

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

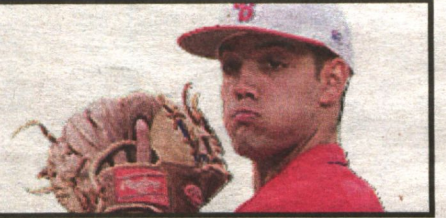
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Spring Sports Preview

LOOK INSIDE FOR COVERAGE OF BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, MEN'S LACROSSE AND WOMEN'S LACROSSE



HANAA TAMEEZ / THE STATESMAN

Youngsters fight for mini basketballs handed out by freshman center Jakub Petras after Saturday's men's basketball game. The Seawolves defeated Maine handily, 80-52.

Feline friends manage Stony Brook cat quagmire

By Christopher Leelum
Assistant News Editor

Before 2002, Stony Brook was the crazy cat lady of Long Island—hundreds of stray cats roamed the campus, and there was no plan in place to take care of them all.

Along came Nancy Franklin, Ph.D., a professor of psychology and director of the master's program at Stony Brook, who one day felt destined to serve a furry face.

"It all started when I saw a cat looking at me by the Administration building on my walk to my car," Franklin said. "It just dawned on me...something has to be done about this problem."

The problem Franklin talked about was not only the stray cat population, but also the handling of

domesticated cats by students.

"People have this idiotic view to send cats off and think, 'with their instincts they'll be fine,'" Franklin said.

So she began to draw up her own plan for a trap, neuter, return program. After sending a letter to then university President Shirley Kenny, a few faculty members caught word of the project and jumped on.

One early member was Rita Reagan-Redko, an undergraduate advisor in the Department of Technology and Society who currently directs the student network.

"I joined shortly after it started, and when Nancy asked me to take over the feeding duties, I said sure," she said. A cat-lover as well, Reagan-Redko noticed this problem long before joining the project.

"I came back to [Stony Brook] in the 90s, and I was appalled at how many cats I saw on campus," Reagan-Redko said.

With growing student interest in helping and Franklin's classroom recruiting techniques, the SBU Cat Network was soon born.

Today, the Cat Network is a fully recognized university organization, feeding the cats, building the cats shelters, and tending to their medical needs.

Franklin was keen on repeating the phrase "grassroots organization" to describe the SBU Cat Network.

Senior Stephanie Martone is the current president. She stressed the cooperation and compassion needed to help the cats.

Continued on page 5

SBU camera captures snowflakes

By Peter Chen
Staff Writer

The Multi-Angle Snowflake Camera, or MASC, a new addition to the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, will help Stony Brook University researchers gather better data on snowstorms and create more accurate numerical models for forecasts.

As part of the National Science Foundation project titled "Collaborative Research: Observations and modeling of mesoscale precipitation banding in cool-season winter storms," the MASC was installed on top of Endeavor Hall in the south campus and serves to capture photos of snowflakes during snowstorms.

The research project is a collaborative effort between Stony Brook University and North Carolina State University aimed to reduce the amount of uncertainties of weather forecast by analyzing data collected during snowstorms, Sandra Yuter, professor of marine, earth, and atmospheric sciences at North Carolina State University

and collaborator of the project, said in an email.

Brian Colle, professor of atmospheric science at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, leads the Stony Brook team and is in charge of numerical modeling and data collecting.

Before the MASC, data collecting was done by "brute force" and often happened at the dead of night, Colle said.

"We were using a cold shed outside and a stereo-microscope," he said. "We did this for several years with myself and students where we would go out in the middle of the storm and collect snowflakes on glass plate and study the flakes under the microscope."

Now they can collect and study snowflake data in the warmth and comfort of their homes and offices.

According to Colle, the installation of the MASC not only reduced the amount of manual labor associated with data collection, but also sped up the collect

Continued on page 6



PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN COLLE

The Multi-Angle Snowflake Camera (foreground) and vertically pointing radar (dish in background) at Stony Brook University.

New system StarRez coming in Summer 2015 to revamp housing process

By Rachel Siford
Staff Writer

Stony Brook is stepping up its game when it comes to streamlining the housing process, looking to use an all-in-one system, StarRez.

Currently, Campus Residences uses five different systems for the housing process. It uses Facebook for roommate matching, SOLAR for room selection, the Campus Residences website for waiting lists, Summer Conference Housing as a separate system, and the Room Management System to track housing information.

"StarRez will allow us to consolidate all these processes and related correspondences in

one system," Assistant Director of Information Technology for Campus Residences Henry Joseph said. "The resident will have a central portal that they can log into for all their housing needs."

Starting Summer 2015, students will use StarRez for their housing needs. This Online Housing System was created to help students to select housing more easily because some experienced problems in the past.

"I feel like it's unnecessarily complicated because of the process they have set up," sophomore biomedical engineering major Jason Iannelli said of the current system. "And also their servers can't handle the influx of students all trying to pick their

rooms at the same time."

Students will be able to sign in with their NetID and get updates sent to them electronically regarding their housing status, notifications, reminders, finances and new applications with little or no staff involvement, according to a Division of Information Technology newsletter.

Campus Residences is sponsoring the initiative and DoIT is assisting with its implementation.

"This will make everything housing related more intuitive and decrease any confusion on where to go to complete a process or application," Joseph said.

Although Campus Residences were not getting complaints from students about the current system,

every year some students missed the Online Room Selection process or did not understand how to complete it, Joseph said.

"Having everything in a single streamlined system will decrease confusion and simplify our housing processes for the residents," Joseph said.

Students experienced crashes in the system as well.

"It comes down to how lucky are you to pick your room before the servers crash and it leaves a lot of students out in the cold," Iannelli said. "I didn't know about this new system coming out, but I am very happy to hear about it. I would like to see the system improved."

According to the DoIT newsletter, OHS will have an inte-

grated messaging system so staff can quickly communicate with students if necessary via system messages, email or text messages.

StarRez also offers new features. Students will be able to see the location of a room before selecting it, as well as lock and hold a space while deciding using a new "ticket-master system."

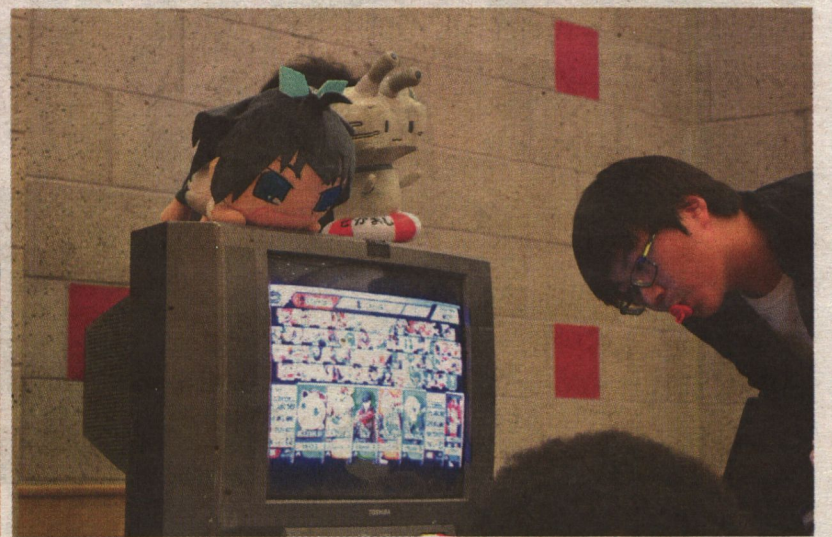
This feature will allow students not to worry that someone else will pick the room they are viewing while actively looking at it. But students can only look at a room for a certain amount of time to prevent those from reserving a room with no intention of selecting it.

StarRez will also allow non-residents to sign up for the waiting lists.

WEEKEND EVENTS

Nerdfest 2.0

Christopher Cameron / The Statesman



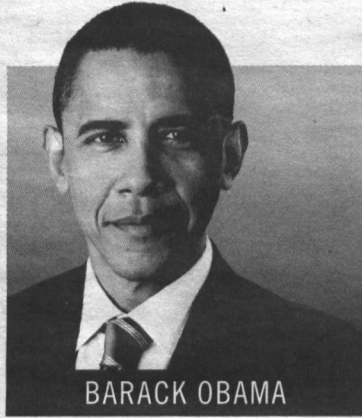
Stony Brook vs. University of Maine

Hanaa' Tameez / The Statesman

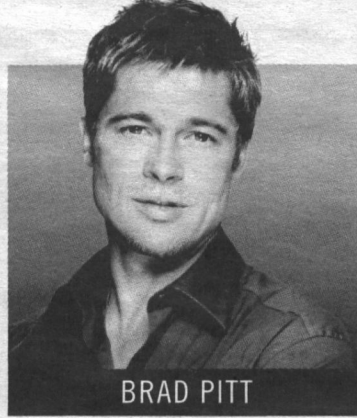




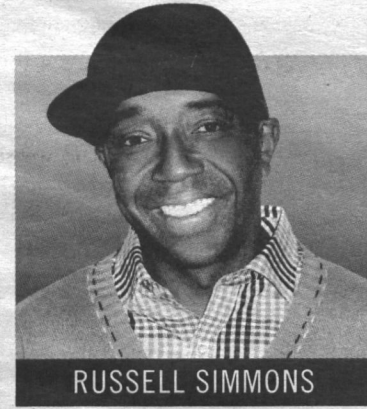
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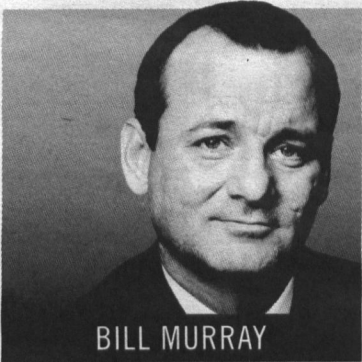
BARACK OBAMA



BRAD PITT

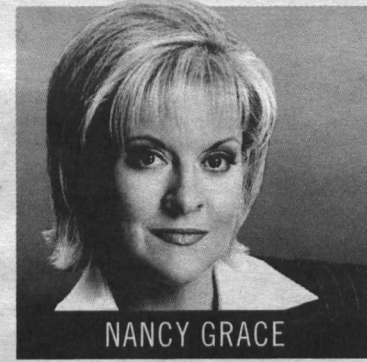


RUSSELL SIMMONS

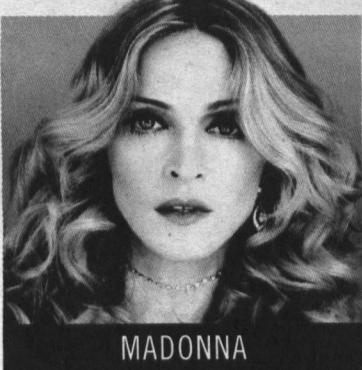


BILL MURRAY

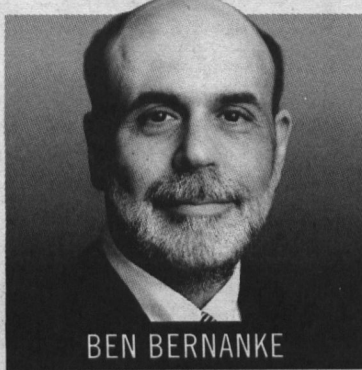
WHAT DO THEY
ALL HAVE
IN COMMON?



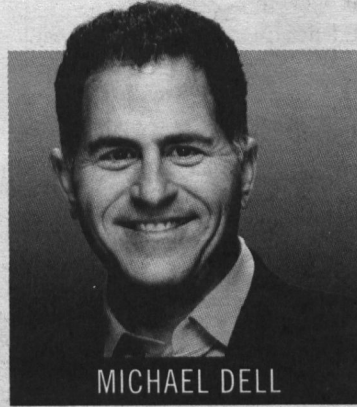
NANCY GRACE



MADONNA



BEN BERNANKE



MICHAEL DELL



CARLA KENTOFFIO

In spite of the different roads travelled for these famous faces, tucked away in their backgrounds they all worked in food service early in their careers. Yet only one of them - the least renowned of this accomplished group - has some attributes that sets her apart from the rest. This person also has food service experience but exacted a taste of success and notoriety somewhat earlier than the others, and is someone who is very much within reach of all members of our campus community.

We are referring to Carla Kentoffio, an SBU student who has earned the title of—*Student Employee of the Year for New York State.*

This award was forged out of the long established recipe for success; seeing, accessing and embracing opportunity to exact out-of-the-box accomplishments. Carla leveraged her work experience in campus dining service and the FSA's Human Resources area to spearhead a special initiative of her own, dedicated to increasing the value of the student staff work experience in campus dining through work skills development. In the process, she created new opportunities for other student's work skills development and general improvements for the student staff workspace.

Payback goes beyond the paycheck. From meeting & networking with new people to beyond the obvious and routine. Like a chef devising the masterpiece recipe, Carla has the vision.

**Congratulations Carla—you're in good company.
How about you? *What can a campus dining job cook up for you?***

FSA FACULTY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Proceeds from FSA operations are used to benefit the campus community.

Student Staffing Resources

Stony Brook Union, Suite 250
(631) 632-1704

Stony Brook's Cat Network sees stray cat population on campus dwindling

Continued from page 1

"Whether faculty or student, we have someone to take care of them every day of the year," said Martone. "Even summer and winter when school is not in session for most students."

The group even frequently gathers money out-of-pocket to pay for expensive veterinarian procedures.

Both Martone and Franklin said that there were at least 350 cats on campus in 2002. Since then, the SBU Cat Network has helped get that number down to under 100 through adoption and population control.

If you have not had the experience of seeing a cat at Stony Brook, the reason is twofold.

"We still have a lot of cats on campus, but a lot of them are hidden and

they know where the shelters are so they only move around at night," said SBU Cat Network member and junior biology major Stephen Chan.

The other reason is that many cats are "feral," as opposed to stray.

According to the Last Hope Animal Rescue website, "A feral cat is primarily wild-raised or has adapted to feral life, while a stray cat is often someone's pet that has become lost or has been abandoned." Feral cats are much more afraid of humans, while strays, who still have domestic tendencies, tend to hover near human dwellings like garages or backyards.

But while Stony Brook may have been a feral hub, the problem is not Long Island, but college life itself.

"A lot of students think they can have cats in their rooms, but then they find out, usually from an RA,

that they actually can't have one," SBU Cat Network member Maddy Marcus, a junior journalism major, said. "Then they just find some woods and let it run out."

Alleycat.org says that programs similar to this have been successfully implemented in campuses like Stanford University, Auburn University, Texas A&M at College Station, Arizona State University and more.

