

# THE STATESMAN

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## Alan Alda lectures on scientists connecting with their audience

By David Vertsberger  
Assistant Sports Editor

Alan Alda, the actor, director, screenwriter and author who helped establish the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook, gave a lecture titled "Getting Beyond a Blind Date with Science" on Thursday, Feb. 19 to promote the center's mission to teach scientists how to effectively connect with audiences about their work.

The talk, which was open to the public and sponsored by the School of Journalism as well as the Alda Center, featured a slew of anecdotes from Alda's history in science and acting, pressing the importance of his goal to make better communicators out of future scientists and medical professionals.

Alda hosted "Scientific American Frontiers" on PBS from 1993 to 2007, where he interviewed over 700 scientists.

"As far as the public is concerned, we're really on a blind date with science," Alda said. "We want to get the public out of that uncomfortable situation of being on a blind date and get them to fall in love with science."

Sticking to the theme of love, Alda explained the theory of the three stages of love as a metaphor for how audiences listen to scientists.

"You might not even know about the theory of the three stages of love, because I made it up," Alda said.

He said the three stages are attraction, infatuation and commitment.

"If we don't see a thought process going on, we don't really believe we're being spoken to," Alda said. "Real people try to make a connection not only to one another, but to what their inspiration is for their next sentence. And if you see that going on, if there's real contact with the people you're talking to, they're going to pay more attention."

Alda also spoke about the curse of knowledge, which he believes is the major problem for scientists trying to engage the public.

"Knowledge is a curse; when you know something so deeply in all its complexity that you forget what it's like not to know it," Alda said.

To demonstrate this, he called up an audience member to the stage to tap out the rhythm of a song on the podium. The audience had to try to guess what the song was, based solely on the tapping. The volunteer guessed that most of the audience

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HEATHER KHALIFA/THE STATESMAN

Hundreds of students packed in the SAC Auditorium to remember the UNC Chapel Hill victims. The night ended with candles, cellphone lights and a moment of silence.

## SBU students unite in vigil for Chapel Hill shooting victims

By Christopher Leelum  
Assistant News Editor

The three smiling faces projected on a screen who looked out among the hundreds of Stony Brook students during the vigil on Tuesday, Feb. 17 for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shooting did not belong to just the victims of a heinous crime.

The vigil, held in the SAC auditorium, was a response to last week's killing of Deah Barakat, his wife Yusor Abu-Salha and her younger sister, Razan Abu-Salha, who was just 19.

Forty-six-year-old suspect Craig Stephen Hicks has been charged with murder, and questions still remain as to the motive of the crime.

Sister Sanaa Nadim, chaplain for the Stony Brook Muslim Students Association and organizer of the event, said they are more than casualties, but symbols.

"We are all Deah, Yusor and Razan," Nadim said. "We are all the 21 Egyptian men killed some days ago. We are the French who mourned, those in Copenhagen, and the Jordanian pilot who burned to death."

Though there were mentions of hate crimes and religious intolerance, the main message was centered around community. The focus took a broad, unified, and somber tone.

"And we are standing, together, for all the good that we can find in each other," Nadim said as her voice wavered.

Stony Brook's large Muslim population came in support, but

both the audience and the guest speakers had hints of black, white and Asian, Christian and Jewish and more.

"We must look beyond yarmulke," Rabbi Joseph Topek, chaplain and director of the Hillel Foundation for Jewish Life, said. "We must look beyond the hijab, beyond the long skirt, or the turban, or the beard and know the individual."

Assistant Dean of Students Ellen Driscoll cited the Stony Brook University Community Pledge to reinforce the sense of diversity and unity of the student body.

"Ours is a community that promotes equality, civility, caring, responsibility, accountability, and respect," Driscoll said.

While incidents like these may evoke fear in other Muslim students across the nation, freshman biology major Shinchita Hassan said she has no real fear for her life.

"I'm not really that scared," Hassan said. "I've lived in New York my whole life and have never been personally persecuted."

Her friend Emily Gaines, also a freshman biology major, was a bit more morose.

"It's sad there's still so much hate in the world," Gaines said.

But Chief of Police and Assistant Vice President for Campus Safety Robert Lenahan was there to quell any trepidation.

"While we are an extremely safe campus, we want to respond and we want to be there and address any concerns students may have," Lenahan said. He also

mentioned a "zero-tolerance policy" for hate crimes of any crimes on campus.

Yoseph Saleh, a close friend to victim Barakat, was supposed to be a special guest speaker, but traffic held up his appearance. Stony Brook's Muslim Student Association's President Mudassar Syed read his statement in his place.

Saleh's message began with an anecdote about the "tall, immature, pale kid" he first met while playing basketball at the university.

After a game, Saleh said, "I was seriously confused about how genuine and nice he was to me compared to how he was acting on the court. At one point I thought something was wrong with him because of how nice he was."

At the end of his message, the audience grew silent when Saleh wrote about not being able to attend Deah and Yusor's wedding this past December and wishing he'd see them around spring break time.

"Now I can't see him ever again, and I didn't even have a chance to give him his wedding gift," Saleh wrote.

At the end of the vigil, Nadim took the stage again for a special request.

With Terry Jacks' "Seasons in the Sun" played out to accompany the multitude of tiny lights in the auditorium, Nadim asked everyone stand with a candle or a cellphone light.

"We are lighting the flame of hope tonight," she said.

## Professor leads first national study of transgender youth

By Kelly Saberi  
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook University assistant psychology professor Nicholas Eaton, Ph.D., is leading the first large-scale national study of socially-supported transgender youth.

There is a disparity in the number of studies on transgender adults and of those on children, as science often focuses on adolescents, Eaton said. Yet, there is still a paucity of such youth studies.

The TransYouth Project, launched by Eaton and colleagues Kristin Olson, Ph.D., and gender expert Aiden Key, works to bring light to a neglected matter. Their paper, "Gender Cognition in Transgender Children," was recently published in Psychological Science.

At the crux of the study is the belief that trans children are feigning their sexual identity, a notion that the scientific community has long promoted. The study worked to test those presumptions in a scientific way.

"Although their gender experiences differ from those of most of the population in terms of how they feel, they don't differ in terms of their clarity or certainty," Eaton said.

The study consists of interviews with children between the ages of five and 12 years of age as well as their parents and cisgender, or non-transgender, siblings.

This study differs from others of its kind because those who are studied live fully supported as their gender identity, one that is not the same as their natal sex. They dress for their chosen gender and use corresponding pronouns.

Another approach that separates this study from others is that rather than using only explicit measures, such as self-report type of questions that can easily be answered to fit what they think is the socially acceptable answer, the project uses implicit means.

These implicit means are known as an IAT, or Implicit Association Test, in which subjects are asked to sort pictures of boys and girls with various words that relate to either gender. This method is an unconscious way of obtaining impartial responses.

The results suggest that gender-typical girls are quick to associate themselves with girls rather than boys. The same is true of gender-typical boys. The same pattern of results is evident within transgender kids,

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News

### Campus construction update

Most projects hold up against the snow.

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Arts & Entertainment

### SUNY creates new master's program

SB campuses offer advanced degree for film.

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Opinions

### O'Brien calls for positive conversations

The only way to progress is through open discourse.

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Sports

### Women's basketball battles rival Albany

Check out game highlights at sbstatesman.com.

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# Soledad O'Brien makes a stop at SBU for Black in America Tour



MEGAN MILLER/THE STATESMAN

Soledad O'Brien, left, was joined by a fellow journalist, an activist and a former NBA athlete during her Feb. 16 panel.

By Kelly Saberi  
Contributing Writer

Soledad O'Brien stopped by Stony Brook University on Monday, Feb. 16 as part of her Black in America Tour of 2015, which began last month.

Former NBA player Etan Thomas, author and journalist Joan Morgan,

activist Luis Paulino and O'Brien, a Suffolk County native who grew up in St. James, made up the panel.

Born to a black Cuban mother and a white Australian father, who was a founding professor at Stony Brook, O'Brien observed firsthand the difficulties that families like her own would face—for example, being turned away from buying a home.

She also struggled with people questioning her race as she grew up. She often had uncomfortable experiences; she recalls when a photographer asked her if she was black at age 11.

Her Black in America project began back in 2008 as a six-hour documentary. The first two hours covered the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and the remaining questioned where society stands in terms of civil rights.

The tagline of the campaign is "I am the conversation," and O'Brien urged college students to take part in uncomfortable conversations in order to expand their knowledge, saying, "I think the most important thing that any college student can do is to open up your mind."

O'Brien said she hopes to open up an exchange rather than a lecture on issues surrounding race, giving college students a new perspective from their peers.

"[If] you haven't gone out of your way to be involved in uncomfortable conversations and you don't have a group of friends for whom

you feel like sometimes you're competing with them in difficult ways, you're probably not having a really challenging college experience," O'Brien said.

Morgan said she believes that there is great potential for the current generation to bring about change, referencing the Millions March, a black youth organized protest that drew tens of thousands of people.

These youth leaders did not choose to be in the forefront, but rather used the magnitude of people who showed up in to showcase the immense issue of "Black Lives Matter."

"Of course all lives matter, but that's not what we're talking about," Thomas said, in response to those who say that all lives matter.

In 2012, Paulino was defending a black adolescent who had been approached by police for riding his bicycle on the sidewalk. As a result, Paulino found himself surrounded by five police officers.

After arguing with the officers, Paulino was charged with resisting arrest. A taxi driver watching the in-

cident take place caught the violence on camera.

Paulino was grabbed by his wrists by the police officer, leaving the former college football player unable to complete a single pushup.

"We're often stigmatized before we're given a chance to be humanized," Paulino said.

Paulino urged black youth to understand that when they walk across the graduation stage with their "letters," whether it is their fraternity letters or just their diploma, a person looking at them from a criminal perspective will not know of their accomplishments.

"We need to coexist and it needs to matter to all of us equally," Roger Carson, a senior mechanical engineering major and a member of the Student African-American Brotherhood, said.

"This is something that we're not going to get over until we actually do something about it," Diana Costa, a junior health sciences major of Omega Phi Beta Sorority, said. "It's all of us together, because at the end of the day, it's our humanity at risk."

## Computer Science Building

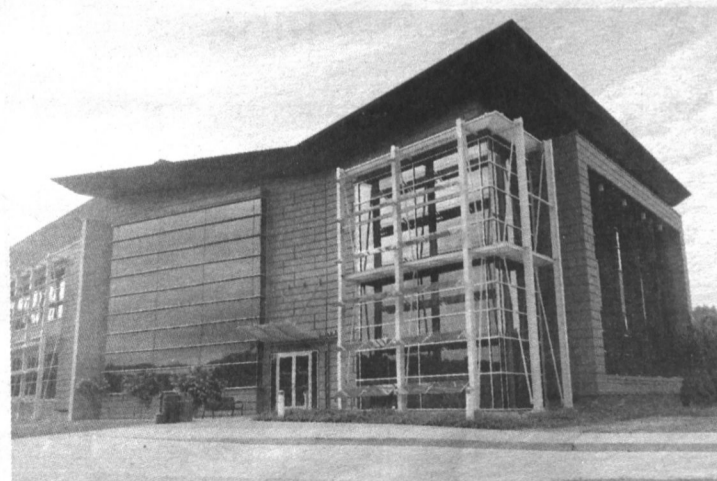
The new computer science building has been under construction since September 2012. "The computer science building continues to work," Rispoli said. "That's because all the work that is being done is interior. They have full heating systems working at this point." The building is expected to open spring of this year. The State University Construction Fund website and the Department of Computer Science website state that construction was originally supposed to be completed in summer or fall of 2014.



