Saturday, we embarked on our trek up Kilimanjaro. The climb was far from easy, with the path often towering above my head as I looked past each curve. We listened to a stream that followed alongside the trail, and we would often catch glimpses of waterfalls and blue monkeys along the way. As we neared the top, the rainforest changed to a blanket of pale green pines.

The group had split, and I found myself alone on the eerily overcast mountain. Through the piercing silence, I heard porters in the distance; workers that carried enormous sacks atop their heads to deliver to lodges along the mountain trails.

One woman I met told me she did it for the hela (money), and she asked for chocolate. I gave her my cookies and candy and continued along the way. The experience was bitter sweet, as I knew that my light hike was nothing compared to her burden. Her story brought the reality of the place back to me. This mountain was feeding her family, and hundreds of

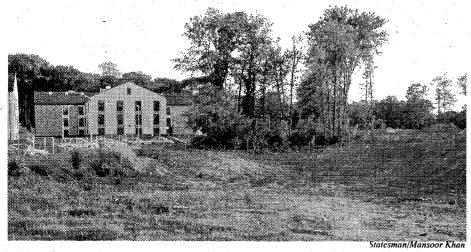
Continued on Page 5

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Op-Ed

West Apartments: An Environmental Outrage??



The West Apartment construction does not pose as much a threat to the environment as commuters would have. Beds are less harmful than cars.

By Paul Conrad Statesman Staff

A few lonely oaks linger on the ravaged hillside. The tree-clearing bulldozers sit silent in the rain, the runoff pouring through the construction fences to a murky pond below.

"It's like they snuck in and did it overnight. I didn't hear anything about it, I can't believe it!" This comment I remember from last spring reflects a continued disgust and disapproval for the construction underway behind the undergraduate apartments. All UGA residents have passed the "STOP **KILLING** TREES!" graffiti emblazoned on a construction authority trailer, and some have likely nodded their heads in approval.

Let's stop for a minute, though, and think beyond the undeniably unsightly mess we're living near now. Conserving the environment is rarely a straightforward, easily accomplished goal. It's important to remember that Campus Residences' job is neither to preserve nor to destroy Stony Brook's open spaces, but to meet the growing need for on-campus housing. This is not to say that the West Apartments should not have been designed in a more environmentally responsible way. Taller buildings, less lawn space, and a multilevel parking garage all would have allowed more forest to be saved while providing an even greater number of beds.

But with higher education's unending budget limitations, we must face reality—the cost would have been substantially higher. And so, to anyone outraged by the ongoing construction, I say this: on-campus housing is good for the environment. Though West Apartment residents may own cars, they primarily walk and bike to class. Those 672 new beds, as much as we may miss the forest they're replacing, will mean hundreds fewer cars on Nicholls Road in the morning, less automobile exhaust and burning of fossil fuels and less demand for new housing construction and thus habitat destruction—in surrounding Suffolk county.

Environmentally, the West Apartments represent a reasonable

Experiencing Atrica

Continued from Page 4

others in Tanzania. It's hard to really appreciate that just watching the Discovery channel.

When people ask me how my trip was, I tell them that it was easily the best month of my life. It sounds cliched, especially for a 19 year old to say. But when one month changes your life, it's not easy to describe. Now I don't need those new sneakers, or that dinner at Applebee's. I don't need a car, or a bigger dorm room. I need a better understanding of other people's experience. As Americans, we live in a world far removed from reality. Try hard, and you can do anything. Some may argue that there are glass ceilings

here, ceilings coated with race, gender, unequal opportunity and so on. But what we fail to realize is that we are at the penthouse, with most of the world under us. Most of their ceilings are opaque. At least we can see the possibilities and can aim to break any obstacles. When you know there's something better and try your best to get to it, but simply can't budge, your own life becomes a dead end.

Tanzania is the most beautiful place I've laid eyes on. The people and land taught me what happiness is. I'm far from understanding the secret to a happy life, but my hope is simply that more people get an opportunity to do what I did and maybe change the way they see their own lives.



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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, July 21, 2003

Chemistry on a Leash: How to 'Yield' Control

By ROHIT DAS Statesman Ediotr

In recent years, one of the more promising and growing fields in the physical sciences has been mode-selective chemistry, which focuses on removing undesired byproducts of commercial chemical reactions, thus increasing the yield of the desired commercial product.

Most of the techniques used in this field involve high precision lasers. However, scientists at Brookhaven National Laboratories, along with collaborators at the Fritz-Haber-Institut in Germany, have discovered new techniques involving the use of low temperature Scanning Tunneling Microscopy.

