

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

Volume LIX, Issue 16

Monday, February 1, 2016

sbstatesman.com



KRYSTEN MASSA/THE STATESMAN

From left, Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., John H. Bracey, Sonia Sanchez and James E. Smethurst pose at the Black History Month opening ceremony in the Student Activities Center on Jan. 27.

SBU honors activist writers at Black History Month ceremony

By Christopher Cameron
Assistant Multimedia Editor

Sonia Sanchez, sitting only a few feet away from Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., offered to recite a poem she wrote upon the death of Malcolm X.

"I do battle for the creation of a human world, that is, a world of civil recognition," Sanchez said. "That's what our dear brother was doing."

Sanchez was one of three co-authors of a new book documenting

key writings from the Black Arts Movement in the '60s and '70s and was invited to Stony Brook University on Jan. 27 to celebrate the beginning of Black History Month on campus.

President Stanley opened the ceremony in the Student Activities Center by thanking the Black History Month Committee for their hard work and dedication. He added that he was proud of the university's annual tradition in honoring the contributions of those who "helped

to rectify inequality in our society."

The president's address comes two months after he joined Stony Brook University students in demonstrating solidarity with protesters at the University of Missouri in November.

Sanchez, along with the other guest speakers, was invited as a part of Sankofa, the theme for this year's Black History Month at Stony Brook University. Sankofa is a concept originating from Ghana that has been adopted by the African

community to promote the need to reflect on their history in order to build a successful future.

"It's the artists and the dramatists and the musicians who came and helped us fill in the content of this new kind of blackness," John H. Bracey, another co-writer of the book "SOS—Calling All Black People," said during the ceremony. "And it's just not the artists, it's that

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Gov. Cuomo pushes for extension of SUNY 2020 legislation

By Will Welch
Web and Graphics Editor

Gov. Andrew Cuomo advocated for a five-year extension of SUNY 2020, the law that has allowed State University of New York campuses to increase tuition annually for the past five years, in his 2016 State of the State and Executive Budget Address on Jan. 13.

Cuomo's support is an important step toward passing an extension of the law, which is set to expire this spring and has been essential to Stony Brook University's growth over the past five years.

SUNY 2020 allows SUNY schools to raise tuition by \$300 every year for in-state students



STATESMAN STOCK PHOTO

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, above, said he supports a five-year extension of SUNY 2020, which will expire this spring.

and up to 10 percent for out-of-state students. It also encompasses the SUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program, which provides

grants to university projects that encourage economic growth.

The law was a major win for SUNY in 2011, after SUNY experienced three consecutive years of cuts in state support totaling more than \$600 million. At Stony Brook, tuition increases from SUNY 2020, and its grant program have funded 246 new faculty positions and provided \$14 million in new student aid programs and \$35 million toward the Medical and Research Translation Building, according to the university.

Stony Brook began pushing to renew SUNY 2020 as early as February last year, when students

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Stony Brook lauds alumni with "40 Under Forty"

By Sandhiya Kannan
Staff Writer

Stony Brook University released its "40 Under Forty" list for 2015 in early January, honoring 40 distinguished alumni in a wide range of fields, from entrepreneurship, healthcare and sports to humanitarianism, technology and the arts.

This is the second year for the alumni recognition program, which held an awards event Jan. 26 at the Edison Ballroom in New York City. The program's website features each of the 40 honorees and details their accomplishments in their careers since graduating from Stony Brook.

"Do you know a bright, innovative, entrepreneurial-spirited young graduate who has used their Stony Brook degree to pursue their passions, to help others, and lead positive change?" is the question asked on the nomination page of the "40 Under Forty" website, and the standard to which honorees are held.

This year's list includes athletes like Tom Koehler, pitcher for the Miami Marlins, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in history and sociology in 2008, and activists such as Ikal Angelei, founder and director of Friends of Lake Turkana, Kenya, who graduated in 2010 with her master's degree in public policy.

The youngest honoree on this year's "40 Under Forty" list is 23-year-old Neha Kinariwalla, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology in 2014 and went on to earn her Master of Philosophy at Cambridge University as a Gates-Cambridge Scholar.

"I conducted research at Oxford University the summer after my sophomore year," Kinariwalla said. "It was pertaining to destigmatizing disease but I felt that work was too restricted to the ivory tower, so I started the [Humanology] Project to bridge an academic gap, in a way."

In the summer between her second and third years at Stony Brook, Kinariwalla founded the Humanology Project, an organization that works to challenge misconceptions regarding mental illness by providing a medium for patients to share their perspectives and form an

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News
SBU study examines causes of cancer
Read about the results in Under the Microscope.
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Arts & Entertainment
A year-long literary journey
Writer Andrew Goldstein vows to read 100 books this year.
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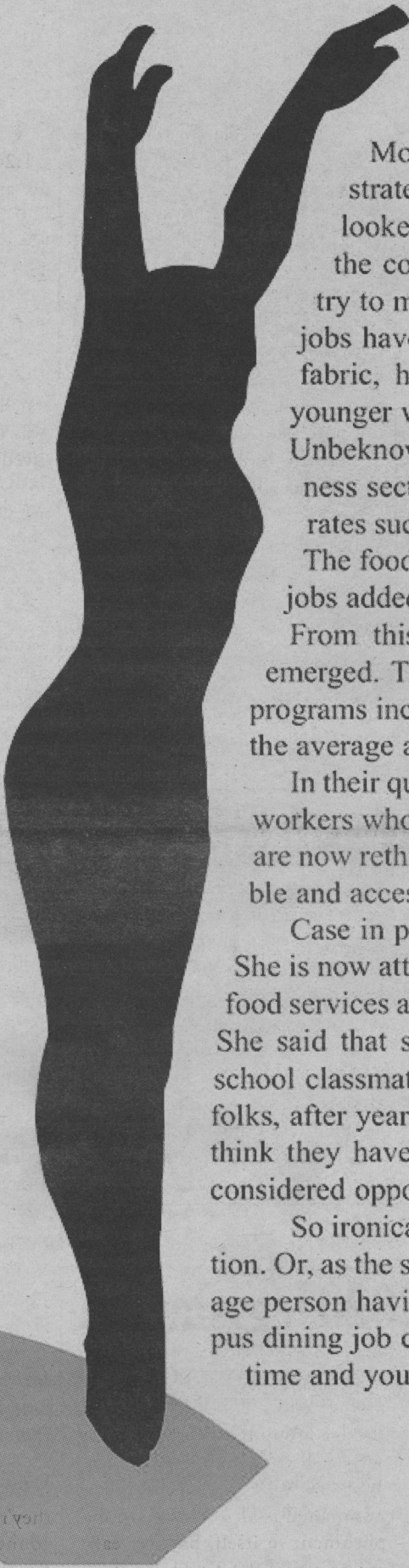


Opinions
Stony Brook botched the blizzard
How the school failed to notify students in time.
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Sports
Men's Basketball continues hot streak
Seawolves run nation-leading winning streak to 13.
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Rolling Stone or Stepping Stone: A Surprising Springboard to Success



Most students today are using work experiences in college as a strategy to ensure employment after graduation. Not to be overlooked, is the role of the ubiquitous food services jobs, which are the cornerstone of employment opportunities for students as they try to make ends meet and gain some initial work experience. These jobs have become such an integral piece of the American workplace fabric, having practically evolved into a rite of passage for many younger workers.

Unbeknownst to many, this industry has become part of a larger business sector called the Hospitality Industry. This sector now incorporates such "hot" areas as hotels, tourism and travel and several others. The food services segment alone recently generated over 160,000 new jobs added to an industry that already employs 12 million people.

From this upsurge in employment, an interesting phenomenon has emerged. The Associated Press has reported enrollment at culinary arts programs increased almost 40 % with the median age zooming to 27 from the average age of 19 only twenty years ago.

In their quest for greater self- fulfillment and career actualization, many workers who went after the glitzy jobs, or for selling out to the big bucks, are now rethinking and redirecting themselves to careers that are more stable and accessible.

Case in point is, Amanda McDougal, who is a graduate of the UCLA. She is now attending a culinary arts program and was aiming for a career in food services after having served some time in the lucrative technology field. She said that she was surprised to find that many of her fellow culinary school classmates include former lawyers, teachers and salespersons. These folks, after years of dealing with the realities and pitfalls of the marketplace, think they have found greener pastures in something that they might have considered opposite of nirvana in their younger days.

So ironically, sometimes the stopover can become the eventual destination. Or, as the saying goes, "what goes around comes around". With the average person having an estimated 20 jobs in a lifetime, could it be that a campus dining job can offer the practicalities to bear fruits for your future? Only time and your efforts will tell.

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NEWS

Guest speakers kick off Black History Month, reflect on theme of Sankofa

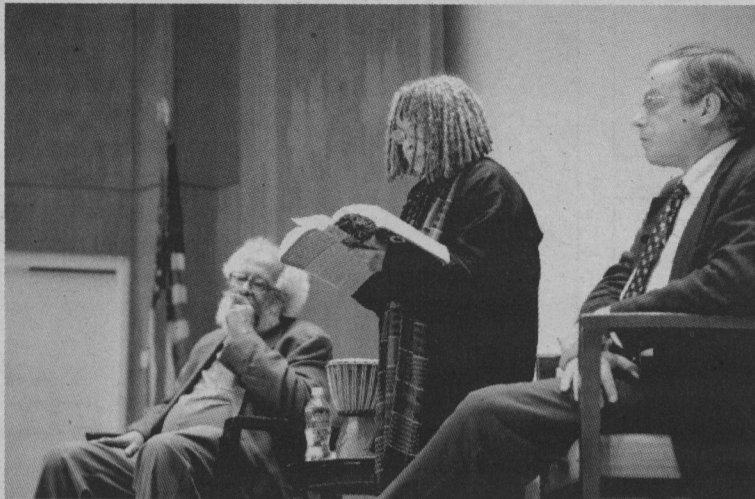
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the art was taken into a larger world.” Amiri Baraka was the writer most highlighted by the guest speakers during the ceremony, having formerly been professor emeritus of Africana Studies of Stony Brook University.