SIMON SHARP/THE STATESMAN

## Innovation and Discovery Center

Once construction starts on the Innovation and Discovery Center, it will become the largest project on campus, according to Rispoli, and will be located in the university's Research & Development Park. In April 2014, the university received a \$60 million appropriation from the New York State budget to construct and design this project. "It's being built for a collaboration between research and start up companies, which the government has a program out there for it called START-UP NY," Rispoli said. "We are currently awarding the design contract and we expect to start design this spring." Once the construction is complete, the center will have 200,000 gross square feet of lab and office spaces. The space can then be used by start-up technology companies looking to take advantage of the START-UP NY benefits, according to a university press release.



MEGAN MILLER/THE STATESMAN

Winter is not over yet at Stony Brook, but most of the key campus construction projects are soldiering on. Besides the construction of the new residence hall on Toll Drive, the renovation of the Pritchard Gymnasium pool and the completion of the new computer science building are still on track.

While the Seawolves continue to brave the winter weather, project managers throughout the campus have accounted for the occasional snow day in their planning. In addition, when it comes to time delays and the expected dates for the completion of outdoor campus construction, managers cannot give a definitive answer until the weather breaks.

Compiled by Sarah Elsesser



HEATHER KHALIFA/THE STATESMAN

## Toll Drive residence hall

The biggest construction project going on right now is the building of a new 757-bed residential building coupled with a 60,000 square foot dining facility on Toll Drive. The project will be completed in two phases—the first phase will see the addition of 302 beds and the dining facility, according to the Facilities and Services website. The second phase will add the other 455 beds. Due to the snow, the construction site is at a standstill and the project can expect to see a 30-day delay. "I don't want to say there is nothing going on," Louis Rispoli, associate vice president of facilities and services, said. "There are people working in the basement doing underground plumbing and mechanical work. But the steel has stopped, the decking has stopped, the second phase excavation has stopped. So for all intents and purposes it is really at a standstill, with exceptions of minor work by the mechanical team."



STATESMAN STOCK PHOTO

## Pritchard pool

After much anticipation from students, the Pritchard pool renovations are finally underway. Because the renovation is taking place inside the Pritchard Gym, there is no snow delay. What students can expect from the gym is a new pool, deeper water lights, HVHC to control humidity, lighting, acoustics and tile. "It might have missed a day or two, but for the most part maybe a day," Martin Ryan, project manager of the Pritchard pool, said. "They do a nice job on campus moving the snow. So you just keep moving along; get the job finished." The pool renovations should be completed by December of 2016. Students should be able to swim by February or March.

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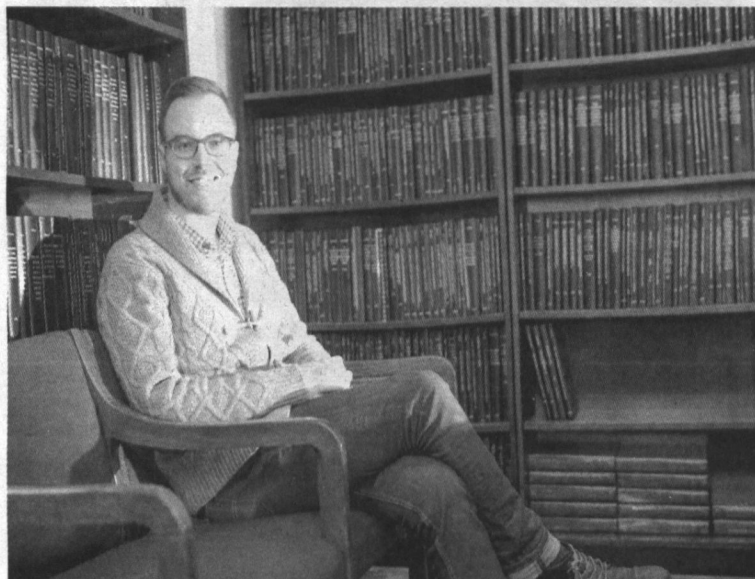
**Career Center**

# New transgender youth study a first in the United States

Continued from page 1

their siblings, and their controls. For many people, the idea of a transgender child can be disconcerting because they often view sex and gender as synonymous ideas, Eaton said. Rather, biological sex is essentially what is assigned at birth, whereas gender is what a person identifies with. Although the overall number of transgender people is unknown, researchers know that 40 percent of that community will attempt suicide, according to Eaton. This rate is nine times more than that of the

general population. For teens, problems lie within school bathrooms, locker rooms and sports teams. Through adulthood, transgender people are discriminated against especially in the workforce, leaving them unemployed or homeless. Eaton and his colleagues hope to monitor these kids for the long haul, studying them as they evolve from adolescence to maturity. "As a university community—and as a national community more broadly—it is our responsibility to provide transgender individuals with the respect, acceptance, and accommodation they deserve," Eaton said.



CHRISTOPHER CAMERO / THE STATESMAN

**Nicholas Eaton's TransYouth Project looks to examine the largely untouched transgender demographic.**

# Alda sets up a date with science

Continued from page 1

would be able to identify the song prior to the experiment. "I think we got like 20–25 percent tops," Alda said, following the experiment. "Don't feel bad because most people say 80 percent will get it. When we tap it out, we hear the melody in our head. We're undergoing the curse of knowledge." Another demonstration Alda performed exhibited how telling a story is not enough to connect to an audience. He asked a volunteer to carry an empty glass from one side of the stage to the other. He then filled the glass to the brim with water and said, "Now you have to carry that glass back across the stage and put it on that table, but don't spill a drop or your entire village will die." The audience member successfully carried the glass across the stage. "OK so which trip across the stage was more engaging?" Alda

asked. "Everybody knows there's no village that's going to die, but just saying that puts that virtual risk in our heads. It's enough to make you say, 'I hope she doesn't spill that. Is she going to be able to do it?'" Alda said he also believes humor can be effective in communicating science, "as long as it's not forced or mechanical. As in all communication, the more spontaneous, the better." He emphasized how far the Alda Center has come to completing its mission since its inception in 2009. "We've made so much progress in the last four, five years, we've gone way past where I thought we'd go way after I was gone," Alda said. "I didn't think I'd see this progress until I was dead. We are working hard to establish a network of universities and institutions around the country collaborate with us in teaching the communication of science to both graduate students and senior scientists."

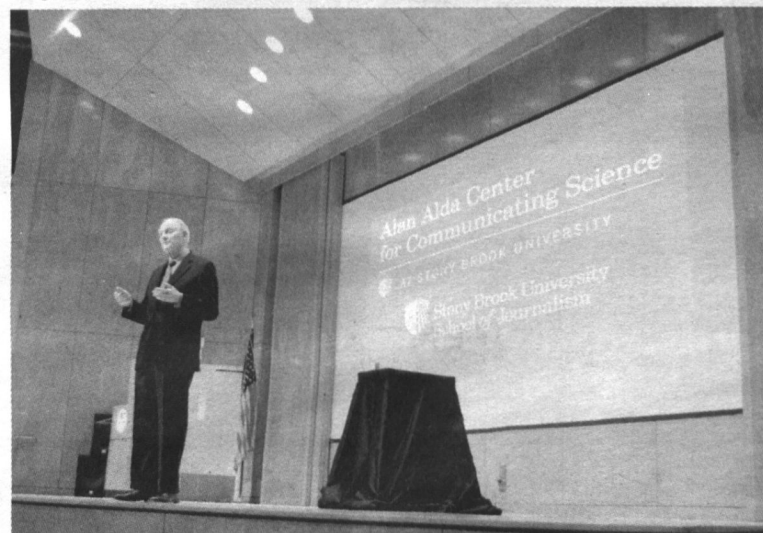


PHOTO CREDIT: STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

**Alan Alda emphasized that it is one thing to know something, but another to communicate it to others.**

# Campus briefing: senate passes resolution to support renewal of SUNY 2020 legislation

By Arielle Martinez  
Assistant News Editor

The Undergraduate Student Government Senate approved a resolution to support a renewed plan for predictable tuition costs for State University of New York schools by a vote of 16-1-0 at its meeting on Thursday, Feb. 19. "It's to ensure that one: we as students can plan our college education with our families, and two: so our university knows how much money they are going to take in so they can plan accordingly," USG Vice President of Academic Affairs Steven Adelson said.

Under the SUNY 2020 legislation, which Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed in 2011, SUNY and CUNY schools were able to increase tuition for in-state students by \$300 a year for five years. Therefore, the control on in-state tuition will expire after the next academic year. Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. said at a meeting with media representative on Wednesday that the legislation ended dramatic and unpredictable spikes in tuition costs.

"I think [SUNY 2020] has had some advantages for students and their families in that it's made things predictable," Stanley said. "You know what your cost is going to be every year. Before we had SUNY 2020, it was tuition roulette. Some years there would be massive tuition increases—20, 30 percent a year. Other years there would be nothing."

Stony Brook's 2011 application for the SUNY 2020 program also stated that Stony Brook would raise tuition 10 percent for out-of-state students.

Adelson said that the money raised from tuition increases under SUNY 2020 were used to hire new faculty, to increase graduate student stipends and to start the Academic Success and Tutoring Center.

USG's resolution calls on Cuomo and the state legislature to renew the "rational tuition plan." The

resolution also calls on Stanley, the University Senate and the student governments of all SUNY schools to support the renewal.

"The conversations are happening in the state legislature now and this is really going to give us the push that they need to really consider this," Adelson said.

The senate also approved a repeal of Black Womyn's Association's removal from line budget status by a vote of 14-3-0. At last week's senate meeting, the association was removed from line budget status for not holding an event funded by the Student Activity Fee last semester as required by USG's financial bylaws.

The association's president, Bianca Bafo, and vice president, Janelle March, claimed that they could not use funds from the Student Activity Fee for an event because of issues with their secretary's account on Campusvine, the online system used to budget club events.

When USG Treasurer Kathryn Michaud said that every club was required to check that its Campusvine accounts were working at the Leadership Conference in September, Bafo countered that while they were able to log onto their Campusvine accounts, Campusvine would not let them submit a voucher for the event.

"We would not have know it

was not working unless we made a voucher," Bafo said.

At the end of the debate, Sen. Meghan Walsh said that the senate should remember that the Black Womyn's Association representatives were "students first."

"I don't know about you guys, but if I was the president of a club, but it would very important to me, but it would not be the first thing on my agenda," Walsh said. "So if a voucher wasn't going through, and I had a test, I would definitely study for my test before I even showed up to the USG office. I would just like to point out that they made an attempt."

Now that the Black Womyn's Association's line budget status has been restored, the association will now have to send a budget application to the senate budget committee. The funds for that budget will have to be appropriated through a separate act, Michaud said.

The senate also approved the Health and Nutrition Club's request for line budget status and the Martial Arts Association's application for a Special Services Council budget of \$474.50, as well as officially acknowledging the Stony Brook chapter of Camp Kesem, an organization that puts together a one-week summer camp for children who have parents who have or have had cancer.



SIMON SHARP / THE STATESMAN

**VP of Academic Affairs Steven Adelson, right, urged support for renewed legislation for future Seawolves.**

# Police Blotter

On Feb. 12, individuals were found inside of a Campus Recreation Center storage trailer by the athletic fields. They were arrested for trespassing.

On Feb. 12, damage to a Hamilton College elevator was reported. The case is still open.

On Feb. 12, a threatening note was reported to be left on a parked car in the University Hospital parking lot. The harassment case is still open.