As for working on solving Stony Brook's problem once and for all, SBU Cat Network member and junior psychology major Shannon Fitzgerald says it is a see something, say something effort for students.

"If students say something like, 'we saw a cat near Javits,' then we'd be in charge of building a sanctuary there," Fitzgerald said.

More than once, the SBU Cat Network has been rewarded for its

efforts by the Animal Rescue Site's Shelter Challenge competition, earning top prizes and \$1,000 grants.

"If you love or if you hate cats, you

want to see this problem addressed," Franklin said. "There's nothing like the incredible and intense love of a rescued cat."



PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHANIE MARTONE

Most cats, like Frosty (pictured above), prefer the protection and seclusion of the woods, while others roam around late at night.

Governor Cuomo pushes for experiential learning as graduation requirement

By Daniel Moloney
Contributing Writer

Gov. Andrew Cuomo is pushing for experiential learning through internships and/or part-time jobs, as a new graduation requirement for all SUNY students in his proposed SUNY budget for next year.

Frederick Walter, the former president of the Stony Brook University Senate who currently serves on the SUNY Senate, said Stony Brook is ahead of the curve as the current Stony Brook Curriculum calls for experiential learning upon graduation; however, how the Governor describes experiential learning and how Stony Brook University does are completely different.

The SBC asks that students at some point learn through experience, whether it be through internships, jobs, research, scholarly activity or service learning, among other experiences. Cuomo's plan would mandate experiential learning through internships.

According to Walter, an internship would definitely help a business or journalism major, but certain students would not benefit from working as an office intern, but they rather need experience in study labs doing research and experimentations.

Issues with experiential learning being mandated by the Governor go beyond a lack of an explanation of exactly what experiential learning is. There are over 60 SUNY campuses, not counting CUNY schools, which also fall under the list of SUNY campuses.

As Walter pointed out, this mandate would be "a system-wide thing. There are 400,000 students in the SUNY system. It is huge...there aren't enough companies in the state of N.Y. offering internships." Not only that, but with over 60 unique schools, mandating the same requirements for all would be foolish, Walter said.

Stony Brook University profes-

many students can't afford internships because so many of them are unpaid," he said.

In "Moving the New New York Forward," Cuomo explains START-UP NY, "a game-changing initiative that is transforming SUNY campuses...into tax-free communities" with the goal to attract new businesses and offer them the opportunity to create new jobs—including

"a start... but making [experiential learning] a requirement is easy, and cheap and it doesn't really solve the problem," he said.

"The problem is [the] student who is working two jobs just to get through school can't afford to take an unpaid internship," Miller said. Another issue is that although 1,300 new jobs may seem like progress, there are over 400,000 students in

paid spots, Miller said, "Organizations know that students need the experience, so they can get away with not paying."

Requiring all students to gain an internship would force certain disadvantaged students into picking up unpaid spots, which is "lunacy," Miller said.

Cuomo has faced opposition for trying to mandate this. Walter said many SUNY Senate members wonder why the governor is mandating curriculum, as no governor has done so previously.

Cuomo is a politician not a professor, therefore he does not fully understand what he is mandating.

The Governor's Press Office did not comment.

Cuomo has also said he will withhold 10 percent of funding from SUNY campuses until they submit performance plans.

Campuses submit performance plans, which are set goals for a given year unrelated to the experiential learning mandate. If they do not submit the plans, the Governor will withhold 10 percent of funding, which would be approximately \$15 million for Stony Brook.

If Cuomo mandates that experiential learning be a graduation requirement, it will become the standard for SUNY campuses. He wants this mandate to go into effect as soon as possible.

Cuomo hopes that experiential learning will be added as a graduation requirement as early as next year, which would affect most current SUNY students.



STATESMAN STOCK PHOTO

Cuomo is looking to mandate experiential learning, like internships and research, in order for students to graduate. Over 60 SUNY institutions would be affected by this plan.

sor and Director of the Center for News Literacy Dean Miller noted additional issues. Experiential learning should be a requirement "only if students have access to it" and "so

paid college internships.

Even with tax breaks creating paid positions, Miller said there will be an advantage to the rich for paid internship positions. The tax breaks are

the SUNY system. This means there are potentially 400,000 students seeking jobs who otherwise would not be.

Despite many groups offering

Darwin Day lecture demonstrates natural selection's effects on language

By Jakub Lewkowicz
Contributing Writer

Science and the humanities were brought together on Friday night in a lecture titled "The Evolution of Human Languages," given by Mark Pagel. In commemoration of Darwin Day, the guest speaker emphasized the importance of the natural selection theory in the field of linguistics in an Earth and Space Sciences lecture hall.

Pagel is a fellow of the Royal Society, professor of evolutionary biology at Reading University in the United Kingdom and author of "Wired for Culture: The Natural History of Human Cooperation."

"All animals communicate, even

most plants communicate, but humans are the only species with languages," Pagel said, elaborating that by language, he means the use of coherent sentences. "Your pet dog can tell you it's angry, it can even tell you how angry it is, but it cannot tell you its life story."

His research has shown that there are over 7,000 different languages, but half of the world's population uses the top ten to communicate. He also stated that about 30-50 languages go extinct every year and hypothesized that English will come out as the unifying language as it becomes more widespread.

Pagel recalled one of his experiences in Tanzania. He tried to

speak to a man in broken Swahili, to which the man stopped him and responded that his English was better than the professor's Swahili. This set the lecture's theme that the languages of the world are becoming increasingly homogeneous and the use of technological connection across the globe, including social media, is speeding up this process.

He mentioned a story reported by The Guardian in which authorities attempt to disrupt this flow of languages when Quebec language police, an actual unit within the Quebec government, tried to ban the word "pasta" on a menu, claiming that the menu had too many Italian words.

Natural selection is constantly

acting on words to choose the ones that work easiest because "the brain wants something that's short and easy to pronounce," Pagel said. "The words that we use most often are the ones that retain their ancestry over very long periods of time."

He demonstrated that the equivalent of the word "two" was strikingly similar throughout various languages, but the word for "bird" showed little to no resemblance, claiming this is so because the number is used more commonly throughout daily speech in all languages.

"The lecture takes some important topics and brings people from many communities together and evolution is a major organizing

force of humanity," Jeffrey Levinton, a Stony Brook professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution, said. "There is an authenticity that this fellow is one of the world's leading experts in language and the structure of language. You don't get this on television."

Along with some of the university's professors, the audience consisted of students and local residents, some of whom shared similar enthusiasm in the event.

"I'm more interested in physics and astronomy so for me this was a quick study in a branch of science that I don't typically get exposed to and it was great," Elliot Serebrenik, who works as an engineer, said.

Campus Briefing: Nine clubs lose budgets after USG Senate passes Appropriations Act

By Christopher Leelum
Assistant News Editor

The Appropriations Act was the star of the show for the Feb. 12 USG senate meeting, passing by a vote of 18-1-0, but not before some misunderstandings and reconsideration.

Up for a vote was approximately \$42,000 in unused club funds to be transferred to the USG grant appropriation. Nine clubs, due to anything from technical misunderstandings to internal disorganization, were found in violation of a section of USG's financial bylaws that states, "A club/organization shall solely host at least one event per semester that is funded, in whole or in part, by the Student Activity Fee."

USG Treasurer Kathryn Michaud stressed that e-board members from every club were required to attend a leadership conference and take a quiz regarding this section of the bylaws.

"If these clubs can't use the budget, I think [the funds] should be allocated to other clubs," Michaud said.

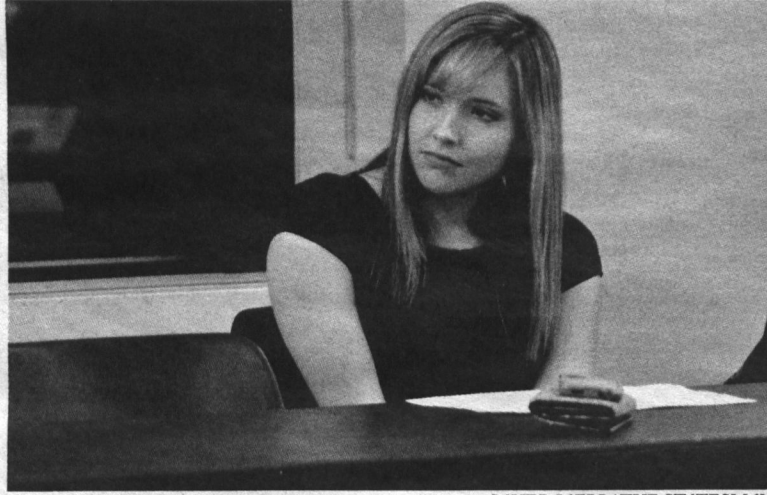
Notable clubs and organizations that sent representatives to plead their cases included the Asian American Journal, Black Womyn's Association and SB Ringers.

The lengthy debate that ensued was boiled down to one main question—whether to hold all organization to the same standard or not.

"The fact is you broke the bylaws and you have to face the consequences, but there are ways to bounce back," College of Arts and Sciences Sen. Chris Williams said.

With a bang on the table, Executive Vice President James Alrassi joked, "Hard-hitting, Senator Williams!"

However, College of Arts and Sci-



SAHER JAFRI / THE STATESMAN

College of Arts and Sciences Sen. Marissa Peterson, above, advocated for a personalized solution based on each club's situation.

ences Sen. Marissa Peterson wished to see each organization in its own light and handle it on a case-by-case basis. Peterson was especially concerned with the situation of the Black Womyn's Association, which had misunderstandings with USG over the activation of their secretary's Campusvine account. This account is needed by e-board members to deal with budgetary concerns.

"Their problem was very technical, and I feel the other clubs didn't really know what they were doing as much," Peterson said. "This club seems to just have purely technical reasons behind their vouchers."

After the debate, the act was put to a vote, and by a vote of 11-7-1, the Appropriations Act failed.

Surprised, Michaud reminded the senators that the clubs and organizations could not use the funds anyway, regardless of the vote, because they violated the financial bylaws. The act was simply proposing to allocate the funds to the USG grant appropriation.

"Just as a point of clarification," Michaud began, "...that was the whole point of this act."

After a groan of misunderstanding went over the room, the motion to reconsider passed, and the final motion to pass the act went through.

One notable topic of discussion was the budgets of groups who had no representatives at the meeting to vouch for their case.

The Black Womyn's Play Writer's Guild (budget: \$3,259.60), the National Association of Black Accountants (budget: \$2,160) and the Young Americans for Freedom (budget: \$3,771.75) were all on the agenda, but had no one present at the meeting to represent them.

Other items on the agenda were the new Special Services Council budgets for Taiko Tides, a Japanese drumming group, and SBU TNG (The Next Generation), a group that teaches about the fetish community. The USG Senate avoided any debate in these areas and quickly passed both.

Under the Microscope: researching silver matrix batteries to power a new frontier

By Ricardo Raudales
Contributing Writer

Every other week, graduate student Ricardo Raudales will take a look at Stony Brook science and research-related news.

From smartphones to electric vehicles, lithium-based batteries seem to make the digital world go round. Yet despite their ubiquity, the basic concept behind lithium-based batteries has remained largely unchanged for over a decade and improvements in performance, so far, have been relatively modest.

That may soon change thanks to new efforts by scientists at Stony Brook and Brookhaven National Laboratory to map the electronic pathways inside a new kind of multi-metallic battery.

In a study published last month in Science, professor Esther Takeuchi and her colleagues tackle the question of how a highly conductive silver matrix could lead to better designs for lithium-based batteries. Takeuchi is a Stony Brook professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and chief scientist at Brookhaven Lab's Basic Energy Sciences Directorate.

"Silver vanadium diphosphate is a new material we started investigating

just a few years ago," Takeuchi said. "Our goal was to develop a battery that would have a longer life than current batteries used to power implantable cardiac defibrillators."

"We found that this material forms silver metal as the battery is first used," Takeuchi said. "The silver metal initially exists as nanoparticles and then forms a conductive network within the electrode, which makes the battery work better."

To study this silver conductive network in action, Takeuchi and her colleagues developed an in situ way of analyzing batteries by measuring x-ray diffraction patterns.

"The most common way to investigate a battery is to test it and then cut it open," Takeuchi said. "However, the in situ method we developed was a significant change. We were able to use x-rays from the synchrotron (NSLS I) at Brookhaven, which are powerful enough to penetrate the steel casing of the battery. This allowed us to investigate the reactions taking place inside the battery without having to cut it open."

This new method is significant in that it provides new types of information as the battery is not disturbed," Takeuchi said.

Using this technique, the researchers discovered that initial use of the battery changes the nature of the

silver conductive network, such that slower formation leads to a more uniform conductive network.

"Based on our findings, it appears we can overcome a life-limiting mechanism present in the batteries used today," Takeuchi said. "The new system could, in turn, provide longer life."

Yet batteries are not the only material that can be studied with the new in situ technique.

"We envision the method could be used more generally to study reactions that take place inside vessels," Takeuchi said. "For example, it could be useful for catalysis, synthesis and the study of other chemical reactions."

The implications of a breakthrough battery design are undoubtedly huge, with many predicting that it could revolutionize the renewable energy sector as well as many consumer electronics.

While we await the battery revolution (or, at least, a smartphone that actually holds a charge for a day), Takeuchi had a few words of advice for budding Stony Brook scientists and engineers: "Science and engineering are becoming very exciting, especially with the new methods for investigation that are being developed. Stick with it, be curious, work hard and good things can happen."

Police Blotter

On Feb. 5, a driver on Nicolls Road was arrested and charged with Driving While Intoxicated.

On Feb. 5, one University Hospital patient struck another. The victim refused to press charges.

On Feb. 5, a Resident Assistant reported the smell of marijuana in a Benedict College dorm room. Police were alerted and one individual was arrested.

On Feb. 6, a strong marijuana odor was reported in a Greeley College dorm room. Five referrals were issued.

On Feb. 6, a man reported that he was being stalked. He declined to press harassment charges.

On Feb. 6, a headlight trimming was stolen from a car in the South P Lot. The case is still open.

On Feb. 6, a whiteboard was reported stolen from a suite door in Baruch College. The case is open.

On Feb. 7, a strong marijuana odor was coming from a Mercedes Benz near Dreiser College. The driver was placed under arrest.

On Feb. 7, three to four men were seen carrying a woman in and out of a James College dorm room. She was intoxicated. The girl was

transported to the University Hospital, and one referral was issued.

