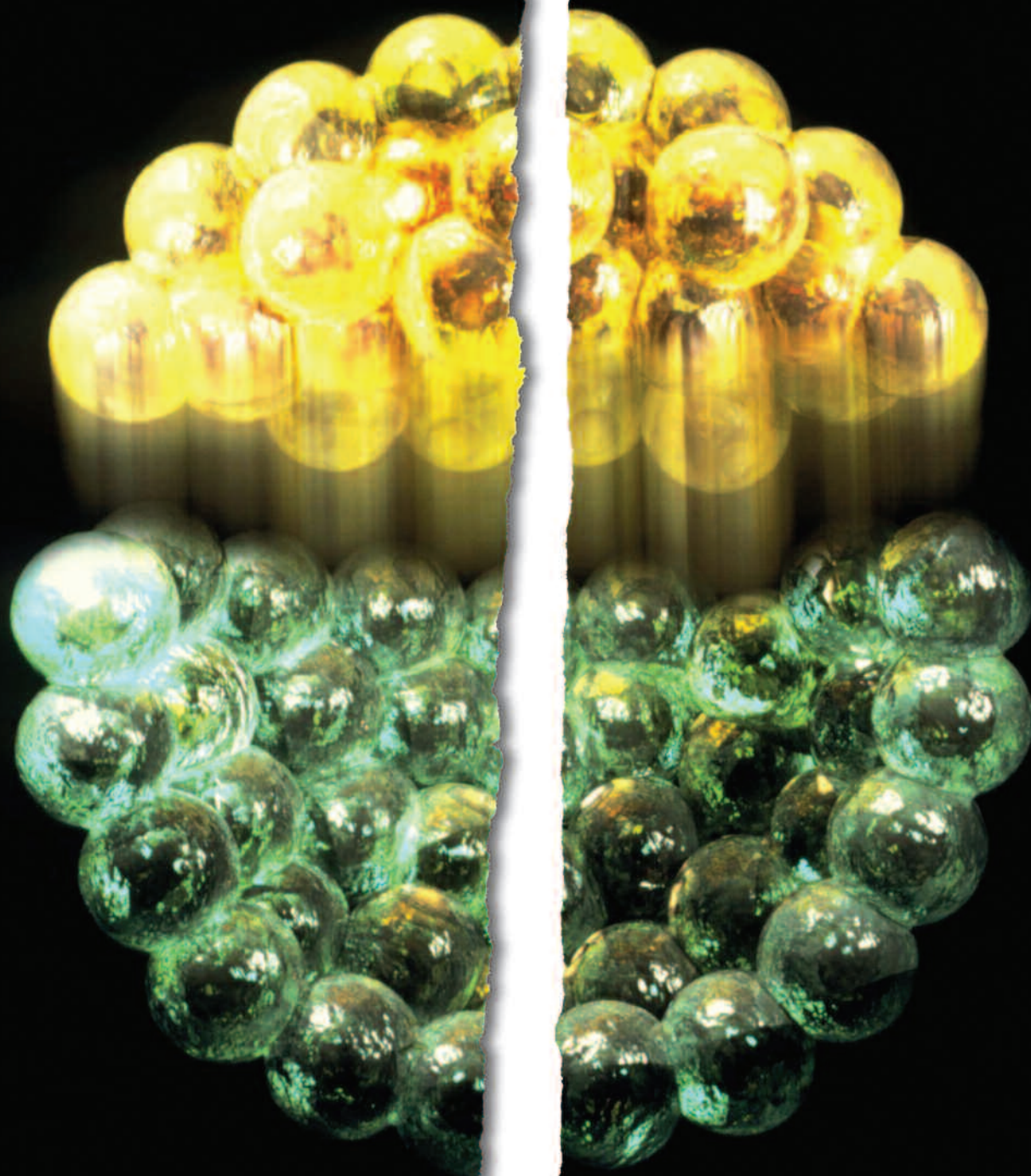


NEWS ABOUT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY WINTER 2005 • VOLUME 5, NO. 2

THE BROOK

The Great
Division

Stem Cells,
Ethics, and
Politics



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On our cover: Conceptual computer artwork of an embryo at the blastocyst stage. Image: Laguna Design/Photo Researchers, Inc.

Compiled by Lynne Roth

What's New on Campus

Stony Brook is Red Hot!

This past November Stony Brook University was ranked one of 136 best universities in the world and one of the 50 best in North America, according to a survey by the London *Times Higher Education Supplement*. There are 8,300 colleges and universities worldwide, according to the International Association of Universities.

Hot on the heels of this news, in December the Institute for Higher Education in Shanghai ranked Stony Brook among the top 150 universities in the world. In addition, the London *Times Higher Education Supplement*, in a rating of the best science universities globally, ranked Stony Brook No. 76 in the world, 21st in the United States, and tenth among U.S. public universities.

The *Times* bases its rankings on peer review, research impact, faculty-to-student ratio, and the ability to attract internationally known faculty, as well as draw students from all over the world. Stony Brook was the only State University of New York institution to be included on the lists of the Top 200 universities in the world and the Top 50 in North America. Harvard topped both lists. Stony Brook tied for 33rd in the world in research impact, which the *Times* calculated by measuring citations per faculty member.

"Stony Brook University is an extraordinary place," President Shirley Strum Kenny said. "Our internationally known faculty enrich the lives of students from all over the globe, and our researchers pioneer discoveries that improve the lives of people throughout the world."

In the list of the top 200 in the world, Stony Brook was ranked ahead of such institutions as Dartmouth College (138), Frankfurt University in Germany (157), Georgetown University (165), Rice University (146), and Vanderbilt University (156).



STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Our newly formed College of Business offers both MBA and Executive MBA programs.

Earn Your MBA at Stony Brook

The University's newly formed College of Business is offering an MBA program featuring flexible day, evening, weekend, full- and part-time, and study abroad opportunities. The College also has begun an Executive MBA (EMBA) program at the Stony Brook Manhattan campus, with convenient weekend and evening classes for mid-to-top-level managers from local-to-global enterprises.

"We are building our business school on Stony Brook's international reputation and its commitment to the economic development of the region," said William H. Turner, dean of the College of Business and retired vice chairman of Chemical Banking Corp. Turner is also former president and CEO of PNC Bank, New Jersey; a board member and former chairman of the Atlantic Health System in New Jersey; and chairman of the International College of Beirut.

As business continues to become increasingly global, Stony Brook will take advantage of its relationships in Africa, China, Europe, India, Korea, and the Middle East to provide its students with a global understanding of business. Full-time MBA students can spend a summer session or semester in the Study Abroad program to gain overseas experience.

Students can complete the 60-credit, full-time MBA program over a two-year period or the part-time MBA in three to five years. The 48-credit EMBA program can be completed in as little as two years or over a period of up to five years. The College has two additional programs that will be launched in the 2005-06 academic year: a five-year MBA program for undergraduates, which allows exceptional students an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree and an MBA in five years, and joint degree programs with other colleges within the University, in which students can receive graduate degrees in various disciplines and an MBA in an accelerated program.

For more information, call the College of Business at (631) 632-7171 or visit www.stonybrook.edu/collegeofbusiness.

New Center for Wine, Food, and Culture

The University celebrated the launch of its Center for Wine, Food, and Culture with a special event at its Stony Brook Manhattan location, 401 Park Avenue South. The evening included a wine tasting, hosted by noted wine expert Kevin Zraly, and foods prepared by celebrity chefs. The new Center, which will offer courses, workshops, and seminars, is the first of its kind among universities in New York State.

Following the official opening, Louisa Hargrave, one of the best-known and most respected figures in the Long Island wine industry, was named interim director of the Center. Hargrave was instrumental in establishing the wine industry on Long Island, having planted the first wine grapes on the North Fork in 1973. Her Hargrave Vineyard wines won numerous awards before the winery was sold in 1999. Hargrave was recently awarded a Saintsbury Scholarship, which is awarded to a wine writer who strives for excellence in creative and effective writing on the subject and sensibility of wine.

"The Stony Brook Center for Wine, Food, and Culture can become a dynamic partner with the wine and food growers of our region, playing a valuable role in fostering their economic growth," said Hargrave.

Her goal for the Center is to provide distinctive educational programs for both professionals and the general public. There will be a wine class just for women, who buy 65 percent of all wine. Regional wine makers will demonstrate how wines change as they age.

For professionals, classes will focus on marketing wine as part of regional and ethnic cuisines. They will include writing innovative wine lists, honing tasting skills, and hiring wine personnel. The Center also will offer a series on "Green New York," including the economics of green markets, and using regional, natural products in schools and restaurants.

For information about upcoming programming, please visit the Web site at www.stonybrook.edu/sb/winecenter.



Wine tastings and food samplings are just some of the offerings available at the Center for Wine, Food, and Culture.



Jasmine is Stony Brook's new sophisticated Asian eatery located on the second floor of the Charles B. Wang Center.

Jasmine Offers World-Class Dining at Wang Center

Manhattan restaurateurs Sushil Malhotra and Rajesh Bhardwaj have brought their famous Asian cuisine to Stony Brook with the opening of Jasmine in the Charles B. Wang Center. Located on the second floor, the upscale eatery features Chinese, Indian, Japanese Grill, Sushi, and Thai food, with other Asian cuisines included in the daily food specials.

"The Charles B. Wang Center is the perfect place for Jasmine, and Jasmine is the perfect place for students, the faculty, and the public," said President Shirley Strum Kenny. "Indeed, a unique Asian/Asian American cultural center deserves a unique Asian dining experience."

The 8,300-square-foot facility can accommodate more than 350 people and consists of a large open dining room plus a private dining area for parties and special events. Both rooms are positioned near a glass front, which creates a connection to the outdoor pond and garden. In the warm weather months patio tables will be available for dining al fresco.

The design is based on traditional Asian themes and icons, with a modern flair. Suspended wood ceiling grids, glowing lanterns, river rock pads, bamboo flooring, and bamboo and grass panels are used to give the scale of the existing shell an inviting, modernized Asian-inspired look.

Because of its location, steps away from the Staller Center for the Arts and the University Café, Jasmine offers patrons attending events at either location a convenient place to dine before or after. Jasmine will partner with both venues on marketing ventures that include discounts for tickets and packages that include dining, parking, and entertainment.

Jasmine's hours are Monday-Friday, 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 2:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Compiled and written by Shelley Catalano

Research Roundup

Cutting-edge research culled from Stony Brook's best and brightest minds.

Silence is Golden

The next time an upset friend tells you, "I don't want to talk about it," she just might mean it. According to research being conducted in the Department of Psychology, a person may not need to talk about what's bothering him or her to heal. J. Lee Westmaas, an assistant professor of psychology who studies stress and coping, social support, and smoking cessation, along with graduate student Karen Langsam are conducting a study titled "Coping with Crisis" in an effort to understand how people respond to trauma. Correctly identifying those people who need to talk and those who don't, the researchers said, is crucial to implementing the appropriate counseling.

One of the triggers for the study was an anecdotal report Westmaas had heard regarding a friend of a psychology student who reported how, after September 11, her company sent in teams of counselors to help people deal with the trauma. This person had found the counselors' behavior to be invasive and unhelpful. "Interviews right after the event showed that these visits were not beneficial and, in fact, could be detrimental, possibly interfering with the time people needed to process what had happened," Langsam explained. Because both Langsam and Westmaas are interested in how people talk about a traumatic event, they wanted to see if they could find out who could benefit from this type of counseling. To reach that goal, they needed to examine social/personality factors, look at the social support network, proximity to the trauma, demographics, and the individual's ability to ruminate, among other cognitive factors. The researchers developed a Web-based survey to obtain the needed data, using September 11 as the common trauma.

The survey went online in the fall and will be up through 2005. The majority of the study is a self-assessment covering topics such as familial and romantic relationships and a person's coping strategies when faced with stress and traumatic events. About a third of the questions pertain to how the person reacted to September 11. "We're not just asking them about trauma but about their life. Many people have said they found the survey very helpful for their well-being," Langsam added.

To date, the researchers have noticed that people fall into three well-defined groups: 1. Those who want to talk about the trauma and have a support network of friends and family who will listen; 2. people who want to talk but don't have a support network; and 3. individuals who don't want to talk and prefer to work through the trauma on their own. By examining the three groups' answers, Westmaas and Langsam said they hope to give counselors the tools they need to better identify the people who will respond to counseling. At the same time, they seek to prove there are people who prefer not to talk about a traumatic event, which is an acceptable way to cope.

If you are interested in taking part in the survey, please visit <https://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/CAS/trauma.nsf/survey2> and type "alumni" in the numerical code area. The survey is anonymous. *The Brook* will publish an update when more results are tallied later in the year.

