

The ADVOCATE



Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

Fall 2002 edition

Student Activities Center: Phase II

September 2002, returning students returned on campus awaiting the opening of the new phase that has been added to the Student Activities Center. With the increase in the population on campus and the increase in the number of events being held on the campus, it was becoming more and more difficult for the Student Union to accommodate the needs of the campus. The number and size of events ranging from new student orientations to the usual weekend parties were increasing continuously. Office space was also becoming a problem. The Student Activities Center became an add-on to the amount of space needed to accommodate the number of events that were taking place. However, students and faculty were still competing for space. Phase II was part of the plan to ease the problem.

What does the new phase mean for students and faculty? Well, the answer is obvious, more space. The New Phase of the SAC consists of two ballrooms with a capacity of approximately 1200. Ballroom A, the larger of the two can hold approximately 900 people. Phase II also consists of a new Art Gallery, a new Commuter Lounge, more office space, which is used by the Dean of Students Area, and a new state of the art fitness center. In a brochure dedicated to Phase II, President Kenny was quoted saying "The completion of Phase II of the Student Activities Center marks yet another victory in making our campus even more inviting for our students. Our Student Activities Center compares with the best in the country – and that is exactly what our students deserve".

Since its grand opening on September 4th of this year, there has been numerous events that have taken place in the

new phase. Students were excited to finally see the new phase. "The number of events have increased, and the attendance for those events has increased as well since we opened the new phase", said Tania Ortiz, Student Activities Advisor. When asked the Assistant Director of Student Activities, Maria Terrana, how has the new phase been, her answer, "phenomenal". "Phase II is great, the looks on the students' faces when we first opened the new phase was incredible" said Maria. According to the Student Activities office, the new phase has contributed in the number of successful events that have taken place on campus.

The opening of the new phase has taken many events away from the Stony Brook Union, which was once the center of student life. It has become the number one choice for both student and faculty-sponsored activities. Many clubs and organizations that used to hold events in the Union are now competing for Phase II. It's like the old Fields of Dream, "if you build it, they will come", well the New Phase has been built and the number of events are limitless. The Union however, has been left in its shadow.



Spotlight on A Stony Brook “STAR”

Georgios Spentzouris

Contributed by Sr. Margaret Ann Landry, RSHM
Chaplain, Interfaith Center, Co-Coordinator, Student Ambassador Program



Georgios Spentzouris

Georgios (George) Spentzouris is one of our Stony Brook University students who exemplifies all that is the best in our student population. His areas of interest are wide and varied, yet at the same time he is academically strong and goal-oriented.

He was born in Kalamata, Greece and educated there through high school. Since entering Stony Brook as a freshman in 1999, he has demonstrated his commitment to majoring in Pharmacology and minoring in Health and Wellness. After his graduation (May 2003), it is his goal to pursue a career in the field of medicine, specifically patient care and clinical research.

George is an excellent student and is very highly motivated. One of the challenges George was faced with head on when enrolling here was that of the difference in the educational styles of Greece and the United States of America. He overcame this challenge early on and has had, and continues to have, an outstanding academic record. George said, “I become amazed each semester when I learn of the many new opportunities Stony Brook University has to offer to its students. As a pharmacology major on the pre-medicine track, I had expected only to find myself taking all the science courses and meeting all the requirements in my beginning semesters. Yet, now as I am in my senior year I look back and realize that I have experienced more than just class work.” He has excelled in the area of undergraduate research studies evidenced by RAIRE Summer Fellowships for Pharmacological Research in 2000 and 2001 and ASPET (American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics) Summer Fellowship for Research in Pharmacology in 2002. He has received an Award for Excellence in Research and was inducted into Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society. He is also a member of such honor societies as Alpha Epsilon Delta Premedical National Honor Society, Stony Brook University’s Sigma Beta Honor Society and the Golden Key International Honour Society.