On Feb. 7, the smell of marijuana was reported in a Wagner College suite. Eight referrals were issued.

On Feb. 8, a window was broken by a bottle. The case is open.

On Feb. 10, a Chevy truck was damaged by an unknown vehicle in the University Hospital parking garage. The case has been closed.

On Feb. 10, a woman walked into the University Police station and said she was missing items from her vehicle after it was parked on a metered spot in the Engineering Lot. The case is now closed.

On Feb. 10, an iPhone was reported stolen from the University Hospital. The case is closed.

On Feb. 10, a fire alarm was triggered in Lauterbur Hall. The cause of the alarm being triggered was marijuana use in a Lauterbur Hall room. One referral was issued.

On Feb. 11, urine was reported on the floor in the Student Union. The case is closed.

Compiled by Daniel Moloney

Multi-Angle Snowflake Camera debuts at Stony Brook University

Continued from page 1
ing process.

"It was very manually extensive, and as a result we can only take an observation every 15 to 30 minutes," he said. "But now this instrument is recording every time a snowflake triggers the sensors."

The MASC, developed by professor Tim Garrett of the University of Utah, roughly resembles an unfolded folding fan with three 5-megapixel cameras and three flashlights mounted on top, all pointing at a decagon shaped ring at one end of the device.

When a snowflake passes through a 1-by-1 inch area within the ring, the MASC captures close-up photos of it from three angles in real time, while measuring its descending speed. According to the MASC website, the camera can capture snowflakes ranging in size from 100 micrometers to three centimeters.

The photos are automatically composited and uploaded to a website that updates every 10 seconds and is accessible to the public.

The photographs offer two areas of focus for Colle and his colleagues: the habit type, or formation of snowflakes, and the amount of water captured by a snowflake as it descends through the clouds.

Understanding of cloud formations, or the lack thereof, is a major contributing factor of inaccurate snow forecast.

"To get the forecasts right, we have to understand the processes inside the clouds better," Colle said.

According to Colle, snowflakes

with more water attached to them form a denser and firmer snow that has a lower accumulation than snowflakes with less water, which form a fluffier and softer snow.

A recent example would be Winter Storm Juno. Weather forecasts predicted that the storm would bring 18-24 inches of snow accumulation with temperature near the freezing point in the Stony Brook area.

Colle and his team expected the MASC to capture photos of lighter, fluffier snow. Instead, the snowflakes captured more water, resulting in a denser snow that only accumulated to about 16 inches.

A Microwave Rain Radar, MRR, is used in unison with the MASC to collect the vertical profile of cloud structures about Stony Brook during snowstorms.

Sara Ganetis, a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in marine and atmospheric sciences and research assistant on the project, compares the recorded data from both the MASC and MRR with previous weather models to evaluate patterns and inaccuracies.

"We run our own weather model in a research setting to recreate storms," she said. "So we need actual observations to compare to what we are creating to see if it's actually usable to study small scale processes and the detail of the actual storms."

The project will last for three years with plenty of work to be done and snowstorms to be had, but Colle describes himself as "one of the few people that looks forward to going to work during a snowstorm."

COMMUNITY

Community Calendar

Featured

The Statesman Open House

Wednesday, Feb. 18, 8 p.m.
Union Rm. 057

Contact advertise@sbstatesman.com to learn about featuring your event in the Community Calendar.

Monday

Black in America Tour with Soledad O'Brien
6 p.m. | Staller Center

Tuesday

Racial/Sexual Politics of Health
4 p.m. | Humanities

Wednesday

The Moral Foundation of Worker Rights - Reverend William Barber
4 p.m. | SAC Auditorium

Thursday

Alan Alda - Getting Beyond a Blind Date with Science
7 p.m. | SAC

Friday

USG Movie Series: The Theory of Everything
8 p.m. | Union Auditorium

Send your event to: calendar@sbstatesman.com. Titles must be less than 100 characters.



Weekly Instagram



@djtr3v

Stony Brook impressed me tonight!
#ValentinesDayDinner #SBU



Follow *The Statesman* on Twitter and Instagram
@sbstatesman

Sudoku

2	7	6	3	8	5	1	4	9
3	4	8	7	1	9	6	5	2
5	1	9	4	2	6	7	3	8
6	3	7	2	4	8	9	1	5
1	8	2	9	5	3	4	6	7
9	5	4	1	6	7	2	8	3
4	6	3	8	9	2	5	7	1
8	9	5	6	7	1	3	2	4
7	2	1	5	3	4	8	9	6

last week's answer

© Kevin Stone [www.brainbashers.com]

this week's puzzle

1								4
		3	1		7	2		
	9			5				7
	2		7		9			3
		9				6		
	8		6		5			4
	5			7				9
		4	5		3	8		
3								5

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THE STATESMAN

WRITE • EDIT • PHOTOGRAPH • CODE • DESIGN

Interested in joining *The Statesman*?
Drop by one of our meetings this week in
room 057 of the Union Basement.

NEWS

Contact news@sbstatesman.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Contact arts@sbstatesman.com

OPINIONS

Contact opinions@sbstatesman.com

SPORTS

Friday, Jan. 30 at 2 p.m.

MULTIMEDIA

Contact multimedia@sbstatesman.com

WEB & GRAPHICS

Thursday, Jan. 29 at 8 p.m.

COPY

Friday, Jan. 30 at 1 p.m.

INTERN AT THE STATESMAN

The Statesman is looking for interns for the Spring
2015 semester

All interns receive 1 to 3 credits based on project hours by registering for EXT 288 or 488 through the division of Student Life and the Career Center. An interview with *The Statesman's* student managers and Editor-in-Chief will be scheduled after we receive and review your application. Please send a cover letter with the following information to editors@sbstatesman.com: your year and major; relevant experience and skills; and a brief explanation of your interest in the internship. If you have work samples, please include them in the email.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

The Statesman's Web & Graphics section is looking for students with an interest in learning how to create graphics that easily convey information to our readers.

ARCHIVING

The Statesman maintains a massive archive of past issues, photographs and photo negatives. We are looking for students with strong organization skills to continue collecting, maintaining and structuring *The Statesman's* history.

WEB DEVELOPMENT

We are looking for students to help us improve the look and functionality of our website and create a mobile application to better serve the campus community.

COPY EDITING

We are looking for students with a good command of the English language to assist in editing our articles and in creating captions and headlines for daily online publication.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are looking for students who have the skills to manage *The Statesman's* social media accounts—including Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr—as well as developing a social media strategy to further our presence.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

New Jasmine Tea House offers more food choices and job opportunities for students

By David Pepa
Contributing Writer

When someone goes to the Charles B. Wang Center and gets a selection of Vietnamese pressed sandwiches, muffins, tea infused scones, cupcakes or several choices of tea, they have found the new Jasmine Tea House.

The Tea House was added to Jasmine during winter break.

"I like this better, it's cleaner it's fresher, it's newer, it's just like a different feel," Shawna Burke, a junior political science major, said about working at the new Tea House as opposed to her old job at Jasmine in the kitchen.

Angela M. Agnello, director of Marketing and Communications of the Faculty Student Association, said, "The Jasmine Tea House is providing an opportunity to expand student employment opportunities."

During the winter break, student employees began training for the new teahouse. They learned how to make certain foods, which include the pressed sandwiches, muffins, frozen yogurt and more.

"Student staff are being trained as 'tea sommeliers,' learning how to steep teas at optimal time and temperature and to prepare recipes for the new food and beverages available at the Jasmine Tea House," Agnello said.

Students working at the Tea House tried approximately 28 tea samples during their training.

They have also sampled each of the pastries offered at the Tea House in order to assist customers.

"Everybody says that the cinnamon scones are the bomb," Burke said.

Jenny Wong, a junior health science major, who also works at the Tea House, said that the chai cupcakes sell out frequently.

Although this area in the Wang Center already has a place to get bubble tea, Faculty Student Association decided to put together a new larger area with a different variety of tea.

All of the different teas can be made iced or hot.

FSA also added a new sushi station and an additional spot for hot Asian entrees with a cash register for speed service.

Some students still go to the Jasmine Tea House for bubble tea. Doria Canino, a junior marine biology major, said, "What I like is the bubble tea, it's my particular choice of tea."

"I really like it and I usually come here twice a week," Canino said. "I saw it on Tuesday after I transferred here."

The cost of the Jasmine Tea House project was approximately \$800,000. It included the equipment, project design and the new sushi and tea bar additions.

The Jasmine Tea House is currently operated by Lackmann Culinary Services.

"At this time, we are unaware of any upcoming changes at the management for the Jasmine Tea House next semester," Agnello said.

The Jasmine Tea House is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. It is also open Saturday through Sunday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Wolfie turns another year older

By Peter Chen
Staff Writer

Wolfie, Stony Brook's beloved mascot, celebrated his 20th birthday during halftime of the men's basketball game on Saturday, Feb. 7 by treating everyone in attendance to a variety of desserts.

Wolfie, surrounded by Stony Brook cheerleaders, trotted around the court in his golden birthday crown and red cape while the marching band played "Happy Birthday."

The lobby was packed with fans who were eager for cupcakes and pudding before the marching band finished playing.

As for his birthday wishes, Andrea Lebedinski, coordinator for Annual Giving and Branding of the Athletics Department and administrator of Wolfie, said Wolfie wants the men's basketball team to reach The NCAA Tournament. Lebedinski added that Wolfie also wanted success for all sports teams.

Wolfie would also like to be a part of Capital One's Mascot challenge, the March Madness for mascots, Lebedinski said in an email.

Wolfie took over as Stony Brook's official mascot in the summer of 1995. Before that, Stony Brook was known as the Patriots.

Although Wolfie cannot buy a drink yet, he has had quite a workload. According to Lebedinski, Wolfie averages nearly 500 events a year—sometimes five in one day.

To keep up with the public's demand for Wolfie appearances, Lebedinski leads a 14-student "Wolfie Mascot Team."

This group is charged with booking and scheduling appearances for Wolfie.

The result is a "brand" that made Wolfie a local favorite and a growing national figure.

Lebedinski emphasized the importance of the Wolfie brand to the school and the community.

Locally, Wolfie was named Three Village Sportsman of the Year and a finalist for Long Island Press' Best Mascot contest from 2011 to 2013.

Nationally, Wolfie made four consecutive appearances in New York City's Columbus Day Parade and has accompanied Stony Brook sports teams to various states across America. He was also featured in ESPN's College Game Day commercial back in 2011.

Now, Wolfie is ready to take over the social media scene. SBU's mascot has flocks of followers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Seawolves can watch Wolfie break out some dance moves to "Smooth Criminal," or watch him demonstrate the Stony Brook Spirit on his YouTube page.

There are seven students who

Continued on page 9

Photos by Chelsea Katz, Boreum Lee and Giselle Barkley

"Fifty Shades of Grey" is more like fifty shades of bad



UNIVERSAL PICTURES / TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

According to Deadline.com "Fifty Shades of Grey" made \$80 million opening weekend. It is based on E.L. James' book of the same name and debuted during Valentine's Day weekend.

By Brandon Benarba
Senior Staff Writer

Even as a book, "Fifty Shades of Grey" is a bizarre project. Author E.L. James' novel originated as "Twilight" fan-fiction and eventually spiraled into a self-published e-book before turning into the cultural phenomenon we know it as today.

Suffice to say, a "Fifty Shades of Grey" movie was inevitable. As a film, "Fifty Shades" works as a strong examination of cultural and cinema as a medium, but it is a shame the movie itself is terrible.

"Fifty Shades" follows Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson), a college senior who, through random circumstance, ends up interviewing young billionaire Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan) for a school paper.

The two click during the interview and begin pursuing each other, with Christian quickly beginning to impose his dominant nature upon the young woman. Once the two have sex, Christian's desires are revealed making the rest

of the film a series of sexual activities and watching Christian trying to convince Anastasia to allow him to tie her up, whip her and simply control her.

There are almost no other incidents or plotlines beyond this. We are introduced to other characters—Christian's family, Anastasia's family and roommate—but they neither add nor advance any element of the film. This is because the film's script is absolutely awful.

The film is incredibly boring, with nothing actually happening in the last half of it.

Once the courtship begins, the movie becomes a repetitive sequence of scenes where the dominant tries to make the former-virgin his submissive.

This is done by Anastasia's character having dialogue consisting almost entirely of questions, to which Christian explains S&M sub-culture to her.

This lack of compelling character and narrative drama would not be bad if the film actually made the

sex particularly sexy.

"Fifty Shades" sex scenes barely exist. In total we are shown three major sex scenes that barely touch upon true S&M desires, and frankly, are not very interesting. It treats sex as a taboo, trying to shy away from having to visually show the act.

Sure we see some skin and a surprising amount of pubic hair, but the film does not make any of it sexy or fun.

It simply exists.

Yet, where the sex scenes fail to stimulate any sort of sense of arousal, they do work as strong examinations of fourth-dimensional cinema.

Where the film shies away from showing any sort of sexual climax, the film creates a sense of euphoria within its audience through its structure.

There is an audience-wide wave of release of "finally they are banging" once the deed begins. While the content between the sex scenes is awful, it structurally works as a build-up to this climax. For example, Christian shows Anastasia his "play room" early on in the film,

Wolfie celebrates his 20th year as SB mascot

Continued from page 8

play Wolfie. According to Lebedinski, these students do not only have the opportunity of playing the beloved mascot, but having the position also looks great on a resume and is a great conversation starter.

But, the job also comes with great responsibilities once an applicant completes the tryout process. The student must abide

by the "Mascot 10 Commandments," a list of do's and don'ts as Wolfie.

The first rule for being Wolfie: absolutely no speaking. The individual who played Wolfie during the men's basketball was not able to comment on this story.

As for Wolfie's 21st birthday next year, Lebedinski said there are some big plans in mind. Currently, Lebedinski cannot disclose what is in the works for Wolfie's next birthday celebration.



ANDREW EICHENHOLZ / THE STATESMAN

There are also Seawolves at University at Alaska Anchorage and Sonoma State University, but there is only one Wolfie.

but we do not actually use it for another hour, it is essentially being shown to tease and titillate viewers.

In this sense, the film is structured to replicate the feeling of sex.

We desire it, we build up to it, we achieve it and then we climax.

Visually, the film is shot in order to reflect the dominant nature of its male lead.

Slow, controlled aerial shots give a sense of looming and power on every scene with some pretty strong use of lighting.

There is one scene in particular involving a business meeting that is beautifully shot that it seems like it belongs in a different movie. While

none of the actual content we are watching on screen is interesting, director Sam Taylor-Johnson sure makes it look good.

