

# THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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sbstatesman.com

## Cultural Studies professor detained in Cameroon

By Mike Adams  
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature Professor Patrice Nganang was detained in Cameroon on Wednesday night after he penned an article that criticized the country's government.

The Committee to Protect Journalists reported Nganang is currently being held at the General Delegation for National Security detention center in Yaoundé, Cameroon's capital, and was not granted access to legal counsel until Friday morning. Emmanuel Simh, Nganang's lawyer, told CPJ the professor is accused of insulting President Paul Biya in a Facebook post, and Nganang was accused of issuing a death threat to Biya in a hearing on Saturday.

"The detention of Patrice Nganang is an outrage and Cameroonian authorities must immediately release him without charge and allow him to travel," CPJ Africa Program Coordinator Angela Quintal said. "Cameroon seems intent on violating the right to freedom of expression to silence critical voices, including in the press."

According to French-language magazine Jeune Afrique, Nganang's disappearance was first reported on Thursday, the morning after he failed to board a Kenya Airways flight from Cameroon to Zimbabwe. Nganang's wife, Nyasha, who was waiting for him in Zimbabwe, said the professor's friend dropped him off at Douala International Airport, and noted he completed his pre-flight registration. Over the phone, the airport confirmed her husband had

checked his luggage but never showed up to board the plane.

Nganang's arrest came one day after the professor published an article in Jeune Afrique that criticized Biya's response to police killings in the country's English-speaking region. Nganang accused Biya of blaming all of Cameroon's English-speaking minority for the murders and wondered if the government's response would lead to forced relocations.

Cameroon passed controversial anti-terror legislation in December 2014 that makes it possible for the government to arrest anybody charged with "defending terrorism" for up to 20 years, with a maximum punishment of death. The law has already been used to imprison several journalists, including RFI correspondent Ahmed Abba, who is currently serving out a 10-year prison sentence after reporting on Boko Haram's activities within the nation.

Robert Harvey, the former chair of the Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature department who hired Nganang at Stony Brook, said he and his colleagues are busy working to drum up support for Nganang's release. An open letter calling for the end of Nganang's detention has received nearly 300 signatures from academics as of Sunday, Dec. 10.

"People are upset, of course, but to the extent they can they're taking action," Harvey said. "I'm working very closely with colleagues at Princeton University... several people there and myself are leading an initiative to get a letter to various enti-

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ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

On Tuesday, Dec. 5, a fire broke out on the third floor of West Apartment E. Firefighters arrived on scene to take control of the kitchen fire. No one was injured.

## Peer Mental Health Alliance pushes to improve CAPS

By Brienne Ledda  
Staff Writer

Over the years, Stony Brook University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) has periodically sent out internal satisfaction surveys to students assessing their feedback. But in an interview on Nov. 30, Allilsa Fernandez, the founder of the Peer Mental Health Alliance (PMHA), said that these surveys are not enough.

Fernandez, a senior psychology major, took issue with the fact that these surveys did not evaluate students' awareness of available resources. She also criticized CAPS for not doing everything in its power to support PMHA and other student-led mental health groups.

Ahmed Belazi, the director of Planning and Staff Development for Stony Brook University, said that the surveys they have sent out were meant to evaluate student well-being as a whole, which encompasses mental health. He added that sending out too many surveys could lower response rates. "We've seen response rates as high as 25 percent for some surveys, and then there are some surveys that get response rates as low as one percent."

Julian Pessier, the director of CAPS, said that the organization pays a lot of attention to student feedback through other means than just surveys, including through open forums and programs.

"Our first priority is to find out how students perceive the services," Pessier said. "A lot of our work in the past couple of years has been on providing more ways for students to ac-

cess our services, because we're aware it's a large, busy campus, and access is really one of the most important things that we've heard about and work continuously to improve."

Ruth Hernandez Montiel, a senior psychology major and the president of Active Minds, another mental health awareness group on campus, agreed with Fernandez, stating that there should be surveys evaluating student awareness of resources.

"A survey to assess student's awareness of mental health resources is a great idea and I especially think commuter students are often times the ones who may not be as aware of the available resources vs. residential students," Montiel wrote in an email. "We're always open to ideas about surveys," Belazi said. "This year Disability Support Services and Counseling Psychological services started a participatory reaction research group, and so what that group might end up doing is making recommendations on what are some things they'd be interested in researching and assessing. They may recommend that we do sort of a service utilization survey, or a service awareness survey, or some other type of perspective endorsement survey, and we would be more than happy to put things like that into sort of the cost benefit mix."

