

# THE BROOK



CAN THERE BE MORALITY IN POLITICS? BY HAYNES JOHNSON

## From the Desk of Jane Knapp

**W**henever I am at an event that brings Stony Brook alumni, faculty, and staff together, I'm always impressed with the scope and breadth of our achievements. (Not to mention how terrific we all look in black tie!) This was clearly evident at this past November's Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner, held at Carlyle on The Green at Bethpage State Park (see page 18).

The honorees were Rich Gelfond ('76, B.A.); Richard Bravman ('78, B.A.); Debra Cinotti ('86, DDS); and Sylvia Diaz ('92, MSW). All of them have done—and continue to do—their University proud.

This was also a banner year for Stony Brook faculty, whose accomplishments continue to be recognized at the highest levels. The Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded to Paul Lauterbur, whose research here at Stony Brook led to the development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). President Bush presented our own James Glimm, chair of the Applied Mathematics Department, with the National Medal of Science, one of only eight scientists in the nation to receive such recognition.

There will be more opportunities to reconnect with your fellow Stony Brook alums in 2004. The Fifth Annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala will be held on April 28 at the Waldorf-Astoria. The money raised at this event supports scholarships and other University initiatives. Your Alumni Association now directly contributes almost \$50,000 each year to support Stony Brook students. In addition, the annual gifts made by thousands of fellow alumni help many more deserving young men and women.

In the words of President Kenny: "We have come so far, so fast." With our continued support, Stony Brook can go even farther, even faster.

Jane Knapp '78  
President, Stony Brook Alumni Association

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**On Our Cover:** Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President of the United States (1869-1877), presided over an administration riddled with scandal and corruption. Although Grant himself was not involved, his close advisors were, and Grant's presidency was viewed as a failure.

Compiled by Lynne Roth

# What's New on Campus



Workstation where Paul Lauterbur conducted his research.



For James Glimm, science has been a "fantastic adventure."



Bruce Schroffel (left) and Dr. Norman Edelman unveil Hospital model.

## MRI Technology Discovered at Stony Brook Wins Nobel Prize

Paul Lauterbur, whose research at Stony Brook led to the development of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and revolutionized health care in the latter portion of the 20th century, was awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Lauterbur, 74, had been at Stony Brook University for two decades. He was Professor of Chemistry as well as Professor of Radiology in the School of Medicine when he conducted the research that led to his landmark discovery in the 1970s and early 1980s.

The research began in 1971 when Lauterbur watched as colleagues used Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) to examine tissue cut from a cancerous tumor. Intrigued by the possibilities of magnetic resonance, he was able to use the new technology to produce an image of a pair of small glass tubes immersed in a vial of water. Soon after, he produced an image of a live subject: a clam that his nine-year-old daughter Sharyn had picked up from the beach not far from their home in East Setauket.

Two years later, the journal *Nature* published an article by Lauterbur describing an NMR technique for taking three-dimensional pictures of body organs and vessels without the use of ionized radiation or toxic dyes. This technique was used as the basis for the manufacture of MRI equipment and has become a critical non-invasive tool in medical diagnosis.

"I knew [MRI] would be a useful tool from the very first ideas, but not how useful," Lauterbur said. According to the Nobel committee, more than 60 million MRI scans are performed worldwide every year for medical diagnosis.

"Stony Brook is rightfully known as the birthplace of the MRI," said President Kenny. "It is because of Dr. Lauterbur's research done here that millions of lives have been improved due to this breakthrough in health care technology."

## James Glimm Awarded National Medal of Science

President Bush recently named James Glimm, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Applied Mathematics, one of eight of the nation's leading scientists and engineers to receive the 2002 National Medal of Science. The presidential medal is the nation's highest honor for researchers who make major impacts in fields of science and engineering through career-long, groundbreaking achievements and on the individual disciplines for which the awards are given. The medal also recognizes contributions to innovation, industry, or education.

"We are very proud of Dr. Glimm," said President Kenny. "He has done extraordinary work and has helped Stony Brook earn its reputation as a leading research university."

Dr. Glimm was honored for his work in shock wave theory and other cross-disciplinary fields in mathematical physics. He established the Center of Applied Mathematics at Stony Brook, where, through a network of collaborations with research groups elsewhere, he has been a key player in present-day research in applied mathematics, most recently as part of the team that developed a complex mathematical formula to detect early stage ovarian cancer. He is also a Professor and Director of the Center of Data Intensive Computing at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

"Science has been a fantastic adventure," said Glimm. "I've worked in many areas of applied mathematics, theoretical physics, and computation. When it all comes together you find that problems, as they come to you in real life, are not stuck in certain disciplines." Dr. Glimm said much of his work has centered on the study of differential equations, which "are really a mathematical description of the laws of physics. The computational part is to find a solution to these equations. Once you find them, you're finding solutions to the laws of physics that govern the universe."

## Orthopedic Unit Opens as Part of Hospital Master Plan

The new Orthopedic Unit at University Hospital opened this past November, the initial component of a comprehensive \$300 million, three-year master plan to meet the growing health care needs of Long Islanders.

"This is a symbolic day," said Bruce Schroffel, Hospital Director and CEO. "It marks the completion of the first phase of the master plan." The opening also coincides with the Hospital's new marketing theme: *Smart Medicine. Expert Care.*

Encompassing the Joint Replacement Center, Spine Center, and Physical/Occupational Therapy Department, the 10,000-square-foot facility has been completely renovated. It contains expanded rooms; six private rooms; a new Physical/Occupational Therapy gymnasium; a spacious lounge where patient groups can meet for therapy, educational sessions, and social occasions; and a large conference room for staff meetings and lectures. Special attention was also given to family waiting areas and space for private consultations.

"Our doctors, nurses, and physical and occupational therapists all had input into creating this patient-focused unit," said Lawrence C. Hurst, M.D., Chair and Professor of Orthopedic Surgery. "It is an ideal environment for providing excellent patient care to these orthopedic patients with unique needs."

Schroffel, along with Norman Edelman, Vice President of the Health Sciences Center and Dean of the School of Medicine, also unveiled a model of the Hospital expansion. Highlights include a new Ambulatory Care Pavilion, which will house the Long Island Cancer Center and Breast Care Center; a larger Emergency Department; the Heart Center, which performs the only open-heart surgeries in Suffolk County; a new Neonatal Intensive Care unit; an expansion of the Radiology Department; and a new Obstetrics/Maternity Unit.

Compiled and written by Shelley Colwell Catalano

# Research Roundup

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

## Reversal of Misfortune

Hope springs eternal on the Hudson River. Jeffrey Levinton, a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution, has shown that after a massive cleanup effort, a highly polluted riverbed can be restored to its original environmental health.

Foundry Cove, a small tidal bay and Superfund site opposite West Point Military Academy, near Cold Spring, New York, was one of the most polluted sites in the world prior to 1994. For decades, a battery factory had used the cove to dispose of hundreds of tons of metal-contaminated wastes. This elevated the cadmium concentration of the bottom sediment to levels that were 100,000 times the standard for unhealthy contamination set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As a result, an aquatic worm related to the earthworm and one of the most common species contained in the cove had mutated into a strain that was resistant to cadmium toxicity.

Levinton's \$100 million study, funded by The Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research Inc., found that the mutants that took over the riverbed were not only resistant to cadmium, but also absorbed it at high rates and could transfer the toxic metal through the food web.

From 1994 to 1996, a large marsh and open cove area was dredged of pollutants as part of a cleanup mandated by the EPA in 1989. The marsh area was sealed, refilled with sediment, and replanted with marsh plants. Would the cleanup be enough to reverse the two decades of cadmium pollution that caused dramatic effects on life in the cove?

Yes. The Stony Brook scientists have shown a dramatic and rapid reversal of resistance toward nearly complete recovery at Foundry



*Levinton's research demonstrates the value of large-scale cleanups of toxic sites.*

Cove. Since the cleanup eight years ago, Levinton's team discovered that worms in the cove now are not different in resistance from those in areas that had not experienced pollution. Their bodies are no longer laden with cadmium, and the sediment is very low in cadmium concentration—even lower than sediment tested at a cove located a distance from the battery factory.

"This dramatic change in the ability of organisms to transfer toxic substances through the food chain shows the power of evolution and also the wisdom of cleaning up such a polluted site," said Levinton. "It proves that large-scale dredging and cleanups can be done with great success."

Levinton, a 20-year member of the Ecology faculty, was recently appointed the founding Faculty Director of the College of Science and Society, one of the new First-Year Undergraduate Colleges.

## A New Weapon in the Battle Against Cancer

Another punch has been thrown in the fight against cancer, as a Stony Brook professor's research has led to the development of a therapy that battles cancer cells without the side effects normally associated with other existing treatments.

Dr. Wen-Tien Chen, a professor of Research Oncology at Stony Brook University, was recently awarded a patent for therapeutic antibodies. Chen has linked several molecular and cellular events with the spread of cancer cells to distant areas of the body through the bloodstream. His discoveries are building the knowledge that will one day help companies develop therapies that attack only cancer cells without harming normal cells. Vitatex Inc. is using Chen's work to create products that detect cancer and to treat patients with metastatic cancer without toxic side effects.

"We have developed monoclonal antibodies that inhibit specific protein digesting enzymes and stop tumors from developing new blood vessels," said Chen. "Vitatex scientists now are using this science to explore novel antiangiogenesis therapies that can restrict tumor growth."

Antiangiogenesis therapy is a promising new cancer treatment that uses synthetic compounds or natural substances such as proteins and monoclonal antibodies to stop tumors from developing new blood vessels. Without a blood supply, tumors can't grow much larger than the eye of a needle. "Our goal is to develop drugs that fight cancer cells while causing far fewer side effects," Chen said.

Chen founded Vitatex with support from the Long Island High Technology Incubator, an initiative created by the Center for Biotechnology to foster the growth of new biotechnology and high-tech companies.



*Stony Brook scientists carefully examine Hudson River aquatic life to gauge the health of the ecosystem.*

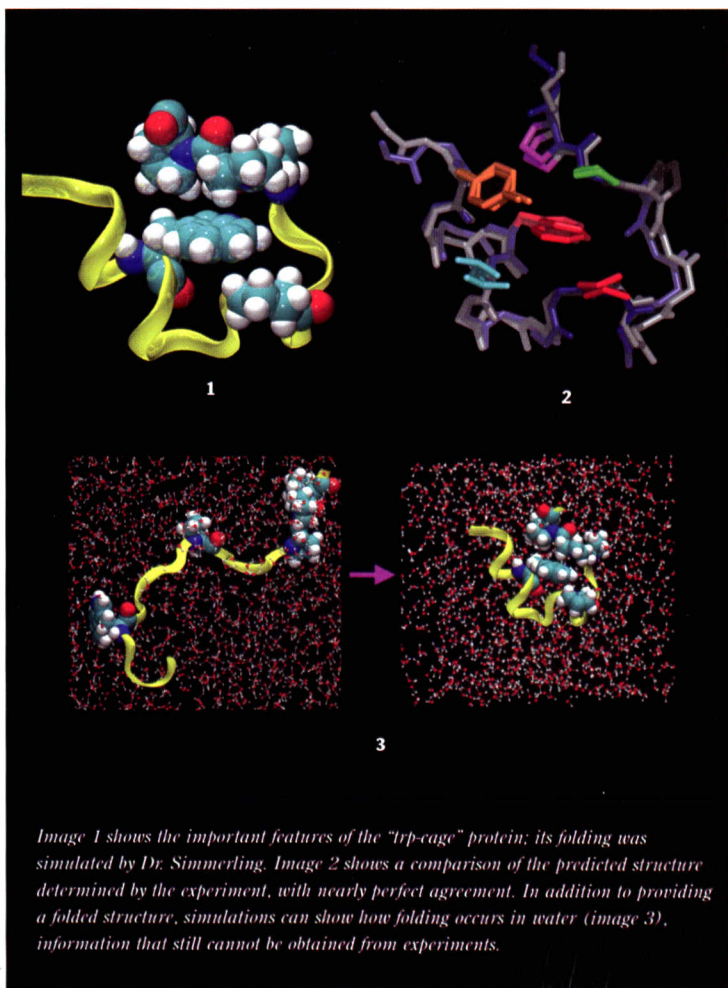
## Computer Simulation Speeds Up Genome Mapping

The genome—an organism's complete set of DNA—is at the core of many scientists' attempts to find cures for human diseases. Mapping the trail of the genome's three-billion base pairs and the 100,000 proteins they generate in the course of operating and maintaining the human body is a daunting task. But that task recently got a little easier, thanks to a discovery by Carlos Simmerling, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, and his research team.