A Drug to Remember

Donepezil, a drug used to treat Alzheimer's patients, has a recently discovered benefit: It can improve the memory of those suffering from multiple sclerosis (MS). This finding is part of a study led by Dr. Lauren Krupp, a professor of neurology and director of the Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis Comprehensive Care Center at Stony Brook University Hospital. The study, recently published in the journal *Neurology*, looked at 69 MS patients with mild mental impairment who were split randomly into two groups. Each group was given similar memory tests before the 24-week drug trial began. One group was then given the drug, the other a placebo. When the trial was completed, both groups were tested again. The group taking Donepezil scored 14 percent higher on a memory test than the placebo group. While these results are encouraging, Krupp and her fellow researchers believe a larger, multicenter investigation of Donepezil is warranted in order to assess more definitively the efficacy of the drug's use in MS patients.

Can an Aspirin a Day Keep Colon Cancer Away?

A daily dose of aspirin can help lower the risk of heart attack. Now a Stony Brook researcher is testing a form of "super aspirin" that may prevent colon cancer in people who are prone to the disease.

The study of the new, more potent aspirin—called nitric oxide-donating aspirin, or nitroaspirin—is being conducted by Basil Rigas, M.D., professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Cancer Prevention at Stony Brook's School of Medicine.

"Studies in cell culture and animals have shown that this new aspirin is hundreds to thousands of times more potent than traditional aspirin in inhibiting the growth of colon cancer cells, and quite effective in preventing the development of colon cancer in laboratory animals," Rigas explained. Human trials of nitroaspirin are now underway.

While traditional aspirin has been shown in clinical trials to be effective in preventing certain cancers, it also is associated with significant side effects, including gastrointestinal bleeding, kidney damage, and allergic reactions. Nitroaspirin has almost no side effects.

Colon cancer can take many years to develop, but is often not diagnosed in its earliest stages because cancerous lesions in the colon grow slowly and often without symptoms. More than 148,000 new cases of colon cancer are diagnosed in the United States each year and more than 56,000 Americans die of the disease annually, according to the American Cancer Society.



Researchers are studying how people heal after trauma, such as the September 11 attacks.



Researchers are testing whether nitroaspirin can help prevent colon cancer.

Rigas and his colleagues also are looking at more accurate ways to diagnose the disease in less time. The scientists are using an advanced imaging technique called magnifying endoscopy to examine the growth of the earliest recognizable lesions, known as *aberrant crypt foci*. The imaging technique will be used to evaluate 240 patients they expect to enroll over the next three years. With better imaging tools and pharmaceutical measures such as nitroaspirin, Rigas and his research team are moving ever closer to preventing colon and other cancers.

Rational Expectations

As concern over the fate of Social Security escalates, government officials may want to review some research recently completed by two professors in Stony Brook's Department of Economics before they implement any drastic policy decisions. Assistant Professors Debra Dwyer and Hugo Benitez-Silva are publishing a paper titled "Expectation Formation of Older Married Couples and the Rational Expectations Hypothesis," which will soon appear in *Labour Economics*. The researchers tested the Rational Expectations (RE) hypothesis regarding retirement expectations of older married American couples. RE is a theory often used in economics whereby researchers predict people's behavior in the future, even during uncertain times, if people behave rationally.

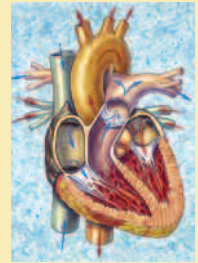
"If we make an assumption, and all of the results and policy inferences we draw hinge on that assumption, at some point someone should test the assumption," Dwyer explains.

The team used panel data from a health and retirement study funded by the National Institute on Aging to test the RE hypothesis. They found that couples' expectations were consistent with the RE hypothesis, so predictions can be made about their future retirement plans. For example, if someone at age 55 says he will retire at 65, our model tells us this decision is based on current health and economic status (including benefits like pensions, expected Social Security income, and program incentives and other relevant parameters), and therefore it can be assumed they will retire at 65, and the government can calculate how many people will retire in a given year.

"Many people see the hypotheses we draw as obvious, so why all the effort and math?" Dwyer notes. "One of the advantages of drawing hypotheses this way is to come up with a formal way to see not only what factors are involved in a choice, but also how they are involved and interact. From this we derive an econometric structure that predicts where the biases might be if we just went to straight statistics. So one of our biggest contributions to policy evaluation has been our econometric techniques for working with imperfect experiments and poorly measured data." ■

On the Horizon

Can a heartbeat be genetically engineered? Ira S. Cohen, leading professor of physiology and biophysics, and Peter R. Brink, professor and chairman of physiology and biophysics, with colleagues at Columbia University, are exploring the development of a cell-based biological pacemaker, which may advance the treatment of heart disease by using gene therapy. The goal of the program is to develop better treatment options. Preclinical studies have shown that when genetically engineered cells are placed in a specific region of the heart, they may communicate directly with heart muscle cells, stimulating the organ to generate a heartbeat similar to that produced by the heart's natural pacemaker. Guidant Corp. of Indianapolis, a world leader in the provision of treatments for cardiac and vascular disease, has committed to a major five-year phased investment in the collaboration.



Two Stony Brook University researchers were awarded nearly \$835,000 by the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program for proposed studies relating to early detection of breast cancer. Luminita Tudorica, a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Radiology, received \$427,868, and Wei Zhao, associate professor of radiology, received \$406,212. Only 14 percent of the proposals nationwide received funding.



Tudorica will focus on developing enhanced diagnostic tools for breast cancer, hoping to prevent false results that can occur in conventional mammography, which could lead to unnecessary biopsies and complications. Zhao is looking to improve digital mammography as a means to facilitate early detection of subtle breast abnormalities.

Researchers at SB will be developing and assessing tools as a way of better measuring pain and symptoms in patients with chronic disease, thanks to a five-year, \$3.9 million grant. The award is part of a \$129 million effort by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) called "Roadmap for Medical Research," a far-reaching initiative designed to transform the nation's medical research capabilities and speed the movement of scientific discoveries from the bench to the bedside.

Stony Brook is one of only six institutions—joining Duke, Pittsburgh, Stanford, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Washington—to receive a grant related to the theme of "Re-engineering the Clinical Research Enterprise," one of the three principal themes of the NIH Roadmap.

As part of its "Dynamic Assessment of Patient-Reported Chronic Disease Outcomes" study, Stony Brook, under the direction of Arthur A. Stone, Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, will conduct research at the University in collaboration with the other institutions to measure pain, fatigue, and chronic disease symptoms. These assessments are usually based on patients' memory over long periods—an often unreliable method—so alternative measures will be developed. Co-investigators on this project are Drs. Joan Broderick and Joseph Schwartz, also of the Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Lauren Krupp from the Department of Neurology, Dr. Alan Kaell from Rheumatology Associates of Long Island, and Dr. Norbert Schwarz from the University of Michigan.

Pain Level	Description
10	Totally Disabling
8	Severe
6	Distressful
4	Tolerable
2	Mild
0	Pain Free

Saving lives? Destroying them? The Stem Cell Controversy

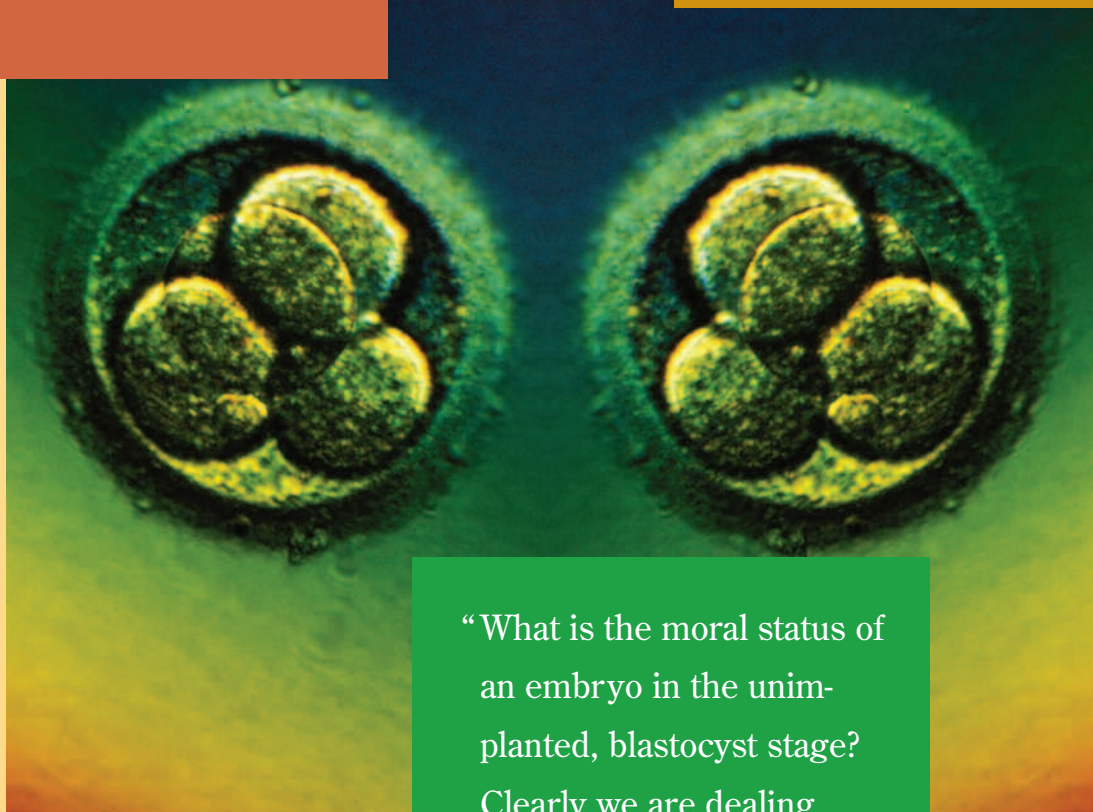
As the debate rages on, we sought answers from an award-winning essayist,
a political scientist, and an ethicist.

“Though I am a layman,
I allow myself to
generalize that even
the most brilliant
scientists do not always
grasp the implications
of their work.”

Lance Morrow

“The real fear, though, is
not the potential of mad
scientists reproducing
people but the lost poten-
tial of sound scientists
curing people.”

Brooke Ellison



“What is the moral status of
an embryo in the unim-
planted, blastocyst stage?
Clearly we are dealing
with an entity unknown in
the past which, therefore,
does not fit easily into tra-
ditional moral categories.”

Jack Coulehan, M.D.

The Essayist

Lance Morrow

“It is good to
relieve suffering,
but it is not
paramount.”

Most people approach the moral dimension of embryonic stem cell research by using a metaphor of “weighing” and “balancing.” What could be more civilized, more moderate, than “balance?” President Bush said he wanted his policy on government funding of such work to reflect the “need to balance value and respect for life with the promise of science, and the hope of saving life.” Even Bush’s critics would not object to that formulation.

A more militant approach waves the uncompromising banners of “rights”—whether that means, on one side, the right of free scientific inquiry, unimpeded by government or by ideological zealotry, or, on the other side, the rights of nascent life, as represented by embryos in laboratory freezers. Rights are non-negotiable; this line of argument hardens almost immediately into a stalemate of absolutes—which is where the abortion rights dispute in America has ended up.

Neither the moderate “weigh-and-balance” strategy nor the categorical “rights” approach is morally satisfactory. They are Potemkin villages. They both collapse, or become irrelevant, in the face of the essential question: Should the embryo be considered a human life? Potential human life? What are the rights, if any, of a human who is merely “potential?”

Either/or: If the embryo is human life, then no amount of weighing-and-balancing will make it all right to destroy that human life in hope of scientific gain; otherwise our science has turned into the workshop of Dr. Mengele. If the embryo is NOT human life, then you need not balance anything: Go after the Alzheimer’s, and sleep easy.

As for the “rights” front: If the embryo is human life, then it has rights. Stop the work now. If the embryo is not human life, then it is mere stuff, and does not have rights.

But if, as we say, it is to be regarded as “potential” human life, then we enter into that feckless, undignified dialogue of legalistic scholasticism that prevails now, a branch of metaphysics in which we hold up mirrors to the mouth and nose of the poor miniscule hypothetical tyke—how many embryos can fit on the head of a pin?—and fashion an opinion about embryonic stem cell research that is not so much reasoned (since the matter of when we become human, of when we achieve “ensoulment,” is mysterious) as it is retrofitted to our existing prejudices.

I suspect that wisdom on this subject may lie elsewhere.

A few months ago at Caltech, I talked to a physicist, now in his nineties, who, as a young man, worked with J. Robert Oppenheimer at Los Alamos. The physicist told me that one day in the spring of 1945, Oppenheimer asked, in effect, How are we going to set off this thing? And the young physicist got out his pad and pencil and designed the trigger mechanism for the Nagasaki bomb. (Someone else handled Hiroshima.)

I asked this distinguished, deeply intelligent man about both the scientific and the moral dimensions of his work on the Manhattan project, how he felt about what the team was doing, and how it turned out. I asked, of course, about the death toll, and he astonished me.

He said: “Well, we were focusing on knocking down the buildings.” He meant that it had not quite occurred to him and his colleagues that such horrible carnage would result. It was the buildings that they were concentrating on, and they did not quite see, um, the people.