Baraka’s writings had appeal outside of just race and radicalism, which helped make him an international figure, said James E. Smethurst, a professor of Afro-American studies at University of Massachusetts Amherst.

“As you may have noticed, I’m not African American,” Smethurst said as the crowd laughed. “Neither is my family. But my father, who’s also a Jersey guy, loved Amiri Baraka.”

Baraka had served as the second poet laureate of New Jersey for a year from July 2002. The position was abolished by the state senate after Baraka wrote a poem claiming that Israel was involved in the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.



KRYSTEN MASSA / THE STATESMAN

Sonia Sanchez, center, reads poetry while fellow writers John H. Bracey, left, and James E. Smethurst listen.

“I have to say, as a son of New Jersey, [Baraka] is still my poet laureate,” Smethurst said. “No matter what governors or legislators did subsequently.”

Sanchez concluded the ceremony by recalling a performance at The Fillmore in San Francisco with Baraka, Ed Bullins and Marvin X, where over one thousand people had attended to listen to them read poetry.

“We tore the place down,” Sanchez said. “That’s what hard work does. I’m talking about thousands of people. They were hanging from the rafters, literally.”

The next Black History Month event at Stony Brook University will be a showing of the feature documentary “Pay It No Mind: Marsha P. Johnson,” which will take place on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. in SAC 223.

Police Blotter

On Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 2:55 p.m., an employee at University Hospital reported that someone had entered her office while she was at a meeting. The case remains open.

On Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 8 p.m., one cell phone was reported stolen from Student Activities Center. The case remains open.

On Friday, Jan. 22 at 2 p.m., one cell phone was reported stolen from Student Activities Center. The case remains open.

On Friday, Jan. 22 at 5:49 p.m., an exit gate arm was allegedly broken at the Health Science Tower. The case remains open.

On Saturday, Jan. 23 at 1:03 a.m., police arrested an individual on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol northbound on Nicolls Road from Shirley Kenny Drive. The suspect was allegedly driving 70 mph in a 45 mph zone.

On Saturday, Jan. 23 at 11:24 a.m., police responded to an odor of marijuana allegedly coming from a room in Dewey College. Police issued two student referrals.

On Sunday, Jan. 24 at 7:18 p.m., a resident assistant in Mount College reported a smell of marijuana. The smell was gone when the police arrived. The case is now closed.

Compiled by Brittany Bernstein

Stony Brook University announces 2016 "40 Under Forty" alumni honorees

Continued from page 1

online community.

Another honoree, Deepti Sharma Kapur, is a second-time recipient of the honor. Kapur earned her bachelor’s degree in business management and political science from SBU in 2008, and she is the CEO and founder of FoodtoEat.com.

Based in New York City, FoodtoEat is an online food ordering and delivery service that works with local food trucks and restaurants to cater to the local population. Kapur also shared in an interview with *The Statesman* that she enjoys community outreach projects. She has worked with the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program for over seven years and cofounded the Mountain-top Program, a mentorship program for New York City high school students.

“I didn’t know that you could be nominated twice, so I was very surprised but also overwhelmed and overjoyed that my school loves me enough to recognize me again,” Kapur said with a laugh. “[40 Under Forty] gives me such a great opportunity to meet the other amazing alumni that are doing really interesting things in their lives, so I’m really looking forward to the event as well!”

Also a two-time honoree, Chris Vaccaro, editor-in-chief of the Topps Company and adjunct journalism professor at Hofstra University, graduated from Stony Brook with his master’s degree in public policy in 2011. He studied part-time at Stony Brook but emphasized that working with professors who were experts in their fields and learning from their experiences contributed to



PHOTO CREDIT: STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

The members of Stony Brook University's second annual "40 Under Forty" alumni recognition program, above, were recognized for their achievements at an awards event on Jan. 26 at the Edison Ballroom in New York City.

where he is today.

The selection of the “40 Under Forty” list is a long process that is a collaborative effort of Alumni Relations, the Alumni Association, Advancement, the Office of the President, and many other departments.

Matthew Colson, executive director of the Office of Alumni Relations at Stony Brook University, explained that his office is primarily responsible for how the program runs, and the office hands coordination of the final event off to the Division of Advancement Events.

For the selection of the 2015 honorees, the call for nominations started at the end of August and remained open through the beginning of October. Over the course of this month, there was an email and social media campaign asking for nominations from faculty, parents and other alumni. There were nearly 700 nominations and endorsements altogether last year, Colson said.

People can nominate an alum by filling out an application explaining why they feel the nominee deserves the award, and there is also an endorsement option, so

anyone can endorse an alum who has already been nominated without filling out another complete application. After the nomination period ends, the process moves to an external committee, which consists of long-standing faculty, staff and alumni.

“There are many areas and departments involved in the selection committee, as we want to include the different perspectives of what defines an outstanding Stony Brook product who is living a life in the spirit of the mission of the university,” Colson explained. “That’s a big piece of what’s behind the award and selection process.”

Each member of the committee then submits their own top 40 list, and each list is then cross-checked with the others to determine the final “40 Under Forty” list, consisting of the most commonly mentioned alumni across all lists.

By the end of November, honorees are informed of their selection and receive personalized ink letters from President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., as well as phone calls from staff inviting them to attend the event and accept their

award. Nominees who were not selected also receive complimentary invites to attend.

“For this award, we are looking for our crème de la crème, our shining stars of the alumni,” Colson said. “The alumni base of the age group that we are looking at is well over 20,000, so not to be cliché when we say even to be nominated is an amazing accomplishment in itself, but we really are proud of them making a difference in the world.”

The event is a celebration for all of the nominees and honorees, with live music, a cocktail hour and an award ceremony. The event is open to the general alumni body as well, which comprised about one-third of the attendees last year, Colson said.

Dr. Min Yu, who earned her Ph.D. in genetics from Stony Brook in 2006, is currently an assistant professor of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine at USC, and said she felt the event gave her an opportunity to connect with other Stony Brook alumni.

“I think it’s really great for Stony Brook to recognize people who have successfully started up

in their career after graduation,” Yu said. “Being in California, I’m still occasionally in touch with peers and colleagues from Stony Brook but I’m looking forward to meeting the other honorees and learning about their achievements.”

Other honorees echo Yu’s sentiments, stating that they’re eagerly anticipating reconnecting with the Stony Brook community.

Brooke Ellison is an assistant professor in the School of Health Technology and Management at Stony Brook and director of education and ethics at the Stony Brook Stem Cell Facility. Ellison, who was the first quadriplegic to graduate from Harvard, earned her Ph.D. in sociology from Stony Brook in 2012.

“In life we are boxed into a very particular trajectory when there is so much potential and so many opportunities out there,” Ellison said. “At Stony Brook, people are encouraged to take risks and explore new possibilities, something which meant a lot to me when I first came here, and I’m honored that they have chosen me for this award.”

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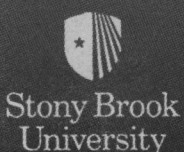
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Under the Microscope: Environment, behavior cause majority of cancers

By Kenneth Wengler
Staff Writer

The cause of cancer has been debated within the scientific community ever since the discovery of the disease. Some researchers claim that cancer is caused by intrinsic risk factors, such as DNA replication errors that can occur during cell division; others claim that the disease is caused by intrinsic risk factors such as smoking or ultraviolet light exposure.

While it is widely accepted that both intrinsic and extrinsic risk factors cause cancer, a recent Stony Brook University study, published in the journal *Nature*, found that about 80 percent of cancers are caused by various extrinsic risk factors.

An earlier paper published in the journal *Science* concluded that the two-thirds of cancer occurrences can be attributed to intrinsic risk factors, giving rise to the “bad luck” theory that extrinsic factors such as environment and behavior have little effect on your chance of getting cancer.

Song Wu, an assistant professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, and his research team set out to prove that extrinsic risk factors indeed play a major role in causing cancer.

“Bad luck, which is an error occurring during cell division, is something that you really can’t control,” Wu said. “That part contributing two-thirds to the human

cancer risk is of course a huge implication to society. It’s basically saying that cancer prevention is not as effective as you think. People have to eat healthy, live healthy and even if you live in a bubble in a completely clean environment, you can still only reduce one-third of the risk.”

