

Frank McCourt Pays Surprise Visit to SBU

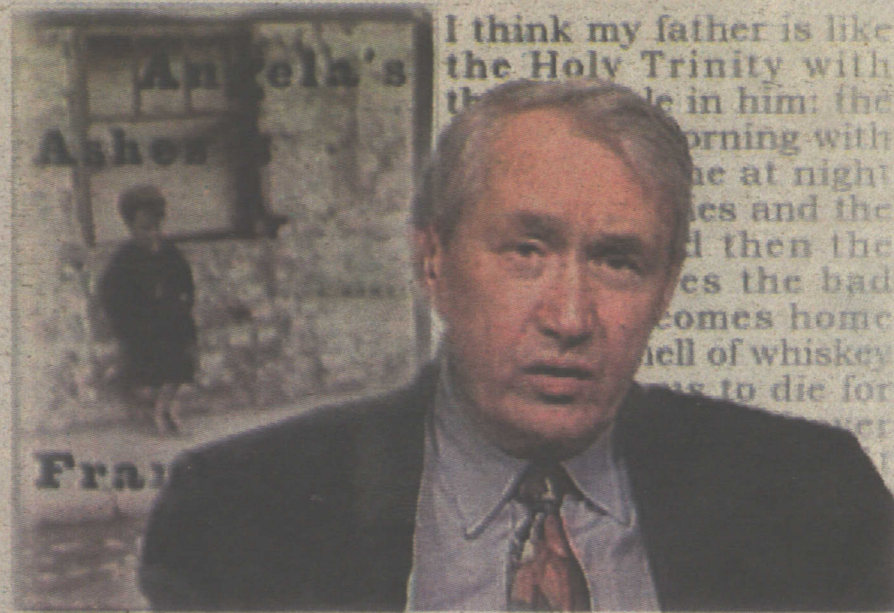
BY AMANDA RUBENSTEIN
Statesman Staff

Frank McCourt grew up in the back alleys of Ireland, as years of rain and famine enveloped the foggy country. Taking the road less traveled, he made it onto a ferry to America, and grew up to write an autobiography that would eternalize his family's struggle to make it through adversity. His award-winning novel, *Angela's Ashes*, would soon become an award-winning movie, and his optimistic, energetic personality would soon come to SBU.

In a surprise visit to Professor John Westermann's fiction writing class, English 238, McCourt spoke to students about his memoir, life and writing. MtvU also came, and filmed alongside his visit.

Listening to McCourt was extremely enjoyable, even as he described his memories of growing up in poverty during Ireland's famine. As he playfully chided the cameraman for hooking him up to microphones that he knew were necessary, he cracked a joke of introduction to the students.

McCourt then retold poignant stories of his life, which seemed to come alive. He started with the early days in Ireland when he only had bread and water to eat and drink, and went on to his teenage years when he



Frank McCourt, author of Pulitzer Prize winning novel "Angela's Ashes," visited Professor John Westermann's class, in a surprise talk sponsored by mTVU.

didn't have the chance to finish high school. After moving to the United States years later, he joined the army, and was allowed to enroll in college through the G.I. Bill, which gave college money to students who had not completed high school.

"I talked my way into NYU," said McCourt, referring to how he convinced the admissions officers at New York University

to let him into the prestigious university only because he had "read a lot of books when [he] was younger."

NYU, he said, changed his life. Instead of sitting around complaining and being angry about his past, he was getting an education—something he never dreamed of

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Can Online Dating Lead to Sex Abuse?

BY MAURY HIRSCHKORN
Statesman Staff

In the late evening of Tuesday, Feb. 10, a female student made a complaint to the university police that a male student had sexually abused her by inappropriately touching her.

The students had met through e-mail, gone on a date and were in a room in Toscanini College when the incident occurred, according to Douglas Little, deputy chief of the university police.

"She refused to press charges against him," Little said. "But she can always press charges against him later."

Little did not release the students' names, citing confidentiality. He said the police report didn't state on which e-mail "dating" website the students had met each other.

Stony Brook University has one e-mail "dating" website, called Stony Brook LoveShack, which was officially launched last year. One of the founders of LoveShack, Joe X., a Stony Brook graduate, said he didn't know if those students met through his website.

