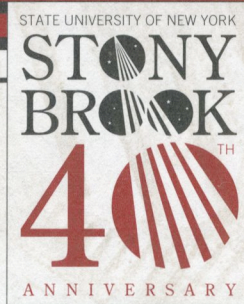


HAPPENINGS

FACULTY/STAFF/FRIENDS NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 5 NO.2 FEBRUARY 4, 1998

Mentors Needed

If you are a faculty or staff person who enjoys interacting with students, the Mentor Program needs you, and soon. Fifty students are waiting for a mentor.

The program was started in 1985 to help undergraduates navigate their way through college successfully. Mentors meet periodically with their assigned mentees. The mentor is someone to whom the student can vent—about academics, roommate troubles, or whatever issues are pressing. Mentors often refer their mentees to other sources of help; if a student is experiencing a painful breakup, the mentor would refer them to the Counseling Center. Academic questions (“am I taking the right courses to major in engineering?”) would be referred to the appropriate academic department, or to the Academic Advising Center.

Once mentors and mentees are paired, they decide how often to meet, and in what context. It's not unusual for meetings to take place off campus, and many mentees stay in touch long after they have graduated. Stony Brook alumna Mercy Erike, who is now an academic advisor here, recalls the guidance and support she received from international student advisor Ralph Morrison. Morrison (who has since passed away) invited Erike home to share dinner with his family, and eventually she babysat for the kids when Morrison and his wife were on vacation. “I'll never forget him,” Erike says. “He really cared.”

The Mentor Program is run by the Center for Academic Advising. It is coordinated by Erike and her colleague Randy Thomas. Since its inception, the program has served 5,000 students. This semester 350 (matriculated) undergraduates are paired with mentors, with a waiting list.

If you'd like to volunteer to become a mentor, please call Mercy Erike at 2-7082.

Calling All Singles

If you're a single, divorced, or widowed faculty or staff member, the University Association is forming a new group just for you. Plans are being made to bring Stony Brook singles together for film nights and theatre parties, gourmet cooking classes, city walking and dining tours, computer “how-to” sessions, ski trips, panel discussions on living single in the '90s, hiking, concerts, card and game nights . . . and more! Your ideas and participation are welcome. Please pass the word along, and call Vicky Katz at 2-6311 for more information. Remember, you won't meet anyone sitting at home alone on the couch, eating ice cream out of the container.

A Scientific Look at Love

by Susan Risoli

I like Diet Coke. Wait a minute, that's not me, that's my spouse! If you too find yourself so close to some one that you forget where you end and they begin, you're not alone. Arthur Aron, associate professor of psychology, has found evidence that the way we think about “self” and “other” melds in direct proportion to how close the relationship is.

Aron studied close friends, parents and children, and those in romantic relationships. He found that the closer a relationship is, and the more love that is reported by the people in it, the more overlap there will be in how someone processes information about themselves and their partner. “It's as if the other person is part of yourself,” Aron says. In relationships that are not close, there is a clear separation in the way one thinks of oneself and that person.

Aron also discovered that the more blending there is between “self” and “other,” the longer a relationship will last. But does longevity equal success? “I never use the word ‘successful,’” Aron points out. “That's a value judgement. Sometimes it's a bad thing for a relationship to last.”

The study was conducted by asking people to read a list of 90 adjectives (such as “artistic” or “ambitious”) and indicate which traits did, and did not, apply to themselves and the other person in the relationship being examined. Later on the subjects viewed each adjective one at a time on a computer screen, and were asked to press “T” for “true, that trait applies to me”, or “F” for “no, it doesn't.” Their speed in doing so was affected by whether or not they thought the trait applied to their partners as well. Being confused (even for a split second) about just who possessed what trait set up an “interference,” says Aron, caused by the notion that “my partner is part of me.”

Love and the Self

Aron has also studied people before and after they fall in love. He concludes that the “self” expands when one is struck with Cupid's arrow. “After you fall in love, you see yourself as more variegated and as having more aspects to who you are,” he says. This research was done by tracking large (600 people) classes over the course of a semester at Stanford University. Every few weeks, participants were asked to describe themselves. “After the people fell in love, their descriptions of who they were, and the diversity of their self-concepts, increased,” Aron reports.

Aron's self/other cognitive work has been accepted for publication in *Social Cognition*, and was previously published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, which also published the “falling in love” study.

Aron collaborates with Stony Brook graduate student Barbara Fraley, and with his wife, research scientist Elaine Aron (also a member of the psychology department.) How does all this “love stuff” affect their own relationship? “We're very aware of the dynamics of how relationships function,” Aron confesses. “We take advantage of that in dealing with the ups and downs of our own relationship.”