Simmerling led his team in correctly predicting through computer simulation how a protein folds into its final shape at the atomic level. To achieve this "holy grail" for seeing protein shapes, Simmerling built a custom supercomputer using more than 100 PCs and developed software to directly simulate the changes that the protein undergoes while searching for its optimal fold. The work was recently detailed in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

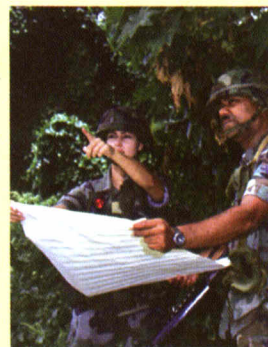
By forecasting what these molecules of life look like from their gene sequence, the team received worldwide attention for solving one of the most important challenges in post-genomic biology. Before Simmerling's work, the only option for researchers was to use NMR and X-ray crystallography, slow and labor-intensive techniques, to reveal the positions of each atom in the protein. Structures have been determined for only a small fraction of known proteins.

This groundbreaking work is already having a major impact in biotechnology, drug design, and medicinal chemistry. The information provided by the computer simulation will help researchers to understand the protein's function, determine why genome variations can result in disease, and serves as the basis for design of drugs that modify protein function.



## On the Horizon

**D**r. Ian Roxborough, Professor of Sociology, was one of 11 researchers to receive a Carnegie Foundation Fellowship last year. Each of the scholars, chosen in a highly competitive process, received up to \$100,000 to pursue their research for one to two years. Roxborough's project, "Diagnosing New Dangers: A Sociology of Military Strategy and Threat Assessment," is a study of the organizational and cultural constraints on the development of U.S. military strategy in the aftermath of the Cold War. Using concepts and methods from psychology and sociology, he will provide a full account of the complicated dynamics involved in the formulation of U.S. military strategy and suggest ways to improve the strategy development process. He will write two books—one addressing the "who" and "what" questions from the perspective of military strategists, e.g., who will be America's enemy? The second will address the "how" question, examining military debates about new weapons systems, new doctrine, and new organizational arrangements to conduct military operations.



**L**ove is under review in the laboratory of Joanne Davila, Associate Professor of Psychology. She has recently begun work on The SBU College Relationships Study (CRS). The National Institute of Mental Health-funded project is designed to examine predictors of short-term changes in feelings of security and longer-term patterns of attachment in late adolescents/young adults. The main project is a longitudinal study of young dating couples. The project also will examine the extent to which people carry over attachment patterns from one romantic relationship to another versus the extent to which a new attachment pattern is developed with each new partner. The project, which began data collection in October, will continue through June 2006.



**U**pon receiving a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, Brooke Larson, Professor of History, can now "spend most of the year at my computer, drafting chapters for the book," she reports. Larson was awarded the fellowship for her research of struggles over peasant schooling in the Bolivian Andes from 1900 to 1952. Her project studies the shifting social definitions of power, knowledge, and justice through the lens of Indian education in the rural highlands of Bolivia.



# Can There be Morality in Politics?

In the current climate of negativity and cynicism, a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer still sees some hopeful signs.



*Brace yourselves, fellow citizens, I have shocking news to report. Parson Weems notwithstanding, George Washington did not say, "Father, I cannot tell a lie. I did cut the tree." I have more disturbing news to offer. Despite what "they" say, the Father of Our Country did not throw a silver dollar across the Potomac. That was a lie, too. Nor did he kneel humbly in the snow at Valley Forge, praying for God's blessings on his troops, or even attend church as a Christian, which he was not. He was a Deist. These and other reports of Washington's sainted acts established the supposed standards of morality for our political leaders. At best, they're misleading, if not outright false.*

I recite this musty history for a most contemporary reason, for George Washington's story personifies what from the beginning has been an enduring characteristic of the American people. First, we elevate our public figures, and especially our presidents, into mythical proportions. They are truth-tellers; they can do no wrong; they are most moral people. Second, no sooner do we imagine memorializing them in heroic statuary than we begin the public process of their destruction. They are either corrupt or liars, disappointments or betrayers of the public trust.

This background of a national love/hate split personality about politics becomes critical as we enter another presidential election cycle, one in which questions of trust and candor—and, inevitably, accusations of mistrust and immorality—will be at the center of public debate.

So can there be morality in politics? Of course. It already exists—in abundance. In my experience of reporting on and closely observing our political process, including the workings of every president since Eisenhower, the great majority of politicians are honorable, enormously hard-working, and genuinely devoted to the public good.

At the same time, there are grounds aplenty for cynicism about eroding ethical standards of politics. Distortion, deception, and manipulation abound—and so do examples of public figures who paid the price for telling the truth.

In recent years, we've witnessed politicians like Jimmy Carter promise never to lie to us. He didn't, and he lost. Walter F. Mondale promised to tell the truth about the necessity for raising taxes. He said his opponent, Ronald Reagan, would promise not to—but would, if elected. Mondale was right. Of 18 tax bills Reagan signed as president, 13 of them called for tax increases. Mondale lost. Reagan was overwhelmingly elected twice. Reagan pledged never to trade arms for hostages. He did. Lyndon Johnson lied about an attack on an American destroyer in the Tonkin Gulf. He then used the deception as a rationale for expanding military operations in Vietnam. Richard Nixon cried, "I'm not a crook." The evidence showed he was. Bill Clinton looked the nation straight in its collective eye and said, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman." The rest is history.

Despite Congressional attempts at reform, vast sums of money still play a powerful role in our elections. Money buys access, access buys influence, and influence buys favorable legislation that benefits the few and the powerful—not the weak and the needy. And all this occurs at a time of pervasive distrust of politicians, from presidents on down. These are the political days of a fiercely ideological attack culture composed, in part, of well-financed political "spin doctors"—a polite term for liars—and, in part, of a scandal-mongering mass media (especially the cable TV shouting-head newscasts that masquerade for serious discussion of issues). Together, they sow greater public disbelief about the fairness of the political system and erode the consensus essential to make wise policy choices in a democracy.

So, yes, the public is right to be troubled by the current state of politics. But the problem involves much more than political immorality. The political system does not exist in isolation; it directly reflects the manners and morals of the larger society. Its behavior cannot be separated from the kinds of ethical misconduct that brought on multiple scandals in the wider society: in corporate headquarters; in accounting and law firms; in big-time athletics; in newsrooms; in classrooms; in parishes.

In this election cycle, the question before the nation is one of trust—or, put another way, restoring trust both in politics and in society itself.

This election comes after disturbing events at home and abroad that have seriously shaken public trust. Here, merely as reminders, are some of them: The impeachment of a president for only the second time since 1868...The rise and fall of the stock market, a boom-and-bust cycle unmatched since the Crash of 1929, which, in its aftermath, has left the national economy in tatters...The closest, most polarizing presidential election since 1874, which negatively affected the way citizens viewed their courts and their political system...The launching of two wars by

**“Despite the present climate of distrust about the political system, we tend to overlook its strengths and achievements.”**

United States forces in reaction to terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, one on Afghanistan, the other on Iraq—wars that continue to be waged to uncertain conclusion amid growing controversy about the government's stated case for going to war.

If today's climate of negativism and cynicism prevails, the people and the politicians will fail the vital test of providing thoughtful, responsible leadership to address the daunting questions before us. It's in that sense that I make a plea for perspective about the questions of

morality in politics and the widely held belief that never have politicians been more deserving of public distrust.

There's nothing new about public distrust. It's as old as the Republic, and by no means as bad as depicted.

Dickens memorably described this kind of attitude during his travels across the young America in the 1840s. He was struck by what he called "the one great blemish in the popular mind of America." That was: "Universal Distrust." The American people, he said, "were so given to feelings of jealousy and distrust that they carried them into every transaction of public life." As he said, in friendly warning to a people he otherwise much admired, "your inconstancy has passed into a proverb, for you sooner set up an idol firmly than you are sure to pull it down and dash it into fragments." He feared this trait was so destructive that it would affect the ability of future leaders. "Any man," he predicted, "who attains a high place among you, from the President downward, may date his downfall from that moment."

He was right. Not that every president was corrupt or presided over corrupt administrations. At most, only three were: Grant, Harding, and Nixon. But every one of them was accused of some form of immorality and corruption while in office. That even includes our first three presidents—Washington, Adams, and Jefferson—those alabaster figures hailed through the ages as the greatest of the Founding Fathers. Each endured vicious accusations of scandal and immorality. Typical of the abuses they suffered at the hands of scandal-mongers was Washington himself. Shortly after he delivered his famous Farewell Address, a Philadelphia paper, the *Aurora*, wrote of him: "If ever a nation was debauched by a man, the American nation has been debauched by Washington. If ever a nation has suffered from improper influence of a man, the American nation has suffered from the influence of Washington. If ever a nation was deceived by a man, the American nation has been deceived by Washington."



*President John F. Kennedy at his 1960 Inauguration, flanked by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, then Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, and former Vice President Richard M. Nixon.*



Despite the present climate of distrust about the political system, we tend to overlook its strengths and achievements. For all its faults, the American political system remains the most self-correcting one. In my career, I have seen this society right a number of historic wrongs: ending segregation; expanding rights for women, gays, lesbians, Native Americans, handicapped individuals; stopping, however belatedly, an unjust war in Southeast Asia; dealing responsibly with real corruption in high office, as in the Watergate case.

Politics, like life, involves the art of the possible, not the perfect. It demands the best of us, not the worst. And by that I mean the best-informed and educated electorate, the setting of highest public standards, the righting of wrongs when they arise, as they always will. As for myself, I adhere to the old axiom articu-

**“So, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.”**

—President John F. Kennedy

lated by Al Smith, the long-ago progressive Governor of New York and defeated presidential candidate: “The only cure to the ails of democracy is more democracy.”

In that spirit, let’s stop our collective wringing of hands, our self-destructive attacks on the reputations of people with whom we disagree, our trashing of public figures and the public service. We’ve got important work to do, hard work that requires the kind of common effort, common purpose, and common sacrifice, if necessary, that I remember John Kennedy urging on us from his inaugural platform: “So, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.”

There’s a political testament for our times. I don’t offer it out of mushy sentimentality. I offer it out of pure national self-interest, which is another definition of the practice of politics. ■

*Haynes Johnson is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, best-selling author of 13 books, and national television commentator. He holds the Knight Chair in Journalism at the University of Maryland.*

## *Stony Brook Speaks Out*

**Members of the campus community offer their viewpoints.**

Morality in politics can be a pretty subjective thing. Usually people find the arguments and positions they agree with to be the most moral. That said, politics is not just the electioneering we are getting so much of these days. There are groups that are very active in promoting a public agenda that I believe is a moral agenda: affordable housing, affordable health care, improvement of education. These community-based efforts can be found everywhere in America, and they make a difference. One such group, the East Brooklyn Congregations (EBC), has built literally thousands of homes in areas of New York that were formerly burnt out. Right now I am involved with Long Island Congregations Associations and Neighborhoods, which is working to bring some regulation to the sober housing [situation] in Suffolk County. These organizations will work with whomever it is that can help them achieve their goals. One hard fact of life for politicians is that for these citizens groups, there are no permanent friends and no permanent enemies. This means we will work with a politician on some things and oppose her on others. Keeping the public good in sight is what morality in politics is all about.

*Brother Clark Berge, Protestant Campus Ministry, Interfaith Center*

The summer before I began college at Stony Brook I worked as an intern in the district office of Congressman Felix Grucci Jr. (R – East Patchogue). During that time, I had a number of duties, but my favorite was helping the Congressman’s staffers with constituent casework. I’ll always remember the first case I worked on and the way I felt after I resolved the problem. I walked around the office with a smile that wouldn’t leave my face. When my co-workers found out, two of them approached me and asked how it felt. They asked which I liked more, the feeling of helping someone, or the power that came with the name of the office. When I told them the former, they seemed very satisfied with me. One staffer then told me to remember to never let the power influence my decisions. She had witnessed power corrupt a number of good people in this area of work, and didn’t want the same to ever happen to me. Throughout my two summers as an intern, the Congressman and his staff always taught me to respect the office and honestly serve the people. Can there be morality in politics? Absolutely.