George maintains his outstanding academic record while at the same time giving generously of his time and talents by participating actively in events and activities which provide an *education beyond the classroom* and in which he has assumed many leadership roles. This is evidenced by his membership in the Artemis Hellenic Society (Social Representative), the Pharmacology Society (Secretary), SBVAC (Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps), Golden Key International Honour Society (Executive Board and Webmaster), Alpha Epsilon Delta National Premedical Society (Vice President), Sigma Beta Honor Society (Events Coordinator), AMSA (American Medical Student Association), National Society of Coolegiate Scholars and SBU’s Welcome Wagon. Freshmen Orientation (Building Coordinator).

Because of his *excellent academic and service* record, George was selected to be a Student Ambassador for the Academic Year 2002- 2003. Student Ambassadors are specially selected to represent the University at a variety of events such as Admissions, Open Houses, Parents Day, events sponsored by the President’s Office, Alumni related events, Homecoming etc. George said, “Aside from the sciences, becoming part of the Student Ambassador program has taught me valuable lessons in leadership and communication, as well as exposing me to all the events this campus has to offer.” He has already demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to this program and is one of our most enthusiastic Student Ambassadors!

As mentioned above, George has a wide variety of interests which makes him a very ‘well-rounded’ person. He is a trumpeter and a pianist, a tenor for two choirs and enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. And, one of his favorite extracurricular activities is website design. He has just completed the website for Golden Key International Honour Society and is soon to embark on designing one for the Student Ambassador Program. He values his Greek heritage and is always willing to share some of his culture with others at various programs which feature our diversity of cultures and ethnicities at Stony Brook.

Rosemary Effiom, Director of Fellowships and Special Projects, Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs and Honorary Member of the Golden Key

(Continued on pg 4)

Staff Highlight:

Jerry Stein, *The New Dean Of Students*

*Contributed by Vincent Louie and Sachiel Mondesir
- Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs*

On September 19, 2002, Stony Brook University welcomed its new Dean of Students, Jerry Stein. He may be the new Dean, but he sure is not new to the Stony Brook campus. Many view him as a mentor, philosopher, and educator. He is a man of integrity of vision and, “possesses qualities needed, unequivocally, one of the best” said Dr. Preston, Vice President of Student Affairs. Dean Stein has been part of the Stony Brook community for the past 26 years. He started here in the Division of Campus Residence in 1976. In 1978 he became Associate Director of Resident Life, then in 1985 was promoted to Director of Resident Life. Now 17 years later he is our new Dean of Student.

Jerry Stein received his bachelors from Cornell University, then, went on to Bowling Green State University in Ohio where he received a Masters degree in College Student Development. His career in Higher Education started at Syracuse University in the Department of Resident Life. Syracuse, however, was not close enough to home for Jerry. Being a native of the Bronx and growing up on Long Island, Jerry decided to come to Stony Brook. After working here for so many years, Jerry felt attached to the campus, saying, “It was near home and I had two children here. I like Stony Brook and I like the people.” Staying at Stony Brook was a wise choice for him.

While working at Stony Brook, Jerry developed several effective techniques to help address issues that students might face during the course of their lives. He developed **SAFE** (Sexual Assault Facts Education). which was nationally recognized as one of

the best ways of preventing sexual assaults on a college campus. He was also one of the leaders in developing the **Living Learning Centers**, a program in which a resident hall adopts a theme, and related courses are offered in that residence hall. Currently the Living Learning Centers cover subjects such as *Human Gender and Sexual Development, Health and Wellness, Environmental Studies*, and much more.



Jerry Stein accepted his new role as the Dean of Student during the Welcome Reception.

In his new position as Dean of Students, Jerry has many goals he is working towards. He plans on completing his PhD in Educational Administration and Leadership. He wants to continue to bringing the SAFE program to high schools to help raise awareness of sexual assaults. Stony Brook University is a diverse community, and the new Dean wants to embrace our rich diversity and bring students together. He commented, “it is not the diversity that is hard to accept, instead it is breaking the barriers that exist among the students that makes it so hard.”