On Feb. 12, the interior directional signs were stolen from the walls of Baruch College. The case was closed after investigation.

On Feb. 12, a fire marshal was notified of marijuana smoking in a Lauterbur College suite. Six referrals were issued and two non-students were told to leave campus.

On Feb. 13, an unidentified amount of cash was reported stolen from a Mount College room. The burglary case is still open.

On Feb. 13, an individual allegedly caused a disturbance by screaming obscenities at State University police officers inside of Greeley College. The individual was arrested for disorderly conduct.

On Feb. 14, a male was spotted holding a lead pipe on Circle Road by Engineering Drive. It was found that he took the pipe from a lounge without permission. The student was issued a referral.

On Feb. 15, a noise complaint was reported in Eisenhower College. A loud party that involved underage drinking was allegedly taking place in a suite. Four student referrals were issued.

On Feb. 15, a Resident Assistant reported marijuana use in Stimson College. One referral was issued.

On Feb. 16, an individual refusing to pay for items in the University Hospital allegedly smacked the hand of the hospital employee. The victim refused to press harassment charges and the case is now closed.

On Feb. 17, a car was hit while parked in West Apartments Parking Lot A. The hit-and-run case is still open.

On Feb. 18, a car was scratched on both sides in the Health Science Center parking lot. The case is open.

On Feb. 18, a resident assistant reported a marijuana odor and a towel stuffed under a Benedict College dorm room door. One student was issued a referral.

Compiled by Daniel Moloney

# COMMUNITY

## Community Calendar

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### Monday

My Life As...Investigative Reporter Ellen Gabler  
8 p.m. | Wang Theater

### Tuesday

Science on Tap presents Shark Night  
7 p.m. | Stony Brook Yacht Club

### Wednesday

Preparing for the Job Fair  
1-2 p.m. | Wang Theater

### Thursday

Cadence Step Team Gala  
7 p.m. | SAC

### Friday

Business and Political Affairs Job and Internship Fair  
12-3 p.m. | SAC Ballrooms

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

last week's answer

© Kevin Stone [www.brainbashers.com]

this week's puzzle

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# Spoke the Thunder

## Says goodbye to a good friend

From all of her friends at Spoke the Thunder, Jannelle, George, Nikolai, James, Anthony and Olivia

Catherine Ayscue, a friend to many in the community, passed away on Tuesday, January 27, 2015. This is shocking news to many, and a tragedy that will darken our spirits. But Catherine left us with many good memories, and the communities that she built—those in the journalism, English, and astronomy departments, in *Spoke the Thunder*, in Tabler—will attest to her dedication to those around her for a long time to come.

Gentle, timid, funny, passionate, determined; how could we possibly describe who Catherine was to us? Sunburst golden hair flowing in the wind, whipping around the shoulders and curling down the back. Catherine was, well, it is hard to say, really. Platitudes about how great or wonderful she was would be expected. It feels trite and hollow to take an entire person and whittle them



down to a few simple phrases, because really, she was so much more than that. In order to remember who she was and who she will remain to us still, a memorial has been prepared.

The memorial for Catherine Ayscue is planned for February 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the Tabler Black Box. As much as a memorial, it will be as a much a celebration of her life, and the things that she loved, and the things that made her who she was. Refreshments will be provided, and all are welcome. It will be a safe space for those who desire to grieve the loss of a close friend and quintessential member of the Stony Brook community.

## Any City

By Catherine Ayscue

Sometimes, birds act like people:  
Walking on the crosswalk,  
Waving their arms indignantly at  
Cars that get too close,  
Making their homes in the safest  
Crevice they can find  
Among the cement & steel forest.

Sometimes people act like birds:  
Squawking at their phones,  
Ruffling and puffing their feathers  
Attempting to impress,  
Acting as though they don't need  
A mite of stability  
As they finally clock out and fly away.

A fund in memory of Catherine has been established to assist with the funding and publication of *Spoke the Thunder*. Interested parties can learn more about donating by calling *The Statesman* at (631) 631-6479 or by sending an email to [editors@sbstatesman.com](mailto:editors@sbstatesman.com).

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## SUNY shines light on the arts with new three-year program

By Rena Thomas  
Contributing Writer

Lights, camera, action. Stony Brook introduced the SUNY system's first ever Master of Fine Arts program to its Southampton and Manhattan campuses.

This three-year program has attracted aspiring filmmakers from across the country. The program delves into the field of film making, with real world experience tied into every class.

The 45-48 credit program is lead by independent film producer and co-founder of Killer Films, Christine Vachon. Vachon has worked in various film schools and has noticed the disconnection of the academic world to the reality of film production.

This program is looking to change that and hopes to compete with the prestigious film schools while remaining affordable.

This creative staff consists of highly accredited producers, directors, screenwriters and novelists. Emmy award-winning screenwriter and former writer's agent Annette Handley Chandler is on the staff, as well as writer/director Jennie Allen, Lenny Crooks, who ran the UK Film fund, producer Simone Pero and Killer co-founder Pamela Koffler, to name a few.

With such a close association to Killer Films, students from the program have worked on some of the company's most accredited pieces, such as the Oscar nominated film "Still Alice."

A class called "Masters in

Independent Production" used the production of "Still Alice" as a main reference to the creation and processes of filmmaking.

Students worked behind the scenes of the highly buzzed about film, assisting directors and producers, taking photographs and conducting Alzheimer's research.

The film was in the works when the class was in session on and had the directors visiting the class. The students saw the script, the schedule, early cuts, the funding and the entire development of "Still Alice."

Not only did the students learn from observation, three students physically worked on the film that has earned actress Julianne Moore a Golden Globe Award for best actress, a Critics' Choice Movie Award a SAG Award and a BAFTA Award with a nomination for an Academy Award.

"Nasty Baby," starring Kristen Wiig and Alia Shawkat, is another film we will be hearing about that was produced with the help of this program. It won the Berlin Teddy award and was screened in the Sundance Film Festival. Students shot and edited short parts of the film.

The close association with Killer Films gives students the opportunity to work closely with the company.

However, the programs initial goal is to give these students the right tools to venture out on their own creative paths.

Producer, novelist and associate director of the MFA program Magdalene Brandeis



PHOTO CREDIT: NICOLAS GENIN

**Julianne Moore plays a linguistics professor battling early onset Alzheimers in "Still Alice." According to deadline.com, the film is based on Lisa Genova's book of the same name.**

said, "The students learn what actual production problems are. It is about current practice and protocols in the film world and how that leads to lessons in the classroom. We see a career as a whole. You realize there is a long haul to crafting a career path."

After three years, the students have a myriad of skills in their tool belts. The program is working on a curriculum that will prepare students for screenwriting, directing and producing.

Associate Provost of the Southampton Graduate Arts program Robert Reeves expressed

the goal of the program, saying "Get it made, make it right and get it seen. [This is] a curriculum driven by making films and having hands on experience."

The students will have the experience of directing episodic series, producing creative screen writes, scripts and directing short films of increasing complexity and depth. They will then leave with a significant project of their own.

The program is expected to expand in the near future and bring undergraduate classes pertaining to producing, directing and screenwriting to Stony Brook's

main campus. It will possibly create an undergraduate Fine Arts minor based on film as well.

Being only a month or so old, this program consists of approximately 30 graduate students of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life.

It is the only SUNY film school so far that has been approved by the New York State Department of Education.

The program's growing reputation and affordability resulted in a flood of applications. The program hopes to shape the future of film, and place Stony Brook student work in the spotlight.

## Film analysis: a deeper look into "Fifty Shades of Grey"



PHOTO CREDIT: NICKSTEP

**E! News reported that "Fifty Shades" director Sam Taylor-Johnson, right, and E.L. James had "creative fights" on set.**

By Krysten Massa  
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Not everyone thinks about handcuffs and flogs the way that Christian Grey does.

But, they certainly have flocked into movie theaters, bringing \$85.2 million to the box office, according to The Guardian. And that was on top of the one-hundred million copies of the original trilogy, according to The New York Times.

Despite its financial success, the film received a 25 percent rating on the tomatometer from Rotten Tomatoes, an organization that showcases the opinions of countless television and film critics. Optimal? Not really.

At its core, the story is simply about two love stricken characters tasked with overcoming an overarching issue: Christian Grey's sexual preferences.

However, both the book and the film required more research into BDSM and kink.

"BDSM is all about self-policing, and to the common observer there isn't a difference between what we do and what 'fifty Shades of Grey' does," Dakota Jordan, the president of Stony Brook TNG, said.

The film centers around the relationship between the innocent recent college-graduate

Anastasia Steele (Dakota Johnson) and the unusually young, successful and mysterious Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan).

For starters, those who are into BDSM—or Bondage Dominance Submissive Sadomasochism—know what they are getting into when they reach for their whips and flogs. (No, not all BDSM involves sex toys, or even sex at all.) Safe words are involved. And some even sign contracts with their partners to keep it legal-or as part of the sexy fun time.

Christian stalks her, buys her things without her consent and tries to persuade her to push her sexual limits. Meanwhile, Anastasia is a virgin before she meets Christian and has no idea what kind of limits she is even capable of hitting. Once he shows her what it is like, to be whipped, tied up and to have her limits pushed, he says she will like it.

But of course, she loves him, so she wants to explore this world with him. She thinks she can change him.

That is not a BDSM relationship. "The whole movie does BDSM wrong, but that's fine because it's a movie and they are not real people doing real BDSM," Jordan said.

Other members from Stony Brook TNG said the film stirs up confusion about the distinction

between an abusive relationship and a dominant/submissive relationship.

Jordan said that the film should not be watched and imitated. One of the many things that she does not like about the film is that it fails to illustrate a proper dominant/submissive relationship where safe words are always used and the other is respected.

College students joke about them all the time, but safe words are a real facet of BDSM and kink relationships. They are words that partners both know before they get started that if uttered means that something has to stop.

In the movie, Christian gives Anastasia a contract in which he lists the safe words "red" and "yellow" for her to use. However, Anastasia never signs the contract.

In the film she never officially agrees to be his submissive, therefore Christian trying to push her to do things sexually with him is not proper BDSM because it is not consensual.

According to members of Stony Brook TNG, until a duo has agreed on what their limits are and what they like or dislike, they are not in a proper BDSM relationship.

As part of the clubs efforts to inform students about safe sex, they list the phrase "enthusiastic

Continued on page 9



## Master of Arts in MEDICAL HUMANITIES, COMPASSIONATE CARE AND BIOETHICS

Not just for healthcare professionals, this program serves students from a wide range of disciplines and professional backgrounds, building on a commitment to medical humanism and ethics that has defined education for Stony Brook students for more than three decades.

**The 30-credit Master of Arts program can be completed in as little as one year.**

“It is through my Master of Arts in Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics that I was able to enrich my knowledge base to include an ethical, medical and legal approach to often challenging situations.”

— *Robyn McKeefrey, MA Program Graduate*

“The MA program opened my eyes to new avenues to connect to our patients with respect and compassion. It inspired me to pilot a program for Arts in Medicine, which has made my staff more receptive to the non-medical needs of their patients.”

— *Linda Bily, MA Program Graduate*

### APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR FALL 2015

U.S. Residents: July 2, 2015

International Students: May 16, 2015

For more information or to apply to the program, visit

**[stonybrook.edu/bioethics/masters](http://stonybrook.edu/bioethics/masters)**

or email [Michael.Ortega@stonybrookmedicine.edu](mailto:Michael.Ortega@stonybrookmedicine.edu)



**Stony Brook Medicine**





# College gal cooking: Nutella S'mores Pizza



By Heather Khalifa  
Multimedia Editor

Nestled in the hilly province of Cuneo, Italy is the town of Alba, where the confectionary group Ferrero is based and Nutella was born. During World War II, there was a cocoa shortage in the town, as was the case across Europe.