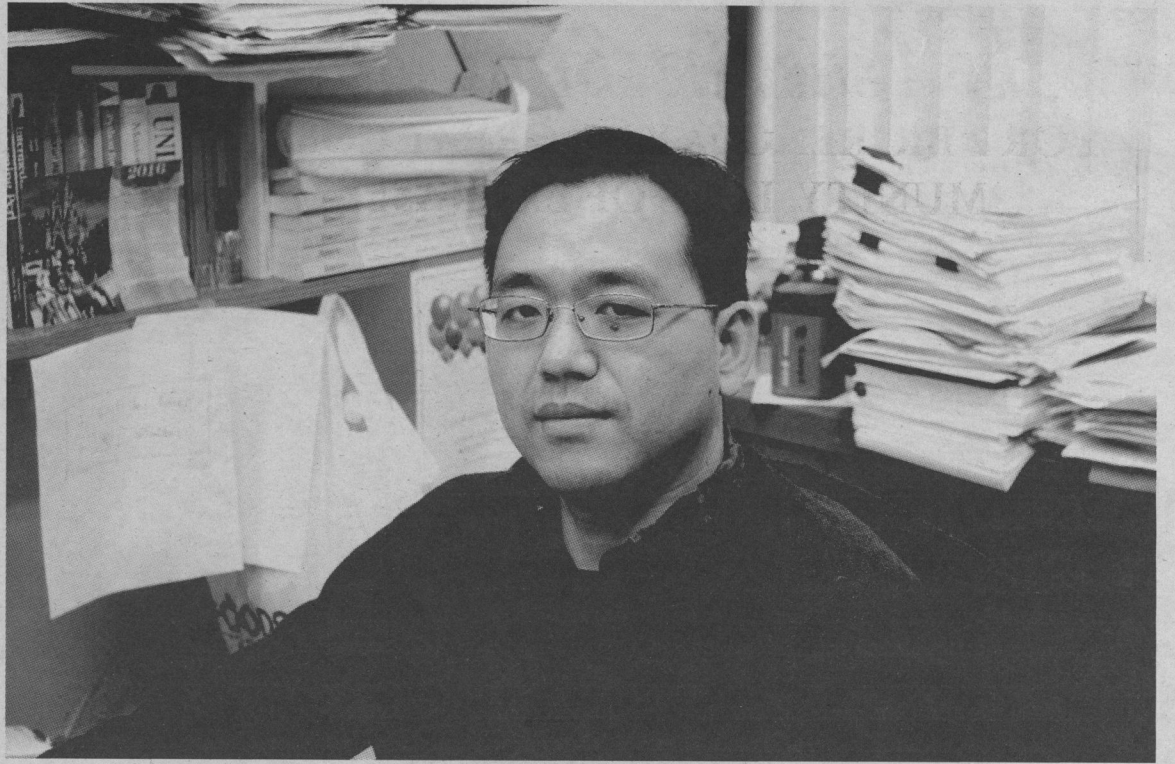
Not only would this theory impact the way people choose to live their lives, but it would also have an impact on healthcare policy. It would cause a shift in focus from cancer prevention to early detection and treatment of cancer.

To determine if the majority of cancer is caused by “bad luck” or by external risk factors, Wu and his research team developed four distinct approaches to analyze and assess cancer risk.

First, the researchers compared the occurrence rate for cancers that originate in parts of the body that go through the process of cell division at the same rate.

“Every cell uses the same mechanism to replicate the DNA during cell division, so we assume that the replication error rate is pretty much stable across all tissues,” Wu said. “If two tissues have about the same cell division rate, they should share the same intrinsic risk.”

From this comparison, Wu found that some cancers had a higher risk of developing than others with similar cell division rates. This clearly demonstrates that extrinsic risk factors play a significant role in the development of some cancers.



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

Song Wu, above, is a professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics. He was a part of a research team that studied extrinsic risk factors that can lead to cancers.

The team also analyzed the SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiologic and End Results) database, finding that many cancers have been increasing in occurrence since the ‘70s. Cells have not been dividing at a faster rate over the past 40 years, indicating that extrinsic risk factors have lead to the increased occurrence of certain types of cancer.

Wu and his collaborators also went through the literature on mutation signatures of specific cancers. Many different cancer types have

a particular mutation that can be considered a “fingerprint” of certain extrinsic risk factors.

“Smoking and UV will induce a different mutation type, this is a so-called mutation signature,” Wu said. “By looking at the exact mutations that occur on the cancer genome, we can estimate how much risk has been due to certain extrinsic factors.”

Lastly, the researchers used computational modeling to determine the contribution of intrinsic pro-

cesses in the development of cancer. Through probabilistic models, Wu found that DNA replication errors could only theoretically account for about 20 percent of cancer occurrences.

“From these four different methods, our main conclusion is that for most cancers intrinsic risk factors contribute only moderately, about ten to thirty percent of risk,” Wu said. “Correspondingly, 70 to 90 percent can be attributed to extrinsic risk factors.”

Stony Brook, SUNY administrations call for increased funding from state

Continued from page 1

in the Undergraduate Student Government passed a resolution supporting the law.

“It’s really the top priority right now,” President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. said at a University Senate meeting on Oct. 5.

The selling point to students is what SUNY calls “rational tuition,” or moderate increases to tuition every year instead of large infrequent spikes. Before 2011, SUNY had increased tuition 13 times since 1963, the largest of which was a \$950 increase to in-state tuition in 2003.

“It’s so important just to have the predictable tuition for students and their families,” Chief Deputy to the President Judith Greiman said.

But for Stony Brook, the law is also a significant factor in keeping pace with other state universities.

“We want to be among the top 20 public universities,” Stanley said in his 2015 State of the University Address.

Tuition is one of the key ways Stony Brook raises money to compete. In-state tuition in New York is among the lowest in the country, and far lower than top public universities. For example, the estimated cost of attendance at the University of California for an in-state student living on campus in 2015–2016 was \$33,600, compared to \$23,579 at Stony Brook University.

An important provision of SUNY 2020 was “maintenance

of effort,” which stipulated the legislature would not reduce SUNY’s general operating fund in following budgets. This was to ensure that increased tuition would not be offset by decreased state support.

However, while the state has maintained its level of funding, it has not raised funding in the face of contracted salary increases and utility costs. In total, state-negotiated collective bargaining agreements will cost SUNY \$131 million. Last year, that translated to an \$8 million gap in Stony Brook’s budget.

The university made efforts to cut administrative costs to account for the gap, but academic departments took the brunt of the difference, reducing the number of new faculty hires.

“The number of new faculty hired was much less than we anticipated or needed,” University Senator and Sociology professor Norman Goodman said.

The legislature took action this year to increase SUNY funding by passing a new maintenance of effort bill that would include the costs of salary increases and utilities. It passed the assembly and senate with near-unanimous support, but was vetoed by the governor on Dec. 11.

In his veto memo, Cuomo wrote “... the issues raised by this legislation are better dealt with in the context of negotiations for the upcoming State budget.” He argued that while the maintenance of effort provisions in SUNY 2020 will expire in 2016,



PHOTO CREDIT: STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

State University of New York Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, above, delivers the 2016 State of the University address on Jan. 11. She launched the Stand With SUNY campaign last year.

the bill would have extended those provisions and made them permanent.

Cuomo did not specify in his legislative agenda if he would support expanding the maintenance of effort requirement when seeking to extend SUNY 2020 this year.

Although the governor’s support puts significant momentum behind extending SUNY 2020, doing so will be part of the budget negotiation process, which normally concludes by March 31.

To keep pressure on the legislature, SUNY Chancellor Nancy

Zimpher launched a campaign in December called Stand With SUNY, which calls for lawmakers to increase SUNY funding. In particular, the campaign seeks to increase the SUNY Investment and Performance Fund, which established this year’s state budget with \$18 million.

Stony Brook received \$1.75 million from this year’s fund on Jan. 11 for efforts to increase its four-year graduation rate from 51 percent to 60 percent by 2020. SUNY is looking for a \$50 million increase to the Investment Fund in the 2016–2017 budget.

As to what priorities an extension of SUNY 2020 would address if passed, Greiman said the university is currently in the process of strategizing.

“We’re in the process of kind of refining what will we very specifically do in the next round,” Greiman said. “But it will most definitely be around growing the research, growing the academic development efforts and growing the degree completion efforts that we’ve already started. It’s almost like this garden has been planted, and now we need to really let it grow.”

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The True Art: Study abroad through the eyes of a student

Art, and the beauty held with-
By John Scalamandre
Contributing Writer

in it, is said to be in the eye of the beholder. Italy has been a major center for art for hundreds, if not thousands of years.

It is for this reason that every year, thousands of students flock to Rome, Florence and other Italian cities to study abroad—to live and learn among a culture that is not their own.

This practice of “studying abroad” in Rome is not a new concept.

The British elite sent their young adults on a “grand tour” of Rome as far back as the 18th century.

The objective of their tour was very similar to the reasons to study abroad today.

The perspective gained through living in a place where the politics, lifestyle and language differ from one’s own is enlightening and a life experience that the tourist can use to better themselves and their own country when they return.

Speaking of perspective, I could go on and on about the great works that I saw while participating in the Winter In Rome program.

Works by Michelangelo and Caravaggio, great frescoes which have stood the test of time, the Villa Borghese, the Sistine Chapel—while all of these beg the emotion and test the intellect of the viewer, their perspective is not the most important one, nor is the reality of their art paramount in Italy.

The true art to be found in Italy is in the experience of the country as a whole.

There is no work of art, no iPhone photo with an Instagram filter and Photoshop, no way to capture what one can view while



JOHN SCALAMANDRE/THE STATESMAN

As a country brimming with art, culture and unique cuisine, Italy is a popular destination for college students.

in Italy. For certain moments, it simply cannot be done.

For instance, while abroad I spent half a day in Sorrento. On the famed Amalfi Coast, Sorrento is a city whose very essence exudes beauty.

The water is a shade of blue unlike any other, and the way the cliffs fade into it creates a range of colors beyond the scope of any paintbrush.