The Arons are seeking married couples to participate in a study of long-term relationships. Subjects will be paid \$30 for one and one-half hours. To volunteer for the study, call the Arons' laboratory at 516-632-9601.



Teleconference on Learning Disabilities

The Office of Disabled Student Services will sponsor a teleconference on “Legal Insights on Issues for Adolescents and Adults with Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.” Attorneys who specialize in special education issues will speak. The event will be held Thursday, February 26, from 2-4 p.m., in the Javits Room (Room 105) of Melville Library. It is free, and all are welcome.

The teleconference will focus on student, faculty, and institutional responsibilities. “This is very important for faculty to be aware of,” says Monica Roth, coordinator of disabled student services. “Many times they'll say, this student looks fine to me. But they don't realize they have some legal responsibilities to provide academic accommodations.” These accommodations could include designated notetakers, extended test time, and a distraction-free environment. (Roth says Stony Brook has more than 100 students who require the extended test time.) For information on the teleconference or on learning disabilities, call Roth at 2-6748.

Queen Victoria, Model for Moderns

by Ann Ferrar Dusek

Looking for a good Valentine's Day read? Try *Queen Victoria's Secrets*, by Adrienne Munich, an English professor at Stony Brook.

Queen Victoria was a completely devoted wife who adored her husband, Prince Albert. Albert died when they were both only 42; Victoria donned black mourning garb and wore it for the rest of her life. At the same time, she was known to have a flirtatious—some would say amorous—friendship with a servant named John Brown. They exchanged sentimental Valentine's cards, which are still on record.

Munich feels that on some levels, the women of today's British royal family have modeled their behavior after Victoria's. “If you look at photos of the late Princess Diana, notice how she was often photographed leaning toward people,” Munich says. “There are hundreds of photographs of Victoria doing that, visiting hospitals, holding children and so on. The modern royals have been influenced by Victoria on how to capture people's imaginations.”

Queen Victoria's Secrets, originally published in hardcover in 1996, comes out this month as a Columbia paperback. With letters and diary entries, this book makes a nice choice for that special Valentine.

Stormy Weather

In case of inclement winter weather, the snow emergency numbers are 632-SNOW and 444-SNOW. Callers will receive information on campus driving and parking conditions, detailed class and event cancellations, and delays. The information will be updated hourly, if necessary. Provost Rollin Richmond makes the final decision to delay or cancel classes, based on advice from the Office of Facilities and Public Safety. If you're already at work and the weather outside is frightful (i.e., if conditions during the workday are deteriorating rapidly), employees who would like to leave early must have supervisory approval, and appropriate leave accruals must be charged. Only Governor Pataki can order State offices and facilities to be closed. So if employees choose not to report to work because they feel they shouldn't be out on the roads, they must call in and charge absences to accruals with supervisory approval.



—Issued by the Office of the President

CALENDAR

Calendar - February 4 - February 18

ART

2/4, Wednesday - 2/6, Friday. Student Sculpture Show. Stony Brook Union Art Gallery, Second Floor, Stony Brook Union. Monday through Friday or by appointment. For info call 632-6822.

2/4, Wednesday - 5/8, Friday. "Puerto Rico en Color" photographic exhibition featuring photographer Diane Tong. At the Latin American and Caribbean Center Conference Room (SBS N-320). Opening reception 2/5, Thursday, 4pm - 6pm.

2/4, Wednesday - 3/7, Saturday. University Art Gallery Master of Fine Arts Show. Noon through 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Friday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays, Art Gallery, Staller Center for the Arts. Featuring works by Cathleen Cavanagh, Nathan Japel, Ju-Yei Judy Lee, Marcia Neblett, Jason Paradis and Craig Zammiello. For info call 2-7240.

DANCE

2/4, Wednesday - 3/3, Tuesday. The Beat of the Drum: African Dance. Wellness Center, Student Activities Center, 6:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. 2-6850.

FILM

Get a \$25 season pass good for 20 films in the series or purchase an individual ticket for \$4, students, senior citizens and children 12 and under, \$3. For reservations and/or information, call the Staller Center Box Office at 516-632-7230.

2/6, Friday: "L.A. Confidential." 9:30 p.m., Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts.

2/12, Thursday: "Rosewood." 8 p.m., Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts.

2/13, Friday: "Fairytale: A True Story." 7 p.m., Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts.

2/13, Friday: "Soul Food." 9:30 p.m., Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts.

2/20, Friday: "Seven Years in Tibet." 9:30 p.m., Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts.

2/27, Friday: "Washington Square." 7 p.m., Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts.