"I am unaware of the situation you mentioned," Joe X. said. "It does raise concern, but I cannot verify if these people or anyone else ever met through LoveShack. LoveShack is one of thousands of 'singles' websites available on the

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Hold That Order... For One More Month



Courtesy of www.compass-group.nl

Kelly Coffee House Construction Delayed

BY MINA KIM
Statesman Contributor

Almost everytime you're on the first floor of Kelly Dining, students can be seen peering curiously through the glass doors of the upcoming Kelly Coffee and Tea House. Construction for this coffee/tea house started in October with plans to

finish by November. That date was pushed back to January and then finally, to March.

"Delays in lighting, equipment, and furniture caused the delay in schedule, but the Kelly Coffeehouse is finally set to open in mid-March," said Angela Agnello, director of marketing and communications.

It is purposed that the atmosphere of the coffeehouse will be similar to that of Starbucks, with comfy couches, chairs and tables that are ideal for coffeehouse con-

versations, studying and reading. Wireless internet access will also be available for students with laptops and palm pilots.

"Even with the opening of the coffeehouse, bubble tea Fridays at Kelly will still continue," says Lisa Ospitale, the Marketing Director of campus dining.

Mountain Blend coffee will provide the coffee while Mighty Leaf will supply the tea. Purposed menu items include espresso, cappuccino, caramel and mocha coffee. Specialty teas and fresh fruit smoothies will also be served. Does this sound too good to be true? Well it doesn't stop there! The menu extends to include hot chocolate, lattes, iced coffee, bubble tea, seasonal drink specialties and pastry products and desserts such as pecan buns and tiramisu.

Smoothies and bubble tea will be priced at around \$3.50, and coffee will range from \$2.55 to \$3.40, depending on the size.

As exciting as this new addition to Stony Brook sounds, there are still a number of students who are still in the dark

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Campus Voices

By Peter Sunwoo and Mansoor Khan

What is your favorite off-campus hot spot?



"Rumba Sky. We go every Thursday and get trashed. They play good reggae, hip-hop, and trance. Girls get in free!"

Julie Steinburg
Senior



"IHOP! IHOP! IHOP! They have cute waitresses and the tutti frutti fresh and frutti is the BOMB!"

Tuan Van Tran
Senior

"Starbucks. I study there, it's relaxing, and...it's off campus!"

Carly Davis
Sophomore

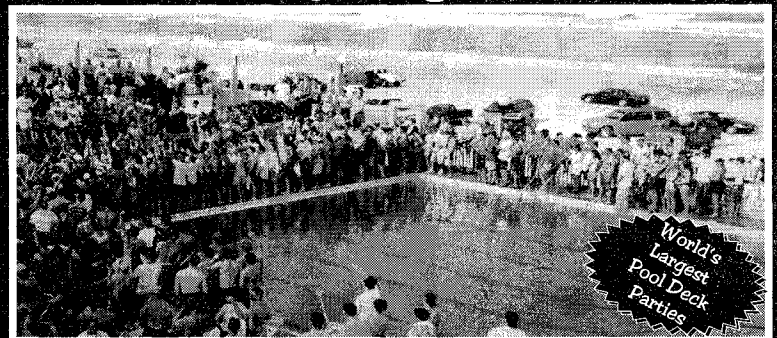


"Sports Plus, because I love to ice skate and play games."

Ambreen Hamrani
Super-Senior



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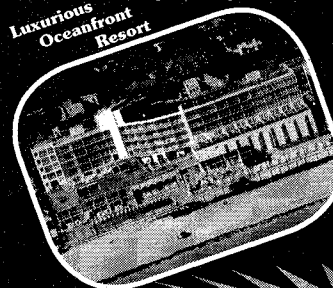
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Judge Orders Mercer University to Turn Over Crime Records

By ERIC HOOVER
Chronicle of Higher Education

The Mercer University Police Department's Web site encourages students and staff members to report "anything suspicious" to a campus hot line. But how much information can they obtain about crimes at the university?

Not enough, says Amanda A. Farahany, an Atlanta lawyer representing a former Mercer student who claims she was raped on the Macon, Ga., campus in 2000. While preparing her case against the university last year, Ms. Farahany asked Mercer for campus police documents going back to 1995, including incident reports, radio dispatch logs, contact-person reports, and information about particular sexual assaults.