"Fifty Shades of Grey" is a bad movie, but it is a movie that knows exactly what it is—a Valentine's Day date film.

One gets the feeling that elements like the acting, story and script were sacrificed for the sex scenes, but they are so lifeless that it simply breaks the film.

Visually and structurally strong but lacking in all other areas, "Fifty Shades of Grey" is a mess of a film, but would we want it any other way?

BEST MOTION PICTURE

- American Sniper
- Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)
- Boyhood
- The Grand Budapest Hotel
- The Imitation Game
- Selma
- The Theory of Everything
- Whiplash

ACHIEVEMENT IN DIRECTING

- Alejandro G. Iñárritu
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)
- Richard Linklater
Boyhood
- Bennett Miller
Foxcatcher
- Wes Anderson
The Grand Budapest Hotel
- Morten Tyldum
The Imitation Game

ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE

- Steve Carell
Foxcatcher
- Bradley Cooper
American Sniper
- Benedict Cumberbatch
The Imitation Game
- Michael Keaton
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)
- Eddie Redmayne
The Theory of Everything

ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

- Marion Cotillard
Two Days, One Night
- Felicity Jones
The Theory of Everything
- Julianne Moore
Still Alice
- Rosamund Pike
Gone Girl
- Reese Witherspoon
Wild

ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

- Robert Duvall
The Judge
- Ethan Hawke
Boyhood
- Edward Norton
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)
- Mark Ruffalo
Foxcatcher
- J.K. Simmons
Whiplash

ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE

- Patricia Arquette
Boyhood
- Laura Dern
Wild
- Keira Knightley
The Imitation Game
- Emma Stone
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)
- Meryl Streep
Into the Woods

ANIMATED FEATURE FILM

- Big Hero 6
- The Boxtrolls
- How to Train Your Dragon 2
- Song of the Sea
- The Tale of the Princess Kaguya

ORIGINAL SONG

- Everything is Awesome
The Lego Movie
- Glory
Selma
- Grateful
Beyond the Lights
- I'm Not Gonna Miss You
Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me
- Lost Stars
Begin Again

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

- Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)
Alejandro G. Iñárritu, Nicolás Giacobone, Alexander Dinelaris Jr. & Armando Bo
- Boyhood
Richard Linklater
- Foxcatcher
E. Max Frye & Dan Futterman
- The Grand Budapest Hotel
Wes Anderson & Hugo Guinness
- Nightcrawler
Dan Gilroy

ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

- American Sniper
Jason Hall
- The Imitation Game
Graham Moore
- Inherent Vice
Paul Thomas Anderson
- The Theory of Everything
Anthony McCarten
- Whiplash
Damien Chazelle

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

- Citizenfour
Laura Poitras, Mathilde Bonnefoy and Dirk Wilutzky
- Finding Vivian Maier
John Maloof and Charlie Siskel
- Last Days in Vietnam
Rory Kennedy and Keven McAlester
- The Salt of the Earth
Wim Wenders, Juliano Ribeiro Salgado and David Rosier
- Virunga
Orlando von Einsiedel and Joanna Natasegara

FOREIGN FILM

- Ida
Poland
- Leviathan
Russia
- Tangerines
Estonia
- Timbuktu
Mauritania
- Wild Tales
Argentina

Graphic by:
Rebecca Anzel
Photo by:
Academy of Motion
Picture Arts & Sciences



THE 87th ACADEMY AWARDS

OPINIONS

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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The Statesman is a student-run, student-written incorporated publication at Stony Brook University in New York. The paper was founded as *The Sucolian* in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975, *The Statesman* was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writers and multimedia staff are all student volunteers.

New stories are published online every day Monday through Thursday. A print issue is published every Monday during the academic year and is distributed to many on-campus locations, the Stony Brook University Hospital and over 70 off-campus locations.

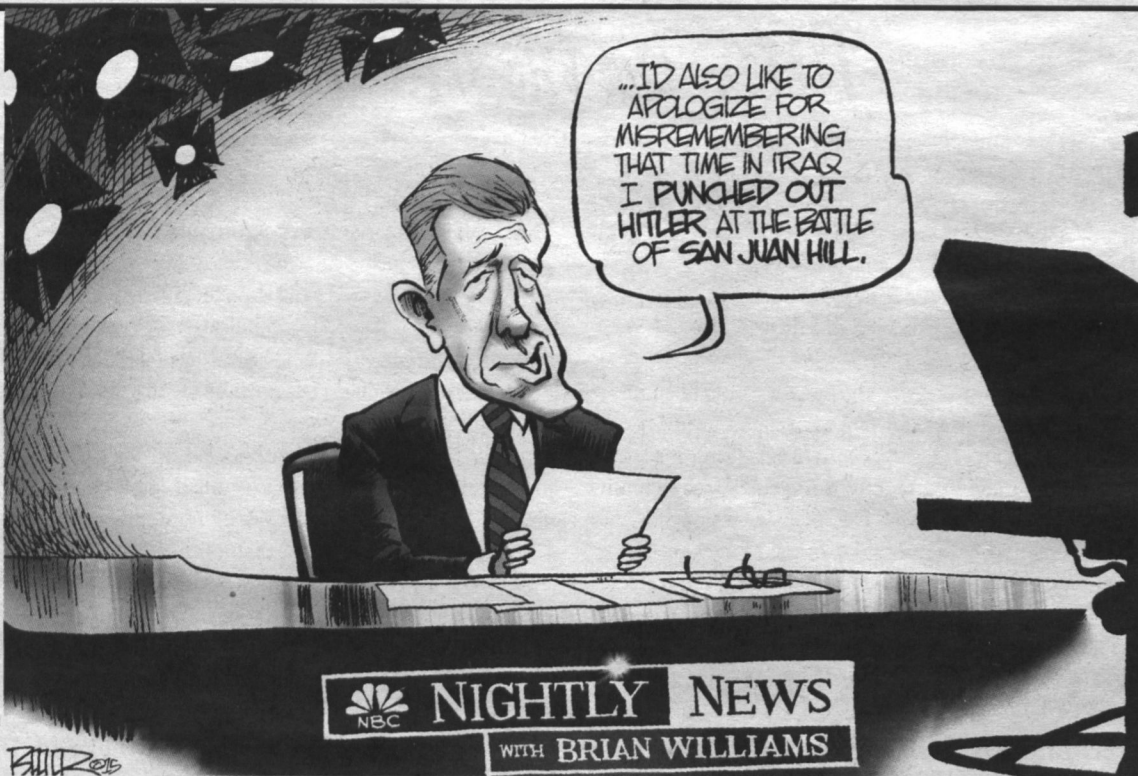
The Statesman and its editors have won several awards for student journalism and several past editors have gone on to enjoy distinguished careers in the field of journalism.

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First issue free; additional issues cost 50 cents.



THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH / TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Brian Williams is more than a liar; he is a coward, too

By Jonathon Kline
Assistant Opinions Editor

In recent news, anchor Brian Williams of the NBC Nightly News has been accused of fabricating the stories he has reported on and, in the case of other stories, just completely flat out lied about them including the story that he was in a helicopter that was brought down by an RPG.

Besides the fact that his cowardice as a human being and a reporter is completely evident due to the fact that he had to lie about a story in order to obtain a reputation within the field of journalism, people are now wondering if he will ever be able to report on the news again.

Though the answer is no, the reasons why he cannot do it are multi-faceted.

First and foremost, a journalist's only source of validity is their credibility and reputation; if a journalist's words or thoughts cannot be trusted without having to doubt the fact that what they are saying is completely true, then they cannot work within the field.

On top of this, the media will, in a twisted sense of irony, not let up on the fact that Williams lied about what he did.

Being that Williams was one of

the most well-known faces in the world of journalism, people and reporters alike held Williams to a higher standard of reporting because they trusted him.

According to an article by Business Insider, Williams was, at one point, the 23rd most trusted man in America

He is now the 835th.

Now, I understand that many people are angry and upset at Williams because they trusted him, but I am more taken aback that he was a liar and, more importantly, a coward.

In my eyes, if he had to completely fabricate the fact that he was on a chopper that went down in order to make his story seem more "daring" and "heroic," he should be viewed as being in the same standing as receptacle of human waste.

By him lying to the public about this story, he made himself look like some type of war hero that went through a horrible ordeal, and that takes away from the actual heroes that sacrificed their lives in the war.

So what other stories did this craven "reporter" lie about?

If Williams is to be trusted, then apparently he not only was shot out of the sky by an RPG, but he also flew into Iraq with

the fabled Seal Team Six three days after the war in Iraq broke out and watched the Berlin Wall fall in person.

Now, if Williams was as good at lying as he was being a piece of trash, then he would have looked into the fact that journalists are not embedded into any units that undertake covert operations, nor was he actually in Iraq three days after the war broke out.

On top of this, Tom Brokaw was the only American reporter who was doing a live report of the Berlin Wall falling, with Williams coming on scene 12 hours after it fell.

However, the way he spins his stories made it seem like he was on the scene watching the wall come down when in reality, he was not.

Williams had some sort of natural knack when it came to reporting the news; people trusted and believed him because they believed what he said was true. That, however, is clearly not true anymore: he clearly cannot tell the difference between fact and fiction, even within the realms of his own life. His days of being a trusted news reporter are long gone, and unfortunately his actions will not only lead to questions about credibility but also that of every other person in the world of journalism.

Have a response to an article published in *The Statesman*?

Send us a letter to the editor to editors@sbstatesman.com. Please limit your response to between 250-300 words.

THE SEXWOLF

Chianti is red, Vaginas are pink

BY KATE VALERIO

Chianti is red,
Vaginas are pink,
Valentine's Day sucks,
And I need a drink.

On Saturday, couples around the country came together for a very special day and shared an overpriced meal from a prix fixe menu with dim lighting at a restaurant that reeked of desperation and everyone's expensive "special night" cologne. They will have had someone take a picture of them kissing in their fancy outfits and sent it to all their single friends even though they already uploaded it to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, YikYak, MySpace and The Chicago Tribune. They held hands regardless of how uncomfortable it was and at the end of their night, they laid down happily in each other's arms until someone farted or started snoring.

But these are not the only interesting characters that come out only on Valentine's Day. Most people have that one friend (usually single) who complains about how Valentine's Day is a stupid corporate scheme to make money off of people's desperation to feel loved and say that they will not celebrate the holiday on principle because it goes against their feminist values. Most people also have that other friend (also single) who laments about how Valentine's Day reminds them of how alone they are in the world while listening to Celine Dion and blowing their nose with one hand while they eat Nutella from the jar with the other, spoon optional.

I personally hate every single one of those people. They are missing the entire point of Valentine's Day. Forget the fact that no one loves you and screw your over-

priced fancy dinner at 9:15 because you did not make a reservation soon enough.

Pay attention instead to all the sales on jewelry, chocolate and red lacy lingerie! Any self-loathing I experience about the fact that I will be spending Valentine's Day with my parents will be outshined by the diamond necklace I bought myself.

And whenever my relationship-clad friends feel compelled to tell me of their fondue-filled, dark-chocolate covered, rose-scented perfect date, I remind myself that I bought myself a beautiful diamond necklace for the person that I love most in the world. All they got was a bouquet of roses from Trader Joe's. And I did not feel obligated to shave my legs.

Valentine's Day is not just for people in a relationship, and being in a relationship does not make a good Valentine's Day. The worst Valentine's Day I have ever had was while I was in a relationship. It ended very Taylor Swift-esque, with "screaming and fighting and kissing in the rain," except it was driving to Chili's in the rain, not kissing.

The best Valentine's Day I have ever had the pleasure to experience did not have the candlelit dinner and declarations of love spelled out in blood from the wounds of the thorns on long-stemmed roses. It involved watching Daniel Tosh's stand up comedy in sweatpants and eating burritos from Old Kelly Dining, which everyone knows were the superior burritos. So if you are alone this snowy Saturday, put down the jar of Nutella and let go of your anti-commercialism rant and just remember, all it takes to make a special day is not a special person, just some really good Mexican food.



PHOTO CREDIT: BERNT ROSTAD

Chianti, burritos and sweatpants are a much better way to spend Valentine's Day.

Galentine's Day: all of the fun of Valentine's Day without the hassle

By Emily Benson
Staff Writer

Galentine's Day. You may have heard the term tossed around while walking through Starbucks or browsing on Tumblr during lecture but never actually had it explained. Well, I am here to shed some light on that definition and explain not only what Galentine's Day, is but why it is the greatest non-official holiday.

I first heard of Galentine's Day during one of my many Saturday afternoon "Parks and Rec" marathons. If you do not follow the show, like you should, "Parks and Rec's" main character, Leslie Knope, created a holiday on Feb. 13 that is dedicated to the celebration of ladies. On the show, it is an annual holiday where Leslie and her closest girlfriends leave their husbands and boyfriends behind and spend the day gossiping and eating breakfast foods. As described by Leslie, "it's like Lilith Fair minus the angst plus frittatas." And it truly is the best day ever.

Why is it great? Galentine's Day is a day by the ladies, for the ladies. It is not about being single, engaged, married or in any kind of relationship, it is about girl time. During the crazy lovey-dovey time of cheesy Hallmark cards and stabby, expensive red roses, Galentine's Day is a breath of fresh air. No boyfriends. No husbands. No stuffy dinner dates. Just a group of girlfriends and a box of wine.

And let's face it, the one thing about Valentine's Day that I think should be subject to change is the men. Men are late to pick us up, they forget to make the reservations, they make you buy the condoms. Galentine's Day is, in some ways, the improved Valentine's Day: remove the men, but keep the chocolate and alcohol.

After my first encounter with Galentine's Day, I never went back. I mean don't get me wrong, I love Valentine's Day. Deep down, I truly am a hopeless romantic looking for my Prince Charming on a white horse, but a day of gos-

sip with my friends is a magical affair. Last year, my girlfriends and I went out to the Cheesecake Factory for our Galentine's Day. When we got to the restaurant, the lobby was crammed full with couples, all packed like sardines shoulder to shoulder waiting for a table. The wait for a table of two was an hour and a half, but for a round table of ten awesome ladies, we waited

Galentine's Day is a day by the lady, for the ladies. It's not about being single, engaged, married or in any kind of relationship.

five minutes. Snaps for Galentine's Day perks.

And do not be mistaken, this is not a celebration of single lady status, it is a toast to sisterhood. It is our spa day, our once a year needed break to grab our lady-buddies and hit the town because the wine is cheap and the clubs are discounted for the big next day of Feb. 14. As Leslie Knope once said, "February 14th is about romance. But February 13th, Galentine's Day, is about celebrating lady friends."