*Timothy Cole, (junior) has been accepted for the White House internship program for the spring '04 semester. He will be working in the office of the National Economic Council, which is responsible for advising and assisting the President in the formulation, coordination, and implementation of economic policy.*

When we’re talking politics, we tend to confuse morals with ethics. Morality is about the fundamentals of right and wrong; ethics is about consensual standards of proper conduct. To clarify the difference: Suppose a U.S. President illegally invaded a sovereign nation, killing, maiming, and imprisoning thousands of innocent civilians, all with the aim of projecting imperial power and securing oil profits. That would be immoral. Now suppose this same, purely hypothetical, President used lies and propaganda to sucker the electorate into supporting the war. That would be unethical. In politics, you can act unethically in the service of morality (like FDR, who manipulated a reluctant country into war against the Nazis). Or you can pursue morally repulsive policies without breaching ethics in any way (like Woodrow Wilson, who trashed decades of progress in civil rights). In the White House, moral-plus-unethical beats ethical-plus-immoral every time. Unethical-plus-immoral equals catastrophe. But it couldn’t happen here, right?

*Jacob Levich, University Web Content Manager; Contributing Editor, Behind the Invasion of Iraq (Monthly Review Press, New York, 2003)*

I believe that elected office is one of the highest callings an individual can pursue. The sacrifices that flow from holding public office are many. Politics encompasses far more than elected office, however. I have worked for three very dedicated elected officials who practiced the highest standards of ethics and morality and they demanded no less from their staffs. Individuals who did not adhere to these standards were dismissed. Unfortunately, where there is money, there is always the potential for corruption, and those who do not have high moral standards to begin with will be tempted to bend and break the rules and laws that govern behavior in the public arena. Is this widespread? No, but it does exist and always will.

*Janice Rohlf, Director, Governmental Relations*

# The Trouble with the Latest Discoveries

How archaeologists and museum curators are facing up to the issues of theft and questionable ownership.

Overheard on the subway late last year: “Jesus lived!” No, this wasn’t a pitch by an ardent evangelist seeking converts. The conversation was all about archaeology’s latest find, which captured headlines worldwide for months—the flesh-and-bones brother, or half-brother if you will, of Jesus Christ. The woman continued, excitedly explaining to her companion, “His brother’s bone box proves Jesus lived in the first century and it will probably tell us more about who he really was.”

Or maybe, in hindsight, the story of the purported ossuary of James, brother of Jesus, reveals more about human nature and one of the major problems bona fide archaeologists and museum curators—and the public—face in today’s sophisticated world. The box was a fake. The forgers in on the hoax included people with technical knowledge and skills, as well as a dealer with considerable experience in the antiquities market. Their hoax manipulated the media eager for a story with “legs,” hoodwinked a receptive public, and snared a world-class museum (the Royal Ontario Museum) looking for its next blockbuster exhibition.

The forgers started with an authentic, uninscribed ossuary of roughly the right age. Using Photoshop software to match already authenticated inscriptions precisely, they copied, resized, and pasted the words they needed to incise on the box. Modern chemicals and processes simplified the work of “weathering.” When the dealer in the group presented the box to the public, it was notably without provenance, that is, a paper trail that documents transfer of an object from its original find spot through a succession of owners. All the dealer would say was that a Palestinian Arab antiquities collection had had it for about 15 years and now wanted to sell it, without revealing its identity. The forgers next enlisted scientists at a prominent geological institute and an epigrapher specializing in Aramaic to authenticate the find.

Apart from the high-tech tools, the procedure employed was fairly standard archaeological forgery, a craft attested as early as the heyday of ancient Roman travel in the first centuries B.C.E. and C.E. At that time “authentic” souvenirs of the Trojan War were peddled to well-heeled but unwitting visitors to the ruins of Troy in Asia Minor. In the case of the ossuary of James, however, another factor was at play. The

age of monumental archaeology had passed—think of the excitement of Howard Carter’s opening of the tomb of Tutankhamen in 1926. The contemporary public longs for equally thrilling major discoveries; compared with 1926, discoveries today are to be bigger, faster, more powerful, and more awe-inspiring.

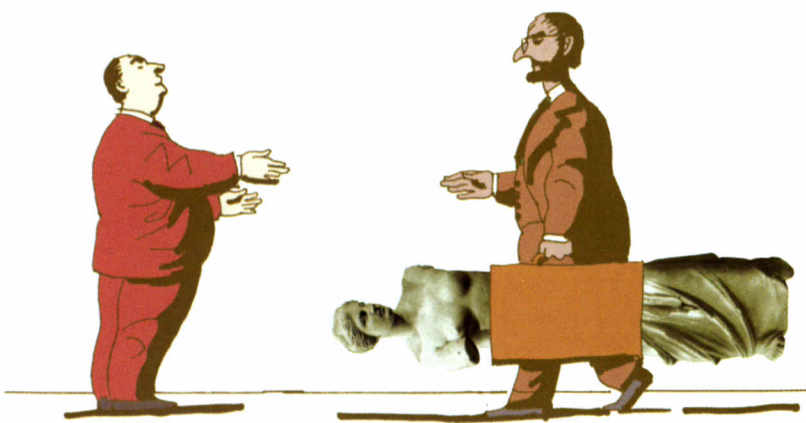
Archaeologists often play up to the expectations of the public, and who can blame them? They really are enthusiastic about their work. Once the media finds a story that is big enough to latch onto—and the discovery of bones of someone related to Jesus certainly falls into that category—it’s difficult for archaeologists, historians, and philologists to regain perspective on the latest finds. The ossuary had its early critics, but their voices were lost in the media frenzy.

Museums likewise contribute to the trouble in their eagerness to develop their collections, often blurring questions of patrimony and provenance. Who really owns what’s found? The people who fund the digs—who have legal claims at least to a portion of what is discovered—or the people in whose country the finds are made? This last problem is a significant one because it operates against the backdrop of what is, frankly, theft. The looting of the museums of Iraq last April is still fresh in our minds and strikes most of us with shock and regret. We imagine uneducated, unemployed laborers seizing 4,000-year-old gold objets d’art to melt down to pay for a daughter’s wedding party or a new satellite dish. What right do they have to destroy this precious heritage?

While some of this kind of theft certainly goes on, old-style pillaging is pretty much passé. Most indigenous peoples quickly learn the value of antiquities and other cultural property, and they adapt to market needs, which ensures them higher value for their wares. (In the case of Iraq, many of the treasures were moved out for safekeeping by museum staff, though this was not clear in the first hours and days of the pillaging; much is still missing.)

Archaeological objects, once looted, usually make their way onto the art market stripped of their true provenance and passed from hand to hand. Famous loot, tracked by Interpol, has a hard time resurfacing without someone noticing. A much more usual practice is to rob the archaeological sites while the archaeologists are away at their home institutions. That’s what happened recently to a series of graves of the Loulan Kingdom (176 B.C.-77 C.E., then renamed and continuing until about 630 C.E.) spread across a 25-acre field in northwestern China. Objects taken from such sites are then smuggled to the West and commonly sold to private individuals. It is often these private collectors who restart the provenance process that eventually provides the green light for purchase by or donation to a museum. “Reputation laundering” of this sort also sometimes involves curators stashing donated items of suspect background in museum storerooms, sometimes for decades, until the trail of truth has dried up and the objects are “clean” enough for exhibition.

This problem extends to all items of cultural property and points to an unanticipated conundrum for modern Western culture. The case of Kenyan *vigango* (singular, *kigango*) ancestor statues is illustrative. These memorial statues may be viewed in some sense as equivalent to our grave markers, since they are set up to commemorate the deceased. They cost a family a large portion of their income and are not easy to replace as they are individually crafted. Significantly, they are even more precious than grave markers in the West because the spirits of the dead are believed to linger in them.



In the past decade, local thieves have systematically stolen the *vigango*. They proffer them to unscrupulous middlemen, who in turn sell them to the West. Locals hold the middleman in contempt, perhaps more than the Western art dealer. As one Kenyan villager commented to conservationist John B. Mitsanze, "Of all the occupations in the world, why did he choose to trade in our ancestors?"

But trade they do. And curators eventually buy and accept. One *kigango*, for example, is now in the Brooklyn Museum. For the most part, the object is not viewed as cultural property, or as a sacred marker, or even as historical, but as art, representing an aesthetic that is at once thoroughly modern and raw.

In the past, the argument for relocating cultural property—such as the Elgin marbles, literally ripped off monuments on the Athenian Acropolis in 1801-02—is that the native population has no appreciation for the works. But the Elgin case is revealing in this regard. Once Greece was independent of Turkish rule, in 1832, the newly formed government sought repatriation of its precious statues. For the Greeks, it was never a question of monetary compensation—the marbles are part of their national heritage, much like the sentiment expressed by

the Kenyan tribespeople who simply wanted their ancestors back.

Yet there is also no question that the objects finding their way into Western museums are works of art, even those suspected of being modern forgeries (such as the Greek *kouros* of the J. Paul Getty Museum in California, labeled now as "Greek. About 530 B.C., or modern forgery"). More than art, they also place a culture in some wider con-

## “Who really owns what’s found? The people who fund the digs or the people in whose country the finds are made?”

text, and give depth and character to understanding the people who produced the works.

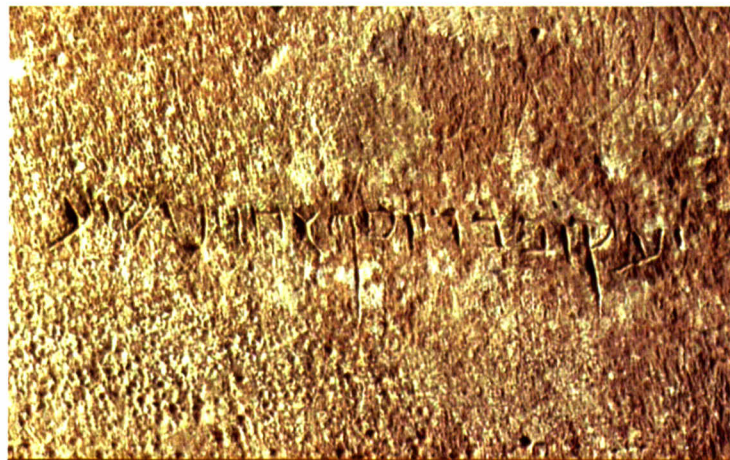
So what’s the solution? Many archaeologists favor some degree of repatriation, where possible. One key factor is local interest in the objects. When objects are returned, there is enthusiasm in the local community, just as there was when the items were first taken out and brought before the curious eyes of the Western public.

But returning the objects alone is not adequate. There needs to be enhanced protection of the archaeological objects and the sites. In many places, this provides local employment, but all too often guards are not paid enough to discourage “in-house” theft. As long as the Western art market encourages such pilfering, it will continue. Many archaeologists and other scholars support a legal international ban on trade in cultural property, including antiquities. This approach has had success in reviving the elephant herds, for example, through the worldwide ban on trade in ivory, so there may be some promise here.

Likewise, borrowing another ecological idea, developing “archaeo-tourism” may offer a way to increase local interest and income, while still giving culture lovers the chance to view great works of human expression. Museums should be encouraged to adhere to strict provenance requirements before acquiring any purchased or donated inventory; public oversight may further this ethical commitment.