Though I am a layman, I allow myself to generalize that even the most brilliant scientists do not always grasp the implications of their work.

Fairly or unfairly, my mind keeps projecting these two subjects beside one another, to see if the juxtaposition has anything to say. Hiroshima was an ultimate act of war, intended to destroy, to obliterate. Shock and awe to the hundredth power. Embryonic stem cell research is meant to cure diseases and save lives. Harry Truman and those who defended use of the atom bomb argued—and they had no other argument—that it was dropped in order to stop the war immediately and to save lives (Japanese as well as American). Which it did. Embryonic stem cell research has about it (to my imagination, anyway) a touch of the disquieting metaphysics of the hidden and tiny and immensely potential world of the atom and the sperm and the egg (death from diddlings of the atom, life from unions of sperm and egg—the cosmic potency of the potential), a troubling hallucinatory glimpse of “half-lives” in the stem cell refrigerators, all those millions of frozen embryos, those microscopic hypotheses of discarded human beings.

After the bombs were dropped on Japan, Oppenheimer, a difficult, mystic, and possibly unknowable man, had the humility to describe this ultimate flowering of the Enlightenment in atavistic theological terms. He said that the scientists “have known sin.”

I find similarly atavistic thoughts creeping into my reflections on embryonic stem cell research. Extraordinary promises are made for this kind of research—the medical equivalent of a healer’s tent meeting, proffering cures for Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, diabetes, spinal cord injuries, and much more. (As far as I know, there is no reason yet to believe that these cures will actually materialize.) The drama of Nancy Reagan testifying—witnessing—for such research brings to the tent the spectacle of a conservative convert whose mind presumably has passed from medieval dark to Enlightenment. *Newsweek’s* Jonathan

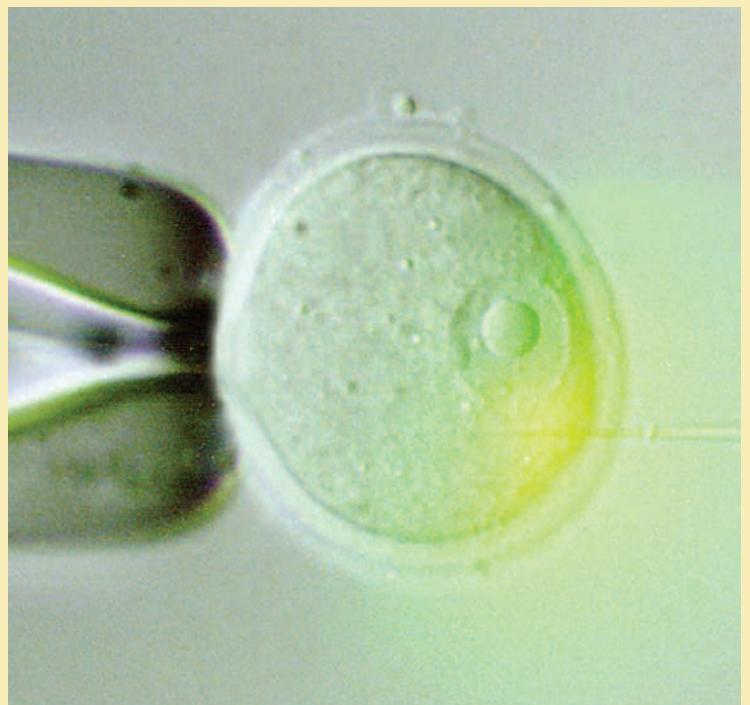


Image of an unfertilized oocyte, or egg, magnified 400 times.

Alter writes, with the condescension of the *bien-pensant*, that “these days, a liberal on health issues is a conservative who’s been mugged by an illness in the family.”

Well, in May of 1947, *Collier’s* magazine promised that a new “golden age of atomic medicine” would cure cancer and practically everything else. Robert Hutchins at the University of Chicago rhapsodized that in the new atomic age, “the atomic city will have a central diagnostic center, but only a small hospital, if any at all, for most human ailments will be cured as rapidly as they are diagnosed.” *Coronet* magazine in 1948 promised that atomic energy would abolish diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. The Nobel Prize in medicine that year, 1948, went to the man who invented DDT.

So I repeat that I am not dead certain that scientists always understand, as they should, the implications of their work; sometimes, they see even less than laymen do, because, like the people at Los Alamos, they may be narrowly if passionately focused on their work, and by definition they have a partisan’s perspective. In any case, they can get as carried away as the rest of us.

It seems to me that embryonic stem cell research should be viewed in a longer-range and wider perspective than it is now; that the discussion should not in any case degenerate into pettifoggery about how much medical progress would justify how much of an ugly moral trade-off, or about whether there occurs an instant of human ignition when paternally and maternally contributed haploid pro-nuclei combine to form a unique diploid nucleus of a developing zygote.

The problem concerns the dangers of introducing a principle of research that, while seemingly tolerable or acceptable or even admirable in its present application (saving lives, finding the cure for diabetes or Parkinson’s), may become the gateway to irreversible evils farther down the line.

I think from time to time of the example of Franz Stangl, an apparently decent Catholic family man and Viennese policeman who was recruited by the Nazis in the late 1930s to take over as head of security at an Austrian mental hospital. In due course, the hospital proposed gassing a few of its most hopeless cases—virtual vegetables who had no lives at all, immobile, imbecilic; it would be a mercy to put them gently to sleep. Stangl reluctantly agreed to preside over the procedure...and in the fullness of time, one procedure leading to another, the decent family man became the *kommandant* of Treblinka, the Nazi extermination camp in which hundreds of thousands died under Stangl’s (and his predecessor’s) supervision.

It is not far-fetched, I think, to worry that some biotech manipulations will have very bad consequences. We should be careful and patient, and cultivate the most neglected virtue, humility, the one that came to Oppenheimer when he talked of “sin.” Human beings are not garbage, no matter how relentlessly they treat one another as such, and any process, such as industrial *in vitro* fertilization, that inevitably generates hundreds of thousands of unused embryos that will be frozen and eventually discarded is, I fear, leading the human race down the corridor toward the last room in Bluebeard’s Castle.

Aha! the argument flies back: You have just argued in favor of embryonic stem cell research. Those hundreds of thousands of unused embryos, which otherwise would go out with the garbage, should be salvaged and used for embryonic stem cell research: Medical good might thus come out of what might be otherwise—let us admit it—an unfortunate business.

No, sorry, that is just a transient and morally dubious side question. The real issue, the larger one, concerns the decency and self-respect of

the human race over the long range. It really is not all right to treat human life as garbage, no matter how ambitious your scientific and medical reasons for doing so. If using adult stem cells for research proves unsatisfactory, then scientists in their ingenuity must find other ways. It is good to relieve suffering, but it is not paramount. The human race will continue to suffer in any case. It was sad that Ronald Reagan spent his last decade with Alzheimer’s, and it was an ordeal for his wife; but the man had 83 good and rich and prosperous years. Let us not be greedy.



Researcher examines stem cells in a culture dish.

Lance Morrow is an essayist at *Time* magazine and University Professor at Boston University. He is a two-time winner of the National Magazine Award. His latest book, *Evil, An Investigation*, was published last fall by Basic Books. His next, *The Best Year of Their Lives: Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon in 1948*, will be published this spring.

The Political Scientist

Brooke Ellison

“The procedure has the potential to affect directly the lives of nearly 100 million people... that’s more than the populations of New York, California, Texas, and Florida, combined!”

The ability to view the world through another’s eyes is the essence of altruism. When putting their pens to the paper of policy, those who legislate should remove themselves from their own convictions and act for the benefit of the most. This is the basic tenet of democracy, the core belief upon which the United States was founded. However, when looking at the issue of stem cell research, in general, and federally funded research, in specific, our president is inextricably linked to his own,

highly conservative, myopic ideology and has failed both to understand the situation of others and hear their voices.

In September 1990, when I was 11 years old, I was hit by a car while walking home from my first day of 7th grade. That accident left me paralyzed from my neck down and dependent on a ventilator for every breath I take. As a person with a physical disability, each day is a struggle. Tasks that might seem mundane or taken for granted to others are strenuous challenges for me, sometimes taking long hours to complete instead of mere minutes. With the thought of so much potential on the horizon, a series of hopeful hypotheticals rolls in a perpetual cycle through the minds of those bound by physical challenges. When we place our hopes and visions for our world into the hands of those making collective decisions, we do it with the belief that they will act on behalf of our best interest and not on an isolated viewpoint. To do otherwise is bad policy. To undermine the interests of a majority of citizens is bad policy. To ignore the voices and dash the hopes of those most in need is bad policy. Regarding the issue of current stem cell research legislation, these are bad policies, yet they are being upheld. Every day, millions of disabled people think similar thoughts:

“If I could be freed from the confines of my physical condition, what a miracle it would be.” Or, maybe, “If, for a single moment, I could wrap my arms around those I love, what a treasure that would be.”

And even, “If, by some chance, President Bush might heed some of my recurrent thoughts and change his stance on stem cell research, what a potentially groundbreaking step it would be.”

Based on current legislation, these “ifs” likely won’t change into reality. On August 9, 2001, from his ranch in Crawford, Texas, President Bush announced that he would significantly limit federal funds to stem cell research, only agreeing to fund research conducted on stem cell lines already in existence. According to this limitation, federally supported research could be conducted on no more than 78 existing genetic cell lines, although even the most optimistic estimates of viable cells were thought to be far fewer, less than two dozen. To the delight of some and the consternation of others, Mr. Bush indicated that the use of embryonic cells for medical research was a violation of the sanctity of life, analogous to abortion or euthanasia. In the President’s own words, “I worry about a culture that devalues life, and believe as your President I have an important obligation to foster and encourage respect for life in America and throughout the world... Embryonic stem cell research offers both great promise and great peril. So I have decided we must proceed with great care.” Despite millions of testimonies and pleas to the contrary, since that day more than three years ago the opinion of the administration has remained constant and no restrictions have been eased. Despite

strides being made in other countries in the field of stem cell research, the U.S. government has remained resolute in its opposition to it.

Therapeutic stem cell research has the potential to provide cures for a considerable number of neurological and degenerative conditions, including Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, childhood leukemia, heart disease, ALS, several cancers, and spinal cord injuries. The procedure has the potential to affect directly the lives of nearly 100 million people—that’s more than one-third of the U.S. population and more than the entire populations of New York, California, Texas, and Florida, combined! Therapeutic stem cell research, however, is sometimes confused with reproductive stem cell procedures, such as genetic engineering, sparking controversy in some political camps. The two types of research differ considerably, though, both in terms of procedure and intent, and represent two diverse ends on a very long, complex spectrum—an understanding that often goes ignored.

Some have argued that using stem cells is just the destruction of one life for the sake of another. To hold such a belief is to view the world in black-and-white terms, thereby ignoring the much more complex gray areas. Yes, it is possible that if a blastocyst, from where stem cells were derived, was to be inserted into a womb and allowed to grow for nine months, there is the potential a life could be born. However, that is not the case for any of the blastocysts that yield stem cells for research. These blastocysts will go unused after *in vitro* fertilization procedures and will never be used to bring about life. These blastocysts, which the President proclaims represent the sanctity of life, will only be kept in freezers at fertility clinics until they have expired, and then they will be discarded. Under current legislation, they are of no use to anybody. To rob the stem cells of their other potential of life, which is to cure diseases or to help regenerate parts of the body, is really to devalue life in another, otherwise avoidable, way.

Others have argued that the work done on stem cells is the same as cloning, and that these cells are essentially promoting the creation of another person. The once almost incomprehensible, futuristic ideas of cloning and “body-doubles” are now considered feasible and fearsome possibilities, and therapeutic stem cell research has been the unwitting victim of the prevalent fears. Orwell’s *1984* has somehow come to life in 2004, with the speculations made by some about unintended, science-fiction consequences. But the connection between human reproduction and human therapy is a foggy one at best. The real fear, though, is not the potential of mad scientists reproducing people but the lost potential of sound scientists curing people.

Fourteen years ago, I could have never imagined having to advocate for something that could potentially restore for me the very basic aspects of life and humanity. But, that is something that no one should have to imagine. Science has given medicine more promise than ever before, with the potential to heal and restore people in ways once thought unfathomable. Stem cells, which would otherwise serve no other purpose, hold the promise of life, not just for the newly born but now for the already living, and this opportunity must be seized. The time is now. The time has come when we can change the lives of so many, giving to them the fundamental parts of life and dignity. When he realizes that, maybe President Bush will redefine his right, ethical, and moral conclusion.

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The Ethicist Jack Coulehan

“The strongest moral position is that the embryo is a fully human person. . . . At the opposite pole, an embryo may be considered solely from an instrumental perspective as having essentially no moral standing.”

discussion, and then elaborate on the moral territory in which stem cell research belongs.