Pietro Ferrero, founder of the Ferrero Company, decided to capitalize on the abundance of hazelnuts in the region and mix it together with the limited supply of cocoa, and thus Nutella, was born.

However, his son, Michele Ferrero—the world's wealthiest chocolatier before his death last Saturday—is credited for crafting Nutella into the spread we all know and love today.

Ferrero also created Ferrero Rocher as well as Kinder Surprise Eggs and Tic-Tac mints, making him "the richest candy man on the planet," according to Forbes magazine.

It seems only fitting that the man who was often referred to

as the "real-life Willy Wonka" passed away on Valentine's Day, a holiday defined by chocolate and love. He was 89.

To honor Ferrero and his legacy, our College Gal Cooking recipe this week is for Nutella S'mores Pizza, accentuating what makes Nutella special: it goes with everything.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of Nutella spread (but by all means, spread more or less)
- 1 packet of active dry yeast
- 2 ½ cups of all-purpose flour
- 1 cup of crushed graham crackers
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- 2 teaspoons extra virgin olive oil
- 3 cups mini marshmallows

The trickiest part of this otherwise simple dessert is

making the crust. First, mix a cup of warm water with the active dry yeast.

Add the flour, crushed graham crackers, sugar, salt and olive oil. Blend with a mixer and then roll into a ball and place on a floured countertop, where the dough will be rolled out.

Then, transfer the dough to anywhere between a 12-inch circle pizza dish to one that is 16 inches—I would recommend a 15 inch dish to avoid a thick crust that masks the taste of the Nutella. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 15-20 minutes.

Once the dough is baked, spread the Nutella uniformly over the entire pizza, then coat with mini marshmallows.

Put back in oven for another 15-20 minutes.

Then, drizzle the pizza with chocolate sauce of any brand for taste and decorative purposes. Whipped cream and strawberries can also be added, if desired. Slice into eight pieces, and enjoy!



HEATHER KHALIFA / THE STATESMAN

Michele Ferrero innovated on the concept of the Nutella spread by adding vegetable oil to the hazelnut and cocoa mix, making Nutella explode in popularity worldwide.

## Stripping down "Fifty Shades of Grey's" take on BDSM culture

Continued from page 7  
consent" when talking about sexual scripting.

Ashley Barry, the vice president of Stony Brook TNG, said that she is bothered by the way the movie presents itself like it is the norm.

"I don't think people are going to separate it from education," Barry said about how women will watch the film and think it is behavior they will want to try, but will not be safe about it.

Christian is a dominant one in the bedroom. By having his submissives sign a contract, which Anastasia never actually signs in the movie or the books, he knows that they will play by his rules and he is in charge.

"One of the biggest things

that scared me in 'Fifty Shades of Grey' is that he forces her to go on certain types of birth control," Barry said when talking about the conditions in Christian's contract. Barry also gave the example that in Christian's contract, it states that the sub needs to work out and limit the amount of alcohol or drugs they use. She said that it would only be okay if both people agreed with these conditions.

"Instead he has her sign a contract that's like 'I can control you in all ways shapes and forms,'" Barry said.

Jordan presented an example of a "sex list" commonly used by couples who partake in BDSM relationships and said that the movie would be much better if Christian's list was more like that. What it came down to for

Jordan was defining the rights of the dominant and the submissive.

Christian's sadism or sexual fetishes are not the problem, she said. It is his lack of understanding of people's rights. The main issue with the relationship portrayed in the film is that it does not play by regular BDSM rules and consents.

Jordan also said that just because the film depicts BDSM incorrectly does not mean that it is not okay for other people to enjoy it. However, she mentioned that people are lazy and may not be safe about attempting a BDSM type relationship, though she does not believe the book can be pegged as the sole cause for it.

"I don't want to invalidate its right to be a thing, it's just a bad thing" she said about the film.

## "If You're Reading This It's Too Late" falls short of expectations

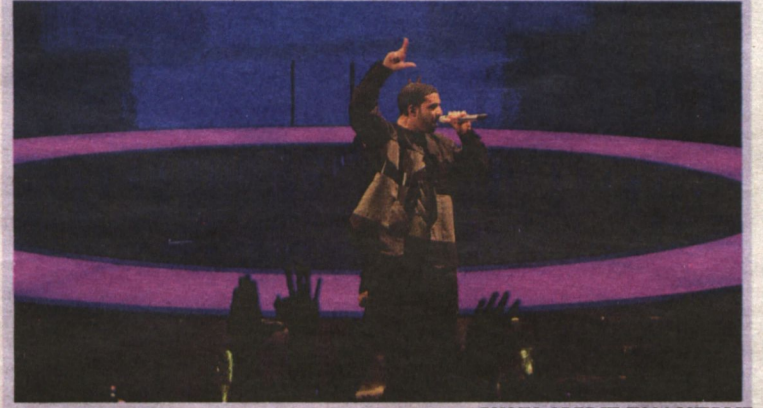


PHOTO CREDIT: TOM OVERLIE

According to billboard.com, Drake's surprise album, "If You're Reading This It's Too Late," sold 495k copies in its first week.

By Kunal Kohli  
Staff Writer

After the release of his critically acclaimed album, "Nothing Was The Same," the hype for another release by Drake was at an all-time high. That hype saw the release of "If You're Reading This It's Too Late" without any promotion on Valentine's Day.

While the hype was huge, Drake could not deliver. His lyrics were just not there. In songs like the opener "Legend," as well as "No Tellin'," it seems as though Drake is just boasting. There is no purpose to it, it is just filler. Tracks like "Energy" lacked any oomph and felt slow.

That being said, Drake appeared to be angry at times, something that was rarely seen earlier on his career. From throwing shots at music mogul Diddy to outright insulting former Young Money label mate Tyga on "6 PM in New York," this is a new side to Drake that many are beginning to like. Also, his lyrics for "6 God" as well as "You & The 6" were worthy to be on his upcoming fourth album, "Views From the 6."

Nearly half of the mixtape was produced by longtime Drake collaborator, Boi-1da. In the tracks he was on, Boi-1da's signature snare fell upon welcoming ears. His beat essentially made "10 Bands" a certified banger as well as making "6 God" one of the best tracks of 2015. Boi-1da, while handling the majority of the production, was not the only producer on the mixtape.

Noah "40" Shebib, the producer for many of Drake's most popular songs, appears four times on the

mixtape, with production on "Madonna," "Jungle," "You & The 6" and "6 Man."

Drake also brought in newcomer Wondagirl, known for her work on Jay Z's last album Magna Carta Holy Grail, and Grand Hustle producer and G.O.O.D. Music rapper Travi\$ Scott. Wondagirl's work on "Used To" was excellent and was the definite production highlight. Scott's dark and heavy production was evident on his vocal feature in "Company."

Even October's Very Own's residential crooner, PartyNextDoor, had two production credits, including opener "Legend."

In his 2014 track "0 to 100," Drake warned us "we already got spring 2015 poppin'." Unfortunately, "If You're Reading This It's Too Late" did not get it "poppin'." The mixtape had some definite lows, especially in the lyrical department.

It also was not as emotional as past Drake releases either. This is not necessarily a bad thing, as Drake's new angry side is pretty impressive.

The album's high was its production team. Bringing out younger producers like Wondagirl, as well as past frequent collaborators like Shebib and Boi-1da, was great for production diversity.

Also, bringing in OVO members such as PartyNextDoor on the production team was great promotion for his brand. Must listens include "6 God," "6 PM in New York" and "10 Bands."

All in all, "If You're Reading This It's Too Late" is worth a listen, maybe even two. But to buy it for \$12.99 on iTunes? That is a stretch.



MEGAN MILLER / THE STATESMAN

SBU Weekend Life Council hosted Ancient Rome Casino Night on Saturday, Feb. 21 in the SAC Ballroom B. To see the full gallery of the event, visit sbstatesman.com.

# OPINIONS

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INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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### Contact us:

Phone: 631-632-6479  
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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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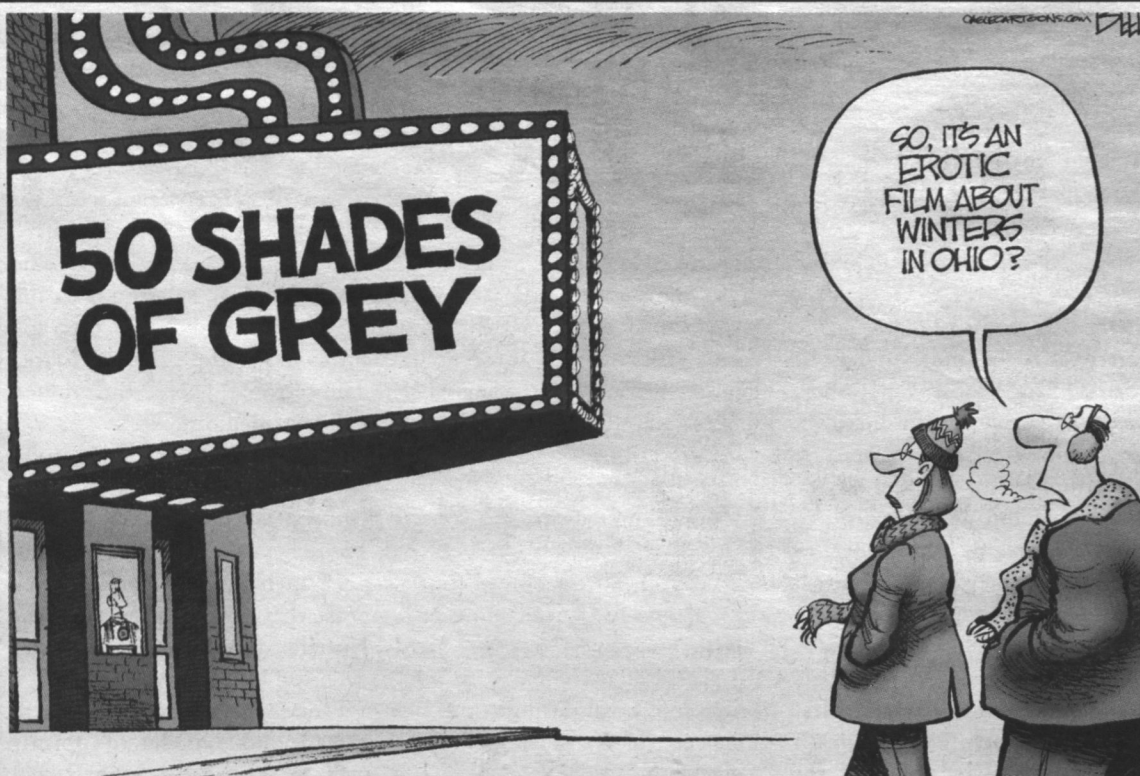


IMAGE CREDIT: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

## O'Brien reminds us to open up our minds

By Vandana Rambaran  
Contributing Writer

On a college campus as vast and diverse as Stony Brook's, it is no wonder that we are constantly engulfed in waves of endless chatter. Whether it be in the middle of North Reading Room or dining among fellow Seawolves at the SAC, conversation is the backbone of each and every one of our days.