A federal law known as the Clery Act requires colleges to maintain a public crime log, listing the nature, time, date, location, and disposition of each incident. But the law does not compel institutions to make available more-detailed information about campus crimes and police investigations.

After Mercer refused to turn over its records, Ms. Farahany filed a separate complaint against the university in November that sought the release of the documents under Georgia's open-records law. Mercer countered that the open-records law did not apply to private institutions and that its police force was not a public agency.

But last month a Georgia state-court judge ruled that Mercer must turn over the records because the university serves "public functions" by employing sworn police officers who carry guns and have the power to make arrests just like municipal police officers.

The ruling, apparently the first of its kind, is the latest development in a continuing debate over the proper balance between competing institutional concerns -- students' right to privacy and their right to information about their surroundings. Advocates for greater access to campus crime information hope the decision strengthens the case of student journalists who are suing Harvard University to obtain its police records.

S. Daniel Carter, senior vice president of Security on Campus, a nonprofit watchdog group that monitors crime at colleges, says the Mercer ruling affirms that private colleges "should not be given a pass" on disclosing crime information.

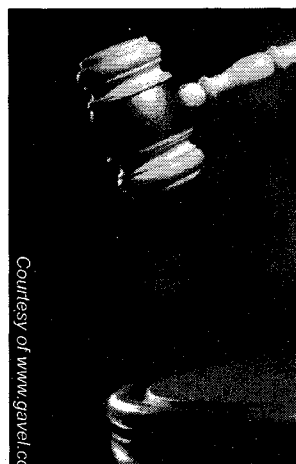
Exempting private colleges from open-records laws, Mr. Carter says, gives them "incentive to operate their police departments as a black hole, where crime can be dealt with privately, without the public being able to be aware of extent of crime on the campus."

In a legal brief filed last December, Mercer had contended that as a private

corporation it was not a public office or agency that was subject to the Georgia Open Records Act.

Furthermore, Mercer's lawyers argued that the university's police officers derive their power from the university, not the state. "The requirement that Mercer policemen be certified in accordance with [state standards] before exercising such powers does not make these officers agents of the state."

Superior Court Judge L.A. McConnell Jr. rejected those arguments. In his ruling, filed this month in the Superior Court of Bibb County, Judge McConnell wrote that in determining whether records held by a private entity were subject to open-records law, the "focus ... is not on the actor but on the particular, discrete function performed by that actor."



Courtesy of www.gavel.cc

He concluded that Mercer police officers performed public duties by enforcing state laws, maintaining public order, and preventing and investigating crimes.

Although Mercer had described documents pertaining to sexual assaults as "sensitive and private" in its brief, Judge McConnell ruled that "the public's interest in safety and in

the transparency of public affairs outweighs Mercer's interest in protecting the privacy of the university and its students."

The judge did concede in his ruling that it was necessary to delete names and addresses of victims of sexual assaults from the documents.

A spokeswoman for Mercer said university officials would not comment on the case. Mercer's lawyers have filed an appeal in the Georgia Court of

Appeals.

As in the Mercer case, Harvard officials cite privacy concerns in explaining their refusal to release detailed police records.

Last summer The Harvard Crimson, the student newspaper, filed a lawsuit against the university to get access to complete crime records after Harvard refused to turn over documents the newspaper had requested.

The Crimson contends that the limited information in police logs had prevented reporters from fully investigating and reporting on incidents of public interest, including alleged embezzlement by two students.

Yet Harvard officials have said that releasing the detailed crime records could reveal personal information about students that would violate the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which protects student privacy. Harvard also argues that its police department is exempt from the public-records laws because the university is a private institution.

Students Say U. of Oklahoma Decision Discriminated Against Christian Newspaper

By ELIZABETH F. FARRELL
Chronicle of Higher Education

Two students in charge of a Christian newspaper at the University of Oklahoma at Norman have filed a religious-discrimination lawsuit after a committee of the university's Student Congress denied their publication almost all of the student-fee appropriation they had requested.

The two students -- Ricky E. Thomas and James Hagan Wickett, who are both seniors -- filed the suit last week against the university's president, David L. Boren, and its Board of Regents. The suit seeks unspecified damages.