Aside from the surveys, Fernandez and other members of her club would like to implement peer-based counseling for mental health-related issues. These such programs, in which students discuss their social and emotional issues with other students, are currently available at

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## Students petition for renewable energy

By Anna Correa  
Contributing Writer

The Climate Reality Project, a nonprofit working to solve global climate change, hopes to end the fossil fuel industry's decades-long presence on Stony Brook University's campus.

The group's student-led chapter at Stony Brook is petitioning for a 100 percent commitment to renewable fuels on campus by 2030.

"Stony Brook students are the leaders of tomorrow," Steve Englebright, a District 4 assemblyman, said. Englebright, a professor of sustainability studies at Stony Brook, serves as the group's faculty advisor. "The involvement at the student level is part of their becoming committed to get involved with issues that really matter."

Stony Brook's energy provider, the Calpine Corporation, fuels the power plant on Gymnasium Road with natural gas. The gas is turned into steam and electricity which is used to power the campus.

In certain cases, when Calpine is unable to keep up with the demand for natural gas, they use fuel oil to power the plant instead.

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GEORGES SEGUIN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA CC BY-SA 3.0

Stony Brook Cultural Studies professor Patrice Nganang was detained in Cameroon this past Wednesday.



News

**Mysterious syringe found on campus.**

Read about criminal activity in our weekly Police Blotter.

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Arts & Entertainment  
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John W. Engeman Theater puts on classic production.

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**Finals schedule should be changed.**

Three 8 a.m. tests back to back can be brutal.

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Sports

**See the Fall 2017 season in Photos.**

A visual look back at Stony Brook's fall season.

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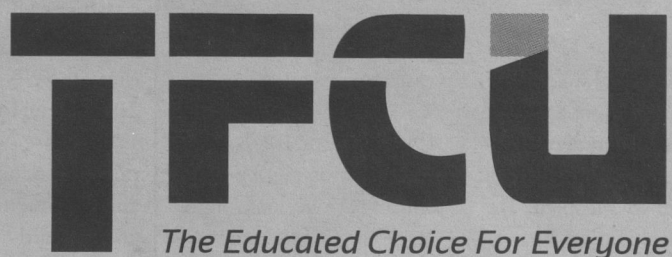
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# NEWS

## Professor criticizes Cameroon's government

*Continued from page 1*

ties, the Cameroonian embassy, the State Department, Senator Schumer's office, Senator Booker's office expressing our distress and hoping they will get something done."

Harvey also praised his colleague's passion for the causes he supports and dedication to his students.

"He's an extremely engaged and committed professor," Harvey said. "Nganang is someone who's extremely enthusiastic about the power of literature to not only kindle the imagination but to affect political and social change. And he instills those kind of values in his students."

Stony Brook President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. also released an official statement regarding Nganang's detention.

"Stony Brook University is aware of the situation and we are working around the clock with the appropriate authorities and elected US representatives to help facilitate the safe return of Professor Nganang," Stanley said.

Simh has told CPJ that his client is in good spirits and he is working on a legal defense to secure Nganang's release. At Saturday's hearing, Simh argued that since his client does not possess firearms and has a history of peaceful protests and activism, his post did not represent a legitimate threat to Biya.

Nganang's case is set to be brought before a prosecutor on Monday, Dec. 11. The prosecutor will determine whether or not the case will proceed.

*The Statesman* will update this story as more information becomes available.

## CAPS explores peer-led mental health services

*Continued from page 1*

other New York state schools including University at Albany and SUNY Potsdam. Montiel raised concerns about receiving this type of counseling from students who lack professional training.

"One of my biggest worries in this kind of situation is 'what if I say something I shouldn't and I make them feel worse,'" she wrote in an email.

Pessier said that CAPS is currently researching options for peer support.

"It is something that is growing in counseling centers, there's a lot that goes into it."

Fernandez said that earlier this semester, CAPS was not supportive of a program they ran called "The History of Mental Health Stigma," because they thought it might be triggering.

"We can't be afraid of being out there," she said. "We can't be playing it safe. Students are dying! Even at Stony Brook."

"Student concerns in any form that they reach me, or that we solicit them, are taken incredibly seriously, it's the most important thing to us," Pessier said. "Our trust with this community is utmost, to us. Every student that reaches out to us to want to discuss these things is responded to."