I will never forget the way the sunset looked as we left the city, the deep hues of red, orange and purple reflecting off the water as if it were a mirror made for some heavenly being to view at that

same great moment.

I did not even bother attempting to snap a picture. It would have been futile.

Venice proved to be another place where one can only attempt to capture its beauty in vain.

The unique nature of the city is apparent. It has gondolas rather than cars and its canals give the city a scent close to dead fish, which in any other place would be utterly repulsive.

However, in the frame of Venice, it is absolutely charming.

While Venice and Sorrento were awe-inspiring, gorgeous, picturesque scenes, they could

not have been experienced in the same way if I had ventured to Italy by myself.

While the professors who traveled with the program were fantastic, knowledgeable and greatly enhanced the trip, the experience could not have been anywhere near as gratifying as it was without the other students in the program.

In 18 days, by traveling, studying and going on a whole new experience with each other, the group that left New York as strangers has returned as something much more.

We have had experiences to-

gether that no one else can fully understand.

Swimming in the Amalfi Coast in 30-degree weather, watching a man walk a squealing pig in a collar at 5 a.m. in Venice while waiting for a McDonald’s to open, seeing the stunning view of Pisa from the top of a tower infamous for its angle—these experiences are ours and ours alone in our lifetime, and because of this we have become much more than strangers, and more than friends.

In 18 days, we have formed a bond unlike any other, and the beauty I behold in that is the paramount work of art in Italy.

The year of one hundred books and reviews

By Andrew Goldstein
Staff Writer

My books define my life.

My parents have video proof of my need for “book time” until I turned five. In third grade I won a reading contest completing some thirty books in a month and raising money for the March of Dimes.

The last lesson my Zeide (grandfather) taught me before he passed away was to continue reading and learning.

Needless to say, “Goodreads” revolutionized my life.

A social media site based around books and authors? It is where I belong. The website also challenges readers to pledge a number of books to read over the year.

So, my New Year’s resolution is to read 100 books.

That averages to two books per week with two cheat weeks. I decided to write reviews of the books have read.

Every book is a journey. I want to take an epic journey, and I invite you to join me.

So let’s begin with a review of a short book by Mark Z. Danielewski.

For about six months, since my introduction to Danielewski’s writing style, I searched for “The Fifty Year Sword.”

I scouted the Barnes & Noble in Staten Island, the one on the corner of Broadway and 82nd in Manhattan and visited The Strand Book Store, my favorite, twice.

On the second visit to The Strand I found a solitary copy of the short story described as a ghost story for adults.

“The Fifty Year Sword” is a novel in its approach.

It places the reader in a room with Chinatana, a woman attending the party of a friend watching over five orphans.

A storyteller enters the party



PHOTO CREDIT: PC GINNY-FLICKR

The average amount of books Americans read within one year is approximately 12 books. According to the PewResearch Center seven in ten Americans read a book in one year.

with a locked box and tells of his journey to acquire a mystical weapon, the “fifty year sword,” within.

He mentions other weapons, like a sword that can kill an idea, which conjure sinister images of frightful possibilities.

As with every Danielewski

story, the experimental layout evolves the novel form.

The most prominent experimental choice in “The Fifty Year Sword” is Danielewski’s decision to tell the story through five unnamed narrators, each identified by different colored quotation marks.

While he could explore this choice comprehensively in a longer novel, in this short story the punctuation is a tease-in, but does not significantly affect the storytelling.

Also in “The Fifty Year Sword” are illustrations on every other page, designed to look like stitching, that add emphasis to the important details of the story.

In all of his novels, Danielewski unabashedly places the words in odd shapes and directions to add a visual element to the process of reading itself.

He has no problem dedicating an entire page to a sentence or even to one word.

This ability to affect the perception through the placement of words is reason enough to give his books a chance.

“The Fifty Year Sword” is a short, gripping tale that will leave you pondering.

It will change the way you read.

Student bands swag out at Stony Brook

By Rena Thomas
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The hidden gem that is Stony Brook's music scene is unifying the voice of the students, pulling together artists and fans alike.

Local bands are making waves on and off campus.

The organization Rock Yo Face runs and directs undergraduate shows held in the University Café, located in the Student Union.

The groups mission is to highlight local, on-campus bands. Rock Yo Face is forming a community for music lovers and gives students a comfortable on-campus listening experience.

Beginning in 2009, Rock Yo Face has grown to host popular bands like Ra Ra Riot and The Front Bottoms while staying true to their local band roots.

"Local bands bring a crowd, keeping the culture alive," Mary Garvey, one of the original organizers of Rock Yo Face, said. "We get to see things you don't see anywhere else."

The Yonkers-based band, Sawmill, is making noise and breaking limits in a good way.

You may have seen them at the annual Tabler Stock.

These four dude's "New York-style punk" is not your average radio fluff.

The band's drummer, environmental humanities major, senior Dillan Incantalupo of Glendale, New York, described their music.

"We speak about social issues, wanting to see change, its [the music] is really a venue to speak about things that bother us," Incantalupo said.

Beginning in early 2013, Sawmill has gone from playing in basements to joining touring bands throughout New Jersey, Philadelphia, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Biology major, guitarist senior James MacDonald of Yonkers said.

"Although the rush of a bigger venue is great, the intimacy of a basement setting is an experience unlike any other."

The passion of punk is a united force.

"The punk scene really cares what you're doing, they are just as pissed off or into something as you are," MacDonald said. "When someone knows your music, when they sing along to your songs, you really appreciate that a lot."

According to MacDonald, the band will be laying low for now until their demo release, planned



PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD DIFRISCO

Nick Rigas, above, and ex-guitarist Phil Gigante opened their biggest show yet located at "The Loft" in Poughkeepsie, New York for Ontario-based band "The Flatliners."

for mid-spring.

"We are trying to keep the band going and the local music scene," Incantalupo said.

The Great American is another local band comprised of three long time friends, guitarist Adam Sue, bassist Barry Huang and drummer Alan Thomas.

They have performed covers of "Daylight," "Just Hold On We're

Going Home," "Shake It Off" and "Hey Ya."

The Great American agrees that dopeness is their key to life.

With KanyeWest as their main influence, their presence on and off the stage certainly emulates this motto.

Guitarist Bryan Joy has since moved to Texas, so the band is looking for a

new member to complete their unique sound.

"We're looking for someone who's not just a skilled musician but is also dope as a person," Huang said. "Committed to the lifestyle of turning up and overall positive vibes."

As for new music, Huang said the band will be focusing on producing original music aside from their covers.

ARTSY EVENTS



Harry Potter-Themed Basketball Game

On Wednesday, Feb. 3, show your support for your Stony Brook Seawolves as the Men's Basketball Team takes on the Binghamton Bearcats at 7p.m. in the IFCU Arena at the Harry Potter-themed game. Witches and wizards are welcome to wear their best school robes and wire-rimmed glasses. Stony Brook hopes to continue their 13-game winning streak, so bring as much liquid luck as you can find.

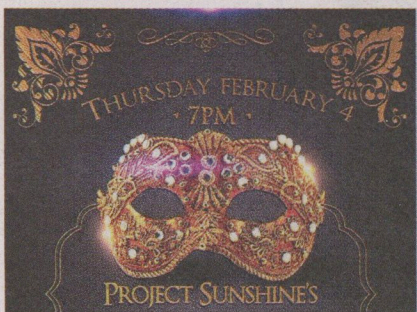


PHOTO CREDIT: PROJECT SUNSHINE

Project Sunshine's Masquerade Ball

Stony Brook's Project Sunshine is holding their 4th Annual Masquerade Ball in SAC Ballroom A on Thursday, Feb. 4, at 7 p.m.

It will be a night filled with performances, raffle prizes and great music. Project Sunshine will be raffling off a free Kaplan course, gift cards to The Cheesecake Factory, autographed memorabilia from the New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning and more.

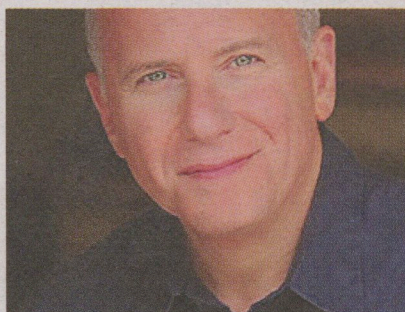


PHOTO CREDIT: STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Paul Reiser Stand-Up Show

On Saturday, Feb. 6, Paul Reiser is bringing his stand-up show to the Staller Center Recital Hall. Starting at 8 p.m., his national comedy tour features humorous aspects of life, love and relationships.

Reiser is best known for being a comedian, actor and a best-selling author.

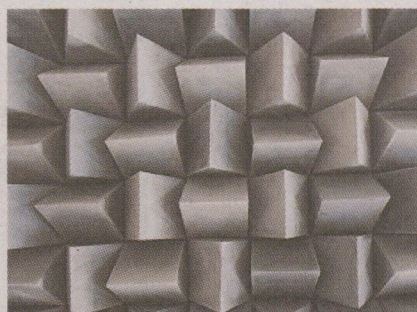


PHOTO CREDIT: STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Zuccaire Gallery Exhibit-EarFest: Reception and Concert

On Thursday, Feb. 4, Stony Brook Computer Music Studios is collaborating with the Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery for EarFest 2016, which will feature work from over 20 artists.

An Artist Talk will start the night off at 6 p.m., followed by a reception which starts at 7 p.m. and a concert which brings the night to a close at 8 p.m. The exhibition will feature interactive pieces, installations and special performances at the event's concert.