With all the new changes happening on campus (Phase II of the SAC, the new Wang Center, the New Stadium, and the proposed plan to install wireless access points on campus), “it is a really exciting time to be the Dean of Students”, he said. With all the major improvements around campus, Jerry believes there will be many opportunities to create more activities for the students. A sign of change on the campus was the first football game in the new stadium, which attracted more than 8000 people. Dean Student was very enthusiastic in saying “I cannot even drive past the cross road next to the Union because so many students were walking by there. The campus has come alive.”

We Received “Credit,” And I Think We Earned It

*Dr. Jill Richards, Assistant Director for Training
University Counseling Center*

While I am an administrator of sorts, I don't think of myself that way. I think of myself as a psychologist, a teacher, a colleague—someone who knows how to assist troubled students. So, you can imagine that I wasn't thrilled about having to prepare for an accrediting body to visit, and to scrutinize the clinical psychology training program that is dear to me (and which I coordinate) at the University Counseling Center. Our pre-doctoral internship curriculum is curious to site visitors as it involves a rare blend of Psychodynamic Psychology and acute sensitivity to Multicultural perspectives. In the process of preparing for the site visit my apprehensive attitude changed in an important way. I remembered that era of my childhood when I wanted to get good grades, despite my disagreements with the teacher--and what started out as a hassle became enriching. The lesson is simple, sometimes detours from prevailing approaches to the work are appreciated, compelling, and enlivening for all concerned. Rather than scrutiny and criticism, what we got was a healthy dose of credit and recognition for our efforts.

I don't know many of you, because I'm still relatively new to the Stony Brook community. Aside from some outreach to the campus community, I work primarily behind closed doors, training mental health professionals to assist troubled students, and I love working with students myself. I feel fortunate to have inherited the directorship of a gem of a psychology internship program—where doctoral candidates, who come to us from near and far, learn from, and offer a lot to Stony Brook students who come to the Counseling Center for help. Given that students see us on a confidential basis, we don't often get to showcase our work, to have observers or visitors take note of what we are doing.

This past spring, we had the

opportunity to talk about our work with site visitors from the American Psychological Association, who came to examine our program with fresh eyes and ears. We spoke candidly about our views about human development and emotional trouble; about the kind of teaching and supervision that we do-- in an effort to insure that students who come through our doors get assistance from curious, dedicated professionals in training. We spoke honestly and clearly in an effort to articulate our efforts, even when aspects of our work may be at odds with prevailing trends. In turn, the site visitors told us they felt we have the “real thing” here—that we offer something genuine and truly useful to the students who come to us for help. I'm happy to report that we achieved such high marks, that we won't have accreditation examiners through our doors for another 7 years, so doing what we do best really pleased our “teachers.” More importantly though, I got another reminder of the reservoir of dedication and curiosity that exists in this Center, and how loving the work is the real ‘credit’ in accreditation.

Spotlight on A Stony Brook “STAR” (continued)

International Honour Society said about him: “George is a conscientious, self-motivated and impressive student. His academic performance is excellent and his extracurricular activities on our campus are truly remarkable. He is actively engaged in the intellectual, social and cultural life of our campus. In addition, he is kind and compassionate. George will be an important asset in any medical school.”

How fortunate we are that Georgios Spentzouris emigrated from Greece and added one more *star* to brighten our campus!!!!

Advocate Contributors:

*Ramin Bozorgzadeh, Sr. Margaret Landry,
Vincent Louie, Sachiel Mondesir, Dr. Jill
Richards, Stanislav Skobelskiy, Maria Terrana,
Suzanne Velazquez, Federico Vogel*



The annual Stony Brook Veterans Day Ceremony was held on Wednesday, November 6, 2002. This special event is held each year to honor the brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our nation. The ceremony strongly emphasized the importance of our US veterans and their commitment to serving and protecting our country during difficult times. This year the ceremony was held in the Student Activities Center auditorium. In the audience over one hundred and fifty veterans, reservists, stony brook alumni, faculty and staff, anxiously awaited the commencement of the ceremony.