The suit says the Student Congress's Ways and Means committee granted the newspaper, the Beacon OU, only \$150 of the \$2,300 that Mr. Thomas and Mr. Wickett had sought for publication and distribution.

According to the lawsuit, Timothy Jay Roberts, a junior who is chairman of the committee, told Beacon OU staff members that they were granted only a limited sum of money because of a university policy prohibiting financing for "religious services of any nature."

University officials did not return calls on Tuesday seeking comment.

The purpose of the Beacon OU is

to "share the genuine love of God to the campus while providing news from or with a Christian perspective," according to the lawsuit. The publication also orga-



Courtesy of www.chriscross.com

nizes campus seminars on creationism and evolution.

Jordan Lorence, a lawyer from the nonprofit Alliance Defense Fund, which is representing the students, said the committee's decision to deny the paper financing was unconstitutional. He cited the U. S. Supreme Court's 1995 ruling in *Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of University of Virginia*, in which the court held that the University of Virginia had violated the First Amendment by denying financial support to a religiously oriented student publication.

"This case is an example of the recurring error that many university officials make in thinking that they have to treat religious groups worse than everyone else to show that they're neutral towards religion," said Lorence. "It's clear and common sense that a university does not endorse a religious group just by treating it the same as other student groups on campus."

One of the two students, Wickett, requested an investigation into the committee's decision in November, and the president's office concluded two weeks later that there was no evidence of discrimination in the decision. After the Beacon OU appealed the president's ruling, an ad hoc committee set up by the president granted the publication an additional \$500, although it is not clear if the money came from the student-activity account.

The Ways and Means committee chairman, Mr. Roberts, declined to comment on the lawsuit on Tuesday. But he earlier told The Oklahoma Daily, the campus's main student newspaper, that there were other reasons that the Beacon OU did not receive more money, including its failure to organize fund-raising activities and its decision to reprint syndicated articles without copyright permission.

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Thursday, March 4, 3:00 p.m.

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McCourt and mtvU Hold Court at SBU

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back in Ireland.

After graduating NYU, McCourt taught at several New York City Public Schools, including Stuyvesant High School. In an extremely comedic way, McCourt described the way he used to confuse the students by asking them what they had for dinner. When they said they had eaten chicken, he asked who had bought, cooked and served it. He then asked what was said at the dinner table. The answers to the first three were "my mom," followed by "we don't talk," or "we fight." McCourt found it unbelievable that American families never seemed to eat meals together unless they were fighting.

Speaking of his book, McCourt said he never expected it to be such a success. Originally, it was written for his family members to read, and not for public eyes. However, Angela's Ashes became extremely popular on the New York Times Best Seller list.

"Nothing is significant until you make it [significant]," McCourt said.

The students seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed McCourt's memoir, as well as his moving talk and valuable advice for writing. After the lecture, students were given the opportunity to ask questions. When a student asked how he remembered all the tiny details from his memoir, McCourt answered, "When you have nothing, you remember everything."

McCourt thought that students were very receptive to his visit. "They laughed [at my jokes]—that shows intelligence," he

said. McCourt was amazed that even with the hierarchy of "big-name universities," all of the schools he visited had great talent and energy in the student body. He added that the students are the "major treasure of the country" and programs like this mtvU contest allow them to get the education they need to "open any door."

Professor Westermann, also an accomplished novelist, wrote *Exit Wounds*, which

Through this opportunity provided by the station, Stony Brook has joined the ranks of featured universities on one of the most influential student-oriented channels in the country.

was made into a movie with Steven Seagal in 2001.

"Westermann produces gritty and wickedly funny books set in the sorry world of police work," said Ellis Henican of *Newsday*.

Often, students who glance at mtvU take the channel's broadcasts in their residence halls and cafeterias for granted. As MTV's

third station, it is beamed by satellite to over 720 universities, and has many amazing opportunities for students. The station was re-launched on Jan. 20 with the hopes of "spreading college culture," said George Oliphant, the VJ who covered this event for the station.

"MtvU will be all about U, the university — but more importantly, U, the student," said Stephen Friedman, General Manager of mtvU in the initial press release. "Just as college students are experimenting with their lives, we want to be a laboratory for what's new, whether it be new music or recognizing the talents of the students themselves." The TV station boasts a "three prong approach" through venues on air, online and on campus.