PHOTO CREDIT: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

USG Comedy Series: Nasim Pedrad

Best known for her roles on "Scream Queens" and "SNL," Nasim Pedrad will be coming to the Staller Center on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 8 p.m. Tickets can either be reserved through USG or picked up at the SAC Ticket Office on Feb. 2.

Compiled by Jessica Carnabuci

OPINIONS

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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

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

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

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The Statesman promptly corrects all errors of substance published in the paper. If you have a question or comment about the accuracy or fairness of an article please send an email to editors@sbstatesman.com.

First issue free; additional issues cost 50 cents.

A tale of two corrupt Christian cons



PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL VADON/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Donald Trump's presidential campaign now has the support of the controversial Jerry Falwell Jr., president of Liberty University and heir to a fortune from televangelism.

By Skyler Gilbert
Staff Writer

Liberty University president Jerry Falwell, Jr. has done it. He has finally found a way to anger Evangelical Christians: endorse Donald J. Trump.

Alas, Falwell, the renowned religious and political hero of the conservative, Bible-thumping community, announced last Tuesday that he would be supporting the bombastic businessman for president.

And the Evangelical community went nuts.

While I was amused by the absurdity of the situation—the worst person in the world endorsing the second-worst person in the world for president—many in the religious world were distraught by the fact that Falwell would support Trump for president.

I mean, Trump didn't even know that the Bible book "2 Corinthians"

is properly pronounced as "Second Corinthians!" He is not religious! How dare Falwell endorse a Christian poser? Can you believe that Falwell would sell out on his faith for petty politics?

Actually, I can believe it.

Falwell and his father, the late Jerry Falwell, Sr., have been taking advantage of the Christian community, right under its nose, for years. The Falwells don't care about God. They care about the exploitation of the naive and deluded religious branch of American conservatism for their own political and monetary gains.

Falwell preaches the importance of the American Dream, the old-school Republican message that anyone can become successful in our country with some faith, some hard work and some capitalism—the "rags to riches" mentality. The irony of course is that both Falwell and Trump achieved their great fortunes from inheritance,

so neither man actually became wealthy purely from hard work.

As for Falwell's father, the founder of Liberty University, how did he strike it rich you might ask?

Televangelism.

Unsurprisingly, striking it rich off being a pastor requires more than a little bit of corruption. As a televangelist, the preacher's sole purpose is to get on television and ask his audience for funds. He convinces the viewer to mail in large sums of money as part of the "prosperity gospel," with the belief that these donations will improve a person's standing with God.

For years, Falwell's father raked in the money from his show, "Old Time Gospel Hour," taking full advantage of the gullibility of his massive Evangelical following not with faith, but with scam.

In 1971, he opened Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia with his fraudulent televangelism

Continued on page 9

Retraction: Green Dot bystander intervention training tackles violence

By The Statesman Editorial Board

On Jan. 24, *The Statesman* published a story titled "Green Dot bystander intervention training tackles violence," and on Jan. 25, the story was published in *The Statesman's* print edition. The story has since been retracted.

Smita Majumdar Das, the main source quoted in the story, emailed *The Statesman* to say that the author had not interviewed her and that there were inaccuracies in the story. Specifically, she said she had not met with the founder and executive director of the Green Dot bystander intervention program, Dorothy Edwards, in person and that Edwards has never come to the Stony Brook campus.

Upon further investigation, it was found that the author had taken the quotes from a story she had previously written about a similar topic. She had not communicated this information to *The Statesman* editors before she submitted the story. *The Statesman* expects its writers to interview sources for each individual story that they write for *The Statesman* and to be transparent with the people they interview about why they're being interviewed and where the story will be published.

The Statesman takes its publication's integrity and stories about interpersonal violence very seriously. We apologize to Smita Majumdar Das and anyone who was affected by these inaccuracies.

LETTER EDITOR

to the

SBU failed to notify campus of blizzard

The author of this piece is a student-employee of the university and has requested anonymity to protect their identity.

Dear reside@stonybrook.edu,

Have you ever seen the movie "The Devil Wears Prada"? More importantly, have you ever seen the part where Miranda Priestly is demanding to be flown out of Miami mid-hurricane, saying, "Please...I don't know. It's just drizzling," as thunder cracks and palm trees bend 90 degrees in the background? Because that is you when it comes to blizzards.

That's all I could say when I saw an email from you on Thursday, Jan. 24 saying that residents could move in on Friday, Jan. 22nd. There was a little problem: you sent me that email at 9:41 p.m. I was appalled. Shocked. Offended. Think Billy Ray Cyrus watching Miley and her foam finger. I basically had the same expression.

There was information about this soon-to-be-historic blizzard

everywhere for a week before it came. I mean everywhere. I understand it takes some time to make official decisions when it comes to the safety of students, and I thank you for taking it seriously. But seriously? I felt like I was a booty call. You can't just call for me to come over when it's beneficial for you. You especially can't do that if you're not going to be able to provide food after 2 p.m. on the day of the blizzard.

As an out-of-state student who lives across the country, I know the struggle that so many other students face traveling back to Stony in January. Imagine the normal struggles everyone faces when traveling, and then add a ginormous blizzard that literally cancels everything and obliterates any hope or smidge of joy in your life.

But wait, Stony told you last freaking minute you can move in on Friday! Too bad I had to book my flight three months ago. I would love to be able to simply change my flight, but I sim-

ply cannot afford that luxury. It might have something to do with the fact that my tuition has increased nearly \$3,000 per semester in my past three years here, but whatever.

I would have been excited to hear on Sunday that classes before 1 p.m. on Monday were cancelled, but when that email was sent, I was already passed out on a bus heading to Stony Brook after hauling my 65-pound luggage around the giant slush hole that was Manhattan. I understand canceling classes is something the university would rather not do, but most people I know would have appreciated not having to go through the stress of traveling, unpacking and hopefully making it to their later Monday classes.

I'm no longer annoyed with you. I'm no longer angry. I'm no longer praying for another blizzard so I can finally finish "Parks and Recreation." For now, I'm simply hoping for timely decisions and email notices.

As Miranda Priestly would say, "That's all."

Trump and Falwell, the fake Christians

Continued from page 8

earnings, as an educational institution specializing in institutionalized brainwashing, err, biblical teachings.

Students following the "Liberty Way," the code of conduct at this school, which is now the largest Christian college in the world, are banned from public demonstrations, watching R-rated films, listening to non-Christian music and personal conduct with another person beyond handholding.

Any student found to possess alcohol, even of-age students, are subject to 30 reprimands, a \$500 fine, 30 hours of community service and grounds for withdrawal. Possession of marijuana will get a student expelled, and the school has a Draconian dress code, meaning that, just to be safe ladies, you should probably wear three sweaters and two pairs of slacks at all times to ensure skin won't be revealed.

The school offers creationism as a biology class, students are required to attend weekly "convocations" from (usually conservative) lecturers and students must attend religious services each Wednesday night.

Seems like a lot of rules for a

school named "Liberty," eh?

Do not fear, however, although your first and fourth amendment rights have been stripped, Falwell will honor your second amendment!

In December 2015, Falwell urged his students to carry guns on campus after the San Bernadino shooting, saying, "I've always thought that if more good people had concealed-carry permits, then we could end those Muslims before they walked in."

Oh. There's his similarity with Trump.

The truth is that Falwell and his father have been indoctrinating people for decades and fail to practice real-world Christianity. Instead, he puts his students in a conservative utopian bubble, filling their credulous minds with backwards, closed-minded ideas. The pastor feeds into his students' own cognitive dissonance, reassuring them of the falsehoods they already believe about the world as he swims in their tuition money.

For the ones still in possession of a shred of sanity, his comments on Trump were enough to convince them Falwell is manipulative, insincere and money-motivated. For the ones already lacking sanity, still standing by Falwell, it is too late.

For our athletes, it's all for one and PEDs for all

By Nick Zararis
Staff Writer

When Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger landed on his throwing shoulder and had to exit a wildcard weekend play-off game, football fans assumed the worst. The otherwise listless Steelers were going to add to the snoozers of that weekend. Speculation was that Roethlisberger had either fractured or dislocated his throwing shoulder and there was almost no way he would return to the game.

But with 1:23 left in the fourth quarter, Roethlisberger returned to lead the Steelers on what would be the game-winning drive. But what was later pointed out on "The Bill Simmons Podcast" the following Monday was that "When they showed the still shot of Ben with the coat on and he's just staring into space, you're wondering what kind of drugs did they pump him up with?" and it presents a fair question: If you're going to dope these guys up to the point where they can't feel their faces in order to get them back in the game, isn't that a performance-enhancing drug?

What the league will say is that medications are administered by and under the supervision of team physicians, but doesn't that inherently provide a conflict of interest? If the team doctor is employed by the team, he has incentive to worry more about getting that specific player back in the huddle than the player's long-term health. When strong, addictive medications such as Percocet are given without informing the player of the potential side effects, it presents a pretty clear picture.