Azaina Muzavar, a senior biochemistry major and the secretary for

PMHA, wrote over Facebook Messenger that CAPS has been supportive in terms of providing resources, such as flyers, and that they collaborated on events with CAPS.

"No system is perfect and there is always room for improvement. The system that is designed and implemented for student mental health in Stony Brook definitely needs amendments," she wrote.

Montiel also gave her support to CAPS, adding that budget restraints could be the cause of some problems mentioned by Fernandez. "I know the director of CAPS, he is a great person who loves his job and really cares about the wellbeing of us students."

In an email following her interview, Fernandez said Danielle Merolla, the assistant director for outreach and community based interventions reached out for a meeting with her to discuss CAPS. She also wrote that Pessier expressed interest in discussing peer-mentoring programs.

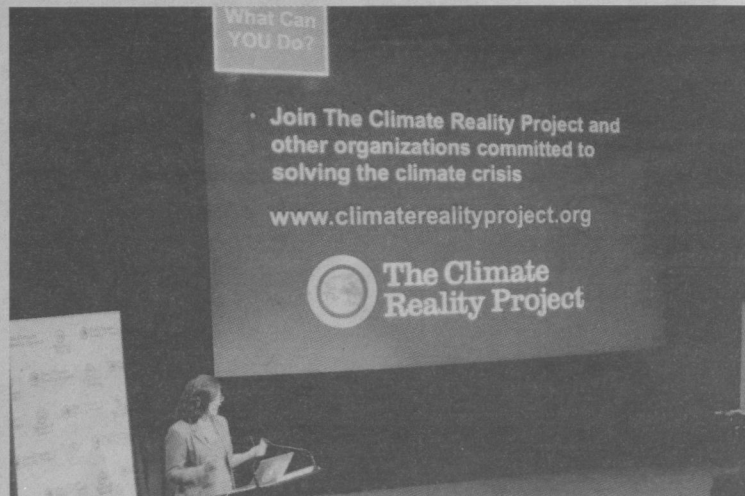
"We hope Stony Brook gets more involved with mental health and creates a better bridge to resources that students may need," Fernandez wrote in an email. "Peer Mental Health Alliance can only do so much without a budget. We need departments with a budget to advocate for mental health as well in order to eradicate mental health stigma. We are doing our part but we can only do so much alone."



STATESMAN FILE

**Counseling and Psychological Services at Stony Brook is looking into student suggestions for how to improve.**

## Climate Reality Project fights fossil fuels at SBU



GAVIN TAPP/FLICKR VIA CC BY 2.0

**The Climate Reality Project's Stony Brook chapter wants to reduce the school's reliance on natural gases.**

*Continued from page 1*

Using natural gas is cleaner than burning coal, but can still end up contaminating the air and water.

"Natural gas production along its life cycle, typically has many leaks into the environment and methane is much more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide," H. James Quigley Jr., a professor of sustainability studies at Stony Brook, said.

Starting in 1995, the contract with Calpine has prevented competitors from signing with the university, Englebright said. "They can cut the contract, but they're not inclined to... The contract is winding down. They're keeping their options open."

Although renewable energies like solar panels are currently utilized in the Research and Development Park, Terence Harrigan, the assistant vice president for facilities and services, said the Calpine contract prohibits the university from using renewable energies on the main campus.

This year, Governor Andrew Cuomo enacted Clean Energy Standard, which requires all state institutions to run on 50 percent renewable energy sources by 2030. With the university's current energy contract ending in 2022, Stony Brook has less than eight years to fulfill the requirements.

In addition, a 2010 executive order from the governor requires that all SUNYs cut energy use by 20 percent by the year 2020.

"We are working on projects mainly focused on conservation and efficiency that meet that goal," said Harrigan. "Further clarification is needed from the State as to how those projects could be funded or identified."

So far, the Stony Brook chapter of the Climate Reality Project's Campus Corps has obtained over 500 signatures for their petition. Their end goal is to meet with President Samuel L. Stanley jr. to discuss a plan to move toward a more sustainable future.

In the meantime, the group is looking into various renewable

energy solutions, including installing solar panels in the South P commuter parking lot.

"We especially want to get the hospital involved too," Christina Giordanella, chapter president and double major in sustainability studies and coastal environmental studies, said. "It's a lot of energy, but I think starting somewhere couldn't be anything but beneficial."

These efforts signal that progress may be on the horizon, but many students feel that more needs to be done on the administrative level. These sentiments were expressed at the Undergraduate Student Government's Sustainability Committee meeting on Dec. 1.