STM works through manipulating and detecting electrons from both the microscope as well as the sample. By allowing these electrons to interact, scientists can potentially determine the structure of the sample on an atomic level. More importantly, scientists can use these techniques to cause the sample to move to a site of higher reactivity.

"We found that the motion of the molecule can be controlled by tuning the parameters of the tunneling electrons: the electronic current and energy," said Zhen Song, a research associate at



BNL chemists are pursuing research that could decrease waste in chemical reactions.

Brookhaven National Laboratories. "We are able to select a particular reaction pathway by adjusting the electronic tunneling current and energy."

If thoroughly developed for commercial use, STM can have a great impact on the chemical industry. Reaction pathways that are desired can be favored to a far greater degree than they have been through current mode-selective chemistry techniques. Consequently, the amount of waste products accumulated will decrease

significantly, and more of the desired product will be attained. Furthermore, STM may also provide reaction pathways that are completely unattainable currently.

Such pathways are achieved by providing a certain amount of energy to a reaction through electron tunneling. When energy above a certain threshold is given to the system, tunneling electrons induce molecular vibrations that cause molecules to move to regions on the substrate where more efficient

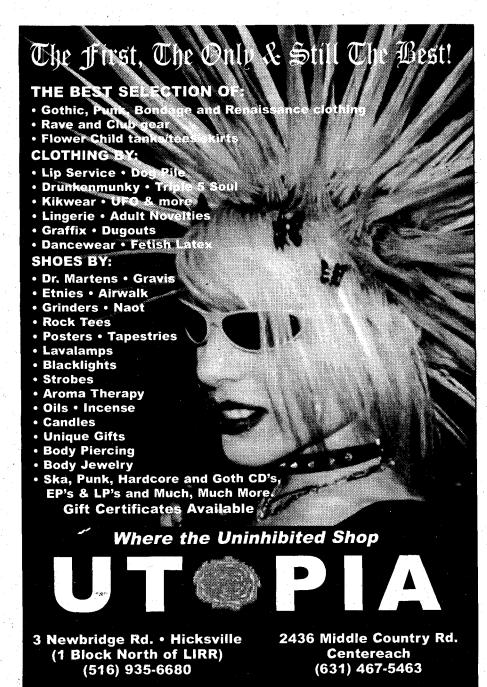
and productive reactions can occur. Below this threshold energy, the molecules simply disassociate from the substrate.

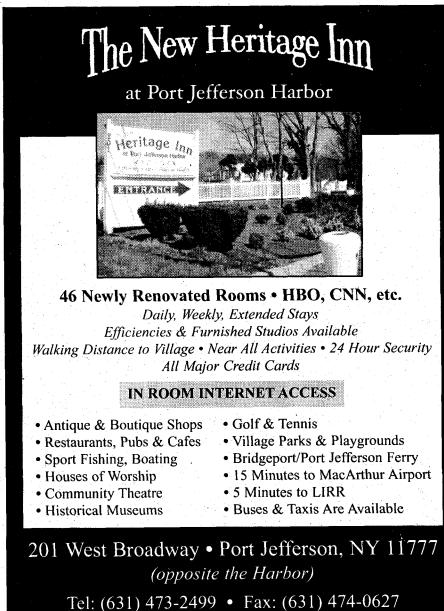
Though Song has only tested these methods on simple ammonia and copper substrate systems, she realizes that they can also be applied to more difficult processes.

"It would be interesting to extend this methodology to more complex processes, for example, by searching for strategies of controlling and enhancing reactivity at surfaces through the discovery of new reaction pathways that are inaccessible via classical 'thermal' chemistry," Song said. STM techniques are further proof of how modern technology has allowed scientists to manipulate and even control the smallest types of matter.

"As a chemistry major, it really does give me something to think about," said Brian Friedlich, a junior at Stony Brook University. "The mechanisms and pathways that we learn about now would become arbitrary. Chemists would simply design their own mechanisms by predetermining exactly what substances interact."