But I want the league to stop

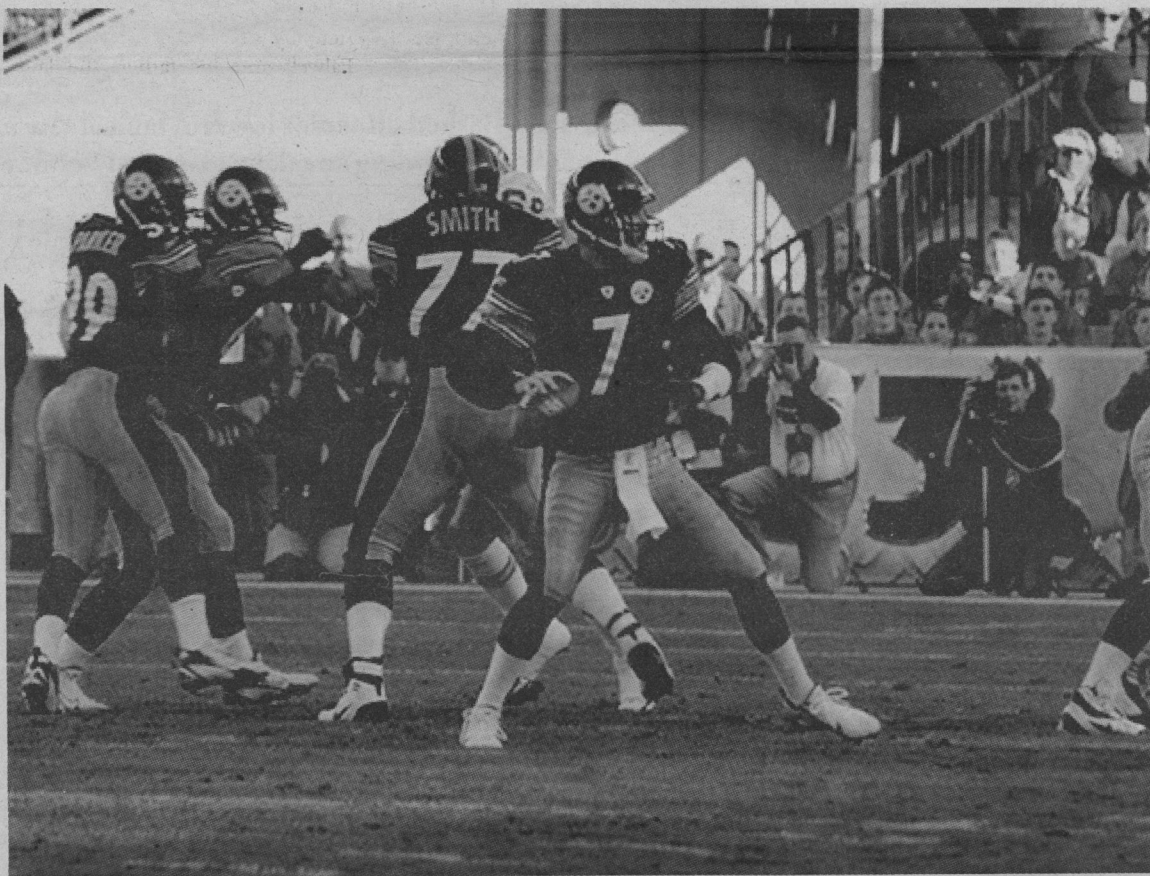


PHOTO CREDIT: STEEL CITY HOBBIES/FICKR

Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, above, of the Pittsburgh Steelers was recently injured in a game, but was able to return after receiving drugs from the team doctor.

pretending to exist in this moral high ground. I don't care about Roger Goodell and he doesn't care about your opinion; he will say things about "protecting the shield" and that the NFL can set an example for the rest of society, but at the end of the day he reports to 32 disgustingly rich owners and not the American people.

Let the athletes do whatever they can to prolong their fleetingly short careers if it makes the product better by keeping stars like Roethlisberger active. The average NFL career is 3.3 years, and no money in contracts is guaranteed unless stipulated as such. The

NFL is the modern-day gladiator battle set to pop music and drunken slurs. What the league needs to do is embrace the machismo of the game and do what baseball failed to do and is now dying because of this failure: Let the athletes take performance-enhancing drugs under the direction and supervision of team physicians.

Allow the world's best athletes to ratchet themselves up even more, and before you claim that makes the game fake, realize this: Professional sports aren't real to begin with. They are the epitome of human evolution, the best of the best weaned out and refined to the best our human gene pool has

to offer. A mere mortal like you or I wouldn't be able to survive an NFL football game, let alone take one hit from a lightning-quick, 250-pound, six-foot linebacker and get up for the next play. Although professional sports are real in the sense that the outcomes are up in the air, they aren't real in the sense that anyone can just jump in and play.

Let the athletes continue to push themselves like they want to and make the product even better for us, the viewers, before football dies or Roger Goodell decides to build a death star, enhance the game to another level and make the quality of play better.

Have a response
to a piece or
an idea for a
submission?

Email your story
or suggestion

to opinions@

sbstatesman.com

Men's Basketball wins two more to bring nation's largest winning streak to 13

By David Vertsberger and Kunal Kohli

Assistant Sports Editor and Staff Writer

The Stony Brook Men's Basketball team extended its nation-leading winning streak on Saturday to 13 as the team pulled away late to defeat Vermont, 72-61, in Patrick Gymnasium.

Tied at 33 apiece going into the second half, both the Catamounts and Seawolves looked to gain momentum to carry them through the final 20 minutes. Vermont had caused Stony Brook to turn the ball over four times within the first five minutes of the second half, not allowing the Seawolves to get into a rhythm. But the Catamounts struggled to capitalize on the scoring opportunities their defense had created.

Instead of panicking, head coach Steve Pikiell's squad put the ball into the hands of its best player, senior forward Jameel Warney.

Warney was close to unstoppable in the paint. He led the Seawolves with 23 points, including a huge alley-oop from junior guard Lucas Woodhouse in the second half. His play on the block was too much for Vermont senior forward Ethan O'Day to handle, as Warney's array of post moves allowed him to score efficiently and quickly.

Warney also went 5-for-6 from the free throw line, including three makes in the final seven minutes to help seal the deal.

The two-time reigning America East Player of the Year was just as dominant in the paint defensively as he was offensively. War-

ney proved why he is the America East's leader in blocked shots, as he stuffed Vermont four times, all of which came in the first half. He also swiped the ball twice in the contest.

Warney's prowess on the glass showed as well, as the New Jersey-native collected 10 rebounds, including a game-high three offensive boards.

Also coming up big for the Seawolves was junior guard Ahmad Walker. Walker earned his fifth double-double of the season, scoring 16 points while matching Warney's 10 rebounds.

Walker was simply everywhere for the Seawolves. The slashing guard got to the free throw line eight times and scored on six of those attempts. Both he and senior forward Rayshaun McGrew attacked Vermont's leading scorer, Trae Bell-Haynes, and drew five fouls on the sophomore guard.

Defensively, Walker played the passing lanes well, as he stole the ball a game-high three times.

It was a tale of two halves for Stony Brook, though. The Catamounts jumped to an early 5-0 lead and pushed the Seawolves to a 22-15 deficit. However, Stony Brook fought back as it looked to get the ball into the paint to either get fouled or attempt a shot closer to the basket.

In the second half, the Seawolves continued their attack in the paint, where they scored a total of 36 points on the day. Warney took control in the half, scoring 15 of his points.

Stony Brook's physical defense made it difficult for Vermont to

establish an offensive rhythm. The Catamounts shot just 37.7 percent from the field.

While the Seawolves' defense did stop Vermont from scoring early on, it was too physical at times. Stony Brook committed five fouls within the first eight minutes of the game and ended up finishing the half with ten. However, the team adjusted at halftime and only committed six fouls in the second half to finish the day.

Maine's hyperactive defense and uptempo offense that upset Albany two weeks ago failed to surprise Stony Brook on Monday night. The Seawolves led wire-to-wire in an 81-54 victory over the Black Bears, a win that at the time was

their 12th consecutive win.

Stony Brook used a 23-7 run late in the first half to take a 14-point lead at halftime, which the Seawolves built on with a 12-0 run early in the second half. The Seawolves held the Black Bears to 33.3 percent shooting on the night and assisted on 22 of their 31 field goals.

"It was a dangerous game for us, but I liked how our mindset was," Pikiell said. "I thought with one day to prepare we did a pretty good job."

Maine tried to double-team Warney, but his passing ability opened up good opportunities for his teammates. Warney swung the ball to the open man with cross-

court bounce passes and no-lookers with one hand, finishing with five assists and many passes that led to more. That does not even include his 12 points and 12 rebounds.

"When they double team, there's somebody open and he does a great job of finding that person," Pikiell said. "He does a real good job of seeing the floor, he prefers to pass anyways, so I think it's a great trait that he has. Sometimes I want him to be a little more unselfish and score."

Stony Brook returns to Island Federal Credit Union Arena as the team takes on Binghamton on Wednesday at 7 p.m.. The Seawolves defeated the Bearcats 62-52 on the road over winter break.



CHRISTOPHER CAMERON / THE STATESMAN

Stony Brook Men's Basketball senior forward Jameel Warney (No. 20, above) helped the Seawolves extend their winning streak to 13 at rival Vermont with 23 points on Saturday.

SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS

TODAY

On stands February 8

Men's Basketball's ball movement keying effective Seawolves offense

By Skyler Gilbert
Staff Writer

91 points against Princeton. 86 points against NJIT. 83 points against American, UMass Lowell and UMBC.