As the fraudulent bone box of James, brother of Jesus, demonstrates, a broad range of specialists should be permitted to view any new find and to comment on its authenticity before the media are given the go-ahead to run with the story. Finally, the public should recognize that fraud is an age-old problem that often is detected only with the passage of time and the review of a multitude of scholars. ■

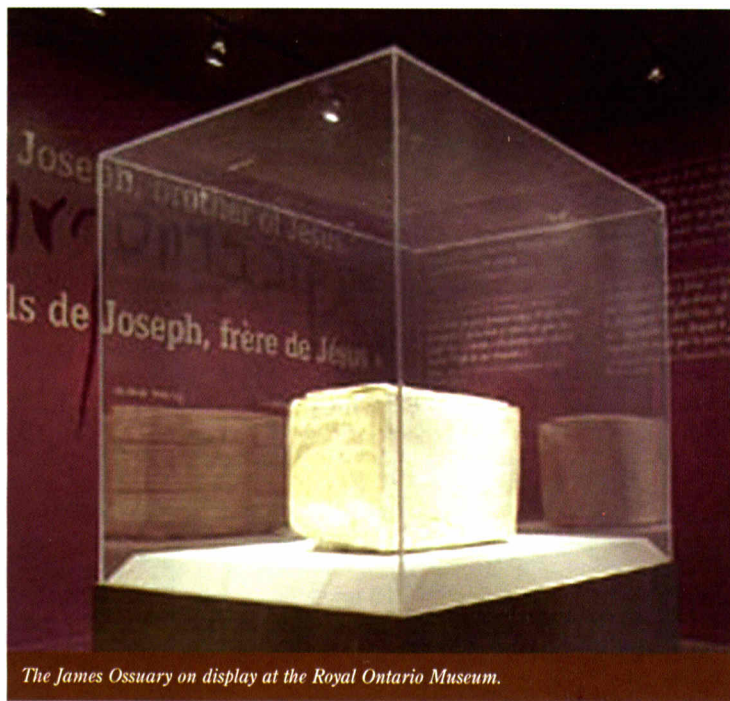
*Mary Knight is a Visiting Scholar at New York University and a freelance writer. She is currently co-editing a book on nudity in the ancient Mediterranean world.*



Close-up of inscription on the James Ossuary. Its authenticity is at the center of the debate.



The Ossuary, or “bone box” of James, brother of Jesus.



The James Ossuary on display at the Royal Ontario Museum.

# Etched in Stone

**Archaeology professor Elizabeth Stone isn't afraid of soldiers, Saddam, or speaking her mind when it comes to preserving antiquities.**

"THE GULF WAR CHANGED EVERYTHING, AND THIS SECOND war has exacerbated a bad situation," said Dr. Elizabeth C. Stone, a professor of anthropology at Stony Brook, in *The New York Times*. "The theft of antiquities is a high-stakes market for the players involved, and

some of it's the fault of colleagues who sit around and say, 'Yes, that's genuine.' At the moment it's turning [Iraq] into something like Colombia. There's money laundering, there's corruption. And nobody's acting like the police."

On May 12, 2003, Dr. Stone and a team of scientists and journalists brought to Iraq by the National Geographic Society, drove out of Baghdad and headed south. Their mission: to survey and assess the damage to Iraq's southern archaeological sites. At their first stop, Babylon, they learned that the museum and library were looted and partially burned. A lone Iraqi guard, armed with a sickle, had warded off the looters and prevented more damage. From Babylon, the team headed to the



Dr. Elizabeth Stone

holy city of Nippur then on to Ur, just south of Nasiriyah, where the small caravan "came up to a lonely [American] soldier guarding a museum," says Stone. "We were in a large GMC vehicle without lights on. He was scared and certainly pointed his gun as we showed up."

A few days later, on the way back to Baghdad, Stone and company came bumper to bumper with a truck driven by a young westerner who threatened them with a gun when they tried to pass. "We contemplated the situation for a while and decided that if we did not pass his truck, we would be very late arriving into Baghdad, which is equally dangerous," Stone says. "We decided to pass him. He threatened us again, and finally let us go around."

Stone, a self-described middle-aged American woman, doesn't scare easily. She recounts these incidents with reportorial nonchalance. When pressed, she concedes to concern but not fear. "In Iraq, I've always been accepted and treated well," she says. "And I'm used to weighing the odds and [assessing] the potential risk," she explains. "I was an undergraduate in West Philadelphia. A friend of mine got knifed and I got mugged," she continues, as if implying that surviving that event confers protection from car bombs and itchy-trigger gunmen. "I was in Iraq in 1986 when SCUD missiles were coming into Baghdad on a daily basis from Iran. I'm not really sure that Iraq now is that much more dangerous than it was then."

In December, along with other Stony Brook faculty, Stone returned to Iraq (the trip, originally scheduled for November, was postponed for security reasons). On this trip, which was financed by a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) grant, Stone and her colleagues were there to "gauge the situation in the universities and libraries and talk to archeologists [there] and see what they want us to do." The USAID grant also provides for the development of academic programs in environmental health and archaeology. Stone led workshops to train Iraqi faculty and develop new teaching and research facilities at the University of Baghdad and Mosul University. She is laying the foundation for a program that would eventually bring six Iraqi students who are "passionate about archaeology" to study at Stony Brook.

Stone's passion for the past blossomed early. As a child growing up in postwar England, she dug up "things" in her backyard. When she was eight, her father, a historian who taught at Oxford, took her to a small excavation site. While digging in "that little hole" she got hooked in a big way. At the age of 11, she signed on for a summer-long excavation. Three years later, the family moved to the United States and Elizabeth spent every summer somewhere "in the field."

After her freshman year of college, she was taken on a field trip to Iran and became intoxicated by Near Eastern archaeology. She realized that English Medieval archaeology didn't thrill her. "I'd never been very interested in palaces," she says. "I was always much more intrigued by what was happening with families and households and neighborhoods. One tends to look at complex societies from the top down, from the point of view of the ruler," she says. "I wanted to look at it from the point of view of the ruled."

As an undergraduate, Stone spent three seasons on an excavation in 'Ain Dara, Syria. From 1987 to 1990, Stone and her husband Paul Zimansky, a professor in the department of archaeology at Boston University, were co-directors of the Tell Abu Duwari (Mashkan-shapir) archaeological project in Iraq. That excavation came to a screeching halt when the first Gulf War broke out.

In 1996, Stone started working on an excavation in Ayanis, Turkey. Since the war in Iraq, she has returned to that country as a friend, scientist, and a loud and determined voice ready to speak out for the ongoing efforts needed to protect the country's irreplaceable historic sights.

Stone never met Saddam Hussein (although she suspects his motorcade once passed her on a Baghdad street). She doesn't read Arabic but is conversationally fluent. "I speak enough to navigate and to be understood," she says, seizing on the moment to voice her frustration about the "stupid things being done" in Iraq.

"When we were visiting Babylon and Ur," says Stone, "the soldiers asked so many questions about the [history and civilization]. They were just so bored and eager for distraction," she says. "Why doesn't [the military] seize this opportunity to teach them some basic Arabic, for example, or how about giving [the soldiers] a basic handbook of [cultural] do's and don'ts," she questions aloud, in rapid-fire speech.

Stone says she hates the looting and worries about the lost opportunities for research and scholarship that may transpire if Iraq's archaeological sites are not protected. "In February, before the war, I wrote a colonel in Central Command [and told him to] 'watch out for looting.' I sent him an Excel file with the coordinates of sites on it and a detailed statement about the importance of the Iraq Museum collection and the danger of its being looted. I was told [the letter] went up the chain of command to the people who can really make a difference. Obviously that didn't happen," she says.

She continues to be vocal about the issue of trade in stolen antiquities. In print, she's blasted unscrupulous art collectors, dealers, and museums whose lust for money "creates the atmosphere within which this happens. Illegal traffic in art," says Stone, "is just like the drug trade and involves the same levels of corruption. If they didn't buy things, if you could shut down the illegal art trade, then this wouldn't happen."



Dr. Stone with a shipment of furniture she arranged to be delivered to the Iraq Museum.

# Lost Treasures from Iraq

These images of artifacts from the Iraq museum have been posted on various Web sites, including Interpol's, as a reference tool to aid in the recovery of stolen antiquities.



Golden head of a bull, decorating front of lyre covered with inlays, ca. 2250 B.C.



Statue head from Nineva, cast copper, ca. 2250 B.C.



Gray stone spouted jar inlaid with limestone and shell; from Uruk, ca. 3000 B.C.



Bowl, from Uruk, ca. 3000 B.C.



Limestone vessel with carvings, from Uruk, ca. 3000 B.C.



Gold helmet of King Meskalamdug, from Royal Cemetery at Ur, ca. 2400 B.C.



Fragment of a stela, from Uruk, ca. 3000 B.C.



Uruk Lady, 3000 B.C.  
RECOVERED: Found buried in a farmer's field outside Baghdad.



Gold dagger with lapis lazuli handle and sheath, from the Royal Cemetery at Ur, ca. 2400 B.C.



Upper part of a statuette, from Uruk, 3000 B.C.



Fluted golden beaker, from the Royal Cemetery at Ur, ca. 2400 B.C.



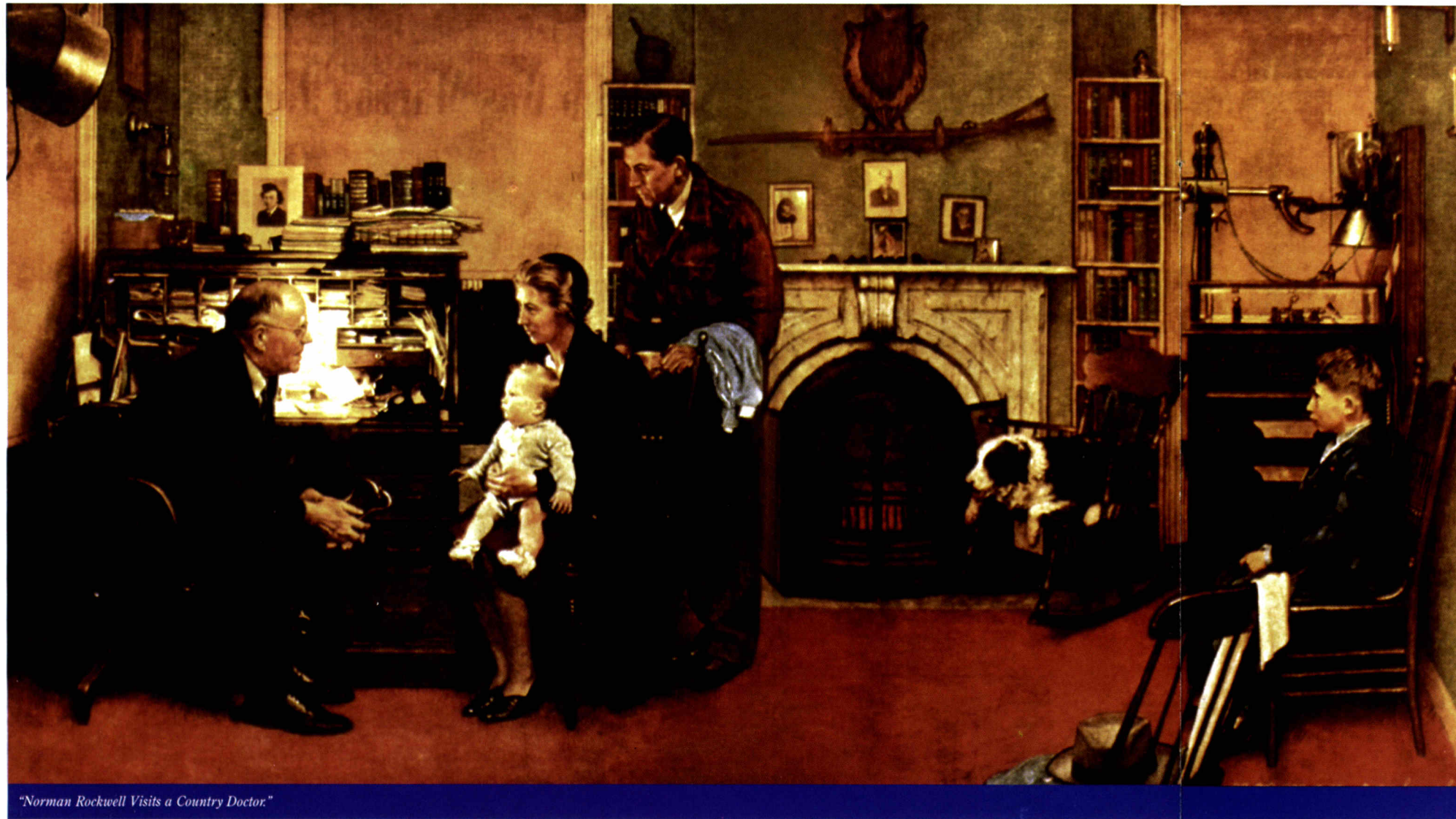
Statue of a worshipper, from Abu Temple in Tell Asmar, ca. 2600 B.C.