And yet, in her stirring visit to Stony Brook University this past Monday, award winning journalist Soledad O'Brien brought the content of our conversation to the forefront of discussion at the Staller Center as part of her Black in America Tour. In a press conference prior to the start of her show, O'Brien reminded student journalists that their goal as college students should be open up their minds and engage in conversations that make them feel uncomfortable.

The notion of conversation seemed to be the theme of the night. The tagline of the newest segment, entitled "Black and Blue," called to attention police brutality in minority communities and was stated as "I Am The Conversation."

As the discourse progressed throughout the evening between O'Brien and a group of three other panelists, which included former NBA star Etan Thomas, activist in the Black Lives Matter movement,

Luis Paulino and journalist Joan Morgan, revelations about the plight of African Americans began to surface, as did numerous other questions about the matter. This is where I realized that although O'Brien's "conversation" mostly

**We may not always agree, but it is important to be engaged [in conversation] no matter how uncomfortable or ugly those murky issues may seem.**

focused on African American issues, there are other conversations that society as a whole needs to be having about every type of person.

Obviously, the key players in issues facing blacks and Latinos in minority communities are

blacks and Latinos. However, one of the questions raised in my mind was where exactly my position is in the discussion was. I do not feel that I am alone in the intermediate phase between "the conversation" and "the other." I often view myself as being isolated from discussions about minority issues. Despite feeling heart-felt sympathy for the families of Eric Garner or Trayvon Martin, two innocent African Americans who lost their lives to senseless violence, the depth of my sadness and the breadth of a heavy heart can never communicate to the African American community that I understand.

I understand not necessarily because I have lost a loved one to racially-fueled violence or even because our skin color is the same. I understand because I am a human being. And on that level, I do understand the struggle of fitting in, of feeling compassion for a slain soul, of grappling with loneliness and discouragement and misunderstanding. I understand being judged before being given the chance to prove myself. I understand the feeling of resentment towards those who cannot empathize with my plight.

I understand because I am hu-

*Continued on page 13*

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SENTINEL / TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Gay rights activists have had recent success, but are lobbying for even more change.

# The Konig Kolumn

## 37 down, 13 to go

BY JOSEPH KONIG

We survived a summer of headline-grabbing and, in too many cases, deadly incidents that launched a polarizing national debate on race relations and police militarization. We survived the subsequent autumn of controversial judicial decisions that have led to outrage and even rioting. We survived these periods of chaotic tension only to realize a winter of racial discontent is upon us. The civil rights discussion has re-launched in full force and, to many, the nation seems to have begun to revert or stall instead of progressing into a 21st-century mindset.

That is a debate for another time and another forum. Rejoice, my fellow Americans, because while certain aspects of the Civil Rights movement may have hit a few bumps in the road, other aspects have made leaps and bounds, even as recently as the last few days. Specifically, the LGBTQ community has recently seen positive strides taken towards its standing in the eyes of governments across the United States. The advancement in terms of acceptance and legal rights for millions of non-heterosexual people in America has improved at an unprecedented rate.

As a straight, white teenage male, securely in the middle class, the relevancy of many of these debates over race and marriage may seem distant or inapplicable to my life. I have never felt the wrath of racial prejudice or feared oppression because of my sexuality. I have never felt the need to be wary of police while walking at night. I have never feared ridicule or persecution because of my sexuality. I have never feared that one day, my marriage to someone that I loved would not be recognized in the eyes of the law. The issues of the racial and sexual minority communities, on the surface, may not appear to be my issues.

But they are. They are all of our issues. In his "I Have a Dream" speech, Martin Luther King Jr. said, "their destiny is tied up with our destiny." This was in reference to the "white brothers" who had marched to Washington, D.C. alongside the black people of King's movement that late August day in 1963. These words, like many of his, still ring true today. All of our destinies are intertwined. If we, as Americans, and as human beings, cannot join together in support of our equal rights for all of our brethren, regardless of race, creed, religion or sexuality, then we do not truly exemplify humanity or embody the American spirit.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act into law. It was in response to a Hawaii Supreme Court case that brought attention to ambiguity in the federal government's views on marriage. Politics and national consensus were different at the time. The country was not ready. Eight short years

later in 2004, after the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that denial of same-sex marriage licenses violated the state constitution, marriages between same-sex couples were first recognized and upheld in any jurisdiction.

Today, just over a decade after the Massachusetts decision, thirty-seven total states recognize same-sex marriage thanks to legislative approvals, voting majorities and a furor of appeals courts decisions. Since the beginning of October of 2014, seventeen states, including Alabama just this past week, all began issuing same-sex or gender-neutral marriage licenses thanks to some legislative or judicial statute. You know when Alabama is not the last state to hop onto a civil rights bandwagon things are heading in the right direction. Next stop, Mississippi!

On top of the thirty-seven states (and the District of Columbia) that have approved same-sex marriage, there are twenty-one Native American jurisdictions and certain counties in Kansas and Missouri that have joined this rapidly-spreading recognition. West Virginia joined the party in October, but its LGBTQ anti-discrimination laws are notably weak and fail to protect against employment and housing discrimination based on sexuality. The minute town of Thurmond, W.V. decided to do something about its state government's failures and passed a sweeping and much stricter ordinance accounting for all kinds of LGBTQ discrimination. All five residents of Thurmond approved the legislation.

In Oregon, Gov. John Kitzhaber will resign this Wednesday after balking on doing so several times. His Secretary of State, Kate Brown, will assume the governorship upon Kitzhaber's resignation. In becoming Oregon's 37th governor and second female governor, she will also become the United States' first openly non-heterosexual governor. Brown is happily married to her husband, but has confirmed she is openly bisexual. This is far from Brown's defining feature as a statesman, but it is still incredibly significant from a historical and societal perspective.

The most important news in recent months is the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on the issue of same-sex marriage by June of this year. Perhaps it is a little late to the ballgame and perhaps not even necessary with the national trend of late, but all progress is good progress. Fighting state by state, jurisdiction by jurisdiction may no longer be necessary in four short months. Sure, the Supreme Court justices may only be taking this case to preserve their legacy and to say they didn't avoid the issue for the entirety of their tenures, but who cares what their reasoning is if the end result provides a happy ending, or rather, a happy beginning to a new era?

# UNC Victims' vigil unites diverse SBU student body

By Faiza Chowdhury  
Contributing Writer

Last Tuesday, the news of the deaths of Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23; his wife, Yusor Abu-Salha, 21; and her sister, Razan Abu-Salha, 19 shocked their North Carolina community. Almost instantly, the event created a ripple effect of grief and pain across the globe.

People all over the world shared the news over Twitter and created hashtags to bring the news front and center, propelling the media to slowly follow suit. Yet, I felt that a hashtag or a tweet by itself would not be enough to share my grief for these innocent souls.

Without even knowing Deah, Yusor and Razan personally, I found myself aching to pay my respects.

With fate being on my side, the Muslim Student Association (MSA) decided to host a vigil to commemorate these students on a day and at a time that I would be able to attend.

If you think about it, going to a stranger's vigil seems strange. However, I found myself nodding in agreement when one of the speakers read poetry that described these deaths as though our own siblings were slain.

I walked into the vigil knowing so much about Deah, Yusor and Razan. I read their tweets, watched their Vines and scrolled through their Tumblrs. I saw their photos over and over and read about their charity work and thought to myself, "I can't decide what's bigger—their smiles or their hearts."

Through bittersweet social media, I was able to see these three great people as my own siblings. Siblings I would be proud of. The vigil echoed what I saw on social media and much more.

I learned that Deah and Yusor just got married a month ago. I learned about how he was a Stephen Curry fan and how he was raising money for dental care for refugee victims of the Syrian crisis. I learned that Yusor declared America as her home and was proud of it. I learned about how Razan was "kinda dorky" and was studying architecture and

environmental design at North Carolina State University.

The vigil reminded me of all these facts and how lucky any one of us would have been to be in their presence. The presider, Sister Sanaa, reminded the attendees of how we were not only Deah, Yusor and Razan, but that we were also the Egyptian Coptic Christians that were murdered, the children of Peshawar, Pakistan who were robbed of their lives and so many other victims of inhumane acts around the world.

And I was not alone in feeling the pain of loss for these three students, or the loss of the people who have been killed around the world. The SAC auditorium had quietly filled up, each attendee standing, expressing and experiencing the event.

There were so many people. There were MSA members, fraternity brothers, professors, parents, young children and others. Students and faculty from all different backgrounds went out of their way on a Tuesday night to pay their respects and condemn the violence.

The tears I held back through the program did not blind me from noticing the diversity of the audience in the room.

My friends who came with me to attend the event were not Muslim and did not know these victims.

They just came to pay their respects.

To see them along with so many others mourn these deaths made my heart swell with so many emotions and reminded me that the Stony Brook University community is something to be proud of.

When I left the auditorium and walked back to my car, some of the closing song's lyrics remained in my head:

"We had joy, we had fun,

We had seasons in the sun,

But the hills that we climbed were just seasons

Out of time."

Rest in peace Deah, Yusor and Razan. Rest in peace my siblings.



HEATHER KHALIFA / THE STATESMAN

The MSA held a vigil on Feb. 17th for the victims at UNC.

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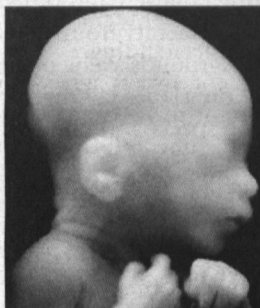
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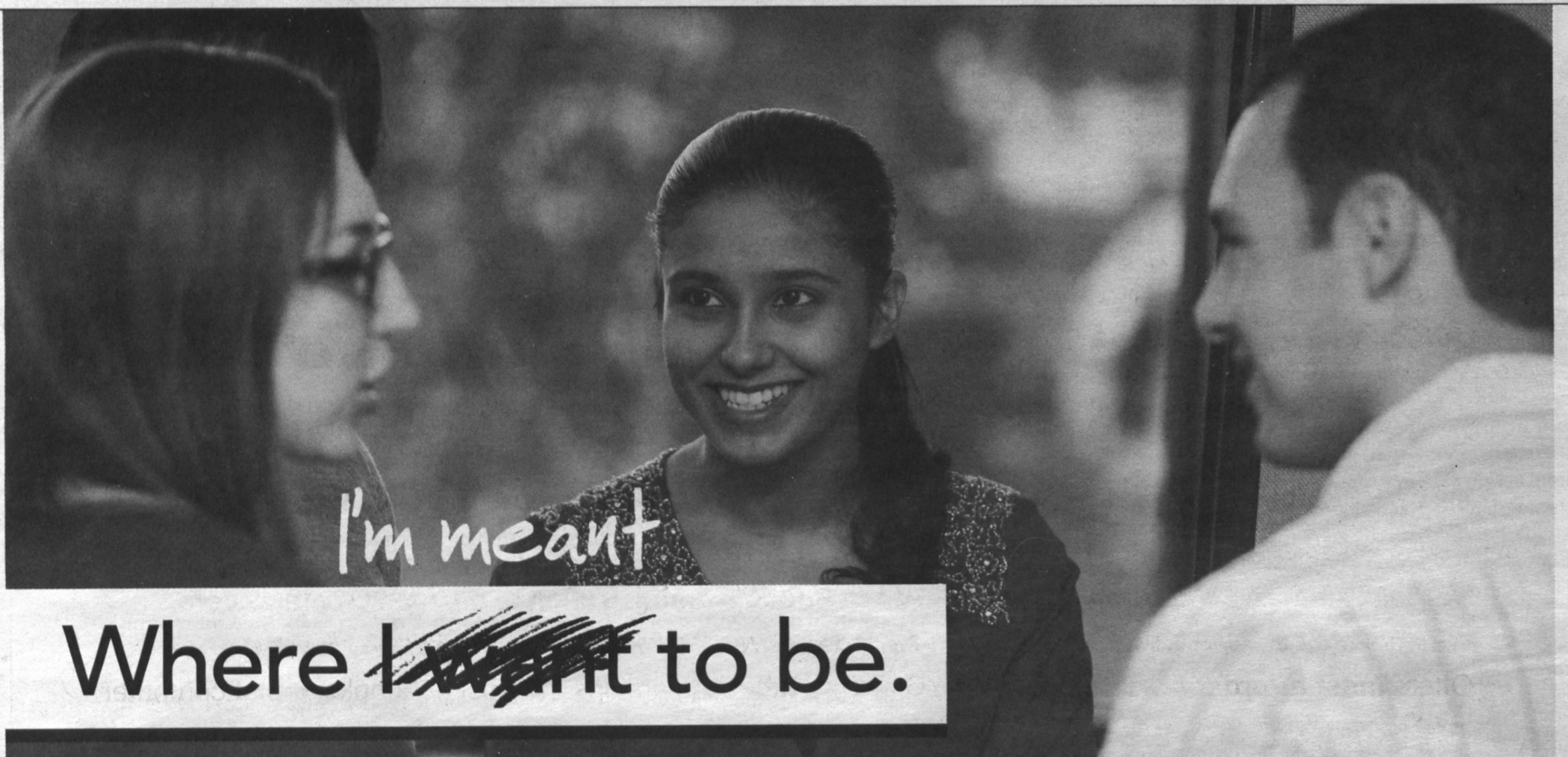
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# Something borrowed, something blew