Valentine's Day is about love, so spend your holiday with the person you love the most. Maybe you will find it somewhere in the dark basement of a frat house that night or maybe you will spend it with that special someone. But before you do so, do not forget your girlfriends. I truly cannot think of a proper way to really thank my girlfriends for being so amazing to me even when I am a true terror, but I will start with a marathon of Nicholas Sparks movies and a pillow fort competition and go from there.

Resident Assistants are here to facilitate safe sex, not judge you

By Hunter Teddy Frederick
Staff Writer

Sex, drugs and alcohol. This magical trifecta is usually used to describe college life, often negatively and by people who may not have any idea what they are talking about.

But, at the most technical level, they are not wrong.

Sex, drugs and alcohol are a very real part of college life, but just how big of a part these things play is up to you. And seeing how drugs are illegal and most of us can not drink until our last couple of semesters, sex is all that is left. And that too is a choice, up to you and you alone.

But, other factors will come into play; peer pressure and the worry that "everyone is doing it [literally] and you are not." Regardless, the decision is still yours.

One the many jobs of a Resident Assistant is to help you make that decision safely. Which basically translates to "We have a bunch of condoms and stuff, if you need them, ask. No judgment, I promise."

Every college office in every residence hall has some sort of receptacle that is filled to the brim with what can be collectively referred to as HIV Prevention Materials.

It is the RA's duty to hand these materials out and make them available for any and all students to use.

Amazingly, I have only seen people come in to the office specifically to get something out of there only two or three times throughout a whole semester and I am not sure why. It could be that most people buy their own condoms. Maybe people

feel awkward coming into the office for condoms.

To that, I say that sex is a

One of the many jobs of a Resident Assistant is to help you make that [sex] decision safely.

natural thing and no one should be ashamed about it. Safe sex is important and the materials are

there for anyone who needs them. That is why we have so many. Like seriously, a lot. Let me try to paint a picture for you.

RAs get their first huge bag full of condoms during their summer training. This will usually last you the whole semester, if not longer. In that bag are dental dams, lube and female condoms as well as Ultra-Lubricated, Ultra-thin and Ultra-Sensitive Lifestyles condoms. It is literally a bag of everything you need and a lot of things you did not know existed.

Why every type of Lifestyles is prefixed with the word Ultra is a mystery (Maybe it is an Ultra-Mystery). In addition to their starter bags, RAs can request additional condoms to be given out at programs they put on. We usually get a bunch of the little BYOC (bring your own condom) packets

that each have safe sex-ed information and a few condoms. Personally, I have about 200 to 300 condoms leftover from my programs. They are just sitting there.

RAs are given these materials so we can make them available to the residents, but let's be honest; most of the time, the materials are used for messing around: for condom balloons and such. Let me give you a breakdown of what exactly goes into these "condom bowls" and what they actually end up getting used for.

First up are condoms. Now, typically condoms just get stretched over people's arms or blown into balloons (sometimes with faces drawn on), but you can

Condoms, lube and dental dams are in abundance; just ask for them.

Continued from page 11
also actually flick an unopened condom like you would a playing card. They get some pretty good distance too. Next up are dental dams. These are stretched over your mouth to make funny faces.

Finger cots are only used for showing to people who have never heard of or seen them (imagine individual condoms for each of your fingers).

Same thing with female condoms. Whether or not this indicates a lack of proper sexual education in schools is an entirely different, and important, discussion. The only thing that does not get used for jokes is the rare packet of lube you might find in one of those bowls.

And, on the even rarer occasion that you find a condom in the bowl that is not a Lifestyle (I will not even mention the possibility of finding a Trojan for fear of jinxing it for the whole campus), people will not throw those around. They will usually fight over them.

So what am I getting at here? Well, I know that the RAs, myself included, are here to help you guys. We have the materials here to make sure that you guys have safe sex instead of unprotected, unsafe sex, and we have a lot of them. Do not be ashamed if you come to us looking for all of the aforementioned products because their purpose is to be used by students just like you.

Break, events make spring semester more enjoyable than the fall

By David Fuchs
Contributing Writer

There is nothing more enjoyable than the back-to-school feeling in late August.

It is the smell of new books in the old summer air, the excited new faces swapping camp war stories, and all the other minutia that goes into a fresh year that makes me eager to get back to SBU.

This excitement, though, fades rapidly as I think about what is really set out in front of me: fall semester.

The structure of fall semester begets an environment of exponentially increasing stress for every student, especially freshmen. We have little to no downtime, which leads to an unhealthy learning environment. The university is generous enough to give us one day off right at the beginning of the semester (although no one really wants or needs it), but then we are cut off from any semblance of rest until Thanksgiving, which is too little, too late.

Part of the collegiate lifestyle is getting the chance to develop oneself civilly as well as academically. The lack of any rest or relaxation does not permit that, thus is the reason why so many students have such difficulty in the fall. For many students, the trend in the fall is predictable: work piles up, stress ensues, sleepless nights trying to figure it out, lack of concentration in class, repeat ad nauseam. This often leads to a severe drop in grades and quickly worsens mental states. As we have

all seen, this can have disastrous effects around fall finals time, especially on this campus.

Being a freshman or a new transfer dealing with all of this can have detrimental and sometimes unforeseen effects. I spoke to Yvette Karvay, a freshman psychology major, about her experiences during her first semester. When asked about how the fall semester took its toll she explained,



STATESMAN STOCK PHOTO

Events like the Roth Regatta make the spring semester more enjoyable.

“the reason the semester is so awful is because it begins with beautiful weather and ends with piles of un-doable work and the blistery cold of an approaching depressing winter.” She said that procrastination was something that she could get away with during high school.

At Stony Brook, though, “tomorrow and next week never really come [for studying]. Work really piles up and courses hit their peak of difficulty. The days dwindle and

become sad and cold causing all motivation to disappear.”

Having this as your first exposure to college serves to breed a mindset of struggle and often, as she said, depression.

On the other end of the spectrum, we have the refreshing spring semester. Broken up into seven weeks on each side of spring break, the spring semester seems to be a walk in the park, some-

feel like two mini-semesters in one. I know I always come back from the break feeling refreshed and rejuvenated, keen to finish out the little bit of the year I have left.

Although fall has Homecoming to get excited about, spring semester has the added flare of a plethora of Stony Brook traditions that students look forward to all year long. The university hosts Recyclemania and Earthstock in the spring, as well as Diversity Day during Strawberry Fest.

A few big staples in Stony Brook life happen in the spring too like Brookfest and Roth Regatta. Students come out in droves for the music, the boat race and to celebrate the end of the year with their fellow Seawolves.

All of these occasions allow students to socialize and breathe a little easier while maintaining their academic success. It is clear for everyone to see that these events make for an awesome campus environment.

It is apparent that this social spring environment leads to good civics. Anybody would agree that it is nicer to live in a welcoming environment where people are good to each other and are decent and dignified as opposed to an environment of hostility and antagonism. Good civics will lead to a better learning and an overall healthier, happier and more successful campus environment. After such a lovely semester sprinkled with fun, excitement and tradition, I know we are all ready to take our place in the sun.

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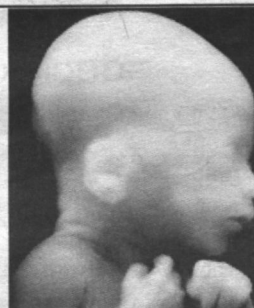
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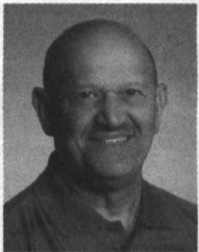
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Career Center

Women's basketball blows out UMBC, then falls to Maine

By Drew Ciampa
Staff Writer

The signs were evident. Sabre Proctor had just corralled a hard pass down low with one hand, proceeded to spin around a defender and put up a layup to extend the Stony Brook women's basketball team's early lead. The play, which only lasted a few seconds, seemed to resonate throughout the night as the Seawolves dominated every aspect of the game beating the UMBC Retrievers 74-41.

"Thought it was a great team win. We had a lot of different players contribute in a balanced scoring attack. I thought we played well offensively and defensively tonight," Head Coach Caroline McCombs said.

The Seawolves now own their first three-game winning streak this season and wins in five of their last six games. The team started to come together recently and it could not be at a better time. With March only a few weeks away, it is a good sign to see them hit their stride with playoffs nearing closer and closer.

The starting lineup, which consisted of Proctor, Christa Scognamiglio, Brittany Snow, Jessica Ogunnorin and Kori Bayne-Walker, has improved to a perfect 3-0 when starting the game on the court together.

"We have really good and different types of components that work well together. We're really good at sharing the ball and finding the open player making it hard to guard all five of us," Scognamiglio said.

The difficulty in defending against this Seawolves team was on display Wednesday. As Proctor received dou-



BASIL JOHN / THE STATESMAN

Sabre Proctor (No. 13) scored 13 points in the first half of Wednesday's game alone, when SBU played UMBC.

ble and triple teams down low, she was able to pass it out to a teammate for an open look. Even when she was not down low, Proctor showed versatility by hitting some outside shots going 3-3 behind the arc.

There was not much to dislike in the first half of Wednesday's game. Stony Brook controlled the pace of the half, out-scoring UMBC 42-20 shooting 56.5 percent from the field.

Needing only a few minutes to settle in, the Seawolves quickly built a lead thanks to Scognamiglio and Proctor. Fulfilling her role as the usual point scorer, Proctor battled the dou-

ble teams tallying 13 points in the half with 17 points on the night. Proctor also had 11 rebounds earning her fifth double-double this year.

A surprising player performance on Wednesday night was Scognamiglio, who continues to put on a show from behind the arc. Hitting three three-pointers in the first half helped her match Proctor's first-half total of 13 points. She also was doing enough good things on the court tonight to compile a game high +34 plus-minus.

"Our team has been doing a really good job of sharing the ball and my team is finding me in the corner and

open spots and I'm knocking down my shots," Scognamiglio said.

With the lead and all the momentum, Stony Brook looked to keep playing the way they did in the first half. The Seawolves had the privilege to tap into some of the depth their team possesses in the second half having Kristie Costantino lead at point guard for most of the second 20 minutes.

The Seawolves continued to score, putting up 32 points in the second half securing the win and improving to 7-4 in America East play.

On Sunday the Seawolves hit the road to take on Maine. Despite a strong effort against one of the America East's best teams, they dropped the game 57-49 halting their win streak at three games.

An exciting and fast paced first half was countered by a second half that was riddled with fouls and slow play. Stony Brook kept the game within two scores until the final minutes, when they were forced to play the foul game to try and even the score. Accurate free-throw shooting by Maine helped maintain their distance and go on to win the game.

Throughout the afternoon, Stony Brook took advantage of Black Bear miscues and their carelessness with the ball. The Seawolves capitalized on those turnovers whereas the Black Bears failed to do so, giving Stony Brook an 18-4 lead on points off Maine turnovers.

The advantage off turnovers was not enough against the best defense in the conference, though. Consistent scoring and encouraging possessions are needed to overcome a team like

Maine and on Sunday, it was not there for the Seawolves.

Proctor, Stony Brook's top scorer, felt the defensive strength of Maine as she was held to just three points, an uncommon sight for the Stony Brook faithful.

With Proctor unable to find her shot Sunday afternoon, it was necessary for her teammates to step up if they wanted a chance at winning. Scognamiglio, Bayne-Walker, and Snow all did their best to fill in for the offense Proctor typically brings.

Scognamiglio followed up on her impressive performance from a few days ago by scoring a team-high 14 points and hitting four threes.

Trailing Scognamiglio in scoring was Bayne-Walker, who put an offensive twist on her play, dropping a total of 12 points. Bayne-Walker also had a game-high five assists and got to the foul line five times, hitting four of her free-throws.

Maine was powered by guard Sigi Koizar and forward Liz Wood. Koizar put up a game-high 21 points with five rebounds and hit nine free-throws on 10 attempts. Wood scored a double-double recording 17 points and 10 rebounds all of which were defensive rebounds.

Stony Brook will come right home as they play UMass-Lowell on Wednesday Feb. 18th at 7p.m. This will be the second meeting of the season between the two teams, the first ending with a Stony Brook victory, 64-60. The Seawolves will hope to keep a hold of third place in the conference with a win Wednesday as they are tied with the Hartford Hawks, each with 7-5 records.

Points in the Paint: Why three ball must fall for men's team to win, and Christa Scognamiglio's emergence

By Jason Mazza
and Joe Galotti
Staff Writer and Sports Editor

Point #1: Perimeter prowess will be key for Stony Brook men's basketball.

On Saturday, the Stony Brook men's basketball team defeated Maine in dominant fashion thanks in large part to its 11 three-point field goals.

Six of the 11 three-pointers were made by freshmen small forward Roland Nyama. He made six of his eight tries from deep and shot 9-12 overall.

Nyama's shooting has played a large role in the Seawolves success during conference play. In the four Seawolves conference losses, Nyama has missed all nine of his three-point attempts.

In the eight conference victories, Nyama has made 16 of 24 three point attempts (66 percent).

So far, coach Steve Pikiell has started four different players at the shooting guard position but has never wavered from his confidence in starting Nyama at small forward.

If the Seawolves want a chance at making a run deep into the America East playoffs, they will need consistent shooting from the perimeter. More specifically, they will need Nyama to continue his hot streak of shooting into March.

Point #2: Stony Brook women's basketball taking care of business against weaker opponents.

The Stony Brook women's basketball team has yet to come away with a real statement win in conference play this season.

The Seawolves are 1-5 in games against America East opponents, with conference records over the .500 mark.

Despite not being able to beat some of the conference's top teams, SBU still finds themselves in third place in the America East conference.

The reason for this is that Stony Brook has performed extremely well against some of the conference's weaker foes.

The Seawolves have beaten UMBC (4-8 conference record) and Vermont (2-11) twice this season, and also came away victorious in their matchups against UMass-Lowell (5-8) and Binghamton (2-11).

Beating up on weaker teams will likely allow Stony Brook to enter the America East championship with a higher seed, but once the tournament begins, there will be no getting around beating the conference's top teams.

Point #3: Strong effort on the offensive glass continues to be crucial for SBU men's team.

In typical Stony Brook fashion, the Seawolves out-rebounded their two opponents this week by large margins (41-20, 52-28). Most impressively, in both contests, the Seawolves were able to rebound over 40 percent of opportunities on the offensive glass.