Ivory plaque (furniture piece), from Nimrud, late 8th Century B.C.

# Physician, Heal Thyself

Under the new discipline known as narrative medicine, doctors are taking courses to become better listeners by writing stories about their patients.



"Norman Rockwell Visits a Country Doctor."

**D**OES YOUR DOCTOR TAKE THE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOU? Patients everywhere have the same complaints: Their doctors seem rushed, insensitive, and aloof. A plethora of high-tech tests or sophisticated drug therapies substitute for patient care, and physicians evade the personal dimensions of treatment that used to be called "good bedside manner."

Stony Brook Medical School is trying to change this unflattering image by training a different, more compassionate kind of doctor. In a four-year course, "Medicine in Contemporary Society" (MCS), future physicians at the University are exposed to the insights of the humanistic disciplines and social sciences in a medical context. They learn that medicine is not simply an applied science, but a craft grounded in human relationships and effective communication, and they hone their understanding of the social contexts and the "people skills" that will make them more compassionate clinicians.

Dr. Jack Coulehan, Head of the Division for Medicine in Contemporary Society, is a practicing internist and widely published poet. He writes of traditional medical education: "We manage to beat the storytelling out of students and convince them that the word 'care' is another name for a list of behavioral skills and billable services." Instead, he believes, medical schools need to foster students' "moral

intuitions" and acknowledge "that connection is more effective than detachment, that personal reflection is more important than recall, and that moral imagination and self-understanding are the essential attributes of a minimally good physician."

Stony Brook's MCS program is founded on these insights. The course, now an integral part of the institutional culture of the Medical School, aims to graduate doctors who will take a humanized vision of medicine into the hospitals and practices they serve.

The teaching of medicine within a broader context has a long history at Stony Brook. The first dean of the Medical School, Edmund Pellegrino, insisted that doctors needed more than a purely scientific education. At first, the curriculum's emphasis was on medical ethics and the moral questions posed by new procedures like organ transplants and *in vitro* fertilization. Under the direction of Dr. Peter Williams, a Harvard-trained lawyer and philosopher, Stony Brook developed a sophisticated and wide-ranging curriculum in the humanities during the 1980s and 1990s. With modules in the social and economic context of medical practice, legal issues, cultural diversity, and the philosophical, religious, and moral grounds of medical decision-making, MCS is one of the most comprehensive medical humanities programs at any U.S. medical school.

Williams, now Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and Faculty Development, says, "We were ahead of the curve. What we developed here is increasingly a part of medical education all over the country."

Stony Brook's MCS program attracts the services of 40 volunteer faculty members each year from the clinical departments of University Hospital, the School of Social Work, and the Nursing School. The instructors meet to discuss the program for each class, and teach in pairs that link a practicing physician with another health professional.

## Doctors and Stories

One of the central concerns of the program is "narrative medicine." This growing field studies the conversations doctors have with patients, how cases are written and related, and the importance of stories to medical practice and the experience of illness.

Why stories? Dr. Catherine Belling, Associate Director of the Institute for Medicine in Contemporary Society, explains: "Storytelling is one of the most powerful human inventions; it is how we understand ourselves and make our experience meaningful. Medicine depends completely on the narrative form: even the patient's chart is a kind of story. When doctors grasp the use of narrative as clinical tool, they are better equipped and more effective." Simply put, storytelling helps heal the sick.

"Every patient is a story," says Dr. Belling. "The particular events and

experiences that bring each person to the doctor are part of the clinical situation as much as their 'symptoms.' Only when doctor and patient meet in a real conversation about that story do they build up an effective and therapeutic relationship."

## Physicians Who Listen

The first step toward building this relationship is training doctors in the arts of listening and forensic conversation. The old-fashioned interview is still the most effective way of connecting with a patient and where a clinician finds out the vast majority of the information needed for diagnosis.

Listening is not an easy thing to do, especially for a doctor who is pressed for time—and sure of his superior knowledge. Dr. Coulehan quotes a 20-year-old study in which doctors were videotaped interviewing their patients. On average, doctors interrupted the patients after 21 seconds. When the study was repeated two years ago, patients talked, on average, only 23 seconds before the physician intervened.

Dr. Coulehan stresses the need for restraint, respect, and the importance of paying real attention to what a patient is trying to communicate. He advises students: "Pause before you cross the threshold of the office. Listen yourself. Then, find out why the patient is there."

His textbook *The Medical Interview: Mastering Skills for Clinical Practice* is used nationally in courses introducing students to clinical skills, such as Stony Brook's Introduction to Clinical Medicine course.

Good interviewing does not just benefit doctors. Evidence shows that patients who feel understood and included in the treatment process are happier and have better outcomes.

## The Patient's Tale

Dr. Belling explains: "Understanding and processing the experience of illness is vital for both patients and doctors. Patients need to own their experience of the clinical relationship, and doctors need to be aware that each case is an episode in a person's life-story, not just another disease in progress."

The Latin verb *patior* (meaning "to suffer," or "undergo") gives us both the words "patient" and "passive." Too often, Belling says, patients are expected to let the medical process happen to them and find it hard to make sense of what is happening. While doctors have a "plot" that explains the course of a disease, patients find themselves without guideposts as they negotiate their way through illness.

Where medical practice has fallen short, support groups and Internet lists have arisen to fill the gap. People with diseases and syndromes in common are sharing their own experiences in narra-

tives, and the scenarios, role models, and events they relate help others find their way in a confusing and difficult time.

## Writing and Reflecting

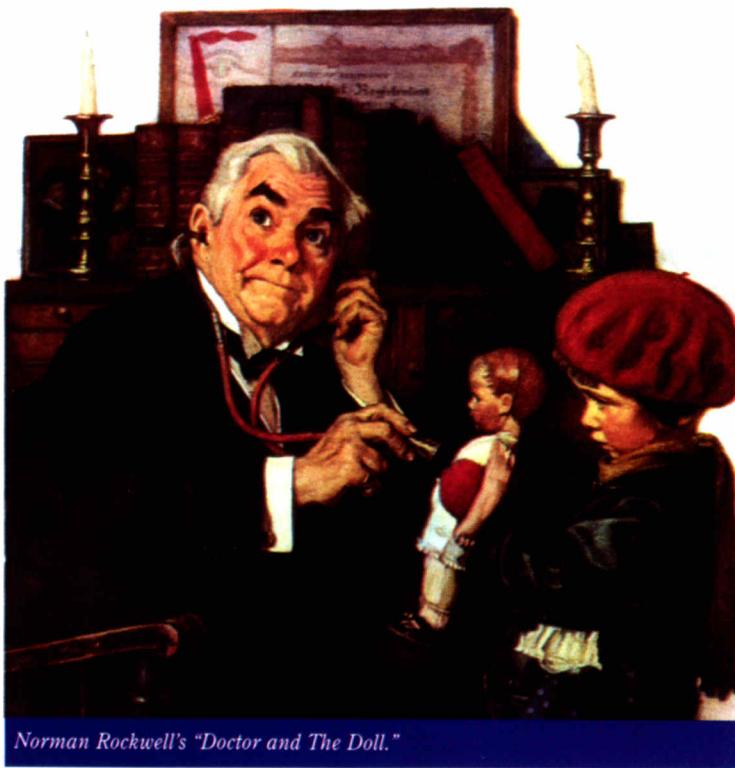
Writing, which demands that we organize and focus our thoughts, is the most complex and effective mode of verbal activity. Not surprisingly, MCS expects students to write frequently and to analyze writing of many kinds.

One exercise asks first-year students to write about the cadavers they dissect in Gross Anatomy, giving a voice to their "first patients." Others have students explore difficult cases and justify their chosen courses of action on moral and legal grounds. One issue of *Contexts*, the Institute's journal, is devoted entirely to writing by medical students each year.

In class, students study articles by ethicists and legal scholars. But they also engage with fiction, some of it written by doctors like Anton Chekhov, William Carlos Williams, or Walker Percy. "Literature is the most nuanced and revealing form of writing," says Belling. "It give us the fullest picture of other people's experience, and entering that experience develops insight and empathy."

The concentration on writing helps some medical students deal with the stresses of becoming doctors. Long hours, the demands of living with other's suffering and death, and sharing the grief and worry of patients' families can result in students and interns suffering from a kind of post-traumatic stress, retreating into defensive detachment. Writing about their experiences and making them part of a meaningful, interpreted narrative helps doctors reflect on their work, understand events more deeply, and heal themselves. The Division also runs an annual writing competition judged by an eminent writer and medical professional for all those connected to Stony Brook.

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Norman Rockwell's "Doctor and The Doll."

## Working with Words

At the heart of narrative medicine is an attention to language, the means by which we organize, comprehend, and share our experiences. Doctors are often uncomfortable using ordinary language, says Belling, and rely on a jargon that is impenetrable to the ordinary person. "Nothing creates a more effective barrier to communication with patients than using a specialized professional vocabulary, no matter how useful it may be with other medics."

Training doctors to pay attention to their own speech and writing reminds them that communication is a process that goes two ways. "There's no point talking at a patient who doesn't get what you mean," says Belling. "Doctors have to be sure that their message is couched in terms we can all grasp, and know how to interact with patients so that they can be sure that their meaning has got through."

A good doctor must be able to use different vocabularies and styles of expression—what linguistics scholars call "code-switching." Physicians must know how to address ethics committees, representatives of the media, judges and juries, as well as patients and their families. "Being a professional involves more than having expert knowledge. It means being a competent person, able to acquit yourself well in all your work-related interactions."

More and more, doctors are called on to communicate with patients who speak other languages, and who come from other cultures. MCS has offered an elective crash-course in Spanish for medical purposes, and the demands of diversity are central to many of the modules.

## Telling the Difference

The MCS course sets Stony Brook's medical graduates apart from those of other institutions. The faculty members of the Division are confident that Stony Brook graduates are better equipped than those of other institutions, and anecdotal evidence seems to confirm their judgment.

"There are times when students feel that MCS is a distraction from the 'real work' of medical school," says Belling. "Then we hear back from graduates who tell us that MCS turned out to be the most useful course they took."

Jack Coulehan's vision is that our graduates will leave us knowing "that medicine is a human and communal endeavor, part of society, reliant on human values, and sensitive to the many stories of patients and providers." ■

*When doctors put pen to paper, they embrace the personal side of medicine. What follows is a sampling of such endeavors.*

### Poison (a prose poem)

*By Susan Pilewski, first-prize winner, poetry category, in last year's competition. Susan Pilewski is a graduate of the MFA program at Sarah Lawrence College. Her poems have appeared in such publications as Rio and The Long Island Quarterly. She currently teaches writing at Stony Brook University and is the co-host of Poetry Brook, an hour-long radio show Thursday nights at 6:00 p.m. on 90.1 WUSB.*

At age thirty seven, three days after all his hair fell out: eyebrows, eyelashes, the dark tufts trailing to his groin, my grandfather stood outside their then suburban Queens home naked, peeing on the lawn, lamenting that the pipes made too much noise when he flushed. It was assumed he was drinking again and so my grandmother, who didn't drive, tossed him and a blanket in the back of a taxi, sat up front with the driver and said, "Bellevue." In truth it was Lent and he was nearly forty days dry. Tests revealed poisoning not from alcohol but fumigants in the foundry where he worked the graveyard shift. Two men died, two blinded. By Christmas his hair had returned save for a thin patch at the dome of his skull. The fingers of his right hand now curved inward toward his palm. A gesture of beckoning. A burgeoning fist.

### Orientation

*By Jack Coulehan*

*Tell them stories of success but not too much.* So I tell their rosy faces the story of Max who called me from the dead last month to say she's good—after eight weeks on a pump battling a bad bout of rejection—wearing the lungs of a boy who didn't make it home from the prom. Max spoke without a hum of oxygen behind her, said, Thanks for the chance, doc. Their eyes rapt around my words, they're proud to be here where the face of failure looks like someone else. In another year they'll ask me what her gases are, the drugs she takes, how much it costs. But now they think that Max will be my happily-ever-after girl. And so she will.