2/27, Friday: "Starship Troopers." 9:30 p.m., Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts.

FOR CHILDREN

2/8, Sunday. Joanie Bartels, "Adventures with Family and Friends." 4 p.m., Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts. An afternoon of song and dance with one of the most popular performing artists in children's music. Tickets \$9. For info call the Staller Center Box Office at 2-7230.

LECTURE

2/5, Thursday. "The Brittle Ductile Transition and Fluid Transport in Crystalline Rocks." 4 p.m., Room 1234, Earth & Space Sciences Building. Department of Geosciences continues its 1998 Colloquium with a talk by Geosciences professor Teng-fong Wong. Free. For information, call 516-632-8200.

2/6, Friday. "The Science in Science Fiction." Professor Fred Walter. 7:30 p.m. Room 001, Earth and Space Sciences Building.

2/11, Wednesday. "Prehistoric Archaeology of Long Island." 4 p.m., Room 1234, Earth & Space Sciences Building. Anthropology professor David Bernstein. Free. For information, call 2-8200.

2/27, Friday. "When Push Came to Shove: How the Glaciers Formed Long Island." Professor Gilbert Hanson. 7:30 - 8:30 pm, Room 123, Earth & Space Sciences Building. Refreshments and lab tours after the presentation.

MUSIC

2/6, Friday. Inaugural Alumni Concert. Alexa Still, Flute. 8 p.m., Recital Hall, Staller Center for the Arts. With over a dozen CD's to her credit, New Zealand born Alexa Still, a Stony Brook graduate, makes her professional return to the Staller Center, accompanied by Stony Brook alumna, pianist Lisa Bergman. Tickets \$22. For info, call the Staller Center Box Office at 2-7230.

Viewpoints

Happenings is accepting Viewpoints of 500 words or less (we may edit for space). Topics may be serious or lighthearted. Please send to Editor, Happenings, Room 138 Administration 0605. Opinions expressed in Viewpoints are the those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Happenings staff.

Black History Month Is Not Just for Black People

For Black History Month to have any real significance, people of all races should participate. This celebration can educate all people, not just affirm we who have pride in our black heritage.

Martin Luther King Jr. said that true freedom can only exist when we are all equal—black and white, man and woman, parent and child—all races, colors, and creeds to be judged on the content of our character and not the color of our skin. Our pride and affirmation will come with understanding of this. If we are to be proud of our diversity we are going to have to extend beyond the safe boundaries of our own world.

For this to happen, first we must make every effort to be inclusive and not exclusive. There are many people who are interested in learning more about black history and do not participate in Black History Month because they do not feel that they will be welcome at the events. Everyone must feel that they have some vested interest in participating. Since our futures lie together we should understand each other's pasts.

For Black History Month to truly be successful, its events need to be attended not only by African-Americans. We must start looking past just taking Martin Luther King's birthday off as a holiday. If we celebrate each heritage by learning more about them and not just our own, we will then reach that mountain top that Martin Luther King spoke of.—Kim Anderson

(Kim Anderson is a designer in the Office of Communications and member of the Black History Month Planning Committee.)

Black History Month Events

2/5, Thursday. Blue Ark: The Word Ship. A live performance of poetry and jazz featuring Amiri Baraka, Amina Baraka, and guest poets and jazz musicians. For more information, contact Esther Traub, Africana Studies Department, 2-7470. Student Activities Center Auditorium, 7 p.m.

2/6, Friday. The Fight Against Prostate Cancer in Black Communities in Suffolk County. The Health Initiative for Underserved Communities honors the Department of Urology for its fight against prostate cancer in Suffolk County. For more information, contact Dr. Ronald C. Manning, JD, The Health Institute for Underserved Communities, University Hospital, 4-7880. Galleria - Level 3, Health Sciences Center, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

2/10, Tuesday - 2/25, Wednesday. Black History Month Exhibition. Stony Brook Union Art Gallery, Second Floor, Stony Brook Union. Work on the theme of "Face to Face" encounters between Jews and Blacks. Gallery hours are Noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday or by appointment. For info call 2-6822.

2/11, Wednesday. 1998 Black Expo. Emerging Leaders in the 21st Century. Designed to give students an opportunity to obtain information from African Americans in business, social services, education, politics, etc. Display tables will be set up for representatives from various organizations to meet students. For more information, contact the Black Expo Committee, c/o Polity, Suite 202 Student Activities Center. Student Activities Center Lobby, Noon - 5 p.m.

2/19, Thursday. "Crossing the Sea on a Sacred Song." Guest lecturer: Joseph Opala. A Gullah family finds its roots in Sierra Leone. Art Department, Staller Center, Room 3220, 4:00 p.m..