When we say “stem cells” in this context, what are we speaking about? We are neither talking about bone marrow stem cells, which can differentiate into many different types of blood cells, nor about fetal cells from the umbilical cord, which may be able to differentiate into a wide variety of tissues. There are active research programs in both of these areas, looking into the potential for use in treating disease. One practical result, of course, has been the emergence of bone marrow transplantation. The use of these pluripotent stem cells, which may turn into many different types of cells, is not ethically problematic. Rather, the current controversy surrounds totipotent cells that come only from embryos. These cells eventually differentiate into every organ and tissue in the human body. If that potential could be harnessed, we would be able to use them to regenerate tissue severely damaged by disease; for example, specific types of nerve cells to treat degenerative diseases of the brain. It was in 1998 that researchers at the University of Wisconsin first developed methods of identifying and isolating embryonic stem cells, so the possibility of this type of research has only been around for about six years. In that time it has generated a lot of excitement and some progress, but there have been no practical results.

Thus far, most stem cell research has taken place outside the United States in countries like England, Canada, Belgium, China, Singapore, and Korea. In 2001, President Bush severely compromised our research programs in the United States by limiting federal funding exclusively to projects that utilized already established stem cell lines. At the time the President said there were 66 of these cell lines, but in fact far fewer of them existed, and many of these were unavailable to American scientists. The reason, of course, for the partial ban on federal funding was the Administration’s unwillingness to support programs that, in its opinion, encourage abortion.

This raises the question of where stem cell researchers obtain embryos. The specter of aborted fetuses generates a great deal of moral indignation. However, for the most part such fetuses—whether miscarried or electively aborted—could not serve as totipotent stem cell sources, since tissues and organs are already differentiated. In fact, the best source of stem cells is embryos in the blastocyst stage; i.e., clumps of approximately eight or 16 cells. There are hundreds of thousands of such embryos available in this country, created by *in vitro* fer-

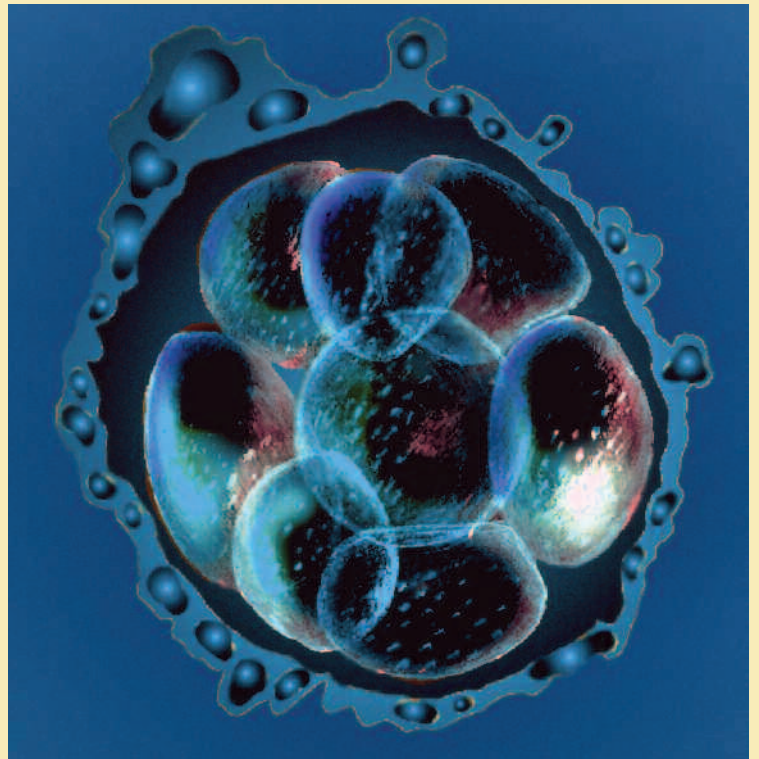
The first step in analyzing an ethical issue is to get the facts straight. The second step is to clarify the question. Unfortunately, much of the ethical discourse about stem cell research in the United States today skips these steps of the reasoning process and jumps immediately to a bottom-line position, usually couched in impressive terms like *rights*, *dignity*, *sacred*, *person*, and *natural*. This approach tends to create provocative sound bites but makes little or no progress toward responsible public policy. I want to concentrate first on the facts and the issue, which provide a basis for

tilization (IVF), and frozen, but not implanted, in the woman’s uterus. Frozen embryos are maintained for varying periods of time but are eventually destroyed. Thousands are destroyed every year. Such embryos could be utilized for stem cell research.

Another source of embryos for research is cloning. Although we have hundreds of thousands of naturally cloned human beings living among us (identical twins), the concept of artificially inducing the cloning process raises many irrational fears as well as significant moral questions, which require thoughtful consideration. However, stem cell research and cloning are separate issues.

Now we get to the locus of contention—what is the moral status of an embryo in the unimplanted, blastocyst stage? Clearly, we are dealing with an entity unknown in the past which, therefore, does not fit easily into traditional moral categories. The strongest moral position is that the embryo is a fully human person. Hence, it is entitled to all the rights and respect given to babies. This is the consistent position of the Catholic Church, which teaches that personhood begins at conception. At the opposite pole of the moral spectrum, an embryo may be considered solely from an instrumental perspective as having essentially no moral standing. This is the view held by Professor Peter Singer, a thoroughgoing utilitarian philosopher who believes that personhood begins only with the onset of fully human consciousness, somewhere around the end of the first year of life.

While positions like these delimit the territory, there is obviously an enormous range of principled positions between the extremes. No one would disagree that a blastocyst contains the genetic machinery necessary to develop into a person; it is at least a potential person. However, most would also acknowledge that, at present, such an embryo lacks any of the characteristic (detectable, at least) attributes



The best source of stem cells is embryos in the blastocyst stage—eight or 16 cells.

of personhood. Hence, it seems reasonable to accord the embryo some respect, as a living entity out of which human dignity eventually develops, yet not to insist that the embryo is somehow a person in itself.

Just how much respect should we bestow the blastocyst, and how does that impact on stem cell research? I suggest three considerations that are important in helping us evaluate the moral status of embryos:

First, embryos produced by IVF techniques, yet remaining outside the uterus, may well be different in their moral status from implanted embryos. The process of development requires complex interaction between mother and fetus. The uterus is not simply a vessel in which the fetus grows, but rather part of a unified fetus-placenta-mother system that ultimately leads to the birth of a new person. Thus, the genetic blueprint is necessary but not sufficient for development of personhood. Frozen embryos, or “fresh” embryos created by IVF, are not “potential persons” to the same extent, or in the same way, as normally or artificially implanted embryos. If that is true, it would be ethical to use externally created embryos for stem cell research but not ethical to induce abortion for the same purpose.

The second consideration has to do with consistency. The Catholic Church has a consistent position that states it is immoral to fertilize eggs (and hence create embryos) outside the woman’s body. Therefore, IVF and most other forms of assisted reproduction are intrinsically immoral. If an embryo is formed, it must be considered a person. Consequently, allowing frozen embryos to die—whether they are used for stem cell research or not—is wrong. I don’t agree with this analysis, but I admire its consistency. On the other hand, many people who believe that assisted reproduction is good and see no problem with killing extra embryos will argue against using embryonic cells for stem cell research. This is inconsistent and does not hold up under scrutiny.

Finally, some writers have recently argued that the United States needs to get its act together and start funding stem cell research because otherwise we will slip far behind and eventually have to purchase leading-edge treatments (derived from stem cells) from foreign countries. While this is likely to be true, I don’t think the argument has moral bite. If countries like England and Canada develop sophisticated new therapies by manipulating stem cells, which we consider an immoral form of research, it is not morally consistent to say that we want to benefit by eating the fruit of that poisoned tree. Of course, the persons urging us to keep up with the Brits do not think stem cell research is unethical, but I can easily imagine many Americans now opposed to such research changing their minds as soon as an effective stem cell treatment for a serious degenerative disease develops.

What lies in the future for embryonic stem cell research? At this point we have no idea. It is very early in the game, which makes it exciting because of all the possibilities. Yet, who knows whether any of them will pan out? One thing is certain. Research employing human blastocysts raises important ethical concerns and ought to be carefully regulated. Thoughtful analysis of the level of respect due to embryos ought to be the first step in developing our national policy. n

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What is a stem cell and what is all the fuss?

Peter Gergen

Professor of Biochemistry and Cell Biology
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The development of a multicellular organism from a fertilized egg depends on regulating the proliferation of cells during development and their differentiation into cells with different specific functions.

So what is a stem cell and how does it fit into developmental control strategies? The central property defining a stem cell is the ability to divide, producing two daughter cells, one of which retains the key parental property of being able to divide again. Stem cells are clearly important during the early, proliferative stages of development, but are also found in adults where they help to replace cells that turn over, such as those in blood and skin. Ongoing research is exploring the use of adult stem cells in the treatment of numerous diseases, with one obstacle being the restricted developmental potential of these cells to give rise to different cell types. This obstacle is one reason for the excitement regarding embryonic stem cells, or ES cells.

The most frequently referred to source of ES cells is a small cluster of approximately 100 cells, the inner cell mass in a blastocyst stage. These cells are readily identified and isolated, and can be cultured in an undifferentiated state almost indefinitely. Blastocyst-stage embryos are typically obtained by *in vitro* fertilization, although alternative approaches for generating ES cells from blastocysts, derived by transplantation of nuclei into unfertilized oocytes, are being developed.

An important attribute of ES cells is their ability to generate all of the different cell types in the body, offering enormous potential to treat degenerative diseases. The first human ES cell lines were described in 1998. However, over the last 20 years there is a large body of research on ES cells from other animals, much of this conducted on mice. Indeed, the ability to culture and manipulate ES cells from the mouse has revolutionized the study of mammalian developmental biology. Genetic manipulation of ES cells has allowed the development of mouse models for a large number of human diseases, and studies are underway to explore the feasibility of treating these diseases with stem cell-based therapies.

So where are we now with respect to research on human stem cells? In August 2001 President Bush announced that federal funds could only be used to support research on the different human ES cell lines already available at that time. As it turns out, only a subset of these government-certified cell lines are useful. This has hampered stem cell research in the United States but has not stopped scientists eager to explore the enormous therapeutic potential. Scientists in Korea recently generated a human ES cell line from a blastocyst created by nuclear transplantation. Scientists in the United States have turned to non-federal sources of support for their research, and most recently California passed a proposition that would provide state funds to support embryonic stem cell research. The federal government has traditionally played a leading role in establishing guidelines followed by the entire scientific community. The current government policy is not constructive and is not being followed. It is time to re-examine our position on stem cell research and make well-informed decisions that are acceptable to the public. A useful Web site for those who would like to learn more about stem cell research is maintained by the International Society for Stem Cell Research at www.isscr.org.

By Lawrence K. Grossman

Can

TV



be saved?



Anchors Away? Dan Rather and Tom Brokaw have left the networks. Of the old guard, only Peter Jennings remains.

With coverage edgier, budgets leaner, and the new media challenging, the traditional standards of quality journalism are under siege.

On Tuesday night, August 31, 2004, the three major networks' half-century-long TV news hegemony finally came to an end. For the first time ever, more viewers watched the coverage of a major news event on a cable channel—the upstart Fox News—than on ABC, CBS, or NBC. The ratings victory by Fox News during last summer's Republican National Convention signaled the start of a new, more tendentious kind of TV news. Now there is news-with-an-attitude—edgy, confrontational, and mostly conservative. And this in-your-face approach—in contrast to the broadcast networks' declared goals of objective and fair-minded reporting—seems to be a spin-off from the current success of opinionated talk radio. To those on the right, the Fox News triumph represents a long-overdue shift from the predominantly liberal media establishment. To those on the left, it means the media, viewed as megaphones for the establishment, are moving even farther to the right.

All this is upon us as the new information technology reshapes not only the way news is delivered but its quality and character as well. Today's 24-hour cable news channels, Internet Web sites, online bloggers, streaming video, and even news via cell phone provide headlines on demand and offer an unprecedented range of styles and viewpoints.

How well is this broadband news stew serving the nation? Here's one bizarre indication: In 2004, the Television Critics Association bestowed its annual award for Best News and Public Affairs Program on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, the Comedy Central hit that boasts it provides "Fair and Balanced *Fake News*." To his credit, even Jon Stewart thought the critics made a weird choice. But the critics' decision does reflect the widely growing distrust and cynicism about the current state of TV news.

THE OLD NEWS FALTERS

Change is clearly afoot. New-breed, outspoken cable news talkers and Internet bloggers are rapidly raising their voices and profiles while the networks' star anchors are departing. NBC's Tom Brokaw retired while still on top of the ratings last December. After a distinguished career, Dan Rather, scathed by CBS News's sloppy use of fake documents in its unseemly rush to expose President Bush's National Guard service, is retiring from *The CBS Evening News* in March. And ABC's Peter Jennings will undoubtedly not be far behind. Their replacements, no matter how able, don't stand a chance of matching their predecessors' popularity or nationwide authority. Though the networks' flagship evening newscasts still draw bigger audiences than cable and the Internet combined, their numbers are steadily eroding and aging. To stay competitive, the half-hour network newscasts now spend less time on hard news so they can bring you more scandal, celebrities, and "soft" entertaining features. In prime time, the networks' once-distinguished hourlong documentaries, featuring in-depth reports on critical public issues, are largely a relic of the past. In their place, network news magazines like *NBC Dateline* and ABC's *20/20* deliver slick, trivial nonfiction entertainment.