### Baggage

*By Meghan Weir, medical school class of 2004, currently spending a year studying medicine at Oxford University, England.*

They tell you when you begin medical school that you are entering a period of study that will teach you the art of healing, of easing pain, of combating disease. The truth was that I had never seen a patient, didn't know any more about pain-killers than was printed on the label of the chewable Tylenol in my medicine chest, and that as far as diseases go I had been taught about sickle cell anemia six or seven times but that was the extent of my pathological prowess. What's worse, my total sum of knowledge seemed actually to be decreasing as time went on. This was because the more I learned the more I realized just how much I didn't know, and also because the more I interacted with people outside of school who expected me to be able to name the muscles they were eating when they shoveled turkey into their mouths or to diagnose their ailments over the pumpkin pie, the less I knew what to say in response.

That's why I was annoyed when the woman sat down across from me, holding her coffee in her lap since my books were taking up the entire table between us. I had purposely come to study in a place where I would not know anyone. Instead of being constantly identified as a medical student, I would be able, just for a night, to bask in anonymity. This was too much to hope for. The brightly colored depiction in my opened atlas of the male genitalia screamed for attention. I felt ridiculous for sitting in a public place and looking at pictures that seemed to belong sketched on the bathroom wall instead of in my homework assignment. I looked up and waited as the woman shifted her weight to adjust her skirt beneath her. ... "My daughter is six," she told me. "Six years old is too young to lose a parent. I might have another few months and so I could see her turn seven, then. That would be wonderful, but it isn't enough."

Around us, words from other conversations drifted by along with the people walking to the counter to order their five-dollar coffees with non-fat milk. She talked for maybe twenty minutes, pausing at times to swirl and sip the warm drink she otherwise kept pressed between both hands. Then, as unexpectedly as this dialogue had begun, it ended. "Thank you," she said, and strangely, I knew that she meant it. She had asked of me the one thing I was able to give her...

# Events Calendar February–May 2004

## February

**February 4, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.**

**February 6, Friday, 8:00 p.m.**

*Recital Hall, Staller Center*

**Colin Carr: Bach's Complete Suites for Solo Cello**

For more information, call (631) 632-7330 or visit [www.stonybrook.edu/music](http://www.stonybrook.edu/music).

**February 7, Saturday, 8:00 p.m.**

*Main Stage, Staller Center*

**Gala VI, Moscow Symphony Orchestra: La Traviata**

The Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and Principal Soloists of the Bolshoi Opera perform one of Giuseppe Verdi's most popular operas. Tickets are \$75. For tickets, call (631) 632-ARTS or visit [www.stallercenter.com](http://www.stallercenter.com).



*The Moscow Symphony Orchestra*

**February 8, Sunday, 3:00 p.m.**

**Baroque Sundays: Strike the Viol**

*Recital Hall, Staller Center*

Viola da gamba masters Patricia Halverson and Martha McGaughey bring a jewel of a concert to the series. Harpsichordist Arthur Haas completes the ensemble. The event is free.

**February 13, Friday, 8:00 p.m.**

**Stony Brook Opera: Chamber Opera**

*Theatre Three, Staller Center*

Contemporary chamber operas performed with small ensembles. Tickets: \$8; students and seniors, \$4. For more information, please visit [www.stonybrook.edu/music](http://www.stonybrook.edu/music).

**February 14, Saturday, 8:00 p.m.**

**Sydney Dance Company: Ellipse**

*Main Stage, Staller Center*

Back by popular demand. Tickets: \$37; \$34 faculty, staff, seniors, and students; \$18.50 children. For tickets call (631) 632-ARTS or visit [www.stallercenter.com](http://www.stallercenter.com).

**February 19, Thursday, 8:00 p.m.**

**Scholarship Benefit Recital**

*Recital Hall, Staller Center*

Philip Setzer on violin and Gilbert Kalish on piano. Tickets: \$25; students and seniors, \$10. For information, visit [www.stonybrook.edu/music](http://www.stonybrook.edu/music).

**February 21, Saturday, 8:00 p.m.**

**Peter Schickele: Jekyll & Hyde Tour**

*Main Stage, Staller Center*

*Sponsored by Teachers Federal Credit Union*

Composer, musician, satirist Peter Schickele in his zany new show of musical comedy. Tickets: \$33; \$30 faculty, staff, seniors, students; \$16.50 children. To order, visit [www.stallercenter.com](http://www.stallercenter.com).

**February 26-27, Thursday–Friday**

**A Symposium: "The Gangster Life and Violence in the United States."**

*Room E-4340 Melville Library*

Josephine Gattuso Hendin, New York University

on "Heartbreakers: Violent Women in Modern American Literature and Culture." For information, please call (631) 632-7765.

**February 28, Saturday, 8:00 p.m.**

**2004 Alumni Hockey**

*The Rinx, Hauppauge, N.Y.*

Alums battle it out on the ice at this annual event, which also includes raffles and door prizes. Directions can be found on the Alumni Hockey Web site, [www.geocities.com/usbalumni](http://www.geocities.com/usbalumni).

**February 28, Saturday, 8:00 p.m.**

**March 27, Saturday, 8:00 p.m.**

**Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra**

*Recital Hall, Staller Center*

Tickets: \$16; students and seniors, \$8.

For more information, call (631) 632-7330.

## March

**March 3, Wednesday**

**Long Island Technology Hall of Fame**

*Wyndham Windwatch Hotel, Hauppauge, N.Y.*

This annual event honors individuals who have made their name in technology and industry on Long Island. For information, contact Don Vogel at (631) 632-9014 or visit [www.techisland.org](http://www.techisland.org).

**March 10, Wednesday,**

**12:40 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 8:00 p.m.**

**Stony Brook's Annual "Piano Project"**

*Recital Hall, Staller Center*

The Hungarian Connection—music from Brahms and Liszt to Bartok and Legeti—performed by piano students. For information, call (631) 632-7330 or visit [www.stonybrook.edu/music](http://www.stonybrook.edu/music).

**March 12-14, Friday–Sunday**

**Theatre Arts Alumni Weekend**

Judy Collins kicks off the event with a concert at Staller Center on Friday. On Saturday there will be an Alumni Master Workshops Seminar in Theatre One, a special matinee of **Six Characters** in Theatre Two, followed by class receptions, campus tours, and dinner at the University Club. The weekend ends with a brunch and a performance by the **Paper Bag Players**. For more information, contact the Department of Theatre Arts at (631) 632-7300.

**March 12-14, Friday, 12:00 p.m.**

**Intercollegiate Broadcasting System National College Radio Convention**

*Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City*

WUSB 90.1 FM is the host station for this annual national college radio convention. SBU alums working in media and music-related industries are invited to attend as panelists and speakers. Contact Norm Prusslin at (631) 632-6823 or at [Norm.Prusslin@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Norm.Prusslin@stonybrook.edu) for details.

**March 29, Monday, 4:30 p.m.**

**The Eighth Annual Swartz Foundation**

**Mind/Brain Lecture:**

**"How the Brain is Like (and Unlike) a Computer"**

*Main Stage, Staller Center*

Dr. Charles F. Stevens, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator and Professor of Molecular Neurobiology, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, discusses how the brain computes.

## April/May

**April 15-16, Thursday–Friday**

**A Symposium: "Global Renaissance"**

*Stony Brook Manhattan, New York, N.Y.*

Keynote Address by Anita Loomba, University of Pennsylvania. For more information, please call (631) 632-7765.

**April 16, Friday, 8:00 p.m.**

**April 18, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.**

**Spring Opera: Handel's Agrippina**

*Main Stage, Staller Center. Pre-opera lecture an hour before each performance in the Recital Hall. Agrippina* instantly established Handel's fame as one of the foremost composers of Italian opera. Tickets: \$20; students and seniors, \$10. For information, visit [www.stonybrook.edu/music](http://www.stonybrook.edu/music).

**Wednesdays, April 21, May 5, May 26, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Alumni Professional Development Seminar Series**

In partnership with the New York State Small Business Development Center and the Office of Alumni Relations in the Health Sciences Center, the HSC Alumni Professional Development Seminar Series addresses business, legal, and financial issues associated with having a private practice. Call (631) 444-2899 for more details.

**April 28, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.**

**Fifth Annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala**

This year's event, honoring Henry and Marsha Laufer, is being held at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. For more information, contact Cathy McNamara, Inc. at (631) 549-4113.

**May 3, 6-8, Monday, Thursday–Saturday**

**Chamber Music: Emerson Chamber Music Festival**

A four-day festival of chamber music featuring the Emerson String Quartet, Department of Music faculty, students in the Pre-College Program, and others. For more information, call (631) 632-7330 or visit [www.stonybrook.edu/music](http://www.stonybrook.edu/music).



*Students rehearse for Emerson Chamber Music Festival.*

**May 14, Friday, 8:00 p.m.**

**Eighth Annual Cody Comedy Show**

*Main Stage, Staller Center*

Tickets for the comedy show are \$25. For the 8:00 p.m. comedy show and the advance reception in the Wang Center, tickets are \$150. Sponsorship opportunities still available. Please call (631) 444-2899 for more information.

**May 17, Monday**

**Alumni Golf Classic**

*Port Jefferson Country Club at Harbor Hills*

For information, call (631) 632-4880 or visit [www.alumni.stonybrook.edu](http://www.alumni.stonybrook.edu).



# Class Notes

## 1970s

This past summer **Lesley Weisser-Grant '70 (B.A.)** reunited with five of her college friends—**Madeleine Broiss '71 (B.A.)**, **Jane Clark '70 (B.A.)**, **Riva Ginsburg '70 (B.A.)**, **Melanie Gissen '71, (B.A.)**, and **Ronnie Kirschenberg '70 (B.A.)**—after 33 years of being apart (see “Letters to the Editor,” page 22).

The University of Illinois Foundation, the UIC College of Medicine, and the University of Illinois Medical Center have hired **Howard B. Newman '72 (B.A.), J.D.** as their chief development officer. Newman, who started in September as Associate Dean for development and Vice President of the foundation, hails from Michigan where he headed the development operation for Detroit Medical Center and Wayne State University School of Medicine for the past 10 years.

**Mark J. Reiner, D.O., F.A.O.A.O. '72 (B.S.)** was awarded his fellowship by the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics. In private practice in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, since 1981, he is also Orthopedic Section Head of Cherry Hill Division of Kennedy Health Systems.

**Sobeira Latorre '74 (M.A.L.)** has completed a dissertation in “Crisscrossing Gender,

Autobiography, and History in Latina Auto-fictional Discourse.”

**Dorothy M. Giglietta '76 (M.A.)**, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Bergen Community College.

Cornell University Press has announced the publication of *The Next Upsurge* by **Dan Clawson '75, '78, (M.A., Ph.D.)**. Clawson's publication is said to be a major contribution to the study of today's labor movement.

**Judith Faller Bird '78** received the highest statewide union honor, the Nina Mitchell Award for Distinguished Service, from United University Professions, the collective bargaining unit for SUNY faculty and professionals. The award recognizes those who have served the union with distinction and epitomize academic unionism. She is an award-winning chapter newsletter editor and continues to serve as SUNY Farmingdale's chapter library representative.

**Eileen Levinson, RN '78 (B.S.)** has been appointed to the new position of Director of Critical Care at Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County, New Jersey. Levinson says, “Thank you for keeping the alumni

abreast of all the great things happening at Stony Brook.”

The National Conference for Community and Justice honored **Kim Goldenberg '68, '79 (B.E., M.D.)** as an example of leadership, commitment to community, and respect among races, religions, and cultures. Goldenberg became president of Wright State University in 1998.

## 1980s

**Jeffrey Simonoff '76, '78, '80 (B.S., M.A., Ph.D.)**, Professor of Statistics at New York University, was named Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. Simonoff received the award for contributions to the theory and practice of statistics and data analysis.

**Patricia (Miller) Baxter '82 (B.A.)** received the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses' 2003 Clinical Practice Award. Pat has been a nurse since graduating from SUNY Brockport in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and also holds a 1982 Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from SUNY Stony Brook.