By Kate Valerio  
Contributing Writer

The best part about the end of summer is that you can finally stop living off cantaloupe and flavored seltzer water and switch to binging on Nutella-covered Oreos because your inevitable winter weight will be well hidden under oversized sweaters, which will pass off as "slouchy."

The best part about the end of

**Halloween is the dying cry of sexual freedom and celebrated singlehood.**

Valentine's Day is that you can finally stop going on dates with weirdos who never managed to master the correct use of your/you're in the tedious search for someone to bring home to mom and dad during the holiday season.

Valentine's Day marks the end of the seemingly endless string of holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Valentine's Day) that most of us would prefer to not spend alone and an end to your parents questioning your sexuality because you didn't bring a date home over winter break.

Because, for some reason, Netflix can't count as my boyfriend.

Halloween is the dying cry of sexual freedom and celebrated singlehood. Even though you had a great time hooking up with your roommate's friend on Halloween while dressed as Kim Possible (until you started throwing up that Four Loko), once the hangover subsides, it's time to hang up the patent leather stilettos in favor of a beige cashmere turtleneck to hide the hickeys and search for that perfect, quiet boy with a matching religion to bring home for the holidays.

Those unlucky souls, present company included, who did not secure a mate, retreat into their carton of Ben and Jerry's Phish Phood to be washed down with a bottle of Chianti through a straw, all while watching "Breaking Bad" with our cockapoo for the duration of Relationship Season. It is in this pit we wallow until the heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are half-off.

Flash forward to Feb. 15: the day that hibernation ends. Sweet tranquility enfolds you as the commercials reminding you to buy something special for your nonexistent lover finally end, the teddy bears that say "I love you" finally stop mocking you from the shelf, Instagram will no longer be plastered with pictures of hearts made from rose petals and I can finally stop telling my parents that I'm not a lesbian, I'm just single.

Couples are the ones that now

retreat into their dorm-sized bed together to look at property taxes in different parts of the country, and fold socks together be-

**Valentine's Day marks the end of the seemingly endless string of holidays... that most of us would prefer to not spend alone.**

cause it's now time for us singles to rule.

As the weather very, very slowly begins to warm, the Army of the Unattached comes out of hiding to spread our seed while our poor, coupled roommates will have to hear all the war stories of those we've conquered. Those that must listen to the conquered tales of "That Guy I Met in CPR Class" and "The One that Failed Out of School," will go to bed at night, head nestled in the crook of someone's hairy armpit content, but secretly wondering about life on the other side of Valentine's Day.

# The way to progress is talking

Continued from page 10

man. We all are. And at the basis of all of our struggles are the core moral values and principles that do not make us very different at all.

Through conversation, my understanding can be made evident. Though I am not African American, I can sympathize. I do have something to offer, whether it be support or an ear to lend to the Lives Matter movement.

Etan Thomas mentioned in his speech that parents constantly have to engage in discussions or "the talk" with their children about how to behave if a police officer were to approach them. They must never move suddenly. They should always converse with the officer courteously. They should make all intentions plain and clear when reaching into a back pocket, slowly and clearly state, "I am now reaching for my ID." Then reach for it slowly.

The sad reality of this was conveyed with gravity, but also a sense of masked vexation against law enforcement for being part of what many African Americans see as institutional racism.

Although it is undeniable that police brutality against minorities does exist, it is a fact that is being hammered into the fabric of African American youth, with fewer acknowledgements given to the fact that the majority of law enforcement is there to protect everyone.

Instead of fueling hatred towards law enforcement, both sides,

the black and the blue, need to understand one another's sentiments in order to begin fostering better relations.

But just as officers need to be aware of the uncomfortable conversation that African American parents need to have with youths, African American parents and youths need to be mindful that the parents of trainees of the NYPD also have to have uncomfortable conversations with their children as well.

Established NYPD officers also need to keep their young officers aware of the stigma rising against themselves and remind them constantly to be even more diligent and cautious when dealing with minority suspects. The point of the plight is not to debate who has it worse, but to accept that everyone is fighting against stigmas and strifes.

These are only a few of the conversations that fall under the umbrella of the Lives Matter movement. It is a conversation that every single member of society needs to be a part of and it needs to be one that is approached with willingness and, above all, understanding.

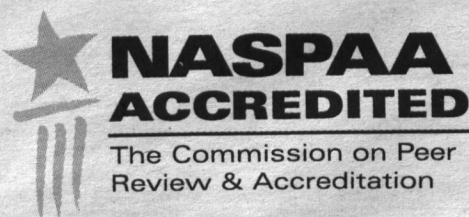
We may not always agree, but it is important to be engaged no matter how uncomfortable or ugly the reality of these murky issues may seem. We are obligated as a community as diverse as our own to forge forward in order to break barriers against racial oppression through discourse and through listening.

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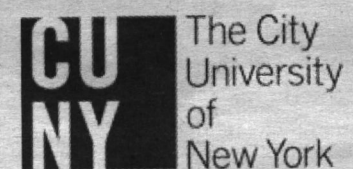
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# Points in the Paint: Roland Nyama becoming a pivotal piece and women's team hitting its stride

By David Vertsberger  
and Joe Galotti  
Assistant Sports Editor  
and Sports Editor

## Point #1: Stony Brook's road win over Albany was huge.

Through this regular season's highs and lows, little has measured up to the challenge that the Seawolves will most likely face come March: playing and beating Albany on the road in SEFCU Arena in the postseason.

The Great Danes were 12-0 in conference play before SBU took a trip to the state's capital and handed them their first loss. Although this was just one win, it has a few implications.

For one, this win gives Stony Brook a seeding advantage by giving the Seawolves the edge over New Hampshire, which has the same conference record and has split its series with SBU.

Secondly, the win could give the Seawolves confidence heading into a postseason meeting with Albany, having already beaten the Great Danes once.

Although Peter Hooley is still working to get back into game form and it took a breakout performance from Scott King to win the contest, Stony Brook's victory is a stark message to the world and themselves that no team can feel safe facing off against its squad.

## Point #2: The SBU women's basketball is heating up at the right time.

With the America East tourna-



BASIL JOHN/THE STATESMAN

## The performance of junior Brittany Snow has been one of the biggest reasons for her team's strong play of late.

ment quickly approaching, the Stony Brook women's basketball team finds itself playing its best basketball of the season.

The Seawolves have excelled in conference play as of late, winning seven of their last nine games.

The team's offensive play has been the driving force behind its recent hot stretch.

Stony Brook has scored at least 60 points in each of their previous seven wins.

Over the team's first 18 games, SBU failed to reach the 60-point mark 10 times.

Christa Scognamiglio has been a big reason for the team's increased offensive output.

The sophomore forward has scored in double-digit figures in six of the team's past seven.

Kori Bayne-Walker is thriving in the role as the team's main distributor.

The sophomore leads the America East in assists per game during conference play.

The one knock against Stony Brook entering this weekend, was that they have struggled when some of the conference's top teams.

But, on Sunday the Seawolves put those concerns to rest when they defeated conference powerhouse Albany.

Over the past nine games Stony Brook has proved that their capable of beating anyone in the America East.

Now they will have to sustain this high level of play through the America East tournament in March.

## Point #3: The Seawolves thrive when redshirt freshman Roland Nyama thrives.

Stony Brook is now 7-2 when Nyama scores ten or more points and 3-0 when he scores 20 or more.

These are select games in a long season, but those numbers are hard to ignore, especially when you factor in that the Seawolves are 13-3 when three players score in double-digits.

Although it is nearly impossible for SBU to die by Nyama's game, with him consistently playing strong defense and oozing energy on the court, the Seawolves sure can live by him when he is on his game.

Nyama is now the most efficient shooter on the team statistically, so the only thing left is getting him to actually shoot.

On some nights, Nyama will take any foot of space and let it fly to much success.

Nyama is shooting just under 40 percent from deep in games where he takes three or more threes.

On other nights, he stays gun-shy both from distance and in looking for seams and lanes to the hoop.

He is still only a freshman, but as unfair as it sounds, Stony Brook will desperately need Nyama to look for his shot and knock it down come the postseason.

## Point #4: The Seawolves will need Proctor to be at the top of her game in order to succeed in March.

No one can argue that Sabre Proctor has put together a fantastic season this year for Stony Brook.

Coming into Sunday, her 14.9

points per game ranked fourth-highest in the conference, and her 6.7 rebounds per game ranked eighth highest in the America East. She has also managed to reach double-digit point totals in 21 games.

But, during some of the Seawolves biggest conference matchups this season, Proctor has failed to deliver.

This was the case in the team's 57-49 loss to Maine on Feb. 15.

The senior shot only 1-of-7 from the floor, and totaled just three points in a game in which her team was in need of an offensive boost, against one of the conference's top defenses.

Proctor also struggled offensively in Stony Brook's 60-58 loss to Hartford back on Jan. 29.

She shot only 2-of-7 from the field, scoring just seven points in her team's one possession defeat.

On Sunday against Albany it was a much different story for Proctor.

She led the team with 21 points, shooting 7-of-9 from the field, and was a major difference maker for the Seawolves.

Stony Brook's recent matchups against some of the conference's elite teams have showcased that the Seawolves will go as far as Proctor will carry them.

When Proctor is on her game, SBU is capable of beating any America East foe they encounter. When she is not, winning becomes a much more difficult task for the team.

The bottom line is that if the Seawolves are to make a deep postseason run, they will need their best player, Proctor, to play as well as she did on Sunday against the Great Danes.

## Softball picks up two wins at Florida Gulf Coast Tournament

By Dylan Moore  
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook softball team kicked off its 2015 season this past weekend in the Florida Gulf Coast Tournament. The team saw mixed results in their opening weekend, as they picked up wins in two out of their five games.