The students in the class were the recipients of the prize from the station's "Stand-in" contest, which brings icons into classrooms to teach students. Like McCourt, Marilyn Manson taught a class on music and marketing, and Jesse Jackson taught another on Civil Rights at different universities featured on the mtvU satellite network.

Oliphant introduced a new contest called "You Want It, You Got It," where students can win free tuition, a car with free gas for a year or a free spring break vacation.

Through this opportunity provided by the station, Stony Brook has joined the ranks of featured universities on one of the most influential student-oriented channels in the country. It has given students a chance to enhance their college experience, and they are now able to, as McCourt put it, "open any door."

Coffee House Delayed

Continued From Page 1

about the coffeehouse. "There isn't enough advertisement about it," said Dave Jung, a senior at Stony Brook. "People who commute would have no idea about it unless by word of mouth."

However, students who are aware of the Kelly coffeehouse are eagerly anticipating the opening day. "It sounds really nice and I can't wait until it opens," said Wendy, a junior residing in Kelly. "It's like bringing a city atmosphere to the campus."

"There is also a phase two in progress for the coffeehouse," Agnello said. Their plan is for a stage and more chairs; almost like a programming space where live music entertainment would either be provided or brought in by students. This will be built in the additional open space on the first floor of Kelly.

Hours of operation is still being debated with suggestions ranging from 4-11 or 5-12 from Sunday-Thursday. Students interested in working for the Kelly Tea and Coffeehouse can contact Dave Conway, director of Kelly Dining.

Police Blotter: Feb. 17 - Feb. 23

By MAURY HIRSCHKORN
Statesman Staff

Feb. 17, 2004

8:32 a.m. - Larceny, Health Science Center, level 4, suite 170, floral arrangement taken.

Feb. 18, 2004

4:41 a.m. - Medical emergency, Stimson College, male with stomach pains transported to University Hospital.

12:22 p.m. - Larceny, Melville Library, 4th floor, nameplates taken from doors.

1:50 p.m. - Medical emergency, Old Chemistry building, 18-year-old female with abdominal pains.

Feb. 19, 2004

12:48 p.m. - Motor vehicle accident, Nicolls Rd./Main Entrance, physical injuries.

1:05 p.m. - Medical emergency, Health Science Center, loading dock, 60-year-old female injured from a fall.

1:16 p.m. - Larceny, Javits Lecture Center, wallet with contents taken.

1:59 p.m. - Burglary, Three Village Soccer Complex, various items taken.

Feb. 20, 2004

10:56 a.m. - Graffiti, Student Union, men's room.

11:20 a.m. - Possession of Graffiti Instruments, arrest of suspect of numerous complaints.

5:11 p.m. - Motor vehicle accident, stadium parking lot.

5:14 p.m. - Mechanical failure, James

College, two students stuck in freight elevator.

5:37 p.m. - Larceny, Stadium parking lot, theft of automobile.

9:15 p.m. - Motor vehicle accident, Marburger Dr.

Feb. 21, 2004

2:06 a.m. - Disturbance, Baruch Inner Quad, individuals throwing items from balcony, three students referred.

12:33 p.m. - Motor vehicle accident, Stadium Rd.

2:47 p.m. - Larceny, Student Activities Center, student left without paying for food and tried to use someone's else's meal card.

4:26 p.m. - Criminal mischief, Health Science Center garage, vehicle spray painted.

10:45 p.m. - Criminal mischief, Computer Science window smashed.

Feb. 22, 2004

2:25 p.m. - Medical emergency, Mount College, room B-23C. 19-year-old female with abdominal pains.

Feb. 23, 2004

6:00 a.m. - Mechanical failure, James College, One female stuck in elevator, resident assistant notified.

8:23 a.m. - Larceny, Health Science Center, CD player/radio taken.

10:47 a.m. - Motor vehicle accident, Dental School parking lot.

1:13 p.m. - Larceny, Langmuir College, tools taken.

1:16 p.m. - Graffiti, Sanger College, "A" wing entrance.

The Risks of Online Dating

Continued From Page 1

internet."