Globelmmune Inc. announced **Dr. Alex Franzusoff '83 (Ph.D.)** has been appointed Vice President of Research. Dr. Franzusoff, one of the company's three scientific

## President Kenny Honors Distinguished Alumni



*The second annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner was held on November 20 at Carlyle on the Green in Bethpage State Park. President Shirley Strum Kenny is pictured here with the honorees. They are (from left to right) Distinguished Alumni Award honoree Richard Gelfond (B.A., '76), the Co-Chairman and Co-CEO of IMAX Corporation; Debra Cinotti of Garden City (DDS, '86), Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at the School of Dental Medicine at Stony Brook, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for University Service; Sylvia Diaz of Smithtown (MSW, '92), Regional Vice President, American Cancer Society, Suffolk County Region, honored as the Distinguished Alum for Public Service; and Richard Bravman of Smithtown (B.S., '78), former President and COO of Symbol Technologies, Inc., who received the Distinguished Alumni Benefactor Award.*

founders, was most recently Associated Professor of Cellular and Developmental Biology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Dr. Franzusoff is an expert in the field of viral cell biology and holds a number of patents in this area.

**Kenneth Wong '84 (B.S.)** has received the MAI designation and specialization in the appraisal of commercial real estate. He was also named "Person of the Year 2002" by the Metropolitan New York Chapter of the Appraisal Institute.

**John Isles '84 (B.A.)** has produced the latest Iowa's Khul House Poetry series, *Ark*.

**Louis Ragolia '85 (B.S.)** has been appointed Director, Department of Medicine, Vascular Biology Research Program, at Winthrop-University Hospital.

**Leonard Lawlor '81, '88 (M.A., Ph.D.)** recently published *The Being of the Question*. Philosophy professor Francois Raffoul says, "... no other book undertakes to relate all these French philosophers to each other the way that [Lawlor] does, brilliantly."

**Gennifer L. Geller, (M.D.)**, has joined the staff at Mount Kisco Medical Group. Dr. Geller is a board-certified radiologist who specializes in women's imaging. Prior to arriving at Mt. Kisco, she was a diagnostic radiologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

D'Youville College, in Buffalo, New York, named **John J. Donohue '78, '82, '87 (B.A., M.A., Ph.D.)** academic vice president. He was previously acting executive vice president at Medaille College in Buffalo. Donohue will be responsible for academic programs, policy, and the development of new programs for the college. In addition to his degrees in anthropology from Stony Brook, he has written extensively on the martial arts. His most recent novel is *Sensei*.

**Lynda Brady '89 (M.D.)** has joined Mercy Children's Specialists at St. John's Mercy Medical Center as a pediatric gastroenterologist.

#### 1990s

**Dr. John Isbell '90 (B.S.)** received a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Texas at Austin in 1996. He is Head of Analytical Chemistry at the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation in San Diego, California, where he resides with his wife Dawn and daughters Julia and Marian.

**Donna Gallagher Browne '91 (B.A.)** her husband Greg, and son Daniel Cramer Browne are pleased to welcome their son and new brother, Justin Gregory Browne, born May 30, 2003. Browne is a matrimonial attorney in Garden City.

**Susan L. McWalters '92 (B.A.)** was named a Partner in the Mortgage Foreclosure Law Practice at Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP. McWalters is a member of the Suffolk County Bar Association.

**Jocelyn Kester '93 (B.A.)** and **Daniel Slepian '92 (B.A.)** met at Stony Brook University in 1991 when Slepian was the Polity President. Ten years later they married and on September 20, 2003, they welcomed their first daughter, Casey Kester Slepian, into the world.

**Barbara Hopkins '96 (D.M.A.)** has released her first solo CD. Titled *Short Concert Pieces for Flute and Piano*, it is available on the Cardinal Classics label. It features selections from the popular collection *24 Short Concert Pieces*, compiled by Robert Cavally. Hopkins is Assistant Principal Flutist with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and on the faculty of the University of Connecticut.

**Daniel Koontz '98 (Ph.D.)** composer, pianist, guitarist, and professor of music at Southampton College, a campus of Long Island University, was one of only a dozen recipients from around the United States awarded a \$10,000 commission from the Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard University. This is considered one of the highest honors in the classical music field. He plans to use the award to write a new piece of music for Sequitur, a New York City-based contemporary music ensemble.

**James Polichak '98, '00 (M.A., Ph.D.)** received a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 2003, where he served as President of Reading Group in the Sciences and the Law.

#### 2000s

**Dr. William V. Ganis '01 (Ph.D.)** is a new full-time assistant professor of art history at the New York Institute of Technology in Manhattan and Old Westbury, New York.

P.W. Grosser Consulting hired recent geology graduate **Kevin Waters '02 (B.S.)** as a field hydrogeologist. PWGC concentrates on providing environmental engineering services to federal, municipal, and private clients.

#### In Memoriam

**William Bennett, '76 (B.A.)** owner of a Manhattan jam session studio, which provided a refuge for aspiring performers with day jobs on Wall Street, died from complications of injuries sustained in a car accident.

**Julie Caster, '02 (M.A.T.)** died on October 13, 2003 in a car accident. Julie had been an English teacher at Philipa Schuler Middle School in Brooklyn, N.Y.

## Remembering Bill McAdoo



### *The Tallest Tree in Our Forest*

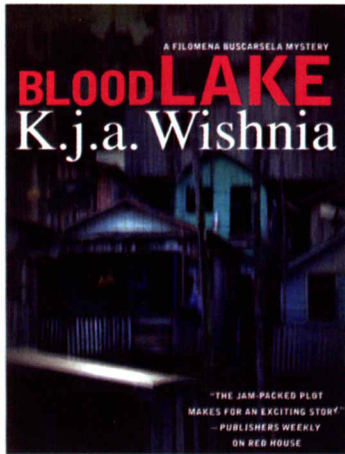
By Dr. Aldustus Jordan

William McAdoo, former chair of the Department of Africana Studies, passed away recently after a long and valiant struggle. Bill always will be remembered as a dedicated teacher and mentor, champion for social justice, and the person most responsible for the transition of Africana Studies from program to academic department. He applied his trademark passion, fearless conviction, and a plain-spoken honesty to whatever project he undertook. He was once described by the Black Faculty and Staff Association as "the tallest tree in our forest." He had an uncompromising commitment to affirmative action and a vision of a world that was inclusive, and he treated each person with dignity and respect. At the age of 23 he wrote in his song *I Dream of A World*:

*Although it would seem that I sing  
out of anger,  
And I don't deny that I possess this  
very human tendency,  
what is more important to me,  
is that I sing out of my great love for  
other human beings...*

To his five grandchildren, he was simply "Grandpa." A mere mention of his children or grandchildren would melt Bill's "game face" and unleash that thunderous belly laugh. Seeing Bill's grandchildren follow him around a room, demanding his full attention, you knew how much they loved him. He was liberal with his hugs, and his voice could be both stern and comforting. He was "old school" that way—family was the center from which everything else flows. A celebration of Bill's life is the focus of Black History Month. The program will be direct, honest, and joyful—just like the man we celebrate.

*Dr. Jordan is Associate Dean for Student and Minority Affairs at the School of Medicine and an adjunct professor in the Department of Africana Studies.*

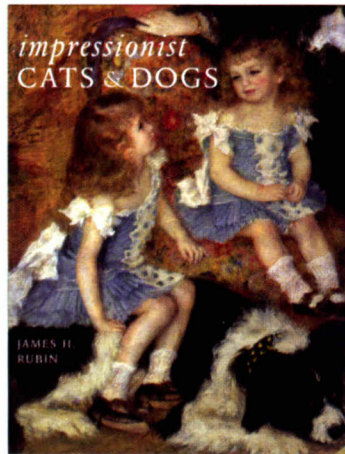


## Blood Lake

by **K.j.a. Wishnia, Ph.D.** 1996,  
Comparative Literature  
Department

2002, St. Martin's Minotaur

Edgar Award nominee K.j.a. Wishnia offers another Filomena Buscarela mystery in this compelling follow-up to *Red House*, in which Filomena, an Ecuadorian single mother living in Queens, struggled to earn her private investigator's license, while taking on pro bono cases for community members in need. In *Blood Lake*, Filomena repays an old debt when a priest in her native Ecuador is assassinated. What was intended as a pleasant stay in her homeland turns into much more for the former revolutionary. *Booklist* praises Wishnia and his unforgettable protagonist: "Wishnia writes with brio, energy, rage, passion, and humor. Brash, sassy, smart, and indomitable, Filomena is purely a force of nature."

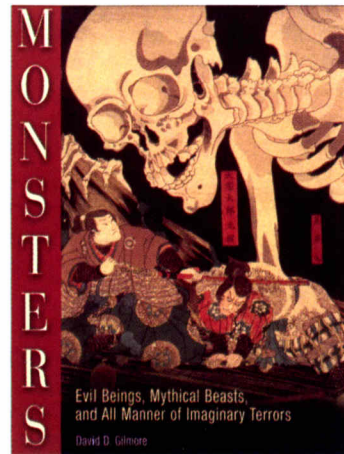


## Impressionist Cats & Dogs: Pets in the Painting of Modern Life

by **James H. Rubin, Professor and Chair, Art Department**

2003, Yale University Press

Focusing on the role of pets in Impressionist paintings and what this reveals about the art, artists, and society of that era, Rubin discusses works in which artists paint people in the company of their pets, including paintings by Courbet, Manet, Degas, and Renoir. He also theorizes why Monet rarely painted pets. The beautifully illustrated text explores nineteenth-century opinions on cats and dogs and compares handbook illustrations to the animals shown in Impressionist works. Rubin considers that pets not only lend charm to such works but also allude to middle-class prosperity, while complementing the representations of their owners, and in some cases, symbolically enhancing the expressions of artistic identity.

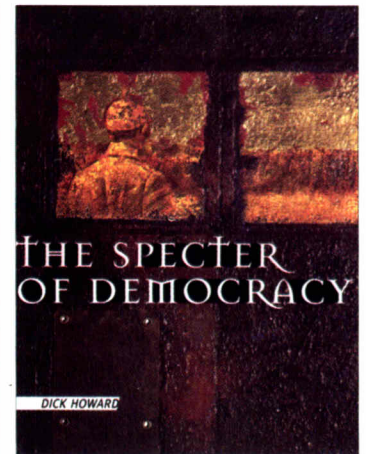


## Monsters: Evil Beings, Mythical Beasts, and All Manner Of Imaginary Terrors

by **David D. Gilmore, Professor, Anthropology Department**

2002, University of Pennsylvania Press

In this first attempt by an anthropologist to explore the mystery of mythical beasts and interpret their role in our psyches, Gilmore argues that the "immortal monster of the mind" is a complex creation embodying the inner conflicts that define our humanity. Through colorful and absorbing evidence from folk tales, art, literature, and fantasy, including such incarnations as Dracula, Frankenstein, extra-terrestrials, and Hollywood film creations, the author identifies many common threads and proposes that our alien, nonhuman monsters are really an expression of our deepest selves. The *Midwest Book Review* calls *Monsters* "a thoughtful, in-depth, scholarly study of the fantastic and hideous creatures abounding in myth, legend, and folklore around the world."