In Saturday's contest against Maine, power forwards Rayshaun McGrew and Tyrell Sturdivant combined for 22 rebounds with 13 of them coming on offense.

With an offense that has struggled to shoot the ball on a consistent basis, it will be key for the Seawolves to create additional opportunities on offense.

Unfortunately for the Seawolves, their next opponent, Albany, has allowed opponents to rebound only 25.5 percent of opportunities on the offensive side, which is 13th best in the nation.

If the Seawolves want to have a chance this Tuesday, look for McGrew to have a big game, as he was able to grab six offensive rebounds in Stony Brook's last meeting against the Great Danes.

Point #4: Scognamiglio's offense providing major boost for Seawolves.

Coming into this season Head Coach Caroline McCombs knew she had three players in Sabre Proctor, Brittany Snow and Kori Bayne-Walker that could be

counted on to carry the scoring load for the Seawolves night in and night out.

But this season, Scognamiglio has also emerged as an offensive threat for Stony Brook.

Scognamiglio is averaging 7.7 points per game this season, and has a team-high 34 percent field goal percentage from three-point range. Her 1.6 three point field goals made per game is the sixth highest total in the America East conference this season.

Since conference play began on Jan. 3, her numbers have been even more impressive.

She is averaging 11.5 points per game in the team's 11 matchups against America East opponents this season.

Scognamiglio has shot 46 percent in conference games, which is tied for the eight best percentage in the America East this season.

She has also shot 39 percent from behind the arc in conference play, which is the fourth best percentage in the America East this season.

Scognamiglio's development as an offensive force for the Seawolves is not only important for the team's chances this year, but for the program's success moving forward.

With seniors Proctor and Jessica Ogunnorin moving on after this season, Scognamiglio will be needed to help replace their weakened offense next winter.

Upcoming SBU Sports Schedule

Men's Basketball

Tuesday, Feb. 17
7 p.m. at Albany

Saturday, Feb. 21
7 p.m. vs. Binghamton

Women's Basketball

Wednesday, Feb. 18
7 p.m. vs. UMass-Lowell

Sunday, Feb. 22
4 p.m. vs. Albany

Baseball

Fri-Sun, Feb. 20-22
at Louisiana-Lafayette
Three-game set

Softball

Fri-Sun, Feb. 20-22
Florida Gulf Coast
Tournament

Men's Lacrosse

Friday, Feb. 20
3 p.m. vs. NJIT

Sunday, Feb. 22
12 p.m. vs. Duke

Women's Lacrosse

Friday, Feb. 20
6 p.m. vs. USC

Former SBU wideout Adrian Coxson looks to achieve NFL aspirations with help of former Super Bowl champ

By Andrew Eichenholz
Assistant Sports Editor

"This chance is not just for me."

That chance, for Adrian Coxson, is a shot at living out his dream.

Coxson, a wide receiver who played his final football season at Stony Brook in the fall, has been through it all since he committed to Penn State in April of 2009.

In a way, six years before the biggest day of his life on April 1, Coxson started a journey that no four-star high school football recruit wants to go on.

The Baltimore, Md. native took off his Nittany Lion cap and replaced it with a Florida Gator one before he ever got to college. He was headed to Gainesville, where current star NFL wide receivers Percy Harvin and Riley Cooper had recently graduated.

Florida was the place to be. They had Urban Meyer, notorious for getting the best out of his players, in a program that had just graduated arguably one of the best college football players in recent memory, Tim Tebow. For those who dream of playing professional football, Gainesville is like paradise.

But, everything changed before Coxson could get through the entirety of his first training camp at Florida.

Living nearly 1,000 miles away from his home in Maryland, the distance was just too far.

For the City College alumnus, everything is about family. So when his father got sick, the only son of the Coxson bunch put his family first. He transferred to the University of Maryland, then under the leadership of Head Coach Ralph Friedgen, to be close to home.

Everything could have gone smoothly from there, but it did not.

When Friedgen left, so did Coxson's playing time. Under a new regime, he only totaled four catches for 90 yards and a touchdown as a redshirt freshman in the rare moments during which he escaped the sideline.

Again, his journey's wheel spun around and around. This time,

"I've learned to live with now the whole process that I went through to get to where I'm at."

-Adrian Coxson

the pointer landed out on Long Island, under Head Coach Chuck Priore at Stony Brook. It was the fourth stop on Coxson's college journey and would be his last. A



Former Stony Brook wide receiver, Adrian Coxson, above, has been training hard with 10-year NFL veteran Quadry Ismail to help his chances of being drafted in April.

top-20 receiver in the entire country at the time of his high school graduation, the 6-foot-1-inch playmaker ended up at the home of a running-oriented offense at the FCS level, the second tier of Division I Football.

There is no way of getting around it; Stony Brook is not Penn State, Florida, or Maryland. That is something that Coxson had thought about over the years.

"I've learned to live with now the whole process that I went through to get to where I'm at," Coxson admitted. "I used to think about how I could have done this at Florida, I could have done this at Maryland."

But, the 22-year old has found a way to put things in perspective after three seasons at a program in transition to arguably the best conference in Division I-AA, the Colonial Athletic Association.

"I'm still getting the opportunity that I would," Coxson said. "I'm still getting an opportunity to play in the NFL."

That, at the end of the day, is a lofty goal for any kid growing up.

It does not matter how many yards one gains in high school or how many touchdowns a player can grab—it means nothing if that same production does not continue into college and beyond, no matter the school.

In an offense at Stony Brook that is known for its ground-and-pound mentality, it is not easy to get touches at the wide receiver position.

Since Coxson arrived on Long Island in 2012, the Seawolves have run the ball for at least 61 percent of the snaps in each season that has gone by.

Yet, Coxson showed at times that his big play ability was still there.

His 43 catches for 664 yards this past season may not jump off paper, but what will were three of his six touchdowns. He took it 61 yards to the house to open the year against Bryant, 83 yards against William & Mary and 79 yards at Albany.

No matter the level of competition those were against, there were 11 men on another team that could not tackle him. That is not something to sneeze at.

As the season ended and Coxson completed his studies, there were still months before April 1, his Pro Day, which is likely the last chance that Coxson will have to prove to NFL scouts and teams that he deserves a chance.

There, he must show his physical ability in events such as the 40-yard dash, bench press and a variety of other drills.

That is where Super Bowl champion and 10-year NFL veteran Quadry Ismail came into the picture. Coxson had met Matt Zenitz, Maryland football beat writer for the Baltimore Sun Media Group in high school, who connected him and the former ESPN NFL analyst.

"He's working out really well," Ismail said. "[I'm] very impressed."

For all intents and purposes, both the former pro and Stony Brook student-athlete have the same end-goal in mind: for Coxson to find a way into the NFL Draft.

"What I've seen is he is every bit of a very good, fluid moving, very fast young man with the size," Ismail said, adding that the Seawolf has other naturally gifted qualities as well. "You mix that with the strong work ethic, then you wind up having a guy that could literally be very effective when it comes to helping himself move up the draft."

Coxson has listened to every word that Ismail has said during their time on and off the field, just as he should, as he is getting to work with a man who caught 33 touchdowns in the NFL.

"I'm just learning all the technique that he knows," the Seawolf said. "I've gotten faster over the past few weeks in working with him."

That is something for a player who has already shown that he can burn his coverage deep.

However, he has taken every-

thing in the process one step at a time.

"My first goal was to work out, get ready for the all star game," Coxson said about playing in the College Gridiron Showcase on Jan. 31., an exhibition that gives draft hopefuls a chance to show their talent in front of over 100 scouts. "I did that."

"My next goal was to have a good week of practice at the all star game," he said, but he did more than that, as some scouts



Adrian Coxson, left, had 43 catches for 664 yards for the SBU Seawolves football team during the 2014 season.

even took to social media to mention that the FCS receiver caught their attention. "I had a great week of practice."

"I had to prove that I still was able to play with that level of competition that I once played with coming out of high school," Coxson said. "I feel like I did that."

Just like many kids growing up, Coxson has dreamt of becoming one of the few that earns the right to play football on the biggest stage: the NFL.

Unlike those others, he has a different motive to do so.

"I think about my son going into every workout," Coxson said.

The talented route runner enjoyed the birth of his son after his junior season at Stony

Brook. "This one shot that I get can make his life so much easier growing up."

He is right, as even those who do not make the active roster of an NFL team but manage to earn a spot on the practice squad make a minimum of \$6,300 per week.

"One, I love the game of football," Coxson said about what accomplishing his goals would do for him. "Two, I have the chance to put my family in a better position financially, to help them, you know, ease their life a little bit."

So, every hour-long drive to the facility just north of Baltimore where Coxson trains for an hour to an hour and a half at 5 a.m., to the pool workouts and flexibility work following it and the time in the hot tub, cardio and football drills that fill up his life, everything becomes worth it.

"If I do as well as I know I will," Coxson said, looking ahead to his Pro Day. "I'll put myself in a good position to get drafted."

To get to that point, he wants NFL teams to know that he brings more than just route running and speed to the table.

"I'm a very physical player, a very hard worker and I love to block," Coxson said. "I can turn a five yard play into an 80 yard touchdown."

"I think you know one of the things that I've spoken with scouts before about is what do you do in big time moments and games?"

STATESMAN STOCK PHOTO

STATESMAN STOCK PHOTO

STATESMAN STOCK PHOTO

SPORTS

Seawolves get back on track with pair of conference wins

By Skyler Gilbert
and Jesse Borek
Staff Writers

After losing two consecutive games to conference foes New Hampshire and Vermont, the Stony Brook men's basketball team looked to its stars to lead the team out of the recent skid and revitalize spirits as the season approaches the America East tournament.

Jameel Warney and Carson Puriefoy did not disappoint.

The two juniors combined to shoot 77 percent from the field and score 43 combined points as the Seawolves toppled the UMBC Retrievers, 73-61, in convincing fashion Wednesday night in Baltimore, Md.

Puriefoy's 26 points led all scorers in the game, marking the fourth time this season he has scored at least 25.

Puriefoy was attacking the basket all night long, scoring a season-high eight two-point field goals.

Puriefoy's persistence driving the lane earned him eight free-throw attempts as well.

The seven conversions from the charity stripe brought Puriefoy's free throw total this season to 99, which is the top mark in the conference.

Warney was a solid presence for Stony Brook on the low block all game long.

The reigning Conference Player of the Year buried his first eight shots while playing solid defense. Warney totalled 17 points and eight rebounds in the game.

UMBC's center Cody Joyce scored a game-high 24 points for the Retrievers, but Warney made him work for them. Joyce attempted 20 shots



HANAA TAMEEZ / THE STATESMAN

Junior point guard Carson Puriefoy (above, No. 10) scored 26 points at Wednesday's game.

and only made seven, which was less than ideal efficiency for an upset-hungry UMBC squad.

The Retrievers kept the game competitive for much of the evening, taking a 35-31 lead early in the second-half.

From there, Stony Brook went on a 17-7 run, sensitizing UMBC to its own inferiority in the match-up.

Stony Brook's second-half surge was highlighted by a fast-break dunk by Warney with 18:37 remaining, which regained the lead for the team in red and white.

Freshman Tyrell Sturdivant had a three-point play minutes later that deflated the Retriever Activities Cen-

ter crowd of whatever life it still had.

Junior Rayshaun McGrew was a force on the glass, leading the Seawolves with 12 boards. As a team, Stony Brook out-rebounded UMBC 41-20 in the game.

On Valentine's Day, love was in the air for the Seawolves, as they cruised to an 80-52 victory over the Maine Black Bears.

Leading the way was redshirt freshman Roland Nyama who had a career-high 24 points, including six made three-pointers to lead the Seawolves in the onslaught.

"I'm just trying to have fun on the court and do what I love," Nyama said after his performance.

The breakout game comes a bit unexpectedly, as Nyama had just seven points combined in his last three contests prior to the outburst. In fact, in the last calendar month, Nyama made all of his seven three-point shots. He would make six alone against Maine.

It was seemingly just another day at the office for Warney, who had his 17th double-double of the season, the most in the country, racking up 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Though the Black Bears did a solid job of containing him in the first half to just three points and one made field goal, the big man could not be held down for long, breaking out

in the second half as the Seawolves pulled away.

The trend of dominating on the glass would be felt by the entirety of the Seawolves roster. It was not only Nyama who had a career afternoon, but McGrew as well.

His 15 rebounds, seven of which came on the offensive glass, were a career-high.

He too would finish with a double-double, adding 10 points of his own.

It nearly goes without saying that Head Coach Steve Pikiell was pleased with his team's efforts.

"I particularly liked how we shared the game...A good win with contributions from a number of players," he said.

Coming into the contest, the Seawolves knew they would have a massive advantage on the glass, but they would go on to lambast the undersized Black Bears, 52-28, on the boards.

Stony Brook would grab an astounding 20 offensive rebounds, which was nearly as many defensive rebounds as Maine would have (25).

The homecoming for Maine's Kevin Little, a Wyandanch, N.Y. product, did not go as well as he had hoped.

Averaging 20 points per game over his last five contests, Little would pour in just seven on 2-for-12, as the game was winding down and well out of reach.

SBU now has an overall record of 17-10 this season, and is 8-4 in America East play. Next up for the Seawolves is a collision with the Albany Great Danes on Tuesday night at SEFCU Arena at 7 p.m.

SBU baseball begins 2015 campaign with series loss against Nicholls State

By Cameron Boon
Assistant Sports Editor

The Stony Brook baseball team opened its 2015 season with a three-game road trip to Thibodaux, La. to take on the Nicholls State Colonels. After taking game one in shut-out fashion, the Seawolves slipped in game two, committing three errors, before getting trounced in the rubber match due to offensive troubles again.

In Friday afternoon's matchup, the season-opener for both teams, it was all Tyler Honahan for the Seawolves, as he was able to dominate the Colonels lineup. He retired the first 13 batters he faced before walking right fielder Alex Shermer on a full count. The no-hitter was gone two batters later, when second baseman Tanner Vandevere laced a single up the middle.

The Pitcher of the Year candidate started his campaign strong, going six innings while only allowing three NSU batters to reach base while striking out three and only walking two.

The Seawolves seized the lead in the second inning, courtesy of Jack Parenty. The junior drove a base hit to left, the first of the two he would have in the game, and that brought home Andrew Gazzola from third. Bobby Honeyman tried to score

from second, but was tagged out at the plate on a great throw by left fielder Gavin Wehby.

Stony Brook scored again in the third, as Johnny Caputo was able to reach on an error by Vandevere, allowing Robert Chavarria to score from third and double the lead to 2-0.