After the welcoming remarks given by the Veterans Affairs Coordinator, Mr. Ismael Rodriguez, the marine color guard showed great pride and military etiquette in posting the national colors. Stony brook student, Suze-Elisha principal, contributed her great talent to the ceremony with a beautiful rendition of the national anthem. Rabbi Joseph S. Topek from the interfaith center invited us all to reflect

about the tragic events that took place last September and to pray for those who lost their lives.

The Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Frederick R. Preston, Stony Brook President, Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny and Assemblyman, Steven B. Englebright gave the introductory remarks. The guest speaker, Brigadier General Paul H. Hill, shared personal accounts that demonstrated the great honor, courage and commitment of our nation's veterans. He Stated, "...Sometimes veterans don't like to talk about the great things they've done for our country; we should all be proud of our heroic actions and share them with our fellow Americans."

As a closing of the ceremony approached, the marine color guard retired the colors and Mr. Rodriguez invited all veterans to stand and give themselves a round of applause.



The U.S. Marine Corps 6th Communication Battalion Service Company illustrate pride and courage during the Veterans Ceremony.

Student Affairs: Tid Bits



Congratulation to the 2002 Essay Contest Winners



The contest is divided into two divisions, WRT101 and WRT102.

The winners for WRT101 are:

1st Place, **Ayisha Baig**

2nd Place, **Liang Zheng**

3rd Place, **Dustin Tibbs**

The winners for WRT102 are:

1st Place, **Jeremy Barlow**

2nd Place, **Kriti Agrawal**

3rd Place, **Megan Langille**

The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs are the proud owners of one of the six wolf statues disturbed just weeks before Homecoming. The goal was to paint the wolf in an unique fashion which will symbolize Stony Brook pride and spirit. Suzanne Velazquez, Assistant to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, suggested a collage of all the major departments around campus. Major students and/or facilities/staff representing their departments were responsible for a specific portion of the wolf. It was a team effort that gave the wolf life. Time and concentration was the key to a successful outcome.



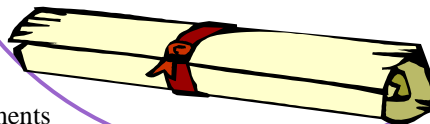
The statue is named "Wolfie." Wolfie and the other five wolf statues were displayed at this year's Homecoming event.

If you missed the opportunities to see how this wolf looks like or would like to see it again, go to the Administration Building lobby where Wolfie is displayed.



December Graduation

Congratulation to the members of the class of 2003. They had worked hard and tried their best to make it this far here in Stony Brook University. It was not an easy road to take for many. There were many obstacles to over come throughout the school year such as independency, responsibility, time management, study habits and much more. However, learning to over come these barriers will help strengthen one's character to success in their future filled with dreams and desires. The University's December Graduation Ceremony will take place on **December 22, 2002, at 1:00 p.m.**



The University Art Gallery



presents

Queer Visualities: Reframing Sexuality in a Post-Warhol World

October 19 - December 7

Tues - Fri, Noon - 4

Free Admission

For further information please contact

Ronda Cooper
Art Gallery Director
(631) 632-7240



Stony Brook once again opened their doors to parents of the students on campus. Parents were provided with a relatively easy to follow schedules which aided them through their day. During the Info Fair held in the morning, representatives were available to answer the parent's concerns and questions. This year, the primary reason most parents attended this event was to: gain information about SBU and scholastic opportunities, and assurance of their child's well being. Numerous workshops were held during the afternoon to help parents plan a better future for their children and to provide information about what is and will be happening around campus. To top off the day, the parents were escorted around the campus and invited to join a wide section of various workshops.