2/28, Saturday. The 10th Annual Black History Month Semi-Formal. Featured keynote speaker: The Honorable Barry Cozier, Justice. USB '71. Tickets at SB Union Ticket Office: \$13 USB students; \$15 non-USB students. For info, contact the Black History Month Semi-Formal Committee, c/o Polity, Suite 202, Student Activities Center. Ballroom, Stony Brook Union, 6 p.m.

2/23, Monday. Police Brutality Awareness Program. A forum on police brutality, including what to do when confronted or stopped by police. For info, contact Andre English, Student Black History Month Committee, 6-2549. UNITI Cultural Center, 8 p.m.

2/27, Friday. The Voices of Hope. An internationally known local gospel choir, Mary L. Sharpe, Director. All are welcome. For more information, contact Diane Piscitelli, School of Medicine, 4-2312. Student Activities Center Auditorium, 7 p.m.

For a complete listing of events contact Africana Studies department, 2-7470.

SOUL FOOD

You'll see the movie, now try the cuisine! On February 13, the Staller Center will show the film *Soul Food*, a funny/sad look at life, loss, and family. Food gets equal billing, with the camera lingering on a mouthwatering array of down-home cooking. *Happenings* offers you a taste (caution: this is not a "Heart Smart" recipe!).

Missouri Macaroni and Cheese

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1/2 lb. mild cheese | 4 eggs |
| 1/2 lb. sharp cheese | 1 can evaporated milk |
| 1/2 lb. extra sharp cheese | 1/2 pound butter, cubed |
| (Cheese cubed or shredded to total 1 1/2 pounds.) | 1 pound macaroni |
| | salt and pepper to taste |

Boil macaroni until tender and drain. While noodles are hot, add butter and cheese. Beat eggs and milk together and pour over macaroni. Place in large baking dish and bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

2/21, Saturday. Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra Concert. 8 p.m., Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts. The orchestra will perform Weber's *Overture to Oberon*, Dohnanyi's *Variations on a Nursery Tune*, and Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*. Tickets \$12, students and senior citizens, \$6. For info, call the Staller Center Box Office at 516-632-7230. There will be a free pre-concert lecture at 7 p.m. in the Recital Hall.

THEATRE

2/7, Friday: "The Mikado." Opera A La Carte. 8 p.m., Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts. Tickets \$26-\$28. For reservations and/or information, call the Staller Center Box Office at 516-632-7230.

2/14, Saturday: "Romeo and Juliet," the Acting Company. 8 p.m., Main Stage, Staller Center for the Arts. Tickets \$23-\$25. For reservations and/or information, call the Staller Center Box Office at 2-7230.

SPECIAL EVENTS

2/5, Thursday - 2/7, Saturday. SUNY Wide Senate Meeting. Various hours, Student Activities Center and at Danford's Inn, Port Jefferson. Winter plenary meeting of the SUNY-wide Faculty Senate attended by senators, steering committee chairs, campus governance leaders and others. February 5 from 4:40 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Danford's, February 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Stony Brook and February 7 from 8:30 a.m. to Noon at Stony Brook. For information call: 516-632-6320.

2/7, Saturday. All Sports Clinic. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Main Arena and Pritchard Gym, Sports Complex. Elementary school students (girls and boys ages six to 12) will get pointers in a variety of sports in a program run by the Department of Physical Education and Athletics. Participation is limited to the first 125 who pre-register. For information call 516-632-7216.

2/15, Sunday. Catholic Mass featuring The USB Gospel Choir. The USB Gospel Choir will sing during this Mass Service. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Sister Margaret Ann Landry, RSHM, Catholic Campus Ministry, 2-6562. Peace Studies Center, Old Chemistry Bldg., 5 p.m.

2/21, Saturday. Malcolm X Vigil: Tribute to El Hajj Malik El Shabazz. A discussion followed by a candlelight vigil celebrating the life of our "Black Shining Prince," El Hajj Malik Shabazz. For more information, contact Malik Sigma Psi Fraternity, Room 228 Student Activities Center. UNITI Cultural Center, 8 p.m.

2/24, Tuesday. Taking it Back to the Essence II. Impromptu skits about issues affecting people of color. For more information, contact Andre English, Student Black History Month Committee, 216-2549. Fireside Lounge, Stony Brook Union, 8 p.m.

2/25, Wednesday. Health Careers Seminar for Undergraduate Students. UA panel discussion on entering health profession. For more info, contact Diane Piscitelli, School of Medicine, 4-2312. Level 3, Lecture Hall 6, HSC, 12:40 p.m. - 2 p.m.

HAPPENINGS

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