Condrea Zhuang, president of the Environmental Club, recalled the difficulties her club encountered last year in trying to make the campus more energy efficient.

"We went around campus collecting data and taking photographic evidence of all the buildings on campus that waste energy by leaving the lights on throughout the night, despite the buildings themselves being closed, such as the Union, Physics, Chemistry and the SBS buildings," said the sustainability studies and coastal environmental studies double major. "We were able to make contact with the energy management here on campus but didn't get very far before the academic year ended."

Sean Deery, a junior business major, suggested that the university has not been transparent in communicating the details of their contract with Calpine.

"Essentially, it's just higher up than students can actually reach, in terms of the administration," Deery said.

Although its unlikely that the university will be able to switch from 0 to 100 percent renewable energies overnight, Quigley said that even small improvements are better than none at all.

"It's going to have to rely on some measure of fossil fuels, but there should be some planning process and some commitment to their decision-making process toward a transition for renewable energy."

## Police Blotter

On Nov. 30, at 9:44 a.m., graffiti was found on the trailer and box truck located at the Research and Support Services building. The case remains open.

On Nov. 30, at 10:27 a.m., a skateboard was stolen in front of Melville Library. The case remains open.

On Nov. 30, at 5:32 p.m., a 15-year-old girl jumped out of her parents' vehicle on Fox Hunt Lane. The case is closed.

On Dec. 1, at 1:13 a.m., an intoxicated driver was arrested after speeding on Nicolls Road at the North Entrance south of Hastings Drive and failing to signal. The case is closed.

On Dec. 1, at 11:11 p.m., a referral was issued after a student driver was found in possession of marijuana on South Drive. The case is closed.

On Dec. 2, at 1:00 p.m., a passport and \$2,500 were reported stolen at Sanger College. The case remains open.

On Dec. 4, at 12:07 p.m., an individual was found in possession of a syringe with an unknown drug substance at Stony Brook University Hospital. The case is closed.

On Dec. 4, at 12:12 p.m., a bag of marijuana was discovered during a safety check at Wagner College. The case is closed.

On Dec. 4, at 8:14 p.m., a rape was reported on campus. Details of the case and location could not be revealed in order to protect the identity and

privacy of the victim. The case remains open.

On Dec. 4, at 10:48 p.m., a refrigerator was reported missing at Greeley College. The case is closed.

On Dec. 5, at 1:23 a.m., an arrest was made at Keller College after a domestic dispute occurred. The case is closed.

On Dec. 5, at 7:34 a.m., a referral was issued after an employee pushed another employee at University Hospital. The case is closed.

Compiled by Lisseth Aguilar



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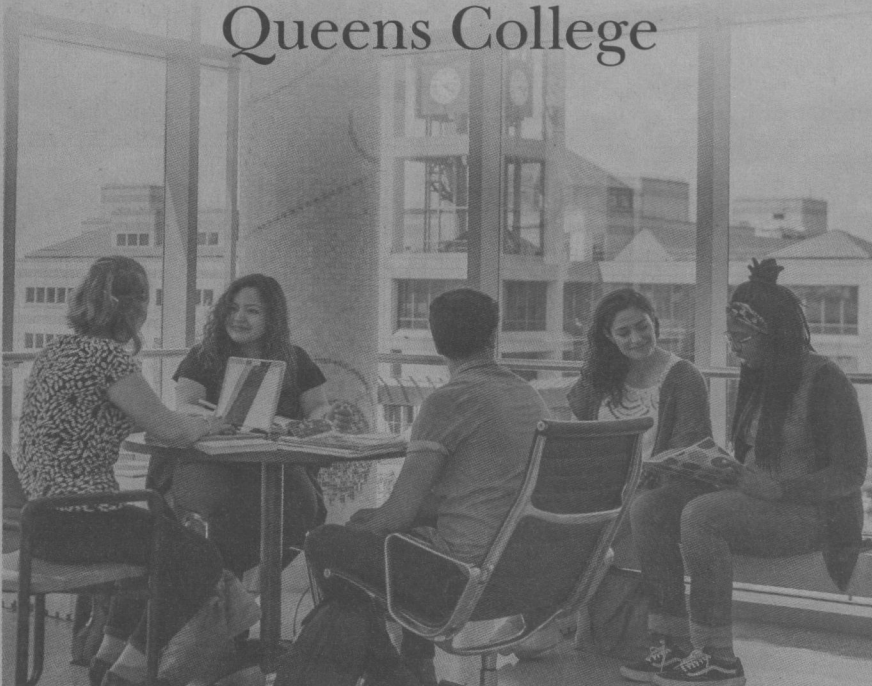


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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Northport theater performs classic "Annie" for holidays

By Kraig Klein  
Contributing Writer

With its uplifting story, exuberant score and likable characters, "Annie" has earned its place as one of the most famous Broadway musicals. The John W. Engeman Theater at Northport is currently showing the heart-warming tale of hope and optimism.