The season opener was a rough outing for Stony Brook, as they fell 8-1 to Oakland. Senior Shayla Giosia solo home run in the fourth inning would be the lone offensive bright spot in the game for SBU. The Golden Grizzlies had a pair of big innings, scoring four runs in both the third

and sixth inning.

Junior Jane Sallen gave up eight runs on eight hits, as she picked up the loss in her first start of 2015.

The second game was noticeably better for Stony Brook. Up against Bethune-Cookman, the Seawolves were able to rally with two outs in the bottom of the seventh to even the score and send the game to extra innings.

The Seawolves won the game 3-2, thanks to a walk-off RBI double by Patty Borges in the ninth.

Freshman Maddy Neales pitched 3.2 innings for Stony Brook, giving up two runs on four hits, walking three and striking out two. Sallen came in for relief and pitched

5.1 innings with only one hit and four strikeouts.

Day two of the tournament would be another split for the Seawolves. Stony Brook took on Purdue in the first game on Saturday. The Seawolves jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning on a two-run RBI single off the bat of Giosia, but the lead would not stand as they allowed Purdue to comeback and tie the game. In the bottom of the sixth, the Seawolves took the lead once again, this time off the bat of Bria Green. Green knocked Giosia home with the game-winning single.

Sallen got the win for Stony Brook, in the team's 3-2 victory. She went seven innings and allowing only two

runs on eight hits.

Stony Brook's record fell to 2-2 after a 9-6 loss in the fourth game of the tournament against Oakland for the second time. The Seawolves quickly fell behind, 4-0, after the first inning after the Golden Grizzlies played a lot of small ball.

Stony Brook tied the game in the top of the fifth after an RBI double by junior Melissa Phelan and a two-run home run off the bat of Green. The Seawolves took a one-run lead in the top of the sixth, but the Golden Grizzlies plated four in the bottom of the sixth, making the score 9-6.

The Seawolves finished the tournament 2-3 after a five-inning, 10-2 loss to Florida Gulf Coast.

## Hockey three-peats as ESCHL Champs after OT win

By Cameron Boon  
Assistant Sports Editor

JT Hall had an open shot in front, and he did not waste the championship-winning chance.

Brendan Caello had the puck in the corner, and chipped it out in front of the net where Hall was waiting to give the Stony Brook club hockey team its third straight ESCHL championship in overtime, winning it 5-4 on Sunday afternoon.

The championship game had all of the drama a title game should, as the

Seawolves overcame an early 2-0 deficit for the second-straight game.

After falling behind, the Seawolves put together four straight goals, two in the second and two in the third, to take a 4-2 lead.

Tyler Underhill was able to snipe a shot top shelf past Dylan Troiano, who had a fantastic game going for 48 saves.

Sam Brewster was able to put the team up 3-2 with a similar shot, but after the Seawolves got their fourth, UD made a comeback.

The rally was capped with 90 sec-

onds remaining, when Paul Zucker put a rebound off the boards past a diving Derek Willms to tie the score at four.

After close to two-thirds of the overtime period had evaporated, it looked as if the Seawolves were not going to convert a chance, but it was Hall who saved them and their streak of titles with the winner.

In the semifinals Saturday afternoon, it was Hall and Brewster stealing the show, as the Hall set up Brewster three times for a goal, including the game-winner in a 6-2 win. The

Lake Grove, N.Y. native also added a goal of his own in the victory.

After falling behind 2-0 in the first period, the Seawolves scored five goals in a row to seize control and avoid an upset bid.

It was Brewster who gave the Seawolves the lead for good earlier in the period, scoring the first of his three goals when he wound up and ripped one top shelf from the left face-off circle.

He would later score on a 2 on 1 with Hall and an empty netter, which the forward also assisted on.

## Upcoming SBU Sports Schedule

### Men's Basketball

Wednesday, Feb. 25  
7 p.m. vs. UMass-Lowell

Saturday, Feb. 28  
7 p.m. at Hartford

### Women's Basketball

Thursday, Feb. 26  
7 p.m. at Binghamton

Sunday, Mar. 1  
2 p.m. at Hartford

### Baseball

Fri-Sun, Feb. 27-Mar. 1  
at Florida  
Three-game series

### Softball

Fri-Sun, Feb. 27-Mar. 1  
North Florida  
Tournament

### Men's Lacrosse

Saturday, Feb. 28  
12 p.m. vs. Fairfield

### Women's Lacrosse

Saturday, Feb. 28  
3 p.m. vs. Drexel

# Seawolves heat up ahead of America East Tournament

By Andrew Eichenholz  
Assistant Sports Editor

No, Roland Nyama was not in the building, but the three-point ball was still on fire for the Seawolves on Sunday afternoon. This time, it was senior Sabre Proctor who hit a couple of long-range bombs to change the momentum and lead a deep-ball barrage, catapulting the Stony Brook's women's basketball team on a second-half surge to beat Albany, 68-64.

It was only fitting that it was Proctor and senior Jessica Ogunnorin, who hit a late three-pointer and a free throw that gave the Seawolves breathing room, that got the job done on their Senior Night at Island Federal Credit Union Arena.

Head Coach Caroline McCombs' described both Proctor and Ogunnorin's play on both ends of the floor, which contributed to ending Albany's 30-game in-conference road winning streak, as "special moments".

"Those were key moments where we needed plays to be made and they were able to make them," she said.

When both McCombs and Albany's Head Coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson drew up their respective game plans before the contest, both more than likely heavily incorporated their best players, Proctor and junior Shereesha Richards of the Great Danes.

However, early foul trouble for both teams virtually eliminated them from the first half. Two apiece only al-



BASIL JOHN / THE STATESMAN

**Senior forward Sabre Proctor had a game-high 21 points, in the Seawolves 68-64 win over Albany on Sunday afternoon. She shot 7-of-9 from the field in the victory.**

lowed Proctor to stay on the court for five minutes, while Richards had to take a seat after eight.

That forced a sloppy, grind-it-out opening 20 minutes in which the Seawolves and Great Danes combined for 23 turnovers. Albany pressed Stony Brook, putting pressure on any and all Seawolves ball-handlers, while McCombs' team played tight defense on the other end.

In the second half, with both stars back on the floor, it looked as if Richards would show why she deserved to

win the America East Player of the Year once again after taking it last season. She dominated down low early on, before the Seawolves adjusted.

"She takes five players to guard her and so we were able to stay with the game plan as their guards made some shots," McCombs said. "We just stayed the course."

When they made headway in shutting down the most potent offensive threat for the Great Danes, it was because of sending double-and-triple teams Richards' way, forcing her into

bad shots or team turnovers.

Proctor on the other hand came out firing in the second half, scoring 17 of her 21 points in the final 20 minutes.

"I just wanted to stay composed and I wanted to keep my team together," Proctor said. "We just wanted to stay composed and wanted to get stops and try to score on the offensive end."

That she did, pacing her team to their biggest win of the season. Junior Brittany Snow finished with 17 points and seven rebounds while sophomore

Kori Bayne-Walker tallied 14 points and five assists while breaking the press of the Great Danes.

It was a great follow-up to what was a solid performance for Stony Brook on Wednesday night.

The Seawolves scored only 15 points in the first half of their game against UMass-Lowell in Island Federal Credit Union Arena.

It took them just 6:05 in the second half to do the same, and it was their energy coming out in the second half that propelled the Seawolves to a win over the River Hawks.

After only scoring 49 points in a tough loss the game before against the top team in the America East Conference, Maine, pouring in 47 in the second half alone was an impressive feat.

Snow, who is always a menace on the glass, nearly outscored the entire UMass-Lowell team by herself in an efficient second twenty minutes. After staying quiet on the scoreboard, grabbing five boards in the first, Snow heated up those who came into Island FCU Arena from the cold with 17 points on 8-of-10 shooting. She had 19 on the night, helping earn a big conference win.

The Seawolves will look to secure the third seed for the America East Tournament with two road games to close out what has been an up-and-down regular season slate. A win over either Binghamton or Hartford will do the trick, as McCombs and company charge full steam ahead into March.

## Men's lacrosse routs NJIT Highlanders

By Chris Peraino  
Staff Writer

Stony Brook men's lacrosse hosted the NJIT Highlanders' first Division I lacrosse game in school history this Friday.

The Seawolves were dominant on both sides of the ball, winning the match handily, with a final score of 18-4.

Stony Brook struck early, as sophomore midfielder Alex Corpolongo buried a shot within the first two minutes of the game off an assist from junior Chris Hughes. Corpolongo ended the day with a hat trick, equals the amount of goals he scored all of last season.

"I was just hungry from the end of the season last year to get after it. I know we have a good group of guys. I just want to be a part of making a difference on the team and doing something special this year," Corpolongo said.

The team kept its momentum up throughout the first quarter, with goals from last year's team point leader, senior Mike Rooney, another from Corpolongo, junior Matt Schultz and junior Brody Eastwood, the team's leading goal scorer for the previous two seasons.

Stony Brook's defense also started off the game at a scorching pace, as NJIT failed to attempt a shot or win a face-off all throughout the first quarter.

"We were just kind of working out what we worked on all week, which was time of possession and sharing on defense. We didn't really get a lot of looks on defense, but the guys did a nice job possessing the ball," Coach Jim Nagle said.

Matt Schultz scored two quick goals to start off the second quarter, both of which came within the first five minutes of play.

Schultz finished the day with four goals, two assists and picking up six groundballs.

This was the second four-goal game of the junior's career, the other coming during last year's game at Fairfield in which he tallied seven points.

"I've been shooting pretty poorly lately, so I was just trying to take reps after practice and before practice and honestly, I was just focused on hustling today and just trying to make plays all over the field," Schultz said. "I feel like once I kind of lit a fire under my butt, just to run and ride hard, and just trying to get ground balls in the beginning and then my shots started falling. It was good to see them in the back of the net," he added.

With a score of 8-1 Stony Brook at the half, Nagle found playing time for the underclassmen and non-starters on the team. Freshman midfielder McLean Chiquen, freshman midfielder Derek Lloyd and sophomore attack Chris Stemke all recorded their first goals in a Stony Brook uniform.

"[It was] a really good day for us to play a lot of kids that have been practicing, and working hard and not have opportunity to play in a game. That was the biggest plus for us, as well as the way I thought our guys were sportsmen like today, so I was really happy," Nagle said.

Other goal scorers included junior attack Challen Rogers, sophomore midfielder Ryan Bitzer and junior midfielder Jake Sichenzia.

NJIT made a late run, putting three consecutive goals in the back of the net during the fourth quarter, but that proved to be too little, too late.

"We just got to continue to play and work hard within our system and believe in what we're doing. I think that when you start doing that, you'll see some of those late breakdowns disappear," Nagle said.

Freshman attack Jake Sheets lead the team with three assists, while sophomore midfielder Jay Lindsay recovered seven ground balls and went 9-11 on his face-offs.

Stony Brook came into the game suffering from a tough loss to St. John's, during which the Red Storm went on a 7-0 end game run to take the win.

"[St. John's] was a really tough loss for us because we were just disappointed in the way we finished it, the character in which we finished," Nagle said. "It feels good to get a win under your belt, but really, we weren't really tested today, so we're really looking to show what we can do and get that out of our memories on Sunday."

This team was looking forward to a matchup with the two-time defending national champion Blue Devils at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium, but Duke was unable to get out of Durham, N.C. due to the weather that has hit most of the country the past two weeks.

The matchup will now take place on April 15 at 7 p.m., with both teams getting a break from conference play.