Just the long-running, influential (and still profitable) Sunday morning network talk shows—NBC's *Meet the Press*, CBS's *Face the Nation*, and ABC's *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*—remain from the networks' once substantial commitment to meaningful public affairs programming. They're the only places to go now for insightful, expert analysis of the week's events.

Driven by a laser-like focus on the bottom line, GE, Viacom, and Disney, the giant conglomerates that own NBC, CBS, and ABC, no longer accord their once-proud news divisions special status atop their corporate hierarchies. They have shut down foreign news bureaus,

reduced the corps of correspondents, and increasingly outsourced or pooled news gathering. Even ABC's award-winning *Nightline* with Ted Koppel is now threatened with extinction.

True, when ABC, CBS, and NBC interrupt their entertainment schedules for continuous live coverage of major events such as the tragedy of 9/11, presidential debates, and the Iraq war, they recapture some of their past glory. But they now have to share that glory with the cable news channels. And even there, the mighty have fallen. After the networks slashed their live coverage of the Democratic and Republican national conventions rather than pre-empt summer reruns, a poll by the Committee of Concerned Journalists gave the networks a worse grade for their 2004 election campaign coverage than newspapers, news magazines, radio news, and even cable. Only local TV news ranked lower.

The state of the nation's local TV news has always been an easy mark for criticism and disdain. In 2004, the judges of the duPont-Columbia Broadcast Journalism Awards (I was one of them) could not find a single major market TV station worthy of receiving a local news award. Most Americans have little choice but to rely on their local stations for news about regional politics and civic affairs, and what they typically get is a daily overdose of crime, sports, weather, and celebrity happenings.

During the last election, Sinclair and Pappas, two companies that own numerous TV stations, made a brazen and unprecedented attempt to skew their news programming in order to elect the candidates they favored. Sinclair ordered its stations to carry the highly partisan anti-Kerry Swift Boat film the week before the election. The company claimed, over the protest of its own news director, that the film was news, which is exempt from the FCC's regulation requiring stations to grant candidates equal time during campaigns. Sinclair fired its recalcitrant news director, but an embarrassing public outcry and a quick appeal to the FCC thwarted its plan. Pappas offered \$325,000 worth of advertising time on its California stations free of charge to the company's favored local GOP candidates. Pappas insisted the offer was an "in kind corporate gift" and therefore also not subject to the equal time requirement. The FCC is still hearing the case.

Additionally, in 2002, the most recent bi-election year, two studies—one by the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, the other by the USC Annenberg School and the University of Wisconsin—showed local TV news stations generally giving scant coverage to the debates and the serious issues at hand.

THE NEW MEDIA DELIVER A DIFFERENT MESSAGE

For the latest in news treatments, tune in to Bill O'Reilly or *Hannity and Colmes* on Fox News in prime time, or to Chris Matthews or *Scarborough Country* on MSNBC, or to *Crossfire* on CNN (the news channel once known for its nuts-and-bolts straight-arrow coverage, but now struggling to redefine itself in the face of rising competition). You'll find these cable news shows less balanced, less carefully edited, less serious, and much more in your face than mainstream network TV news ever dared to be.

Or go online and read the proliferating Web sites and chattering bloggers who deal with current affairs. You'll find much that is thoughtful, lively, original, well-informed, and provocative. You'll also discover much that is unbalanced, unfair, and inaccurate. Blogging does give more and more people their own voice in the news. But the Web makes it harder to distinguish fact from fiction, truth from rumor, and reality from entertainment.

The good news is that the new news media have clearly enlivened the public's engagement with public affairs. This

past summer, according to a survey by The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press and the University of Michigan, 40 percent of Internet users went online for their political information, a substantial increase over four years ago. Another Pew study found that while the Internet still takes a backseat to television, 31 percent of its users view the Web as their primary source of news, only slightly less than the 35 percent who named newspapers. The study also found that the Internet serves as a check on the performance of the mainstream news sources. It was the bloggers, after all, who humiliated *60 Minutes*, *CBS News*, and Dan Rather by exposing as forgeries the documents they used to question President Bush's National Guard service.

Last year, Howard Dean's campaign manager Joe Trippi wrote a book, *The Revolution Will Not be Televised—Democracy, the Internet and the Overthrow of Everything*, predicting that the Internet will be democracy's savior thanks to its ability to engage people, hold conversations with millions of voters, generate instant feedback, and open up the political process. Ironically, that's exactly what people expected television to achieve. Instead, in the words of the late great TV news producer Fred W. Friendly, "Television made so much money doing its worst, it could no longer afford to do its best." And today, television bears much of the blame for diverting the nation from civic life, eroding the public's appetite for political engagement, and escalating the cost of campaigning far beyond any reasonable level.

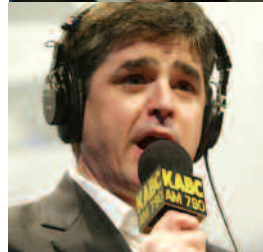
By stimulating public debate and voter interest, the new news media have created a more active electorate than this country has seen in years. Their partisan and strident opinion mongers, leaning mostly to the right (although there are plenty of leftist bloggers, too), have generated new passion about public issues. Now political scientists worry about the overzealous involvement in politics by an emotional and deeply divided electorate.

But what about the future? Will the increasing competition from new media have the same effect on television as the competition from the rise of television had on radio? Before the age of television, radio had been a vital national news medium featuring many distinguished correspondents. Today news on commercial radio is limited to syndicated headline reports and opinionated talkers. As Lowry Mays, president of Clear Channel, the company that owns more than 1,000 radio stations nationwide, said to *Fortune* magazine in 2003, "We're not in the business of providing news and information.... We're simply in the business of selling our customers' products." The new era of TV news already shows signs that it's in the same business.

And what long-term hope is there for quality news and public affairs via the Internet as it matures? To spice up its Web offerings, the bellwether Internet company Yahoo! recently hired ABC TV's former entertainment chairman who developed that network's new hit *Desperate Housewives*. As radio and television did, will the Internet, too, morph into a high-profit commercial entertainment and merchandise mart, while less profitable online news and public affairs services diminish or disappear? Or will the Internet fulfill the role that Joe Trippi anticipated as the ideal medium for democracy's salvation?

The verdict is still out. But unless the nation re-establishes meaningful public service standards for the publicly owned digital airways and invests in new public telecommunications media that will serve the public interest, the prospects for quality, independent news gathering and reporting in the new broadband age do not at this point look promising. ■

Lawrence K. Grossman has served as president of both NBC News (1984-88) and PBS (1976-84). He has written extensively on media affairs.



Talking Heads:
Political pundit James Carville, Comedy Central's fake newsmeister Jon Stewart, Fox News' Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity, and MSNBC's Chris Matthews.

The Globe in Our Hands



Richard Leakey, renowned paleoanthropologist and world leader in conservation, is Visiting Professor at Stony Brook. On May 6-8, 2005, he will convene the first Stony Brook World Environmental Forum to address the impact of climate change on natural reserves and national parks. The Brook's Murray Lamond asked Dr. Leakey about the Forum and the conservation crisis we face.

The Brook: *What is the greatest conservation crisis today?*

Richard Leakey: Global warming is having an enormous impact on climates and a related impact on all sorts of habitats. These together are creating a crisis for humanity: natural disasters cause a crisis for economies, economies in crisis cause a crisis on the land, crises on the land cause crises in soil and water conservation. It comes down to this: Change the climate dramatically and conservation, in any context, is adversely affected.

This has grave implications for biodiversity, which is a low priority in terms of public funding. Natural systems come under huge stress and fragile environments are destroyed. As a result, life forms simply die at unprecedented rates. We are in another period of great extinctions.

The certainty of this outcome is such that you can no longer say "if." It's much more a question of, "We have an enormous problem; what the hell are we going to do about it?"

The Brook: *Why is this especially a crisis for the world's nature reserves and national parks?*

Richard Leakey: The idea of national parks (of which Yellowstone was the first) was to take a chunk of the earth's surface and to keep it "as it was." That took no account of the fact that "was" is not necessarily "is," and that climate change had happened before. Back then, it was taken for granted that there was a steady progression in nature and that one could expect pretty much the same mixture of life.

But the buildup of carbon in the atmosphere has happened at such an accelerated rate that it takes away the assumptions on which national parks were founded. Animals may find themselves trapped in vastly altered spaces, unsuitable for their survival, and be unable to migrate. Growing human populations surround and hem them in. This is a very serious management crisis, requiring massive international intervention.



Coral reefs, a vital part of the ocean food chain, are dying off, and we don't know why.

The Brook: *Do the oceans, which do not have boundaries like those on land, face similar issues?*

Richard Leakey: I think the oceans present an even bigger problem than those on land. First, our lack of information is astounding. Then the current state of international marine law in which countries have 200-mile off-shore boundaries and there are equal rights for the high seas makes no sense. The effluent coming out of, say, the East River in New York is having an impact on the other side of the Atlantic and needs to be controlled.

Factors we do not yet understand are causing our coral reefs to bleach and die off. The fact is, most of the corals in the great marine reserves, which seem to be central to the replenishment of fish stocks and a vital part of the food chain, will vanish if we take no action. I think 25 to 30 years from now there may be no more marine coral environments as we know them.

We already know that fish reserves are impossibly stretched. We have marine reserves—there are huge ones in the Pacific, the Great Barrier Reef, and zones around the coasts. But they face major challenges.

The Brook: *What is the role of the Stony Brook World Environmental Forum in dealing with this?*

Richard Leakey: I should stress that the Environmental Forum will be a series of events, in which the conference on protected areas and climate change is only the first. There will be other conferences and they will be of a very diverse nature.

But I believe that, if we get the right people together, this inaugural conference can change the course of history. Our recommendations, if taken, will provide a plan for agencies, governments, and corporations to come together, evaluate the threat, and take steps to intervene against the threat.

The Brook: *What do you think are your chances of success?*

Richard Leakey: I'm very optimistic. The conference is timely, almost as if we saw ahead. But the number of international discussions and meetings that have taken place over the past couple of years is leading to a point where somebody has to do something. That makes our forum a likely place where something will actually be done. Which is perfect.

The Brook: *What are the major obstacles?*

Richard Leakey: Political will, for one. It's a serious problem that we face a long-range scenario calling for a long-term strategy, and we are asking politicians—who have short-term jobs—to make decisions that will be unpopular to the people who elect them. The temptation is to think "It won't happen in my time," as opposed to saying, "It's better to avoid the crisis entirely; let's do it now and be real leaders."

In America, there's also the question of indifference. The unique history of this country has created isolationism, a sense of parochialism in the U.S. People need to know they are interconnected.

The Brook: *In many of the countries where conservation is in crisis, governments are weak and lack resources. Do you think recommendations from the Forum could really be implemented?*

Richard Leakey: What you say is true, but it's also true that the same sorts of arguments were made about smallpox, illiteracy, HIV-AIDS,



Global climate change and dense populations surrounding national parks and preserves prevent migration of animals to more temperate environments, dooming them to extinction.

“Ignoring this problem while tackling terrorism doesn’t make the world safer.”

democracy, and human rights. And we’ve made immense progress in those areas. We must be aware of the interdependence of all parts of the world. Those who have more resources surely have an obligation

to restrain, to be involved, and to empower other parts of the world to do the right thing. One can’t just say, “These are lawless states; we can’t do anything about them.” When it comes to terrorism, people don’t say, “Who cares?”

This problem has major security implications: If sea level rises as a result of the melting ice caps, many nations will cease to be countries at all. Bangladesh, for example, will disappear

off the face of the earth, and we will have to physically relocate its 150 million people. Ignoring this problem while tackling terrorism doesn’t make the world safer.

The Brook: *Won’t intervention by developed countries in the under-developed world be cause for resentment or accusations of imperialism?*

Richard Leakey: To that I would say, “It really is time to grow up.” We can argue forever about whose fault it is that global warming happens or whose responsibility it is to fix it. The point is, climate change is happening, and we must do something.

I make the parallel again to human rights. Countries may say, “It’s none of your business that I cut off my citizens’ right arms for shoplifting.” I think we need to say, “It is our business because it’s our planet. And the significance of your sovereignty doesn’t impress me when it comes to human rights.” I think the significance of sovereignty when it comes to abusing the environment shouldn’t impress us either.

The Brook: *Does development play a role in conservation?*

Richard Leakey: There are clearly connections to be drawn between poverty reduction and conservation. The greatest driving force behind degradation has been poverty. People need to feed their families. If they have no jobs, they will use what resources they have; for example, if you’ve no fuel but wood, it’s not being irresponsible to use it. Development is not the enemy of conservation, necessarily. It may be a vital part of it.