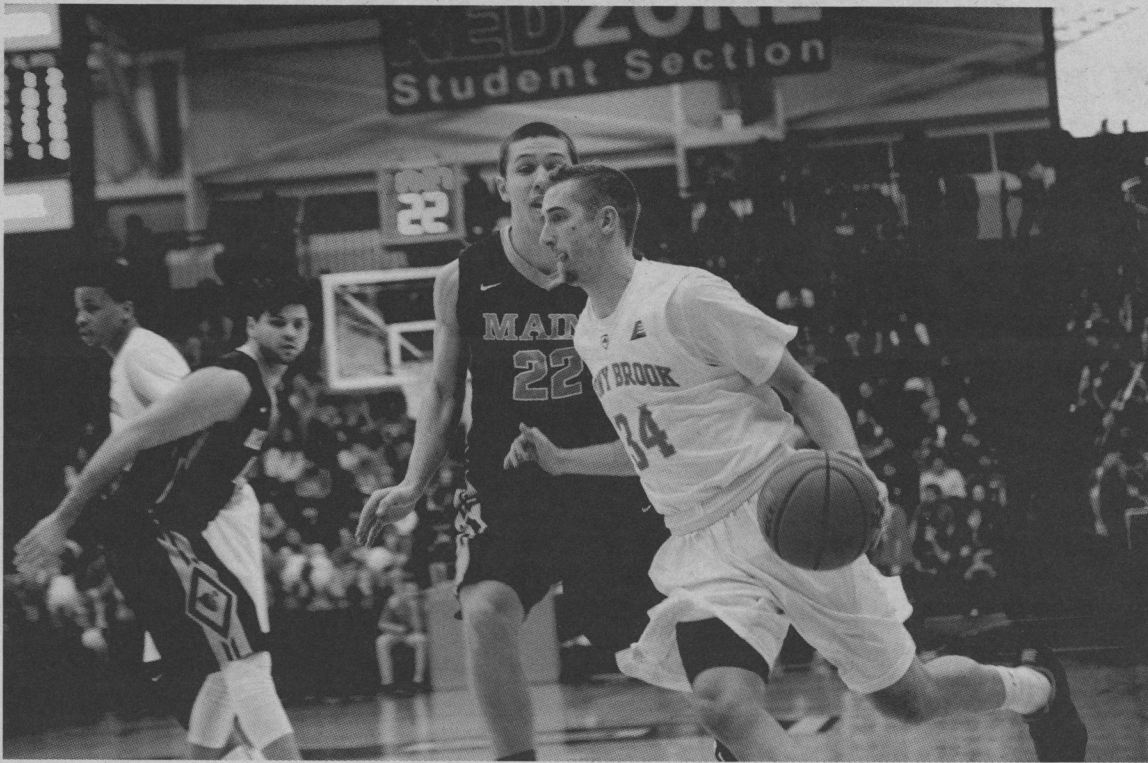
All of these point totals, achieved this season by the Stony Brook Men's Basketball team, would have marked a season-best for the Seawolves against Division-I opponents last season.

In fact, Stony Brook is averaging an America East Conference-best 77.0 points per game in 21 contests so far in the 2015-16 season, making it the highest-scoring offense in the team's Division-I era to date. The scoring is also a significant 11.6 point-per-game improvement from the Seawolves squad that averaged 65.4 points last year.

Ball movement and passing has been a major key in contributing to Stony Brook's improved offensive efficiency this season, allowing the Seawolves to take more open shots.

Perhaps the best measure of a team's passing ability is the rate at which it records assists, which are awarded when a player makes a pass that directly leads to a basket by another player. According to Kenpom.com, an advanced statistics database for college basketball, Stony Brook has recorded an assist on 59.0 percent of its made field goals this season, up significantly from the 49.1 percent rate that last year's team attained.

More simply, the Seawolves are



CHRISTOPHER CAMERON / THE STATESMAN

Junior guard Lucas Woodhouse (No. 34, above) transferred from Longwood University and has contributed 3.2 assists per game for the Stony Brook Men's Basketball Team.

averaging 17.1 assists per game as a team this season after averaging 12.0 assists last campaign.

Head coach Steve Pikiell praised his senior center, Jameel Warney, when asked about his team's ball movement.

"It all starts with Jameel," Pikiell said after Friday night's home win against Albany. "He's your best passer as your big guy and it's an unselfish approach. Guys are good passers to begin with but it starts with him—the other day against Hartford he led us in assists."

Warney, a two-time America East Player of the Year, demands more respect than most players in the low post, as teams throughout the season have thrown double-teams at the America East's scoring leader, guarding him with multiple defenders. Warney excels in making plays out of double coverage, often passing the ball to a teammate across the court to reverse the point of attack and create holes in the opposing defense.

"I think that really helps the mindset of all the guys," Pikiell

added. "When your best player is willing to make the extra passes, then it's kind of contagious. Luke [Woodhouse] is a good passer, Ahmad [Walker] can really pass the ball too."

Neither Walker nor Woodhouse—a pair of junior guards—played for Stony Brook last season, as Walker was attending Barton Community College and Woodhouse was required by NCAA rules to redshirt, or sit out for one season, after transferring to Stony Brook from Longwood University.

ty. Their presence has elevated the team's offensive game, particularly in the passing department.

Walker, as a starting wing player on Pikiell's offense, has doled out 4.6 assists per game this season, leading the America East. The Port Washington-native notched eight dimes against both Loyola and Hofstra and has dished out at least three assists in 20 of 21 games this season.

Woodhouse, playing the role of the "sixth-man," as the first substitute off the bench for the Seawolves, has added 3.2 assists per game himself. His prowess in facilitating ball movement was well-known to Stony Brook when he transferred. As a sophomore at Longwood, the point guard ranked fifth in the country with 6.7 assists per game.

The passing display by the Seawolves this season—often comprising of three or four passes directly leading to an open shot—has put the team head and heels above the rest of the conference offensively. Stony Brook leads the America East in scoring, two-point field goal percentage, three-point field goal percentage and assists.

For many years, Stony Brook has been known for its strong defense—leading in conference in fewest points allowed in five of the last eight seasons. But now, the team may finally have the offense to match its defensive play, perhaps making this team more dangerous than ever before as it seeks its first trip to the NCAA Tournament.

SBU Dance Team excels at Universal Dance Association National Championships

By Kelly Saberi
Assistant News Editor

Fake eyelashes: check. 260 rhinestones: check. Minnie Mouse ears for the parks: check. Running through the castle onto the competition floor: not guaranteed.

Standing in the wings of the competition floor, the 17 girls of the Stony Brook Dance Team stand huddled anxiously, with millions of microscopic mountains forming on their skin and the uncomfortable feeling of what seems like a hundred bobby pins holding their buns in place. Fingers in the sky, the team yells, "Earn it."

For the preliminary round of the Universal Dance Association National Championships in Orlando, Florida, the teams perform on a raised stage without the Disney castle behind them. For finals, organizers put up a "castle" for teams to enter the stage through on the ground level with the audience.

"It feels so special that you got to make it there," junior Anneliese Marcojohn, one of the captains of the SBDT, said.

The Universal Dance Association has three categories: pom, jazz and hip-hop. The competition rules indicate that a team can only participate in two out of the three categories. The SBDT participated in jazz and pom, not to be confused with cheerleading, which uses pom-poms as well.

The team ended up making the finals for jazz but not pom, whereas the previous year the team made it to the finals for pom and not jazz. The team placed tenth in pom in the pre-

liminary round, while placing eighth out of twenty-two teams to make it to the jazz finals. SBDT was up against teams like University of Delaware, Cal State Fullerton and Hofstra, which continually place in the top three.

"There was a big shift because Hofstra moved into pom and they are a big competitor," senior captain Zoë Mahan said of the team that took first place in the pom category.

"Before we went on for prelims and before we went on for finals, our attitudes were completely different," Marcojohn said. "For prelims, we kind of had an expectation to meet because we made finals last year."

According to Marcojohn, the goal for next season is to make it to the finals for both categories.

Originally, the Stony Brook Dance Team was a recreational club, until four years ago when the team brought in a coach and raised the team to a competitive level. The first year was a trial run, and for the past two competitions SBDT has made it into the finals at nationals.

With that in mind, president and captain Mahan has seen the team grow immensely since she was a freshman.

"We have the most talent and the most number of girls on the team that we have ever had," Mahan said. "We usually have around 12 or 13 people and this year we had 18 girls. It wasn't just more bodies, we had more talent," Mahan said.

The team gained nine new members this year alone.

"My freshman year [...] we put a single turn on the floor and we were excited about it," Mahan said. "This year we put triple turns on the floor."

Turns refer to pirouettes, which in non-dance terms is a turn done on the balls of one's feet. In addition, the team showcased four dancers with side aerials, which is essentially a cartwheel without hands.

In order to qualify for nationals, teams need to go to UDA dance camp and compete with teams there. This year, SBDT went to Scranton University in Connecticut.

Teams bring what is known as a "home routine" to be critiqued by the UDA staff. In addition, the teammates individually learn choreography as well. They are then judged by the staff to see if they will receive either an excellent, outstanding or

superior ribbon, superior being the most prestigious. Each ribbon corresponds to number of points, and those points need to total a certain threshold for the team to qualify for nationals. The entire team brought home superior ribbons this year.

During the semester, the team attends all basketball games and football games. They practice three days a week just for game days. They rehearse their competitive routines another two days a week, every week, until the end of the semester.