Based on the old comic strip "Little Orphan Annie," the musical follows the adventures of the titular energetic red-haired orphan Annie, portrayed by Presley Ryan, as she searches for her parents and is fortuitously adopted by multi-billionaire Oliver Warbucks, played by George Dvorsky.

Annie is able to use her cheerful and optimistic attitude toward life to cure Warbucks of his depressed capitalistic tendencies and capture the heart of the nation during the crushing Great Depression.

Meanwhile, she has to contend with the head of the orphanage, Miss Hannigan, played by Lynn Andrews, who formulates a money-making scheme with her brother in order to steal the award Warbucks is offering for the couple who proves they are Annie's parents.

Despite the fact that its stage is smaller than those of Broadway theaters, the Engeman is able to use its space to create the sense that the audience is immersed in the world of "Annie." The basic set is a series of Art Deco arch-



EVA RINALDI/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA CC BY-SA 2.0

**The Star Lyric Theatre in Sydney, Australia hosted "Annie The Musical" in 2012. The John W. Engeman Theater in Northport is staging a production of the classic musical.**

ways, but through the various scene changes, the arches are manipulated in different ways and several furnishings are replaced to create a feeling that the setting has changed.

For example, the arches become covered in shadows to resemble the dirty roof of Annie's orphanage, and they light up when they transform into the pillars of Warbucks' mansion. The ability of the Engeman staff to recycle the same set for multiple scenes without breaking the illusion is impressive.

The cast, for the most part, is impressive in its ability to convey

optimism. Andrews stands out from the rest of the crowd as her performance is filled with enthusiasm. Her strong singing voice and comedic hijinks were arguably the highlight of the show. Unfortunately, Ryan, playing the beloved little orphan, was the only actor who struggled to give a good performance due to her nasality. A good singing coach might have given her some direction on how to minimize the twang in her voice. On the other hand, her performance was appropriately energetic.

The story of "Annie" is, admittedly, saccharine and fantastic.

For crying out loud, there is a scene where Annie, through the peppy song "Tomorrow," inspires Franklin Delano Roosevelt to create the New Deal. The story is the polar opposite of most modern Broadway musicals in almost every way; the protagonist doesn't have a crippling disorder or an inner conflict that plagues the lead roles of modern musicals, nor is there an abusive family relationship or dark atmosphere (even the Great Depression, one of the most terrible times in American history, loses its grim tone with the heart-lifting songs of the musical).

For example, "Dear Evan Hansen" deals with an anti-social boy coping with the death of a high school classmate, "Hamilton" was a serious biographical musical about the turmoils of a founding father and "Fun Home" involves abusive family relationships and a girl coping with her discovery that she is a lesbian. "Annie" steers clear of such drama in order to delight all audiences. It does seem that modern musical writers have forgotten that it is okay to write a happy-go-lucky show to entertain the whole family.

Part of the show's charm is its score, written by Charles Strouse and Martin Charnin, which is beaming with happiness and sunshine. Songs like "Tomorrow" and "You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile" put a smile on my face with their cheerful melodies and whimsical lyrics. Can one remain grumpy when Annie sings, "The sun will come out tomorrow" and "You're never fully dressed without a smile?"

Overall, Northport's "Annie" is a fantastic production. It is by no means revolutionary, but it is undeniably heart-warming and perfect for the Christmas season. And unlike most modern musicals, it is also family-friendly — no f-bombs or sexual content are present in this show. It will be closing on Dec. 31, so make sure to see it now if you want to feel jolly for the happy holidays.

## "Gloves Off" exhibit in Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery challenges viewers

By Syreeta Yelverton  
Contributing Writer

"Sara Greenberger Rafferty: Gloves Off," Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery's newest exhibit, which opened on Nov. 2, encourages viewers to critically reflect upon and assess both the subtle and overt aggressions that plague American society and ourselves. The work features a series of photographs, Plexiglass or acetate "handmade photographs" and sculptures.