The Brook: *What role do educators have in promoting conservation?*

Richard Leakey: More emphasis should be placed on geography. You won’t get very far unless you recognize we’re talking about the globe—which, as kids, we used to hold in our hands. We were told, “This is the world. Where are you? What do you think is happening *there*?” There’s a sense of oneness you get from learning about life with a globe in your hands.

The Brook: *What are your hopes for the Forum?*

Richard Leakey: It must be intellectually challenging and academically useful—and not politically neutral. The outcome should have practical application. My next thoughts are for a conference on the environmental implications of foreign aid and how it is used. n

THE STONY BROOK WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM CONVENED BY RICHARD LEAKEY

FRIDAY, MAY 6 – SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2005



Topics and Guest Speakers include:

“Protected Areas: An historical perspective and review of protected areas.” *Jeff McNeeley, Chief Scientist, The World Conservation Union*

“Climate Science: What do we know and how strong are the predictions?”

Richard H. Moss, Staff Scientist, Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

The following lectures being given on Saturday, May 7, are open to the public.

“Seas the Day: The Need for a New Ocean Ethic.” *Jane Lubchenco, Valley Professor of Marine Biology and Distinguished Professor of Zoology at Oregon State University*

“Climate change, global warming, effects in temperate zone and tropical regions.” *Mario J. Molina, 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry-Institute Professor, Professor of Chemistry, Professor of Earth, Atmosphere, and Planetary Sciences, M.I.T.*

For more information about the conference, visit the Web site at www.stonybrook.edu/lifematters.

Escape from Genocide

by Toby Speed

Stony Brook sophomore Jacqueline Murekatete turned unimaginable horror into a personal mission of hope.



Through the fence surrounding the orphanage where Jacqueline Murekatete lived for about two months, not knowing whether any of her family had survived one of the most brutal genocides in history, she could see Tutsi men and women trying to climb over the top, seeking refuge. She watched as they were killed by Hutu villagers with machetes, and for days afterwards she would see their bodies lying on the ground just a few feet from the fence. It was 1994 in Rwanda, and the government had declared war on its own.

Jackie survived the massacre, through luck and the sheer courage of relatives and friends. For the past four years, as a result of her experiences, the 20-year-old Stony Brook sophomore has joined Holocaust survivor David Gewirtzman to speak at the United Nations and at high schools, universities, and conferences around the country. “One of my life goals,” Jackie explains, “is to make sure that what happened in Rwanda will not happen anywhere else.”

Horror Breaks Into Daily Life

In her small East African country there had been discrimination and even killings of Tutsis, the minority ethnic group, by the Hutu majority for many years before Jackie was born. News of these killings barely touched her life. She was one of seven brothers and sisters growing up on a farm, and her parents shielded their children from the horrors because they wanted them to have a normal upbringing and to feel that their future was filled with opportunity. Jackie dreamed of going into medicine.

On April 6, 1994, the Rwandan president was assassinated, and the Hutus took advantage of the lack of leadership to declare that all Tutsis should be annihilated. Radio broadcasts were rife with hatred for Tutsis, calling them cockroaches and spies, and declaring that they deserved to die. Neighbors were urged to murder their neighbors by any method— butchering, burning. The government encour-

aged Hutus to cut open the bellies of pregnant women to ensure that their unborn children were dead. Jackie was nine years old.

In Rwanda it is tradition for a grandchild to live with his or her grandparents to keep them from being alone. Jackie had been living with her grandmother and attending school in another village an hour and a half away by foot. When she returned to her grandmother’s house after spring break, the killings began. She and her grandmother fled the village in the back of an ambulance, covered by blankets, fearing for their lives every time the vehicle went through a heavily guarded barricade. A Hutu man then hid them in his house at great personal risk. After he was discovered by Hutus—and allowed to live—he brought Jackie to an orphanage where he thought she’d be safe. From that time on, Jackie had no further contact with her family.

Over the next two months children streamed into the orphanage, some with their arms or legs hacked off, some with wounds to their heads, many whose parents had been killed. The youngest cried constantly for their mothers and fathers. There was not enough food or medical supplies to go around, and, as conditions deteriorated, many of the children died. Everyone’s life was at risk; even the Italian priests who ran the orphanage were threatened by attackers.

Hope Returns

After 100 days, the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), consisting of refugees who had fled the country earlier and Hutus who were opposed to the government, took over the capital and ended the massacre. As surviving relatives came to free the children, conditions in the orphanage improved. Jackie waited for her parents or her grandmother to come, but the person who finally appeared was a cousin bearing the horrifying news that Jackie’s family had been taken to a river and killed with machetes. The cousin’s own family had been burned alive in their house by their

Hutu neighbors. “Through the whole genocide, I always believed that my family were safe somewhere,” says Jackie. “The thought of neighbors coming to the house and killing my family was incomprehensible.”

She was sent to live with an uncle who had fled Rwanda in the late 1980s and was living in Roanoke, Virginia. Then began the long process of adjustment to a new language and culture, made more difficult because of the trauma she had experienced.

Sharing Her Story

In her sophomore year of high school, David Gewirtzman came to speak to her English class about what it was like to have survived the Holocaust. Jackie was stunned by the similarity of their stories. She wrote him a note after his visit telling him of her ordeal, and he called her and invited her and her uncle to his home. Over lunch David described his work to Jackie. “He wants to make sure that what happened to him during the Holocaust would not continue to happen,” she says. “It is a mission for both of us.”

To date, the pair has appeared on all the major television networks and has been profiled in *The New York Times* and many other publications. They have been on the road from California to Florida to Tennessee. They have spoken before audiences at nearly all school districts on Long Island.

Audience reactions have been overwhelmingly positive. “Students usually ask, ‘How did this happen? Why did the government allow it to happen?’” says Jackie. “They get to see that this is not history; this is not the past. It is still happening today in Sudan and in Cambodia. Education is one of the best ways to make sure it does not continue to happen.”

Disappointed with the way the international community has dealt with situations involving genocide, Jackie is planning a career in international relations after graduation. “One person can’t make all the changes in the world, but I’ll do my best.” n

By Glenn Jochum

Stony Brook Lacrosse Offers High-Energy Offense

New lacrosse coach Lars Tiffany likes to begin each season with a clean slate. Nothing exemplifies this attitude more than his approach to team tryouts in the fall. Much-heralded veterans compete with the same chance of making the team as first-year walk-ons. Star athletes are not allowed to wear their numbered jerseys. No players have locker room access. All candidates must bring their own equipment.

To remain as open-minded as possible, Tiffany did not watch much video footage from the prior year, a quaint notion in today's "let's go to the videotape" sports era. This egalitarian philosophy guarantees one thing—that the best players will identify themselves by their hustle, skills, and passion for the game.

As it turned out, Tiffany's approach yielded no major surprises, such as America East honorees being eliminated from the squad or walk-on phenoms making the cut. Simply, "The better players will play better," he said.

In the end, 42 of the 53 students who tried out remain on the roster. This year's squad will try to build upon a 9-6 and third-place finish in the America East Conference. Its core centers on its three leaders, goalie Brendan Callahan, '07, who earned honorable mention All-America honors in his freshman year; team captain Kyle Pearl, '05, a defenseman whose offensive abilities belie his title; and attackman Adam Marksberry, '06, "who could play for anyone in the country," according to Tiffany.

The season begins in earnest on Feb. 26 against University of Delaware and ends on April 30 against Division I rival SUNY Binghamton, which went 6-0 in regular season conference competition last year. Other key matches include non-conference foe Army on March 8, Penn State University on March 19, conference champion SUNY Albany on April 2, and the always solid conference rival University of Maryland Baltimore County on April 23.

A highlight of the year is that Stony Brook will host the prestigious Algonquin Tournament this fall, an event in which high-caliber Division I teams such as Army, Brown University, Hofstra University, Hobart University, and University of North Carolina scrimmage. Harvard University hosted the event last year.

Events such as the Algonquin Tournament bring excitement to the campus, a feeling on which Tiffany hopes to build in the lacrosse program this year. "I want a program that will play as fast a pace as we can realistically play—as fast as the matchups will dictate. I want to provide a style of play that is exciting to coach, play, and watch," said Tiffany.

This year is shaping up to offer all that—and possibly more. Pearl said he believes this year's offense is probably the best he has seen while at Stony Brook.

And Callahan predicts the Seawolves will be scoring a lot of goals with big plays. "That's always more exciting than watching a good defensive struggle," he said. ■



PHOTO: DAVID ROBERTS

2005 MEN'S LACROSSE

Saturday, February 26

Delaware at Stony Brook

•

Saturday, March 5

Wagner at Stony Brook

•

Tuesday, March 8

Army at Stony Brook

•

Saturday, March 12

UMass at Amherst, Mass.

•

Saturday, March 19

Penn State at Stony Brook

•

Tuesday, March 22

Rutgers at Piscataway, N.J.

•

Saturday, March 26

Quinnipiac at Hamden, Conn.

•

Saturday, April 2

Albany at Stony Brook

•

Saturday, April 9

Hartford at Hartford, Conn.

•

Tuesday, April 12

Siena at Loudonville, N.Y.

•

Saturday, April 16

Vermont at Burlington, Vt.

•

Saturday, April 23

UMBC at Stony Brook

•

Tuesday, April 26

Hofstra at Hempstead, N.Y.

•

Saturday, April 30

Binghamton at Stony Brook

For game times and ticket information
visit the Web site,

www.goseawolves.org

From the Desk of Joe Campolo

Your Stony Brook education was one of the most important investments you've ever made. Now that investment is reaping major dividends. Stony Brook is being hailed as one of the world's top universities by two of the foremost international academic ranking organizations, the *London Times Higher Education Supplement* and the Institute for Higher Education in Shanghai.

That's great news for the University and great news for you! It means that your Stony Brook degree is even more valuable now than on the day you received it. It declares that you are a graduate of a world-class University and places you at the highest level of academic achievement.

The Stony Brook Alumni Association is adding even more value to your Stony Brook experience. In addition to hosting extraordinary events like the Distinguished Alumni Dinner, the Mid-Winter Alumni Reception, and Homecoming, your Alumni Association is working hard to provide you with many additional benefits, including discounts on hotels, entertainment, and car rentals, low-cost insurance, even a Stony Brook Platinum Plus credit card. Most important of all, as a member of the Alumni Association you'll get a chance to play an active part in the excitement and innovation that is happening every day on the Stony Brook campus.

This is a great time to be a Stony Brook alum. Make the most of it!

Joe Campolo
President, Stony Brook Alumni Association

Class Notes

1960s

Nicholas C. Kraus '67 (B.S.), a Senior Scientist at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) in Vicksburg, Mississippi, has been named the recipient of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association's (ASBPA) 2004 Morrough P. O'Brien Award.

Ellen Becker '69 (B.A.) has been certified as a Jungian analyst by the C.G. Jung Institute of San Francisco, California. Becker is on the faculty of the Psychotherapy Institute in Berkeley. She is happily married to Howard Hamburger and has a 16-year-old son who is a junior at Lick Wilmerding High School in San Francisco.



At the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on November 18 honorees posed with Provost Robert McGrath, far left, and Alumni president Joe Campolo, far right. They are, from left to right: Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy '78, Distinguished Alumni Award; Elsie Owens, chairperson and founder, The Elsie Owens Health Center, Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service; William Knapp '78, Board Member, Stony Brook Foundation and Jane Knapp '78, Past President, Stony Brook Alumni Association, Distinguished Alumni Awards of Excellence; John Lizzul '75, Managing Director, Newmark and Co., Distinguished Alumni Benefactor Award; and Elinor R. Schoenfeld, Ph.D. '77, Associate Professor of Research in Preventive Medicine, Stony Brook, Distinguished Alumni for University Service.

1970s

Lesley Weisser Grant '70 (B.A.) and her H Quad roommates—**Jane Clark '70 (B.A.)**, **Ronnie Kirschenberg '70 (B.A.)**, **Madeline Boriss '71 (B.A.)**, **Riva Ginsburg, Melanie Gissen '71 (B.A.)**, **Rozanne Spigner Stern '71 (B.A.)**—have reunited for the second time in Prattsville, N.Y., since they graduated in 1977.

The IEEE has named **Sheppard J. Salon '70 (B.E.)**, a Professor in the Electrical, Computer, and Systems Engineering Department of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, as recipient of the 2004 IEEE Nikola Tesla Award. Salon is being recognized for his pioneering and outstanding contributions to transient finite element modeling of coupled electromagnetic, circuit, and mechanical problems.

Claire Wechsler '70 (B.A.) is married to **Barry Goss '68 (B.E.)**. She is an educational psychologist living in Portola Valley, California.

Robert L. Harrison '71 (B.A.) has made a career out of his hobby and a passion for taking pictures of all things pertaining to Long Island. His photographic essay of more than 7,500 local places of worship has been exhibited throughout the island and his poems on local subjects have been published in anthologies and magazines. Now he has created a library circuit program that consists of a lecture Harrison will give on "Forgotten Long Islanders" and a one-man play, "Confession of a Shakespeare Addict."

Roger Tellio '72 (M.S.) is working for France Telecom and is teaching math-related classes at the American University in Paris.