The game was blown open in the fifth, and newly-transformed catcher Cole Peragine is responsible. He roped a two-run double down the right field line, bringing home Parenty and Chavarria to make it 4-0. Peragine then scored two batters later on Caputo's infield hit to make the score 5-0.

Toby Handley crossed home plate on a wild pitch from Zach Thiach to give the Seawolves a 6-0 lead.

Matt Senk's squad could not overcome three errors in Saturday's game, as the defense robbed Nicholas DiEva and Edwin Corniel of three runs, all of which were unearned in a 4-1 loss to the Colonels.

It was a sloppy game all around, as the Colonels, also committed three blunders.

Parenty reached base because of an error, and then scored because of another miscue by Nicholls State.

Starting pitcher Grant Borne committed the first fault, and then Parenty touched home after a misstep by shortstop Joey Morales.

That was all the Seawolves wrote on the scoreboard, as NSU would score four unanswered runs.

Kyle Reese led off the bottom of the second with a triple to center, and scored one batter later as Shermer hit an infield single to tie the game at one.

It was then the error-riddled seventh that cost Stony Brook the game, as the Seawolves committed two of their three errors in the inning.

Justin Holt led off the inning with a single and would score off an error from Parenty in left field. The error also advanced Knight, who would then score as well to make it 3-1.

Wehby reached base and advanced to second on an error by Peragine, and would score two batters later.

Despite all of the defensive miscues behind him, DiEva fell victim and took the loss in the matchup, the first of his collegiate career.

Justin Sinibaldi shut down the Seawolves in the rubber match, only allowing four hits over six innings of work in a 10-0 victory for Nicholls.

Two early home runs off of Tim Knesnik gave the Colonels a 3-0 lead through three innings, and then a sixth inning explosion put the game out of reach for Stony Brook.

They will now move on to a three game set with Louisiana-Lafayette from Feb. 20-22.

Brody Eastwood's hat trick not enough in loss to St. John's

By Kunal Kohli
Staff Writer

After coming away with an easy win over Manhattan in its season opener last weekend, the Stony Brook men's lacrosse team looked to improve to 2-0 on Saturday when the team, traveled to Queens to take on St. John's.

The Seawolves received a great game from junior attacker Brody Eastwood, but his efforts were not enough to help SBU avoid its first loss the year, as the Red Storm came away with a 13-8 victory.

The game initially looked like it could be another easy win for Stony Brook, as the Seawolves jumped out to 3-0 lead in the first quarter.

Eastwood had two of his three goals in the opening 15 minutes.

The Red Storm scored its first goal two minutes into the second quarter on a goal by junior midfielder Chris Hughes.

Hughes' goal was followed by a goal from senior attacker Stefan Diachenko, the first of his four.

Stony Brook ended the half with goals by junior attacker Matt Schultz and Eastwood, which allowed the Seawolves to take a 6-4 lead into the intermission.

After senior midfielder Mike Rooney scored his second goal of

the game two minutes into the third, the Red Storm responded with two goals of its own.

Schultz then scored his second goal of the game with 7:22 remaining in the third, extending SBU's lead to 8-6.

That was the last Seawolves score of the afternoon.

With less than two minutes to go in the third, the Red Storm started a 7-0 run, when redshirt junior James Bonanno found the back of the net. Then freshman Jason DeBenedictis tied up the contest before the end of the quarter.

In the fourth, Diachenko scored three goals. The Red Storm's run was finally finished once junior attacker Eric DeJohn scored his second consecutive goal, making the game 13-8.

The high note for the Seawolves was definitely Eastwood, who collected his 18th hat trick of his career.

Rooney and Schultz finished the game with two goals apiece. Stony Brook also went 3-of-5 on extra man opportunities.

The Seawolves will look to rebound in their next game this Friday at home against NJIT. After that, they will continue their home stand when they welcome Duke on Sunday.

Head Coach has high expectations for women's lacrosse

By Andrew Eichenholz
Assistant Sports Editor

If there is one thing to say about Stony Brook's women's lacrosse Head Coach Joe Spallina, it is that he does not like to lose.

"I used to dream of success, now success is inadequate," B.o.B. says in Stony Brook's run-out song, "Bombs Away."

It is as if those lyrics were made for this team. Spallina arrived on campus in June of 2011 with hopes of turning a losing program into a winning one. The Seawolves have managed to do just that, enjoying their winningest season in program history in 2013 while following it up with the same number of wins, 17, in 2014.

Both seasons saw Stony Brook punch its ticket to the NCAA Tournament. On both occasions, SBU made the second round.

Against Syracuse, things were different. It was not that the Seawolves did not fight; the Orange simply did not give them a chance. The Seawolves showed spurts in the second-half of what Stony Brook's lacrosse program could do against the very best in the nation, but there is still a step to take.

Spallina and his Seawolves know

that they can be better. They want to be the very best, and they will not stop until they get to the very top of that mountain.

A lot of the change in Stony Brook's culture over recent years has come from its coach, who won multiple national championships while at Adelphi.

"I know Coach Spallina and no one is more competitive than he is," Greg Gurenlian, a professional lacrosse player and member of Team USA, said.

Not very often do freshmen show enough of a competitive fire that it makes up for their lack of experience, but it seems Spallina brought it out of Courtney Murphy, Dorrien Van Dyke and Kristin Yevoli.

The trio combined scored 45 percent of the Seawolves points last season.

A majority of the team's top scorers are returning this season, which makes Spallina's thoughts about this year's offense even that much more shocking.

"I think that you'll see what will

be a much more prolific offense this year," Spallina said. "I think our offense will rival our defense as far as national respectability." That is bold to say, since last year, the Seawolves defense set a Division I record for scoring defense, giving up only 5.33 goals per game.

So, what will make the offense that impressive this coming season?

Freshman Long Islander Kylie Ohlmiller of Islip High School is a good start. As a senior, she was named a US Lacrosse All-American, but high school and the college game are totally different animals. Her effort day in and day out at practice have shown Spallina otherwise, though.

"I think Kylie Ohlmiller will be the most prolific scorer in the freshman class in the country," Spallina said. "Before she's out of here, she'll be a very

strong candidate to win the Tewaraaton, she's that good."

The Tewaraaton Award is given to the best player, in the entire country.

With the ambitions that Stony Brook has, it will need all the talent it can get.

One of the biggest obstacles in fulfilling those ambitions will be overcoming the toughest loss in the history of the program. Frankie Caridi did it all as Stony Brook's goalkeeper.

"I think the big thing is not expecting your goalie to be Frankie," Spallina said. He will be giving sophomore Kaitlyn Leahy a tremendous responsibility in trying to come close to replacing the former third-team All American. "Listen, if the best goalie in the world was in our goal this year, we would have questions because Frankie's been my goalie for four years, and I don't know another way."

What Spallina does know is that his program is no longer an unknown. When he took over, that is almost exactly what it was. Now, with two straight America East titles in their back pockets, the Seawolves are looking for more.

A great season in the mind of Spallina is not the second round of the NCAA Tournament. It is much, much more. Only time will tell how far they can go, but the Seawolves open up against a tough USC squad on Feb. 20.



Michelle Rubino

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

THE STATESMAN SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

Rubino lets her stellar performance do the talking for her

By Andrew Eichenholz
Assistant Sports Editor

When you talk to Stony Brook women's lacrosse's senior and star midfielder Michelle Rubino about all of the success that she has enjoyed in her college career, she does not have much to say.

She would likely agree with the sentiment expressed by New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, who once said, "I'm not a person who defends myself very often. I kind of let my actions speak for me."

Rubino does not need to prove anything to anybody, as her career on Long Island has taken care of that.

For a player who has not only her coach but also former teammates raving about every aspect of her game, she has no need or reason to talk about herself. In fact, not doing so can help her teammates as well.

"The best way to lead is by example, and Michelle goes above and beyond on the field and in the weight room to do that," former Stony Brook lacrosse star

Claire Petersen said. "She has such an impact on the team just by her presence and attitude on the field."

Rubino is a two-way midfielder, showing up everywhere on the field. As the opposing team mounts an attack, you can find her racing back to try to force a turnover. Look the other way, and Rubino is already near the offensive third, seeking a teammate in order to facilitate a safe clear and eventual goal.

"She's unbelievable," Head Coach Joe Spallina said. "I think she's somebody that people won't truly appreciate until she's graduated because then they'll realize how lucky we are."

The Long Islander has scored 102 goals and tallied 45 assists thus far in her career, meaning that in each game she has played, on average, she has in some way been responsible for more than two of the team's goals.

Each number is impressive in and of itself, but the fact that she was third in goals and second in assists last season shows that there is really nothing that Rubino cannot do.

The most impressive of it all is that her glimmering contributions come in the nitty-gritty areas of the game, such as ground balls and passing.

"Her stats don't always necessarily show on either end," Spallina said about Rubino. "But, without her, you'd be in big trouble."

Quite simply, there is nowhere that Rubino is not. She finished last season with a team-leading 30 caused turnovers, forcing errors from her opponents.

She also managed to tally the second-most ground balls on the squad with 43.

So why does Rubino, one of the most talented players on the team, spend a lot of her time doing what some may call the "little things," however big they actually are?

"I'm not really all about goals," Rubino said. "I'm more of a transitional player."

That in itself says a lot about her character, as many grow up dreaming of scoring the highlight-reel goals and being all over the recaps rather than doing whatever it takes to help the team win.

Rubino has also served as terrific mentor for her young teammates.

"I believe Michelle deserves nearly all of the credit with helping the younger girls because I am sure the new girls have a whole new definition of hard work after seeing what Michelle does," Petersen said.

That includes the example she provides for the rest of the team when the moment is not hers and she has to sub out.

"When Michelle rarely and briefly does sub out of the game, I have my eye in the box until she returns," Petersen said. "That is both when I was playing and now when I watch from the stands."

Petersen was Stony Brook's first All-American and set the NCAA record for career assists for game, yet she was learning day in and day out from one of the younger players on her team.

Whether she realizes it or not, Rubino has had an impact on Stony Brook lacrosse.

"I guess it's just me," Rubino said about her strong work ethic. "I like to strive for the best and never settle for anything less."

Baseball hopes to make way back to NCAA Tournament

By Cam Boom
Assistant Sports Editor

After its run to the College World Series in 2012, Stony Brook Baseball looks to get back to the NCAA Tournament this season after failing to win the America East Conference during its past two seasons.

"We knew we were going to lose guys to the draft [in 2012]," Stony Brook manager Matt Senk said. "We didn't know we were going to lose seven."

In 2013, Stony Brook finished fourth in the America East and was knocked out by Maine after posting a 1-2 record in the conference tournament.

Last season, the Seawolves had two chances to win the tournament title, but Binghamton took both matchups.

"We had a very good team, but Binghamton played very well," Senk said.

As a new season is underway, things are looking up for Stony Brook, which returns six position players as well as America East Rookie of the Year Cameron Stone and an America East Pitcher of the Year candidate Tyler Honahan.

With being picked to finish first in the conference by the bulk of the media, there is pressure on this team to get back to the NCAA Tournament in 2015.

"It's a good thing. You can either embrace it, or be frightened by it," Senk said. "We are someone who can win a championship and have a really great year."

It may be cliché, but the season is a marathon, not a sprint. The marathon begins with a very tough non-conference schedule, starting with Nicholls State

from Feb. 13-15 and then playing two regional hosts from a season ago in Louisiana-Lafayette and Florida.

Baker, a Ronkonkoma native, also added that one of the best feelings he has had was beating USC last season, another big school which resides in the Pac-12 conference.

"That's why you come here. You want to play those big teams. There's nothing like it," the utility player said.

The Gators and Ragin' Cajuns have combined for nine trips to Omaha and the College World Series, but Senk knows to be the best, you have to beat the best.

The Seawolves also have two Big East members on the schedule. They will host the Creighton Blue Jays from March 20-22 and then head to the nation's capital to take on Georgetown from April 18-19.

"You can never have big wins without big games," Senk said. Stony Brook certainly has a lot of those on its 2015 slate, and the Seawolves' first conference matchup will be big as well: a three-game set against the defending champion Binghamton Bearcats at home from March 14-15.

With all of these big games on the schedule, one of the big questions facing Stony Brook will be how some of their young players deal with the pressure. The team's pitching staff alone features seven newcomers.

"Being a freshman is always tough," Senk said. "It's always a little bit tougher on the freshman because of the

non-conference schedule we have."

But, according to Baker, it soon just turns back into baseball.

"The level of competition isn't close to anything they have seen before," he said. "But once you get used to it, the natural feeling of 'I've been doing this for 20 years' kicks back in."

As far as potential freshman standouts, Senk pointed to pitcher Nicholas DiEva and infielder Bobby Honeyman as potential candidates.

"We knew [DiEva] had a good arm, but his secondary stuff has been really good," the manager said about his Cherry Hills East graduate.

The man from Massapequa is also showing promises coming into the season.

"He's shown some very nice things offensively and that's always nice to see," Senk said

about Honeyman.

All freshmen have the potential for a big impact, especially with only three pitchers being set in stone, with Ryley MacEachern joining the group of Honahan and Stone. But once the America East schedule starts on March 14, they will all be ready.

"They couldn't have played anybody tougher in the conference than we played out of conference," Senk said, referring again to the very tough non-conference slate, something he has prided himself on since taking over the program in 1991.

After a dominant regular season last year, the Seawolves will be looking to do get back to the America East Championship. But this time,

the Seawolves will try to finish the deal and make the tournament for the first time since 2012.

"We just have to do what we did last year," Baker said.

Easier said than done, but talk to any member of that squad and they will express the sentiment with



Cole Peragine

BASEBALL

THE STATESMAN SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

Ontario-born Peragine continues to thrive at Stony Brook

By Jesse Borek
Staff Writer

How can it be that a town known for its ice, inside of a country known for the athletes it produces on the ice, is responsible for producing one of the premier players Stony Brook baseball has seen since the turn of this century?

Roughly 575 miles, a 10-hour car ride away, Cole Peragine looks to make his journey from his hometown of Belle Ewart, Ontario, to Stony Brook, N.Y., appear as a seamless transition.

"The biggest thing to get used to is living on your own," Peragine said as his eyes narrowed and his lips pursed at the corners, "that and the level which the game is played."

No one could blame Peragine for having to become acclimated to living on his own, let alone having to simultaneously deal with the rigors of being a major Division I college athlete. On top of that, he was not just transitioning from a different state, but

a different nation.