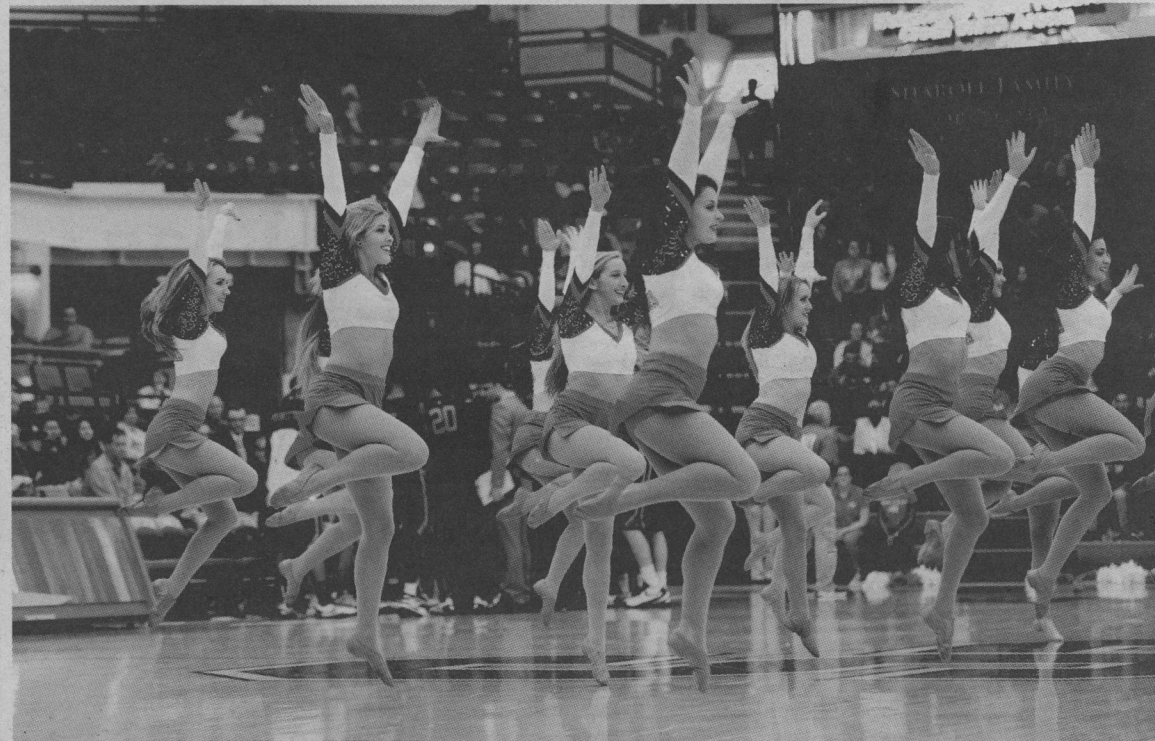
The team also goes to Scholastic local competitions at Nassau Community College in preparation for nationals.

The team learned its routines right away when the semester began. In order to remain competitive with other elite teams, the squad hires choreographers for nationals, which is expensive. Therefore, they fundraise through chocolate bar sales, t-shirt fundraisers, bake sales and car washes.

"We really don't get a winter break like most people do," Marcojohn said.

After all the hard work, the team had two days after the competition to enjoy the Disney parks. Now at practice, the team does only one thing a little differently.

"Our saying this year was 'Earn it,'" Marcojohn said. "But now we say 'Earned it.'"



CHRISTOPHER CAMERON / THE STATESMAN

The Stony Brook Dance Team traveled to Orlando, Florida to compete in the Universal Dance Association National Championships, making the finals in the jazz category.

SPORTS

Indoor track competes at Boston University

By Tim Oakes
Contributing Writer

The Stony Brook Men's and Women's Indoor Track team took part in a tough John Thomas Terrier Classic at Boston University this past weekend.

Stony Brook found itself competing against top schools like 19th ranked Virginia Men's Track and 23rd ranked Boston College Women's Track. The Seawolves did not run consistently parallel to their elite company but did have some noteworthy individual performances.

Sophomore Kaylyn Gordon starred for the Seawolves during the women's meet on Friday, finishing in fourth place in the long jump and fifth place in the triple jump event. Her high placement marks the second consecutive year in which she finished in the top five in both events at the John Thomas Terrier Classic.

Additionally, Gordon improved in her jumping since last year's event. She increased her long jump mark from 5.65 meters to 5.71 meters while her triple jump distance improved from 11.85 meters to 11.96 meters.

Elsewhere in field events, junior Dana Husband finished 10th in the high jump for Stony Brook by leaping up to a height of 1.65 meters. Freshman Lauren Glancy finished 17th in the long jump, by traveling a distance of 5.23 meters in the air.

Back on the track, freshman Hol-



COURTESY OF STONY BROOK ATHLETICS

The Stony Brook Indoor Track Team will compete again on Friday in the Metropolitan Championships.

ly Manning finished 11th in the 1,000-meter race in 2:52.23, as her fellow freshman teammate Chinque Thompson finished 14th in the 60 meter dash in 7.76 seconds. Senior Kate Pouder ran well on Friday finishing 27th out of 165 runners in the one mile event. Pouder's time of 5:00.53 was faster than any Seawolf in this year's or last year's event.

Junior standout Christina Melian, who qualified for the NCAA Cross Country Championships Qualifier in the fall, sat out of the event, as it is not out of the ordinary for distance runners to take off from a competition here or there to train for other events. In her case, Melian is preparing for a qualifying standard in the five-kilometer race later on in

the year, according to Stony Brook Athletics.

In the men's track meet senior Alex Lopresti stood out for the Seawolves when he finished 13th in the 1000-meter race, stopping the clock at a time of 2:28.15. Finishing 13th in the race made him the highest placing Seawolf in any running event over the course of the classic.

Among the other top Stony Brook runners was junior Oscar Mercado who finished 20th in the 500-meter race. Freshman Kevon White placed 25th and 33rd in the 60-meter and 200-meter races, respectively.

The Seawolves will have almost a full week of rest before they head to Staten Island for the Metropolitan Championships on Feb. 5.

Women's basketball cruises against Vermont at home

By Skyler Gilbert
Staff Writer

A combination of strong post play inside by senior forward Brittany Snow and a team-wide shooting barrage on the perimeter led the way for the Stony Brook Women's Basketball team over Vermont on Saturday afternoon, as head coach Caroline McCombs' Seawolves—led by 24 points from Snow—got back to their winning ways with an impressive 73-59, wire-to-wire victory over the visiting Catamounts.

"In the first half they guarded me one-on-one, so I was able to see the court better and make more moves," Snow said. "Then in the second half, they started [double-teaming] more and I was able to get the ball to my teammates."

From beyond the arc, Stony Brook knocked down a season-best 50.0 percent of its 3-point field goals.

Sophomore guard Aaliyah Worley led the strong shooting effort, coming off the bench and making all three of her 3-point attempts, en route to a season-best 16 points.

"I loved everything she was doing tonight," McCombs said about Worley. "She was able to step in and knock down the 3-point shot, she got to the basket and attacked."

Stony Brook played strong on defense right from the outset. Over Vermont's first 13 possessions, the Catamounts made just one of seven shots while committing six turnovers, as the Seawolves opened the game on a 7-3 run.

Vermont continued to struggle from the field for most of the first half, totalling just 22 points before halftime.

However, Stony Brook did not play much better. The Seawolves scored only 28 first-half points themselves, 12 of which came from Snow.

The Catamounts came into the game averaging 6.0 3-pointers made per game on offense, and when their offense finally began to click, it came via outside shooting. Sophomore guard Sydney Smith and senior guard Kylie Atwood each buried three 3-pointers, as the team totaled

10 3-point makes in the contest.

"We obviously didn't want them to make 10 threes against us," McCombs said. "Some of them were a little less contested than we would like."

Oddly enough, Vermont shot worse in the game on two-point attempts (32 percent) than on 3-point attempts (37 percent), which was due in large part to the strong work done beneath the basket on defense from Snow and freshman forward Ogechi Anyagaligbo.

"We pride ourselves on being strong [on defense]," Snow said. "Ogechi and I like to bang around a little bit on the inside. That's a key thing for us."

Stony Brook came alive on offense in the second half, scoring 22 points in the third quarter and 23 points in the fourth quarter.

Anyagaligbo and junior guard Christa Scognamiglio, who combined for only three first-half points, became more involved in the action in the second-half, as the pair totaled 17 points after the break.

The Seawolves used an 18-7 third quarter run, capped by 3-pointers from Worley and Scognamiglio, to take a 46-29 lead and put the game out of reach.

Freshman guard Davion Wingate, filling in for injured junior guard Kori Bayne-Walker as the starting point guard for the seventh consecutive game, scored 13 points as the team moved to 6-2 in conference play this season.

Stony Brook is now halfway through its America East slate, opening the second half of the conference season on Wednesday on the road against Binghamton, a team that the Seawolves beat by six points over winter break.

Currently, Stony Brook sits in third place in the America East, behind four-time defending conference champion Albany, 7-0, and Maine, 7-1.

"Going into the second half of the conference season, coaches are better able to scout teams," McCombs said of starting the America East schedule for the second time this campaign. "We have to really be locked in to our gameplan. We have had a lot of grind-it-out games, and I expect more of that to come as we continue conference play."



CHRISTOPHER CAMERON / THE STATESMAN

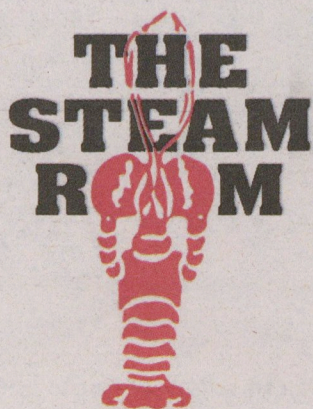
Stony Brook Women's Basketball senior forward Brittany Snow (No. 20, above) scored 24 points against Vermont.



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