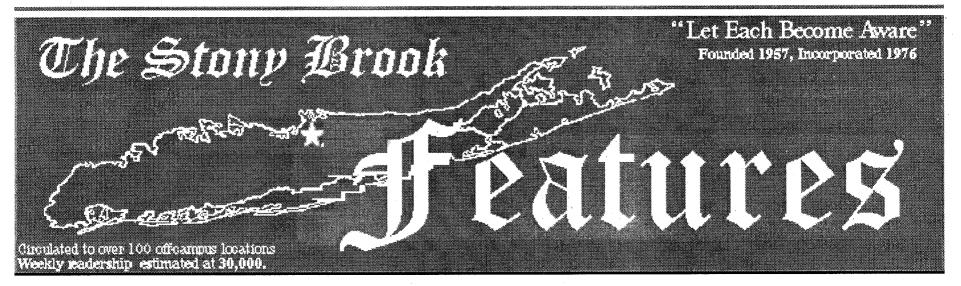
Ultimately, mode-selective chemistry will provide more efficient and cost-effective methods of chemical manufacturing, and bring us to a more enlightened understanding of how molecular interactions occur.





www.PortJeffHeritageInn.com

e-mail: HeritageInn@PortJeff.net



SBU Study Abroad: The Academic Safari in Tanzania

Statesman Editor

While walking by a pack of wildebeest in Arusha National Park, Peter Sunwoo looked up to see a towering giraffe glide past him. To his left, he could see the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, the world's tallest freestanding mountain, and to his right were endless miles of lush forest and green grass.

Sunwoo, a senior at Stony Brook University, and 14 other students attended Stony Brook's annual Study Abroad trip to Tanzania, a four-week academic experience in what the brochure calls one of the "most interesting cultural and ecological regions of the world."

After an initial week of classroom study on the culture and language of Tanzania, students embarked on a flight to East Africa to start their academic safari.

"When I got there, I felt as if everything was almost surreal," said Stony Brook senior Nazish Qadeer. "I couldn't believe I was in Africa."

Under the direction of William Ph.D., professor of Arens, anthropology at Stony Brook University, students were taken to three different locations in Tanzania. Pariticipants started their trip in Magi ya Chai, a rural village named for its brown mineral-filled water. They



The Tanzania Study Abroad group poses for a photo at Olduvai Gorge, a famed archaeological site where Mary Leakey helped redraw the human family tree.

"I loved learning all the different types of African dance. I really felt like I was being immersed in the culture," said Qadeer. Students also continued their Swahili instruction at Magi ya Chai, learning conversational skills that they were able to put to use.

"Ninapenda kusema Kiśwahili. That means 'I like to speak Swahili,'" Sunwoo said. "I liked trying to talk with the locals in another language. It was definitely a learning experience." Students tried their skills in the marketplace,

of Tanzania, and then to Mto wa Mbu, a town named for its "River of Mosquitoes." Staying at hotels for both of these weeks, students were

"The trip was both fun and educational," said Stony Brook senior Elizabeth Vogel. "We wrote a couple of papers about conservation and had lengthy discussions about them. I think everybody had something to learn."

The study abroad trip was capped off by a six-day camping safari to several Tanzanian parks, including Lake Manyara, Tarangire and Serengeti National Parks, and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Participants were able to observe wild animals in their natural habitat, including lions, giraffes, elephants, rhinos and cheetahs.

"We were so close to some of the animals," Qadeer said. "I felt like I could reach out and touch the lions. They were literally a few feet away from us." Students were able to take pictures and videos of the animals from the safety of their land rover, which trekked the rugged terrain of the parks.

"I think one of the most important parts of the trip, however, is learning what the rest of the world is like," said Sunwoo.



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

Participants were able to observe and take photos of wildlife in their natural habitat.

given the chance to interact freely with the people of Tanzania.

"One conversation with the local inhabitants is better than reading a 200page book about the people who live there," said Arens, who is the Dean of International Academic Programs at Stony Brook University. "Sometimes stringent university requirements get in the way of a student's real education."

Students earned up to nine credits on the trip, including three credits of independent research, where they decided on their own topics and collected information by interacting with the locals.

"It was an eye-opening experience. People live in poverty everywhere in the world, and it became so apparent to me in Africa." Because of his trip to Tanzania, Sunwoo decided to start an American branch of the charity organization Children for Children's Future right here at Stony Brook University. He plans to raise money for CCF and send it back to Tanzania to help the street children that rely on the organization for food, clothes and education.

"Everyone should go abroad," Arens said. "If you could be in Paris, Tanzania or Madagascar, what are you doing in Islip?"



Students peer into a pit of alligators at a Snake and Reptile Farm, located in Magi ya Chai.

stayed at the United African American Cultural Center, where they danced and sang at the "ngoma," a large cultural celebration.

haggling prices with shop-owners who often spoke only Kiswahili.

The program participants then traveled to Arusha, one of the major cities