The fallacy of Americanism is that we sometimes have the concept that stereotypes are guilty until proven innocent. In this case, how could a young man from Canada, seemingly the hockey capital of the world, find his way onto a baseball diamond?

"I really only just played street hockey growing up," Peragine said as his smile indicated that he had answered this before and was no stranger to folks thinking he was bound for a life on skates, not cleats.

"Heading into my freshman year [of high school], that's when I knew," Peragine said concerning his future in baseball, "I knew I would have to put in the work, and that coming to the States was a real possibility."

It is easy to imagine all six-foot and 180-pounds of Peragine shoveling out the snow around the shortstop position on a sandlot, with his own personal Mr. Miyagi feeding him knowledge of Honus Wagner, Ernie Banks, Derek Jeter

and other legendary shortstops of days gone by.

For Peragine, that mentor was his father. "[I] remember him always hitting me ground balls, working on me with my fielding."

Those countless hours spent with no eyes trained on him but those of his father have turned Peragine into not only a four-year D-I starter, but also a potential pro prospect. Baseball America has Peragine ranked as the sixth best prospect within the America East Conference for the 2014-15 season.

In his freshman year, Peragine tasted the sweetest champagne at the table by making the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. For any player at any school in the entire nation to accomplish such a feat is an incredible achievement, but to do it your first year on campus at a school that had to overcome incredible obstacles just to get to that point, it seems almost improbable.

"Our goal is definitely to get back there [Omaha]," Peragine said, "and that

all starts with winning our conference."

During his sophomore and junior seasons, Peragine started in 107 games for Stony Brook. He followed up his rookie campaign with another strong season in which he batted .289, and struck out only once every 10.1 at-bats. Last season, he ranked within the top ten in the conference in runs scored (34), RBIs (36), walks (31), triples (4) and stolen bases (13).

When you are as talented at something as Peragine is at baseball, it is difficult to see a life beyond it. Although he has never pulled in a check worth six figures, Peragine still believes the dream can last forever. What about life beyond the diamond though, once it is all over?

"I can see myself becoming a firefighter," Peragine said.

While Peragine's future may consist of putting out fires, he looks to light one in the Seawolves this season and lead them back to the College World Series.

Softball looks to rebound from 2014 season heartbreak

By Cam Boom
Assistant Sports Editor

It looked like any routine fly ball that left fielder Bria Green had to catch. Had she done so, the game was over, the America East Tournament was over and the Seawolves softball team was headed back to its second straight NCAA tournament.

But the ball off the bat of Elizabeth Snow just kept going and going and going, until it went over the fence, breaking the hearts of the Stony Brook faithful and sending the Albany section into eruption.

The worst part? The Seawolves had to muster up the

energy to play a second game: a winner-take-all matchup to decide the 2014 America East Championship, but Albany's momentum was too much; the Great Danes disposed of Stony Brook 8-2 and took the title.

"It's not in the back of our minds. It's in our minds," senior Shayla Giosia said of the ending to the previous season.

Looking ahead, the Seawolves return the centerfielder along with Green, their power source from a year ago with 16 home runs, and its dynamic duo in the circle with senior Allison Cukrov, the reigning America East Pitcher of the Year, and junior Jane Sallen.

"They're different and complement each other very well in terms of what they throw," Stony Brook Head Coach Megan Bryant said.

As for the roster, the Seawolves return 10 players from last season's team. Only four of those players are seniors, with Diane Caruso joining Cukrov, Giosia and Green.

"It's my last season, so of course I'm

going all out" Giosia said.

They may be few in number, but they have a big leadership group with four incoming freshmen.

"I think the leadership from those juniors and seniors will be the key to our success this season," Bryant said.

The Seawolves lost two key seniors from last season's team, shortstop Jessica Combs and third baseman Olivia Mintun. Big spots last season, but Bryant believes that losing the entire left side of the infield will not be a problem.

"Jessica and Olivia brought a lot to this program," the University of Bridgeport graduate said. "But I think we're going to be really solid defensively."

The young players coming into the team will get a to play a tough non-conference schedule before America East play begins on March 21 against UMass-Lowell.

Eight teams on the schedule finished last season in the top 100 in RPI

and six of the squads on the slate made the NCAA Tournament in 2014.

"I know it gets us ready for America East play," Bryant said. "We embrace [the tough schedule]. This has been a part of this program's success over recent years."

At their first two tournaments of the season playing at Florida Gulf Coast and at North Florida, the Seawolves will face four teams in the top 100 in RPI.

Purdue (No. 73) and FGCU (No. 90) await the Seawolves Feb. 20-22 in Fort Myers, Fla.

The next weekend at North Florida, Kansas and the Ospreys of North Florida will face Stony Brook.

"Those teams may be tough, but we're still expected to beat them and to prepare for conference," Giosia said.

Both of those trips, along with a trip to James Madison, give the Seawolves a chance to bond and get the chemistry up before the real gruel of the season begins.

"Everybody is excited to get out and see some sunshine," Bryant said. "It really sets the tone for the rest of the season."

The Seawolves will try to get back to the America East tournament this season, but this time, punch the ticket to the NCAA tournament for the second time in three years.

"We return the pieces to be able to do it," Bryant said. "We have the pitching, we are one of the top defensive teams in the conference, and we have the ability offensively to score a lot of runs."



Allison Cukrov

SOFTBALL

THE STATESMAN SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

Cukrov looks to continue domination of America East

By Chris Gaine
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook softball team has high hopes for 2015.

After reaching the America East finals in 2014, the annual preseason coaches' poll named the Seawolves as the favorite to win in conference this season. These expectations are quite dependent on the performance of reigning America East Pitcher of the Year Allison Cukrov, who has already established herself as one of the greatest pitchers to ever play for Stony Brook.

Cukrov currently sits in the top five of every major career pitching statistic in Stony Brook history, including records for shutouts and saves. Last season, she finished 23-9 with a 2.10 ERA en route to her second America East Pitcher of the Year award.

While these accolades are quite impressive, Cukrov insists that the only numbers in which she is concerned are wins and losses.

"To me stats, don't really matter.

I would rather finish with a [conference championship]," Cukrov said. "Obviously you want to perform at your best, but I want to win for my teammates and walk out in the end with a championship."

Cukrov began playing softball at a young age in her native California. Once she developed into a standout high school pitcher, she wanted to go to an East Coast school to continue pitching and pursue an education. After Stony Brook recruited her, she felt that she had found an ideal school.

"I knew I wanted to go away for college. I knew I wanted to leave California and go east and to an academic school where I could still play a high level of softball," Cukrov said.

Once at Stony Brook, feelings of homesickness became an issue during her freshman year. With her home over 3,000 miles away, she sought the help of her fellow Seawolves in adjusting to campus life.

"Being on a team has really helped with the transition of coming from the

West Coast," Cukrov said. "When you have that foundation of people who want to see you do well, that helps."

Once her freshman softball season came around, Cukrov immediately dominated the America East. She won Conference Pitcher of the Year as a true freshman, setting single-season school records with 25 wins, 13 shutouts and 30 complete games along the way. From that point on, there was no question as to if she could succeed on the East Coast. Cukrov had found her niche.

"It really boils down to the support I've had from my coaches and teammates," Cukrov said. "Knowing they have my back has helped me learn and grow as a pitcher."

With three successful seasons already under her belt, Cukrov now uses her veteran status to assist underclassmen adjusting to the college game. It is with this experience, she says, that she is able to contribute to the team in unquantifiable ways.

"Now that I'm a senior, I kind of see

myself in more of a leadership role," Cukrov said. "I am trying to mentor the younger pitchers."

During Cukrov's time at Stony Brook, the Seawolves have become an America East powerhouse. The team has gone deep into the conference tournament every year since 2012, including a tournament championship in 2013. With the team coming into this season as the America East favorite, Cukrov and the Seawolves have an opportunity to build upon the program's recent success.

"It feels like we have a target on our back," Cukrov said of being ranked first in the coaches' poll. "But it's a good thing to have. It has motivated us to do well and now it is clear that everyone else has high expectations of us, too."

While 2015 has the potential to be a historic season for the Seawolves, Cukrov will have the opportunity to make some history of her own. She is 14 wins away from becoming the winningest pitcher in program history.

Men's lacrosse hopes work and experience will pay off

By Andrew Eichenholz
Assistant Sports Editor

The Stony Brook men's lacrosse team had its 2014 season stolen from them with only a few seconds separating the Seawolves from an appearance in the America East Championship game.

Albany's Lyle Thompson, the Co-Tewaraaton Trophy winner from last season, made what, for lack of better words, was an unbelievable play. He forced the Seawolves-Great Danes semifinal match-up to overtime, where Albany would end any hopes that Head Coach Jim Nagle's team had of earning an NCAA berth.

It was the best game that Stony Brook played all year long. Yet, it was still not enough.

"I think we are a much more resolved team to kind of give that effort that we gave in the last game of the season," Nagle said, looking ahead to a new year of lacrosse. This year, however, he said that level of effort will be given in "every game of the season this year, and at every practice."

For the past couple of years, Stony Brook has been extremely young, with freshmen and then-sophomores carrying the load. Those guys are still somewhat young, but more experienced and ready to do whatever it takes to win.

"We're doing a lot of different things

in Dubin," junior Challen Rogers said about the strength and conditioning work the team has done during the off-season at the Dubin Family Athletic Performance Center. "We did a program last year that brought us together a lot, and like I said before, we have a lot of returners, so we just try to lead and everyone kind of follows."

The Seawolves will need to continue to grow as one in order to make their mark in the America East Conference, and on the country.

One of the positions in which Stony Brook will have to come together as a team the most is at the face-off spot, where a midfielder takes the draw. One of the squad's biggest strengths last year lay

in the talent of Kyle Rowe, who dominated face-offs for the team, before transferring to Duke to join his brother.

"They changed the rules on the faceoff to

make it more of a ground ball so I'm not concerned about it," Nagle said. "I think we'll be solid there."

Frank Lucatuorto and Jay Lindsay will both be options for the Seawolves in the circle.

A position that was up in the air last season was in goal, as multiple keepers got their shot at earning the starting role. One rose above the rest to seize the spot, and that was Hayden Johnstone, a freshman at the time.

After earning a spot on the America East All-Rookie team, he is getting even better, according to Nagle. Not a bad thing for the Seawolves, but certainly not good for the rest of the conference.

"Hayden did a tremendous job this offseason conditioning [himself]," Nagle said. "He was one of the hardest-working guys in the Dubin Center, so that was a real positive sign."

If one thing is cer-

tain, it is that the team has no desire to settle for another disappointing finish in the conference tournament. This team wants to win.

Duke and other teams from throughout the nation will see a somewhat new look from the Seawolves. Rogers and senior Mike Rooney will switch positions this season, something they have experimented with in the past.

"Well, I mean last year we switched a few times during the season," Rooney said. "It's the same thing with our offense, just share the ball."

Rogers, who usually plays from up top in the midfield, will drop down to Rooney's typical spot to do just that, looking to feed the likes of Brady Eastwood and Matt Schultz as an attackman, while Rooney moves to midfield.

"I think, obviously we proved it in that one game that we could give a real solid effort and compete among the best teams in the country," Nagle said about last year's tough loss against eventual NCAA quarterfinalist Albany. "So, we're trying to do that in practice every day and every game we play this year."



Challen Rogers

MEN'S LACROSSE

THE STATESMAN SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

BASEBALL

Feb. 20-22 at Louisiana-Lafayette
Feb. 27-March 1 at Florida
March 3 vs. NYIT
March 7 at Fordham (DH), March 8 vs. Fordham
March 14 vs. Binghamton (DH), March 15 vs. Binghamton
March 17 vs. Iona
March 21 vs. Creighton (DH)
March 22 vs. Creighton
March 25 at Sacred Heart
March 28 vs. UMass-Lowell (DH), March 29 vs. UMass-Lowell
March 31 at Marist
April 3 at Maine, April 4 at Maine (DH)
April 7 at Iona
April 8 vs. Manhattan
April 11 vs. UMBC (DH), April 12 vs. UMBC
April 15 vs. LIU Brooklyn
April 18 at Georgetown (DH), April 19 at Georgetown
April 22 at Central Connecticut
April 25 at Albany (DH), April 26 at Albany
April 29 vs. Fairfield
May 2 vs. Hartford (DH), May 3 vs. Hartford
May 5 at NYIT
May 9 at UMass-Lowell (DH), May 10 at UMass-Lowell
May 15 at Binghamton (DH), May 16 at Binghamton

SOFTBALL

Feb 20-22: Florida Gulf Coast Tournament
Feb 27-March 1: North Florida Tournament
March 6-8: JMU Invitational
March 11 at Fairleigh Dickinson (DH)
March 13-15: Stony Brook Invitational
March 17 at Seton Hall (DH)
March 19 at LIU Brooklyn
March 21 vs. UMass-Lowell (DH), March 22 vs. UMass-Lowell
March 25 vs. Central Connecticut (DH)
March 28 at Albany (DH), March 29 at Albany
March 31 vs. Columbia (DH)
April 1 vs. Rutgers (DH)
April 4 vs. Binghamton (DH), April 5 vs. Binghamton
April 7 at Sacred Heart (DH)
April 8 vs. St. John's
April 11 at Hartford (DH), April 12 at Hartford
April 15 vs. Fairfield (DH)
April 16 at Hofstra
April 18 at Maine (DH), April 19 at Maine
April 22 vs. Iona
April 28 at Boston University (DH)
May 1 vs. UMBC (DH), May 2 vs. UMBC

MEN'S LAX

Feb. 20 vs. NJIT
Feb. 22 vs. Duke
Feb. 28 vs. Fairfield
March 3 at Marist
March 8 at Rutgers
March 14 vs. Albany
March 21 vs. UMBC
March 28 at Vermont
March 31 vs. Quinnipiac
April 4 vs. Princeton
April 10 at UMass-Lowell
April 12 vs. Lehigh
April 18 vs. Binghamton
April 24 at Hartford

WOMEN'S LAX

Feb. 20 vs. USC
Feb. 28 vs. Drexel
March 7 vs. Villanova
March 10 vs. Notre Dame
March 15 at Jacksonville
March 17 at Florida
March 21 at New Hampshire
March 24 vs. Rutgers
March 28 vs. Oregon
April 1 vs. Binghamton
April 4 vs. Albany
April 7 at Johns Hopkins
April 11 at Vermont
April 12 vs. Northwestern
April 17 at UMBC
April 21 at Hofstra
April 25 vs. UMass-Lowell

Preview designed by Will Welch