Their next matchup is at home against Fairfield on Feb. 28, as they host the Stags at 7 p.m.

## Stony Brook baseball drops two out of three in Louisiana

By Jesse Borek  
Staff Writer

For the second consecutive week, the Seawolves (2-4) dropped a series on the road in the state of Louisiana, this time to the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (4-3).

The weekend got off to a dreary start Friday evening, as the Seawolves jumped out to an early 3-0 lead, before allowing seven unanswered runs en route to a 7-3 defeat. Things fell apart for ace Tyler Honahan in the fifth inning, as he allowed three runs in that frame alone.

Tagged with the loss was reliever Chad Lee, who allowed four earned runs in the sixth inning, putting Stony Brook in a four-run hole it could not crawl out of.

Due to the weather expected on Sunday, the series finale was moved up to Saturday evening, making for the Seawolves' first doubleheader of the year.

There would be no letdown from the pitching staff during the two games on Saturday, as they allowed a combined three runs.

The first of those to be stealthy was sophomore Daniel Zamora, who had his second-consecutive impressive start. He retired the first 14 batters he would face before polishing off six innings of work, also striking out seven batters and allowing just a single run.

In relief, side-winding freshman left-hander Teddy Rodliff slammed the door going the final three frames while allowing just a single hit and walk, with no runners crossing the plate for the three-inning save.

The early game would be the only

one of the series where the Seawolves' bats came out scorching. Seven of the nine starters got hits, including multi-hit efforts from junior Jack Parenty and senior Cole Peragine.

The name of the game was making contact, as Stony Brook struck out just twice the entire game, forcing the Ragin' Cajuns into making three errors on the defensive side of the ball en route to a 4-1 victory that evened up the series.

In the rubber match, the lack of punch in the Seawolves' bats came back to bite them.

Mustering just three hits in their second game of the day, one run was not enough cushion for the pitching, no matter how stingy they were.

Charged with the loss was junior Edwin Corniel, but it was sophomore closer Cameron Stone who gave up the game-clinching hit in the bottom of the eighth, leading to the Seawolves' 2-1 loss.

It was the second-consecutive convincing start from junior Tim Knesnik, who tossed four innings and allowed just three hits and two walks, along with just one run, as he earned a no decision.

The only Seawolf to have a hit in all three games was senior second baseman Robert Chavarria.

After an opening weekend where the lineup featured no changes, the same remained true in the second consecutive weekend in Louisiana.

Next up for Stony Brook is a journey down to Gainesville, Fla., for a collision with the national powerhouse Florida Gators.

After losing their first two series, the Seawolves will be matched up with a top-5 Gators squad.

# SPORTS

## Nyama's 22 points lead Seawolves past Binghamton

By David Vertsberger  
Assistant Sports Editor

Not even the pounding snow-fall outside could stop Seawolves freshman Roland Nyama from heating up on Saturday night.

Nyama scored 22 points on 6-of-7 shooting from deep to propel Stony Brook to a 64-52 victory at home over Binghamton.

"It was a good week. 2-0, we beat the number one team in our conference and we beat a good Binghamton team," Jameel Warney, who scored 11 points and collected eight boards, said following the win. "We're just happy we got better over this week."

Coming off a major win at Albany, Stony Brook needed a win against the Bearcats to maintain its standing as the third seed. The Seawolves took an early 9-2 lead out of the gate behind an opening-possession three from who else but Nyama and three turnovers in a little over four minutes from Binghamton. The Bearcats opened play in a zone, but would switch throughout the night, sometimes playing man, pressing and trapping full-court in different sequences to throw Stony Brook off.

"They did a great job against Vermont doing that stuff," Head Coach Steve Pikiell said. "When you do that kind of defense, you give up a lot of things and you get some things, too. They're second in the league in steals, but then they give up open jumpshots, lay-ups and fouls. Have to take



Roland Nyama (above, no. 24) went 5-5 from three-point range in the second half on his way to 22 points, his third 20-point outing of the season, in a 64-52 win over Binghamton.

advantage of what they're doing. I thought [Carson Puriefoy] did a real good job of handling a lot of different looks and still moving the ball where it needs to be moved," he added.

Puriefoy was able to get a slew of open court opportunities by slicing through the backcourt pressure, scoring a team-high 10 points in the opening half. However, this is not to say Stony Brook excelled on the offensive end in the first 20 minutes. After making four of their first five shots, the Seawolves went into a drought in

the wake of Binghamton's stifling defense. Having trouble crossing midcourt, SBU shot just 3-14 in an eight-minute stretch following its strong start. Warney could only get involved when Binghamton went to strictly man, but even during the few times that occurred he was promptly double- and triple-teamed.

The Bearcats failed to take control with turnovers killing their offensive possessions. The Seawolves adjusted to Binghamton's defense, sparking a 12-4 run in the final minutes of the first half to hold a

five-point advantage at the break.

The second half quickly turned into the Nyama show, as the freshman poured in back-to-back-to-back threes in the opening three minutes of the period.

"I would love to say I could shoot last year," Nyama said. "It was something I really worked on during my redshirt year."

Following this 11-0 run capped off by a Deshaun Thrower score, Pikiell sat Nyama down and Binghamton responded with a 10-2 run of its own. However, Nyama's energy once again sparked a mas-

sive 19-5 run to put the Seawolves in the driver's seat for good.

"I think we have some good shooters and Roland when he gets it going he's as good as any of them," Pikiell said. "When Jameel gets double-teamed and someone's going to be open we made the extra pass today, he was the beneficiary of it. I loved his energy, I thought his defense more importantly was really good. Everyone sees the shots go in but the guys he was guarding have been averaging 15, 16 points a game and he did a real good job of keeping guys in front of him and getting some active rebounds."

Nyama came away with a steal and a slam, as well as another couple of threes.

"Thing is, I really don't realize it until my teammates keep feeding me the ball. We had 16 assists today and all my makes came off assists. It's just great to know that my teammates believe in me and keep giving me the ball," Nyama said. "At the end of the day if I have 20 plus or a good game, it's really because my teammates make my job a lot easier."

Hartford's loss on Friday night clinched a postseason home game for the Seawolves, who now look to close out their regular season with UMass-Lowell and Hartford ahead on the schedule.

"We can't drop these next two games," Warney said of the challenge ahead. "It doesn't matter if we have a home game if we're playing bad basketball to get there."

## Women's lacrosse wins home opener over USC

By Andrew Eichenholz  
Assistant Sports Editor

USC was not the Bucknell team that the Stony Brook women's lacrosse team dismantled in an 18-1 blitzing on opening day last season.

Yet, Head Coach Joe Spallina's Seawolves handled the Trojans just the same, beating a much better Trojans squad by a score of 7-4.

USC previously lost to the No. 5 team in the country, the Northwestern Wildcats.

Spallina made it a point before the season to tout the strength of his team's offense, but it was the aggressive nature of the Seawolves' zone defense that suffocated the Trojans.

"We knew our defense was going to be the thing today," Spallina said. "It's a great first 'W' against a great opponent, well-coached, great athletes and beating Southern Cal, USC, is a nice 'W' for Stony Brook."

As the Seawolves welcomed a team from across the country in their first game, they brought in a local tradition to account for giving the team credit for their performance.

Like the New York Rangers, Spallina and company are welcoming the Broadway Hat tradition to the team.

Whoever gets the hat will than be able to sign it, decorate it and add their own touch to it, spreading the wealth of the victory rather than just letting those who show up in the papers shine.

"I think it's a lot of times the kids

who show up on the stat sheet get a lot of the love," Spallina said. "We're not taking away from that, but we're going to give [it to] an offensive player, a defensive player and than an unsung hero each game."

On Saturday afternoon, however, the hat was not a necessity to show the few fans in attendance on a frigid day at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium that the Seawolves could put in a complete team performance.

That includes a couple of newcomers to Stony Brook, as freshmen Kylie Ohlmiller and Samantha DiSalvo were both all over the field.

"Our incoming freshmen this year, they play a big role," sophomore Dorian Van Dyke said. "Sam DiSalvo, she gets up and down the field, plays offense and defense well. Kylie, she is a sick attacker, she can get the shot off at any level, behind her back, when she's mid-fall, she can just do it all."

It may not have showed in her numbers for the game, but it was DiSalvo who was playing a very Michelle Rubino-esque game.

At one moment, she would be in the attacking third, keeping the ball cycling throughout the offense. The next, back on the defensive end, rushing to whomever held the ball for the opposing Trojans.

In the third of the field that many do not track as closely, DiSalvo held down the midfield, fighting for every ground ball. She would scoop up two in the contest.

Ohlmiller, who Spallina said could

be among Tewaaron Award favorites as the best player in the nation by the time her career comes to an end, did not end up tallying her first career goal for the Seawolves.

Instead, she did everything else to help her team win. Many if not all of Stony Brook's possessions went through the newcomer, and she contributed two assists.

She almost notched her first as a Seawolf with a highlight-reel worthy shot while falling over just outside of the crease, but the goal was disallowed by the referees for an illegal stick.

One of Stony Brook's key defenders, redshirt junior Maegan Meritz, who was named to the America East's Second Team last season, showed toughness all game long. She was hit hard twice in the face, yet still managed to get after it aggressively, helping keep the Trojans' offense in check.

"That's really a tribute to the way she plays," Spallina said about Meritz's positioning on the field. "A year ago or two years ago she would have gotten her stick there and fouled somebody, now she's getting her body in those areas."

Surprising nobody were Van Dyke and fellow sophomore Courtney Murphy, who topped the scoring list for freshmen across the nation last season. Both scored two goals in the solid season-opening win.

Stony Brook looks to make it 2-0 on the season when the Seawolves host Drexel on Feb. 28 at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.

## Head Coach Joe Spallina has contract extended thru 2019

By Joe Galotti  
Sports Editor

Since being hired as Head Coach of the Stony Brook women's lacrosse team back in June of 2012, Joe Spallina has brought nothing but success to the program. Under his leadership the team has won two NCAA tournament games, nailed down a pair of America East tournament championships and produced three IWLCFA All-Americans.

Spallina's positive influence on the Seawolves has not gone unnoticed. Just one day before the team's season opener, the Stony Brook Athletics Department made the decision to ensure that the program's all-time winningest coach will be in the fold for years to come.

Director of Athletics Shawn Heilbron announced on Friday that the university has extended Spallina's contract through June of 2019.

"Joe has worked tirelessly to establish Stony Brook as one of the top women's lacrosse programs in the country, and I am thrilled he will continue to lead our student-athletes towards even greater heights," Heilbron said in a statement. "Long Island is a national hotbed for lacrosse, and Joe is a homegrown product who has

done a phenomenal job of turning Stony Brook into a premier destination for top talent."

Spallina now enters his fourth season at the helm for the SBU women's lacrosse team after spending four years coaching at Adelphi. The Seawolves are 49-12 overall, and 15-2 in conference play, with him as Head Coach.

One of the biggest reasons Spallina decided to sign the contract extension was his faith in the man leading the university's Athletics department.

"It came down to that I believe in the Athletics Director. Shawn is lights out," Spallina said on Saturday, after his team's season opening victory. "I know he's a huge proponent of our program, giving us every resource that USC, or Ohio State, or any one of the big programs have."

Spallina also lives on Long Island, where he and his wife have four kids, and a fifth on the way. The extension allows him to stay put in a place where his family is comfortable while also giving him an opportunity to coach a team that can potentially be a contender in the NCAA tournament for years to come.

"There's no place I'd rather be," Spallina said. "I know I can get it done here. I know we will get it done here."