LoveShack is an addition to Joe X.'s other website, Stony Brook Sucks (www.stonybrooksucks.com) which contains news and information about the university, some of which is critical of the administration.

"We're asking the wrong question... We should be asking 'Why do some men rape?' or 'Why do some men not hear 'No!'"

Laura Kathleen Williams

Joe X. admitted that there were concerns about meeting people through "dating" websites but added that problems could also occur when meeting people through other means.

"[The LoveShack] site is no more dangerous than meeting singles at a bar, a classified ad, a classroom, a dorm party, or the cafeteria," he said. "Unfortunately, we live in a world where there are enough wackos out there that we all need to

proceed with caution."

Joe X. said that there are good and bad qualities to "dating" websites. "Running this site for over two years now, I've seen it all from my web visitors," he said. "I've seen the worst of human nature, the profanity, racism and perversion. And I can honestly say I've seen the best of it as well. Just a few weeks ago, a string of messages showed up on my site: a frustrated freshman on the verge of depression in deep consideration of suicide. This message was followed by over thirty replies, [from] fellow students who showed her that she had friends she hasn't met yet. On a side note, she thanked everyone for the support and [wrote] off the idea of suicide."

Carol Carlson, academic advisor in the undergraduate office of the department of psychology, questioned the judgment of the female student who made the sex abuse complaint. "The girl should have known better," she said. "She should have met him in a public place, such as a mall or diner."

Laura Kathleen Williams, director of the Wo/Men's Center agreed in part. "It's a good idea to meet in a neutral space," she said. "But it's dangerous to blame the victim."

"We're asking the wrong question," she said. "We should be asking 'Why do some men rape?' or 'Why do some men not hear 'No!'"

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Editorial

On the Miseducation of a Nation

"That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons of history."

- Aldous Huxley



Courtesy of www.nato.int

Relief workers collected the remains of the victims of the Rwanda Genocide in 1994.

By EMY KURIAKOSE
Statesman Editor

The security video showed two men walking past each other along the street. There was no audio, but the rustling trees in the foreground hinted at a relatively silent, relaxed warm afternoon. One man held a long blade, and the other held a baby. As they approached one another, the man with the blade raised his arm and simply cut across the other man's chest, slicing the baby in half as well. As the wounded man dropped the baby and fell to his knees, the blade rose again. This time, it came down across his face, and once more onto his skull. Over the next 100 days, 600,000 people would be killed in a similar fashion in what is now considered one of humanity's darkest moments. Videos broadcasted the butchery across the world, but no one lifted a finger. The genocide in Rwanda would become another page in a history book.

For many of us in college today, living through those 100 days in 1994 entailed small exams, book reports and glittery projects in junior high. The nightly news gave small synopses of the Hutu and Tutsi civil war, but those things were far away, and besides, we used to hand the remote over to our parents after the Disney Afternoon. We probably had a more pressing history test on the Renaissance or the Middle Ages to think about. Why don't we remember something so horrid that took place in our own lifetime? Today, there is a civil war raging in the Congo, a revolution in Haiti, a government upheaval in Afghanistan and a slow but steady eradication of Tibetan culture. Oh, and there's a war in Iraq.

According to TiVo, the new digital recorder that

allows viewers to pause and replay live television, the most replayed moment in that device's history was the ten seconds on the Super Bowl when a star-studded breast took front stage. For the next two weeks, debates raged from mothers to senators to corporations. Were these people equally outraged when we blanketed Vietnam with Agent Orange bombs, eradicating rare species and deforesting miles of land? Do they know that Vietnamese children are born with birth defects to this day? More importantly, how many news organizations reported this on primetime?

Kids in high school learn more about Ancient Egypt than they do the Cold War or the Gulf War. The semester seems to run out of time, or those topics simply are not covered in the State exams. In fact, once they leave high school, students won't run into a history class again unless they enroll in one on their own, or are forced into one via school requirements.

It seems as if a 50-year block of time must lapse before an event can be considered "history." We like to think that we are so far removed in time from this "history" to convince ourselves that any wrongdoing on our part was in the past. We have changed. We are better now, and we have learned from our bad deeds. They were in charge then. They made the decisions. Never us.

In 50 years, we'll hear all the details of "Operation Enduring Freedom," and might even understand the real reasons behind our decision to wage war. More likely though, our children will be glued to the next wave of obscenity, music videos and reality TV shows on what has become, quite literally, a "boob" tube.