Robert "Ho" Cohen '73 (B.A.) is President and CEO of Scarborough Research, a consumer survey research firm. Cohen resides

with his wife Melanie and daughter Maris in Waccabuc, New York.

Howard S. Richman '73 (B.A.) is a partner in the law firm of Goldsmith, Richman & Harz, PC, of New York City and Englewood, N.J.

Nita N. Sell '73, '76 (B.A., M.A.) is a Certified Financial Planner with 30 years of experience. Sell is a co-founder of Venture Financial Group Inc. She is an active Rotarian and will become president of the Rotary club of Tacoma in July 2005.

Barry R. Fertel '74 (B.A.) is an attorney and a partner in the Roper & Barandes law firm.

Charles E. Berg '76 (M.L.S.) was elected to serve on the Suffolk Academy of Law Board. In March, Berg won New York State's first decision of professional malpractice by a real estate appraiser from Justice Peter B. Skelos. He was also elevated to the Vice President of the Huntington Lawyers' Club for the 2004-2005 term.

Carl Lennertz '76 (B.A.) has published his first book, *Cursed By a Happy Childhood*. The book is a rare collection of multi-generational wisdom and nostalgic, poignant memories to be treasured by parents and their children as well as every person who can recognize the blessing inside the "curse" we call childhood. Lennertz lives in New York City with his wife and daughter.

Richard Lubin '76 (B.S.) is the Safety Chair of the Far West Ski Association, the largest ski association in the country comprising ten councils from throughout the Western States.

Lou Manna '76 (B.A.) was named a "Digital Visionary Photographer" in 2003 by Olympus.

Last February Manna received an Exclusive Career Profile in *Peterson's Photographic* magazine along with the cover photo.

Sharon Neulinger MD '76 (B.S.) is married to Richard Kaplan, M.D., and has two children, Sara and Joseph.

Neil P. Forrest '77 (B.A.) is an attorney with Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP.

Andrew D. Feiner '78 (B.A.) is a partner in Andrews Kurth, LLP specializing in tax law.

1980s

Aurora Flight Sciences, a leader in the design and production of specialized unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), announced that **John Appleby '80 (Ph.D.)** has joined the company as the Vice President of Science Applications. He will direct Aurora Flight Sciences' work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Omnicom was presented the SBDC/SBA Partnership Award during the New York State Small Business Development Center's Salute to Our Clients. **Scott Abrams '80 (B.E.)**, President of Omnicom, accepted the award.

Richard A. Zunno '81 (M.S.) was appointed a member of the Central Suffolk Hospital Board of Directors in Riverhead. He is a Vice President of the Patient Care Services in Holbrook.

Janet F. Byrne '82 (B.A.) was a captain of women's volleyball and was named an outstanding athlete in 1982.

Cordella I. Hill '82, '84 (B.A., M.S.W.) held most points in a season for women's basketball.

Susan Miller '82 (B.S.) lives in Central Idaho on seven glorious acres surrounded by mountains with her husband Robert Ryan (a wildlife biologist), their two children, Keegan and Caeley, a nine-year old black lab, aquarium fish, and whatever critters the kids bring home. Miller is employed as the Forest Ecologist on the Payette National Forest, covering more than 1 million acres in Central Idaho, including the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, the largest wilderness in the lower 48 states.

Christine Goodman '84 (B.A.), a tennis player, was an alumni scholar athlete.

Joy Ohayia '84 (B.S.) is a Vice President of Strategic Technologies and Resources at Merrill Lynch.

Kenneth Wong '84 (B.S.) is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at New York University.

Thomas R. Aird Jr. '85 (B.A.) was the All American Male Athlete of the Year for 1985 in men's swimming.

wolfstock2004

Wolfstock was the perfect place for SB Alums Miles St. Jacques, '70, Bob O'Hara, '72, and Dennis Early, '71 to reconnect in the Alumni tent after the game. Special thanks to this year's tent sponsors: Full Moon Café, The Horah Group, Kiddie Academy, Liberty Mutual. Thanks also to our food and beverage donors: Bliss, Brooklyn Brewery, Campus Dining, Coca-Cola, The Curry Club, Elegant Eating, Full Moon Italian Restaurant and Pizza, Global Brewers Guild, The Golden Pear Restaurant, Greek Village Restaurant, House of India, Jamesport Vineyards, John Harvards, Laurel Lake Vineyards, Moore's Gourmet Market, Osprey's Dominion, Pindar Vineyards, Rheingold Brewing Company, and Weeping Willow.



Cherly Chong-Hunter '86 (B.A.) was the Female Athlete of the Year in women's cross-country, MVP 1985.

J. Anna Looney '86 (M.A.) has successfully completed her Ph.D. in Sociology at Rutgers University.

Joan I. Rodriguez '86 (B.A.) was MIP in Softball in 1985.

James P. Vigotty '87 (B.A.) started working on political campaigns after eight years of working on Wall Street. He was most recently a campaign manager for a New York Council Candidate in the Compliance Office, Kabrik Trading.

Efton L. Park '88 (Ph.D.) is a Visiting Professor at Indiana University and Purdue University of Indianapolis. Park will be representing Stony Brook at the inauguration of the new Chancellor of Texas Christian University.

Kevin Conod '89 (B.S.) was promoted to Director of the Dreyfuss Planetarium at the Newark Museum in Newark, New Jersey. Conod has served on the Board of Directors of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society since 1998. He also writes a popular weekly newspaper column on astronomy for the *Star-Ledger*, New Jersey's largest newspaper.

William Fox '89 (B.A.) has been promoted from Adoption Coordinator to Assistant Director of Quality Improvement at Heart Share Human Services of New York in Brooklyn.

1990s

Kenneth T. Andrews '93 (M.A.) is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Erica Sobanski-Warecki '91 (B.A.) has written two books that were recently published: *Basic Skills for College* and *Getting Ready for the 4th Grade Assessment Tests*.

Denise Laviola '93 (B.A.) has been married to **John McElhon '92 (B.S.)** for ten years and lives in Tampa, Florida, with their three-year-old daughter Madison. They are expecting their second child, a girl.

Lee Montes '93 (B.S.) was awarded the Fellowship of the Academy of General Dentistry on 2003.

Yi-Xian Qin '93, '97 (M.S., Ph.D.), Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Orthopedics at Stony Brook University, has been appointed Associate Team Leader for the Technology Development Team of the National Space Biomedical Research Institute

University Hospital and School of Medicine Gala



More than 400 people attended the second annual event at the Charles B. Wang Center on November 6. From left: Norman H. Edelman, M.D., VP, Health Sciences Center and Dean, School of Medicine; with the Honorable Alfonse D'Amato, 2004 Advocacy Award recipient; Shirley Strum Kenny, President; Gardner "Pat" Cowles, III, 2004 Patron Award recipient; and Bruce Schroffel, Director and CEO, University Hospital. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Long Island Cancer Center at Stony Brook.

(NSBRI). Qin is the director of the Orthopedics Biomechanics and Instrumentation Laboratory at Stony Brook.

Keith (Kyoung) Chu '94 (M.A.) has been named instructor of history and geography at Bergen Community College, N.J. Chu is also a founding member of the suburban studies group and is an advisor to the chess club at Bergen.

Krista A. Romaszka-Cobb '94 (M.L.S.) owns and operates I.T. Resource Solutions, an information technology professional staffing firm, as well as S.T.E.E.L.E. Fitness, a personal training facility.

Louis Managanas '94 (B.S.) is an M.D./Ph.D. student at Stony Brook University.

Matthew Moskowitz '95 (B.A.) was part of the team from *Lou Dobbs Tonight* that won an Emmy for "Outstanding Extended Coverage of a Business Story." The Emmy was awarded in recognition of work on an ongoing series called "Exporting America." This series has brought to the forefront the tremendous number of American companies that are shipping American jobs overseas to cheap foreign labor markets.

Marlene Joseph '96 (M.S.W.), owner of Next Step: Geriatric Care Management and Counseling in Glen Cove, has joined the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care.

Adele Spencer '96 (M.S.) was offered a full-time Assistant Professor position in the Department of Dental Hygiene at Farmingdale State University.

Matt Larsen '97 (B.S.) and his wife Kristen recently had their second child, a son they named Matt Jr.

Michael P. Ventura '98 (M.S.) is a Senior Financial Advisor in the Rockefeller Center Wealth Management Offices of Merrill Lynch.

2000s

Chaitanya Attaluri '00 (B.E.) is an Information Technology Analyst at Lehman Brothers.

Henry Foglino '00 (M.S.) has been an electrical engineer at Grumman Aerospace for 28 years. He earned his master's degree in oceanography from Stony Brook. Foglino, who designed a master's thesis that used seismic equipment to measure wave energy, has accepted a part-time adjunct faculty position at Suffolk Community College.

Jason Samuels '00 (M.A.) has been appointed instructor of mathematics at Bergen Community College. Samuels believes in a holistic approach to teaching, using non-traditional teaching methods in technology to engage his students and create a positive learning space in the classroom.

Michael Plugues '01 (B.A.) and **Jessica Serrano '00 (B.A.)** were married on Sunday, July 11, 2004.

Jolene Witkin '01 (M.S.) is the Project Coordinator for Project Paint Research Labs, Inc. in Topeka, Kansas.

Penny-Ann Antonio '04 (M.S.W.) is proud to announce that her daughter Brandy Marie Antonio graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Fashion Institute of Technology. Penny-Ann is a Program Director at Homeless Population for Families in Suffolk County.

In Memoriam

Gwendolyn Barkley '83 (M.A.L.)

John M. Brady '87 (B.S.)

Allen H. Johnson Jr. '87 (M.A.L.)

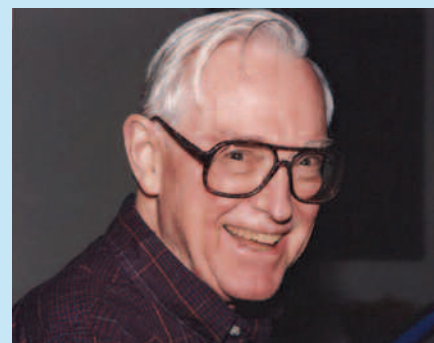
Keith Milano '00 (B.S.)

Kenneth J. Murphy '82 (M.S.W.)

Craig A. Waterman '84 (B.A.)

Heidi D. Weisbord '78 (B.S.)

Remembering Billy Jim Layton



By Sidney Gelber

Billy Jim Layton came to Stony Brook in 1967 to chair the newly created Department of Music. Prior to that time, the various arts (music, visual art, theatre) were part of a single unit. One objective of the change was to permit each of the departments to develop independently. Billy Jim came from Harvard with a highly respected career as a composer.

He arrived at Stony Brook with a bold objective—create a music department to rival the best in the country. He came prepared to recruit superb individuals in areas of performance, composition, theory, and musicology. Billy Jim's success in this endeavor was strengthened by his determination to shape a department unique among the distinguished universities. The goal was to pursue advanced study in all of these areas. In 1977, the State Board of Regents recognized this achievement and granted the department the authority to offer two doctoral programs—the Ph.D. and D.M.A. (Doctor of Musical Arts) along with the M.A. degree.

In April 1969, two years after Billy Jim's arrival at Stony Brook, special homage was paid to famed Russian composer Igor Stravinsky, who was seriously ill. Over a week's period, symposia and recitals were offered. The most ambitious event: a concert performed by a group of distinguished musicians, to be held in the old gymnasium. Billy Jim was informed that Stravinsky, in spite of his frailty, insisted upon hearing this concert since it offered special versions of two of his works that he had never heard. (Billy Jim, knowing of Stravinsky's predilections, brought a bottle of Scotch and a cup, which the old man kept under a blanket in his wheelchair.) Stravinsky was deeply moved by the concert, expressing his feelings as he received the University medal. This was Stravinsky's last appearance in public. It was, as well, a sign that Billy Jim's hopes for the future would be realized.

Sidney Gelber was Academic Vice President/Provost from 1971 to 1981, and a Distinguished Service Professor at Stony Brook University.

Make a Difference in a Student's Future

Join the Stony Brook Career Contact Advisory Network. The transition from college to career can be a daunting challenge. Sometimes a little friendly advice from a voice of experience can calm the fears and ease the anxieties that come with entering the workforce for the first time. That's the premise behind the Stony Brook Career Contact Advisory Network—Stony Brook alumni and friends helping Stony Brook students.

Former student Ladipo Davies, now a marketing manager for Symbol Technologies, has been on both sides of the Network. "I recall vividly how it felt being a student and the tremendous gratitude that came with someone taking the time to help me out. Now I'm giving a little of my time to help make a difference in someone else's life."

The program is designed to fit into members' busy schedules, even limiting the number of contacts they choose to receive.

"We're not asking for a long-term commitment," explains Marianna Savoca, Director of the Stony Brook Career Center. "Just a few minutes to answer some questions—and maybe change someone's future."

To join the Career Contact Advisory Network, call the Career Center at (631) 632-6810 or visit the Web site at stonybrook.edu/career.