## The Specter of Democracy: What Marx Didn't Understand and Why

by **Dick Howard, Professor, Philosophy Department**

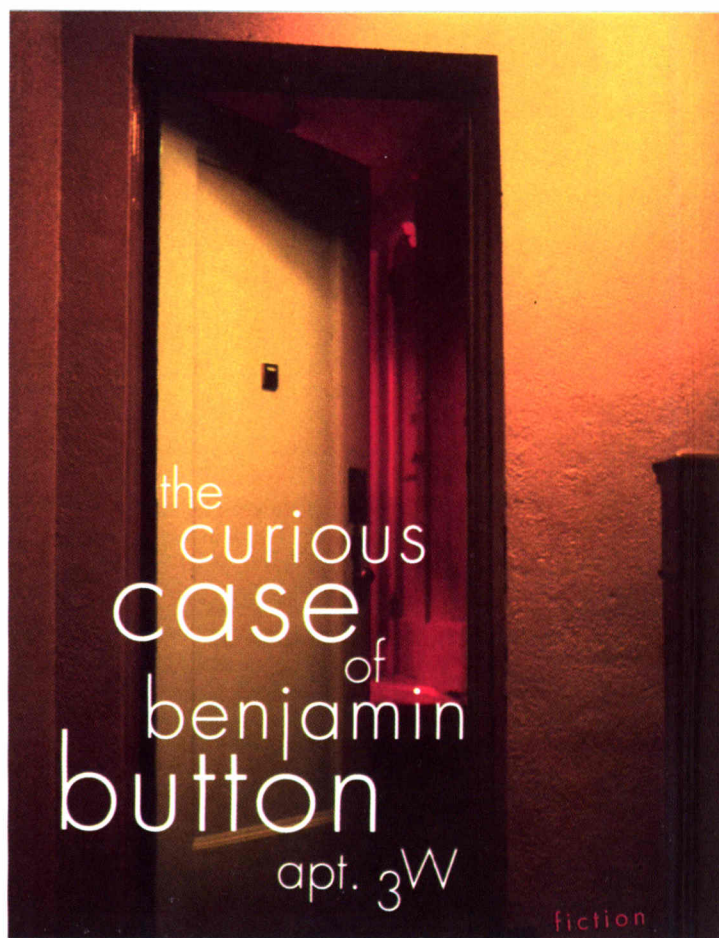
2002, Columbia University Press

Howard presents a critical rereading of Marx as a theorist of democracy. He argues that it is democracy, rather than Marxism, that is radical and revolutionary, and that Marx could have seen this but did not. The author argues that the collapse of European communism in 1989 should not be identified with a victory for capitalism and makes possible a wholesale reevaluation of democratic politics in the U.S. and abroad. He turns to the American and French Revolutions to uncover what was truly "revolutionary" about those events, arguing that two distinct styles of democratic life emerged, the implications of which were misinterpreted in light of the rise of communism.

### 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](mailto: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](http://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.



## The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Apt. 3W

by Gabriel Brownstein, Lecturer, Writing Program

2002, W.W. Norton

*In this debut collection of nine short stories, Gabriel Brownstein draws an unforgettable portrait of New York City life through the comical eccentricities, tragic flaws, and poignant humanity of his characters. Told through the perspective of young Davey Birnbaum as he watches his neighbors' quirky dramas unfold, the stories pay homage to several of literature's master craftsmen—Hawthorne, Fitzgerald, Auden, Kafka, and Singer—inspiring readers “to think twice about the intersection of life and fiction” (Publishers Weekly, starred review). Brownstein’s collection won the PEN/Hemingway Award and was also named one of New York Public Library’s 25 Books to Remember of 2002. In the following excerpt from “Wakefield, 7E,” a lawyer named Zauberman re-enacts the life of Hawthorne’s Wakefield—he walks out on his wife and daughter in order to spy on them.*

Under the pretense that he was taking a short trip, Zauberman cut out from his family one day and rented an apartment on the other side of 89th Street, directly across the hall from us. In disguise and under an assumed name, Wakefield, he lived in our building for more than twenty years, looking out his window, watching his wife and daughter age.

He stared through a telescope while they cried, skipped meals, lost weight and friends. He examined little Shoshana as she read

Nancy Drew or practiced her violin or undressed before a shower. While Ada sliced chicken, Wakefield focused binoculars on her knuckly hands. When she took lovers to bed, he gazed at the shade of the window to what had been his bedroom.

What was he like before he disappeared?

Clean shaven and nervous, I imagine, a lawyer specializing in estate taxes. Neat, but not stylish. A le Carre novel on his jittery lap, he falls into dreaming, but vaguely—he isn’t imaginative; his thoughts aren’t energetic enough to seize on concrete ideas. If you had to ask the guys in his office, “Who’s the man in New York most likely to do nothing this weekend?” they’d point to him: a cautious family man, easily startled. The only person who might have guessed otherwise should have been Ada. She knew about her husband’s quiet selfishness. She understood his rusted vanity, his obsessive tending to secrets. He refused to talk to her about his work, for instance, always acted as if she suspected him of carrying on an affair.

So let’s picture his leaving. A cold October evening, his daughter is ten, a pretty, even-tempered girl, but her father pays her very little attention; he’s aloof, and sometimes she reacts to this with ferocity. Tonight she runs circles around him. “Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, Dads, Dads, Dads.” She tugs on his coat, steps on his boots, pulls on his suitcase. “Where are you going, Daddy? When will you be back, Dad? What’s the hurry, man?” Careful Wakefield carries an umbrella, though it’s not raining. He talks to his wife, lecturing in

his fussy, hectoring way. He tells her not to expect him positively on Tuesday, not to be alarmed if he doesn’t return Thursday, but to look for him certainly by supertime Friday.

“Tuesday! Thursday! Sunday!” Shoshana flings her arms around his legs.

Wakefield extricates himself, almost stepping on her toes. He adjusts his cap. When the door closes, Shoshana goes still—she’s got a mass of auburn curls. Ada, spying casually on her husband, sneaks a look out the peephole while he waits for the elevator. He surprises her, brings his face right up to the lens. He grins. It’s an ironic smile, too big, too aggressive, and it’s exaggerated by the glass. Ada jumps.

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## New & Noteworthy

### Brain Warp: A Medical Thriller

by Gil Snider, Class of 1971

### Content-Based Instruction in Higher Education Settings

co-edited by Dorit Kaufman, Professor, Linguistics Department

### Meridian Anthology of Contemporary Poetry

edited by Phyllis L. Geller, Class of 1983, School of Social Welfare

### The Murder of Hitler (a novel)

by August Franza, Ph.D. 1981, English

### Psychic Killed By Train (poetry)

by Ron Overton, Lecturer, Writing Program

### The Unwritten Rules of Friendship: Simple Strategies to Help Your Child Make Friends

by Eileen Kennedy-Moore (co-author), Ph.D. 1992, Clinical Psychology

# Letters to the Editor



## What is a Seawolf, anyway?

The back cover of your Fall 2003 issue shows representations of what purports to be a sea wolf. Your athletic department might want to know that a [sea wolf] is a kind of blenny or sea lion or elephant seal, not a kind of wolf.

**Robert Hoffman**

*Editor's Note: Actually, Stony Brook's Seawolf is based on a mythical creature of the Tlingit Indians. According to the legend, the Seawolf brings good luck to all those who are fortunate enough to see it.*

## Grateful for Stony Brook

Since graduation, my life has been an adventure; I owe a debt of gratitude to Stony Brook University for all my accomplishments. Although I was born and raised in Glen Cove, New York, for the past six years I have been working as a high school English teacher at the American Nicaraguan School here in Managua, Nicaragua. Living in Central America has been a magnificent experience. Aside from meeting and marrying my wife, I have had many professional and academic opportunities.

My work at the American Nicaraguan School...has largely been to help reconstruct a secondary English department. Although in existence for more than half a century, Nicaragua's civil war in 1979 and the war with the Contras in the 1980s left the American Nicaraguan School's existence here a precarious and unstable one. Ever since the early 1990s, with the election defeat of the Sandinistas by Dona Violet Barrios de Chamorro, this American School has been in a slow process of rebuilding. We are proud to report that this year's senior class has been offered acceptances and more than \$2 million dollars in scholarship money from prestigious U.S. universities.

My memories of Stony Brook University will always be fond ones. Exceptional professors like Dr. David Sheehan (with whom I maintain a correspondence), Dr. Aaron

Lipton, and Dr. Paul Dolan continue today to be inspirations for me. Furthermore, I am proud to report that I have just completed a Masters of Arts in Humanities from California State University Dominguez Hills through their distance learning program; my thesis is presently being published. I could not have completed any of these professional and academic accomplishments without the scholastic preparation offered by Stony Brook.

**Brian F. Sullivan**  
'95 (B.A. English)

As a recipient of the 2003 Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, my path to Yale Law School and the Soros Fellowship was paved during my four years as an undergraduate at Stony Brook University. This honor rightly extends to my alma mater.

In the best traditions that I learned under scholars like Professors Frank Myers, Jeff Segal, and Femi Vaughan, my first attempt at legal scholarship was published in a recent issue of the *Yale Law and Policy Review*.

**Oluwaseun O. Ajayi**

## Friends for Life

In September 1966, I was one of seven freshmen assigned to the same dorm in H Quad. Madeleine Boriss, Riva Ginsburg, and I were tripled. Melanie Gissen, Rozanne Spigner, and Ronnie Kirschenberg were on my hall and Jane Clark roomed one floor down. We met, felt a connection, and immediately became friends. We got to know ourselves, away from home and parental influence, and we really got to know each other.

After freshman year, Rozanne transferred and Madeleine took a one-year leave of absence. By our 1970 graduation, we had totally lost that group connection. Riva and I married Stony Brook boyfriends and became neighbors in upstate New York, continuing our close friendship. Melanie and Jane kept up with occasional visits and each saw Madeleine a few times. Ronnie eventually moved to Florida, but stayed in touch with Rozanne, who settled in Ohio. But we all hadn't heard from each other in more than 30 years.

In Spring 2002 a lucky coincidence changed that. Riva's brother was marrying a woman from Florida, who just happened to be Jane's cousin. That set off a chain of e-mails that finally put us all in touch with each other. Melanie offered her summer home in Prattville, N.Y., for a reunion, where we could all sleep dorm style—totally appropriate for the occasion.

On August 1, 2003, with great anticipation, six of us (Rozanne had a change of plans)

stayed under the same roof for the first time since the sixties. We looked at pictures from Stony Brook, relieved at how recognizable we were from our teenage years. We celebrated each other's achievements and talents—we had become teachers, psychologists, doctors, lawyers, and artists. Our lives also included some divorces, serious illnesses, and tough challenges. We confided and supported each other all over again, too.

When my children were each getting ready for college, we discussed some expectations I had for them, which included studying, calling home regularly, and making the most of their opportunities. I told them that they were beginning four of the most precious years of their life with people who would have a profound and lasting impact on them. "Some of the people you bond with in college will be your friends for life. Make good choices." During a weekend in Prattville this past summer, I discovered how perfect my advice was.

**Lesley Weisser Grant**  
'70 (B.A.)

*Lesley Weisser Grant and her husband, Ron Grant, also class of 1970, have been married for 33 years. They have three children, Josh, 29, who is married to Shane and has a son, Andrew; Rebecca, 27, and Matthew, 23.*



*Clockwise, starting back row, left: Lesley, Riva, Melanie, Bonnie, Jane, and Madeleine.*

*The Brook reserves the right to edit Letters to the Editor for content, clarity, and space.*

*If you would like to submit a letter, please send it to:*

*The Brook*

*Stony Brook University*

*144 Administration*

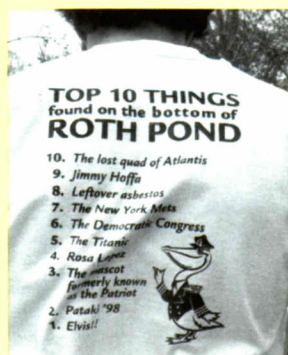
*Stony Brook, NY 11794-0605*

*Attn.: Letters to the Editor*

*You can also send us your letter via e-mail at TheBrook@stonybrook.edu.*



## Small Pond, Big Splash!



In the Spring of 1988, inspired by a Mountain Dew commercial, Stony Brook students Curt Epstein, John Rickerman, and Stuart Weinstein petitioned the University for \$250 to put on a cardboard boat race on Roth Quad Pond. That first year, the inaugural running of what has become known as the Roth Pond Regatta attracted ten boats, and about the same number of onlookers.

Last April 25, the 15th anniversary of the Regatta drew 47 entrants from all parts of the campus, and spectators from across Long Island and beyond. This event even has been featured in *Newsday* and on CNN. So what does it take to float your boat at Stony Brook? The following are the only approved materials for building the Roth Regatta craft: cardboard, duct tape, rope or string, paint, wax, cloth (only to be used in sails), Elmer's glue. And, if you're part of the launch team or boat crew, it wouldn't hurt to speculate about what might be at the bottom of Roth Pond (see left).

# STARS OF STONY BROOK GALA 2004

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On April 28, Stony Brook University hosts its Fifth Annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. This year's event honors Henry and Marsha Laufer, in recognition of their long-standing commitment and generosity to Stony Brook University and the Staller Center for the Arts. The proceeds from the Gala support scholarships and other University initiatives. For ticket information, please call Cathy McNamara, Inc. at (631) 549-4113.



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