They, like much of the country, will embrace that supreme value that has come to cloud our education: self-interest.

Teachers must break away from traditional subject matter, and must forge outlets for students to express their thoughts on foreign policy and governmental practices. This is most pressing in a university.

In a panel debate on the war in Iraq last year, members of national media and faculty members from Stony Brook's history and political science departments came together at the Wang center to present their views on America's involvement in the Middle East. The average age of the audience members was 30. There was a noticeable lack of student faces in the crowd. This cannot be blamed on apathy, or on the students themselves. We have simply not been raised to care. When college students were drafted for the Vietnam War, protests lined every street corner. But today we are safe from the war. It's far away. And now, we hide behind our MTV Afternoons.

Uneducated masses who don't care to vote, or pay heed to militaristic budgets are the best thing for America. What we fail to realize is that our ignorance of the world is more dangerous than our enemy's intelligence about us. Ignorance and inwardness is fundamentally self-destructive.

If it's not happening to us, it's not happening at all. It is not that we cannot learn from history, it is that we are not taught well enough to want to change the future.

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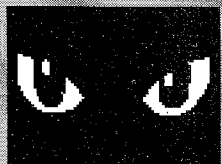
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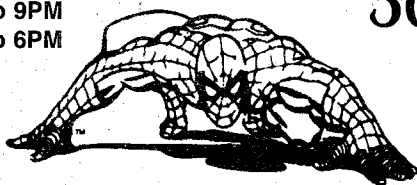


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Faculty Spotlight: Mary Jo Bona

By **ELLIE BABA-KISHI-ZADEH**
Statesman Contributor

While students may complain that some professors do not put time and energy into student meetings and community development, they cannot ignore the faculty that stand apart from the crowd to shine as unique thinkers, implementing original teaching methods and ideas. Mary Jo Bona, Ph.D., English and Italian studies professor is approaching education from a different angle, fitting it to Stony Brook's unique commuter and resident student culture.

Bona was inspired to become an English professor by two things: her love for language and literature, and her love for the professors who introduced her to a world of beauty and pain. Her passion for words began early in life, though she never permitted herself to believe, until much later, that she was worthy of achieving distinction by pursuing higher education.

Bona has found teaching at Stony Brook difficult in terms of adjustment, although extremely rewarding. Having taught for 10 years at a small, Jesuit institution that focused on undergraduate education, she had students nurtured by a community environment, reinforced by a high percentage of on-campus students and professors who were devoted to them. At Stony Brook, Bona finds that students are often commuters who suffer from a lack of connection with their college community. She believes that students do suffer because of this.

To combat this alienation, she focuses on establishing a close community in her classes. She requires a high level of participation and regular attendance, regardless of the size of the class. She works to get to know her students well, and operates with the principle that students benefit from professors who demand excellence.

The rewards at Stony Brook are interrelated, she said. She works to establish a community in the classroom and students recognize the fact that Bona respects the development of their minds. Bona is aware that this affords higher classroom performance. Students of diverse ethnic back-

grounds at Stony Brook contribute even more to her little classroom communities, creating an environment in which both she and they learn.

Bona received her doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, and her dissertation topic focused on Italian

a cross-cultural dialogue between two groups historically separated by racism and lack of understanding.

This course was new to Stony Brook, and Bona feels fortunate to have received a stipendiary award and entrance into a three-year term with the Academy of Teacher Scholars. She received the support she needed for developing the course from her students, who helped create the syllabus and establish the perimeters of the class. With the grant, Bona was able to invite a scholar of African American literature from the University of Arkansas to deliver a presentation to the students.

Bona is currently collecting a chapbook of poetry titled *I Stop Waiting for You*, and is organizing a group of essays written over the past ten years for revision in book form. In addition, she is working in collaboration with a colleague to publish an anthology entitled *It Ain't Over Yet: Multiethnic Literature and Canon Debates*. Her previous publications include the monograph, *Claiming a Tradition: Italian American Women Writers*, and *The Voices We Carry: Recent Italian American Women's Fiction*. She was also the guest editor of a recently published issue of the journal of Italian American Literature, *MELUS* (Multiethnic Literature of the United States).