Events Calendar

February-June 2005

February

February 20, Sunday, 3:00 p.m.

Boston Camerata, "American Folk"

Staller Center for the Arts, Recital Hall
Sponsored by WSHU Public Radio 91.1 FM
The ten superb musicians of the Boston Camerata have appeared in the Great Performers Series at Lincoln Center and have been called "America's most important early music ensemble." Tickets: \$34. For information, visit the Web site at StallerCenter.com or call (631) 632-ARTS.

February 26, Saturday, 8:00 p.m.

SBU Alumni Hockey Game

The Rinx, 660 Terry Road, Hauppauge, N.Y.
Raffles, giveaways, and door prizes! After-Party at Dave & Busters of Islandia. Open to players and spectators in attendance at the alumni game. Details at www.geocities.com/usbalumni or e-mail usbalumni@yahoo.com. Visit www.rinx.com for directions.

February 26, Saturday, 8:00 p.m.

Ahmad Jamal, Piano

Staller Center for the Arts, Recital Hall
Renaissance Jazz
Sponsored by Renaissance Technologies
Ahmad Jamal is a jazz piano legend who has won many accolades, including an American Jazz Masters fellowship award and being named a Duke Ellington Fellow at Yale University. Tickets: \$34. For information visit the Web site at StallerCenter.com or call (631) 632-ARTS.

February 27, Sunday, 7:00 p.m.

Aida Opera Verdi Europa

Staller Center for the Arts, Main Stage
This fully staged production of *Aida* will be performed with orchestra and will be sung in Italian with projected supertitles. Tickets: \$38. For information, visit the Web site at StallerCenter.com or call (631) 632-ARTS. Sponsored in part by Holiday Inn Express—Stony Brook.

March

March 1, Tuesday

Stony Brook Day in Albany

HSC Alumni Reception in Albany

La Porto at the Sign of the Tree
RSVP to Yasemin Tansel, (631) 444-2899 or Yasemin.Tansel@stonybrook.edu

March 5, Saturday, 8:00 p.m.

Trinity Irish Dance Company and Different Drums of Ireland

Staller Center for the Arts, Main Stage
Sponsored by the Town of Brookhaven
Don't miss this brilliant collaboration of dancers and drummers! Tickets: \$34. For information, visit the Web site at StallerCenter.com or call (631) 632-ARTS.

March 11-12, Friday–Saturday
Intercollegiate Broadcasting System
National College Radio Convention

Hotel Pennsylvania, NYC (33rd St. and 7th Ave.)
WUSB-FM is the host station for the annual college radio convention. SB alumni working in the media field are invited to participate as panelists and session speakers. Contact Norman Prusslin at (631) 632-6823 or Norman.Prusslin@stonybrook.edu

March 14, Monday, 4:30 p.m.

Ninth Annual Swartz Foundation
Mind/Brain Lecture

"The Master Puppeteer:
How the Brain Controls the Body"
Staller Center for the Arts, Main Stage
Daniel Wolpert, Professor of Motor Neuroscience, University College of London.
Visit www.stonybrook.edu/sb/mind

April

April 20, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Stars of Stony Brook Gala

Honoring Jim Simons,
Founder, Renaissance Technologies
Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers (23rd Street)
Proceeds from the Stars of Stony Brook Gala support scholarships and other University initiatives. For more information, call Rachel Goldberg (212) 245-6570, ext. 22 or e-mail at Rachelg@eventassociatesinc.com

April 21-24 and 28, May 1,
8:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m.

The Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov

Presented by the Department of Theatre Arts
Staller Center for the Arts, Theatre Two
Tickets: \$10 General Admission; \$8 faculty/staff; \$6 for students and seniors. Visit the Web site at StallerCenter.com or call (631) 632-ARTS.

April 5-28, URECA (Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity) Celebration Events

April 5-28

Art Exhibition
Student Activities Center Art Gallery

April 14, Thursday, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Art Reception

April 28, Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

URECA Poster Presentations
Student Activities Center

April 28, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

URECA Undergraduate Musical Performances
Staller Center for the Arts, Recital Hall

For more information, visit the Web site at www.stonybrook.edu/ureca

April 13, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon

HSC Alumni Professional Development Seminar Series—Part 1

Charles B. Wang Center
In partnership with the New York State Small Business Development Center and the Office of Alumni Relations in the Health Sciences Center, the Series addresses the issues associated with starting up a private practice. For information, contact Yasemin Tansel at (631) 444-2899 or Yasemin.Tansel@stonybrook.edu

April 28, Thursday, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

An Evening of Food and Wine with Joshua Wesson

Stony Brook Manhattan, 401 Park Avenue South
The Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Stony Brook Center for Wine, Food, and Culture invites you to join Wesson, the co-founder and Wine Director of Best Cellars, Inc., for an evening of wine and food samplings chosen for their excellent quality and value. In the spirit of Best Cellars, a special admission price of \$14.99 is offered to SB Alumni.

May

May 11, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Cody Comedy Festival

Staller Center for the Arts, Main Stage
Funny Bone Reception, 5:30 p.m.,
Student Activities Center
Funds raised at this annual event supports the Matt and Debra Cody Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities at Stony Brook University Hospital. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Call (631) 444-2899.

May 13, Friday

Fourth Annual Alumni Golf Classic

Mill Pond Golf Course, Medford, N.Y.
Make new friends and network with your fellow alumni with a relaxing round of golf on the Scottish-style course designed by William (Buddy) Johnson. If you can't make the game, join us for dinner and try your luck on our 50/50, raffles, and Chinese Auction.

May 19, Thursday

Third Annual Ed Mardovich Memorial Golf Outing

Plandome Country Club, Manhasset, N.Y.
It's not too early to register your foursome. Proceeds from the event support an endowed scholarship in honor of Ed Mardovich '81 B.S., who died on September 11. For more information, contact Jane MacArthur. (631) 632-7644 or Jane.MacArthur@stonybrook.edu

May 25, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to noon

HSC Alumni Professional Development Seminar Series—Part 2

Charles B. Wang Center
In partnership with the New York State Small Business Development Center and the Office of Alumni Relations in the Health Sciences Center, the Series addresses the more advanced issues associated with having a private practice. Contact Yasemin Tansel at (631) 444-2899, Yasemin.Tansel@stonybrook.edu

June

June 29, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

14th Annual New York Yankees vs. Baltimore Orioles game and Stony Brook Alumni Reception

Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Baltimore
There is a reason this event is in its 14th year! Join the fun with 200 of your fellow alumni. Enjoy a ballpark dinner while watching the players warm up on the field. Reserve your tickets early—space is limited.

For more information unless otherwise specified, call the Alumni Relations Office at (631) 632-6330 or visit our Web site at www.stonybrookalumni.com.

Brookmarks By Sherrill Jones



Bringing the Empire Back Home: France in the Global Age

by **Herman Lebovics, Professor, History Department**

2004, Duke University Press

Cultural historian Herman Lebovics examines the heated disputes about what it means to be French over the past 30 years. Highlighting the political and cultural struggles of the French national heritage, this book is about how “peasants, people of and from the colonies...left Christians, ecologists, archaeologists, anthropologists, soccer players, their teenage fans, and the governors of France—locked in overlapping struggles—made, are still making, contemporary France.” Lebovics considers how France became the birthplace for the new attitudes and politics of anti-globalization and reveals contemporary French society and cultures as an essential model for pluralism and assimilation.

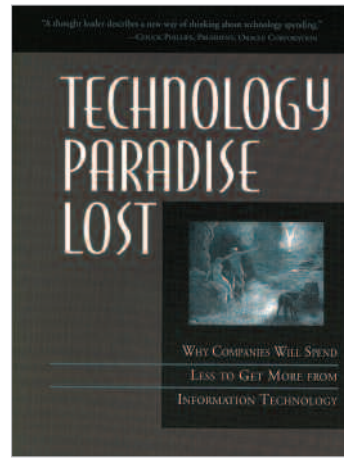


Immigration and Politics in the New Europe: Reinventing Borders

by **Gallya Lahav, Assistant Professor, Political Science Department**

2004, Cambridge University Press

Gallya Lahav’s study examines the issue of immigration in the context of a Europe where the role of the nation state is in question, as the logic of the single market clashes with national policymaking. Immigration is a central issue in European politics since about a quarter of the world’s migrants resides in Europe. Consequently, politicians throughout the Continent are grappling with the problems this raises. Analyzing elite and public opinion, Lahav shows how support from both has led to the adoption of restrictive immigration policies despite the requirements of open borders.



Technology Paradise Lost: Why Companies Will Spend Less To Get More From Information Technology

by **Erik Keller, Class of 1979**

2004, Manning Publications Co.

Veteran industry consultant and analyst Erik Keller challenges popular views of the growth of information technology and proposes that IT spending is poised to shrink due to a fundamental shift in the way companies buy and use technology. According to Keller, the excesses of the 1990s have led to a new penny-pinching mentality: business managers have become IT savvy and now look to spend less to get more from their IT investments. *Technology Paradise Lost* predicts that the new “IT think” will encourage fundamental changes in the way software is developed, sold, and used.



Women and Gender in Jewish Philosophy

edited by **Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Class of 1974**

2004, Indiana University Press

This book is the first systematic attempt to interpret the Jewish philosophical tradition in light of feminist philosophy and to engage feminist philosophy from the perspective of Jewish philosophy. The 13 original essays cover the entire Jewish philosophic tradition from Philo, through Maimonides, to Levinas, and they rethink the subdisciplines of Jewish philosophy, including metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, political theory, and theology. Contributors include Leora Batnitzky, Jean Axelrad Cahan, Idit Dobbs-Weinstein, Claire Elise Katz, Nancy K. Levene, Sandra B. Lubarsky, Sarah Pessin, Randi Rashkover, Heidi Miriam Ravven, T.M. Rudavsky, Suzanne Last Stone, Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, and Laurie Zoloth.

New & Noteworthy

Green Enchantments: A Catskill Outdoor Guide & Collected Essays

by Michael Boyajian, Class of 1983

Growing Up Abolitionist: The Story of the Garrison Children

by Harriet Hyman Alonso, Ph.D. 1986

Logical Data Modeling: What It Is and How to Do It

by John Mark Heumann, Ph.D. 1984

Mendel's Legacy: The Origin of Classical Genetics

by Elof Axel Carlson, Professor Emeritus, Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology

Sweet Stuff: Karen Barker's American Desserts

by Karen Barker, Class of 1979

The Task, The Hoard, and the Long Walk Home (poetry)

by David Lieberman, M.A. 1972

Seeking the Write Stuff

The Brook welcomes submissions of books recently written by alumni, faculty, and staff. Send a review copy and relevant press materials to: Sherrill Jones, Editor, “Brookmarks,” Office of Communications, Room 144 Administration, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-0605. E-mail: Sherrill.Jones@stonybrook.edu.

Please note: To purchase a copy of any of these featured titles, contact the University Bookstore at (631) 632-9747. Visit www.stonybrook.edu/bookstore for a calendar of events, including a series of faculty author readings sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the University Bookstore.

Flashback

Researched by James Leach



As the first—and only—parents on the obstetrics floor, the Solomons received a first-class meal of lobster, filet mignon, and champagne the night before being discharged.

1980: A Year of Firsts for the Hospital

On March 30, 1980, the first baby—Jeffrey Eric Solomon—was born at Stony Brook University Hospital. As the only parents and the only baby on the obstetrics floor, the Solomons received special attention from both the nurses and the Hospital staff. The night before they were to go home, Paul Seale, then head of housekeeping and dietetic service, organized a celebratory meal for the Solomons: baked stuffed lobsters, filet mignon, champagne, and chocolate mousse for dessert.

There were many other Hospital firsts that warranted celebration in 1980. On February 27, Dr. Felix Rappaport and Dr. Wayne Waltzer performed the first kidney transplant. The recipient of the kidney, who had the operation on her birthday, celebrated her new lease on life with a lobster dinner and a birthday cake topped with a marzipan kidney.

Stony Brook University Hospital was formally dedicated on May 24, 1980. The reception featured tours of the new building conducted by staff, and concluded with a string concert in the Health Sciences Center.

In July the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the first one in Suffolk County, opened and admitted its first patient. One month later the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit's (PICU) 20 beds became available. And in October the Hospital's mobile intensive care unit—an ambulance equipped to handle everything up to and including emergency surgery on the most critical patients—was used to transfer the first patient to the PICU from another hospital in the community. For more information about upcoming events in honor of the Hospital's 25th Anniversary, visit the Web site at: www.stonybrook.edu/sb/hospital25.

STONY BROOK



UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Smart Medicine. Expert Care.

SIXTH ANNUAL

HONORING JIM SIMONS

STARS OF STONY BROOK GALA

SAVE THE DATE

This year's Gala honors Jim Simons, founder of Renaissance Technologies.

The event is being held at Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers, New York City.

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For more information, please call Rachel Goldberg, (212) 245-6570, ext. 22 or e-mail rachelg@eventassociatesinc.com

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