Bona feels that there is a connective thread between all her work; threads that she has discovered and created. Early in her career, she worked hard to distance herself from the destructive notion that teaching and family life were somehow unrelated to her "real" work: publishing and writing. While she continues to struggle with those distinctions, Bona is more at peace knowing that when she is in the classroom, she is doing real work. She gives one hundred percent every time she teaches, and refuses to give her students less of herself in favor of her other works.

Teaching with passion and heart-felt conviction is exhausting but exhilarating, she said.

Bona feels that her work has definitely evolved over the years, and coming to Stony Brook has enabled her to unite her critical work on Italian American literature with her teaching, thus strengthening the connective threads of her professional life.



Statesman/Mansoor Khan

PROFESSOR MARY JO BONA

American women writers, an area of literature still in its infancy when she began writing about it in the late 1980's.

Last semester, Bona taught a class titled, "Italian American and African American Women Writers," which was a pedagogical dream for her. She wanted to establish

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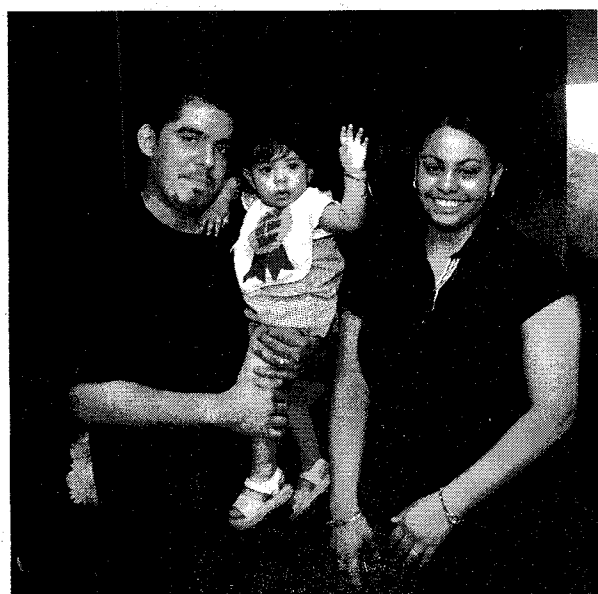
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Sigma Lambda Beta
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Zeta Beta Tau

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Delta Sigma Theta
Epsilon Sigma Phi
Gamma Ce Upsilon
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Omega Phi Beta
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Brett Backerman	Sung Je Chung	Melissa Kelly	Richelle Lim	William Ngan	Tricia Schierenbeck	George Toulounis
Stefanie Badzim	Danielle Cornera	Kathy Kholdani	Lauren Lucashuk	Andrea Ott	Sophia Shats	Jamie Weckman
Salvina Barresi	Darlene De Jesus	Ahyoung Kim	Michael Lui	Krystle Pagonas	Sachindeep Singh	Kimberly Yam
Scott Branca	Gloria Gill	Lucille Kim	Vlad Mandelbloom	Alison Panarella	Ivy Skolnick	Julia Yang
Jonathan Brodis	Carmen Gong	Brian Krichevsky	Eric Mastroianni	Diana Pang	Inna Sokolsky	Victoria Yarisantos
Kristie Busch	Rosario Gumpeng	Nga Kam Lai	Joseph Mata	Jessica Parness	Amanda Sosulski	Betty Yu
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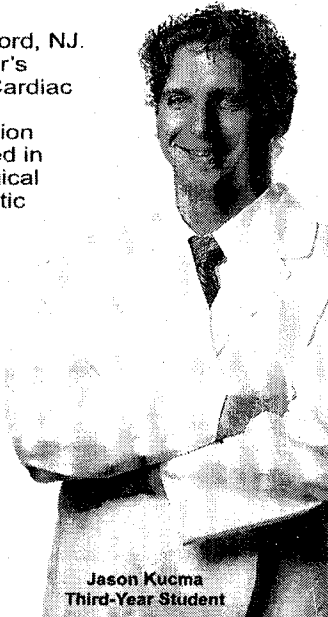
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Jason Kucma is a Third-Year student from Medford, NJ. He graduated from Ithaca College with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology concentrating in Cardiac Rehabilitation.

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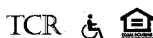


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