In her piece, "Jokes on You," she features high fashion brands like Moschino and DKNY and jokes from comedienne Phyllis Diller's "Gag File." The 19-foot-long work is comprised of six Plexiglass panels that pair high fashion with comedy. Greenberger Rafferty displays a vintage 1980s Moschino "wife-beater" vest, a popular men's shirt to compel viewers to question the origin of the shirt's nickname.

Diller's accompanying joke from "Gag File" reads:

"I asked my neighbor if her bad tempered husband was upset when she bought a new dress," she said. "In a way, but then, I can always cover up the bullet hole with a scarf or a pin."

It is hilariously absurd to think that a husband would

shoot his wife for simply buying a new dress, but trying to make decisions without your husband's approval was highly disfavored and punishable in American society back in the 60s.

An over six-foot-tall Plexiglas piece entitled "Y2K Moschi-

no Dress," delves into these domestic aggressions. In the piece, a slim-fitting, black, long-sleeved dress is affixed with 20 bright yellow words. Some of the words include "scared," "fat," "reserved," "creative" and "spiritual." Un-

checked boxes lay to the left of the words representing how the pressures of society make women feel an endless sea of emotions.

Greenberger Rafferty also incorporates five manipulated rephotographs into the piece.

She rephotographed 1980s images because she believes that they have been used as an "oppressive and subjective tool" in society.

"I use re-photography when I can," Greenberger Rafferty said. "I try not to put images into the world if they already exist."

All of the photos are casted in black and white, except one. In the one neutral-colored photograph, "Harold's Clock," a simple clock leans against a wall. A hole is punched through the middle of the clock not allowing it to have any arms to read the time.

"Her art acknowledges, shocks, and disrupts systems of oppression..." Andrew Ingall, an independent curator, said in his note in the exhibits gallery book. "Her work reveals the brutality and violence deeply woven into fashion, comedy, domestic life, and other areas of American popular culture."

In "Gloves Off," Greenberger Rafferty demands that viewers get uncomfortable and challenge societal norms, both on an individual and national scale.

The exhibit will be on display at Zuccaire Gallery through Dec. 17.



BRANDON BENARBA/STATESMAN FILE

**The Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery's newest exhibit features work by multimedia artist Sara Greenberger Rafferty. The exhibit will be on view for the public until Dec. 17.**



# A Look Back: Fall 2017



SASCHA ROSIN/THE STATESMAN

Post Malone singing to the crowd at Back to the Brook on Sept. 22 in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena as he performed songs from his debut album "Stoney."



GARY GHAYRAT/THE STATESMAN

6,000 students attended the second annual Wolfieland in the Student Activities Center parking lot on Sept. 9.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STALLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Dance group Tango Buenos Aires performed at the Staller Center for the Arts on Oct. 28. Through their performance, they told the story of tango legend, Carlos Gardel.



SASCHA ROSIN/THE STATESMAN

EDM DJ Slushii, who gained notoreity for his trap remixes, performs as the opener at Back to the Brook

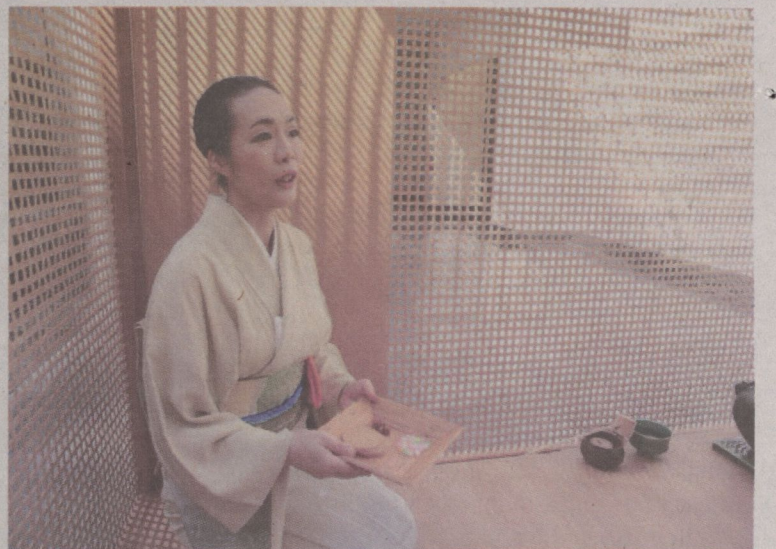
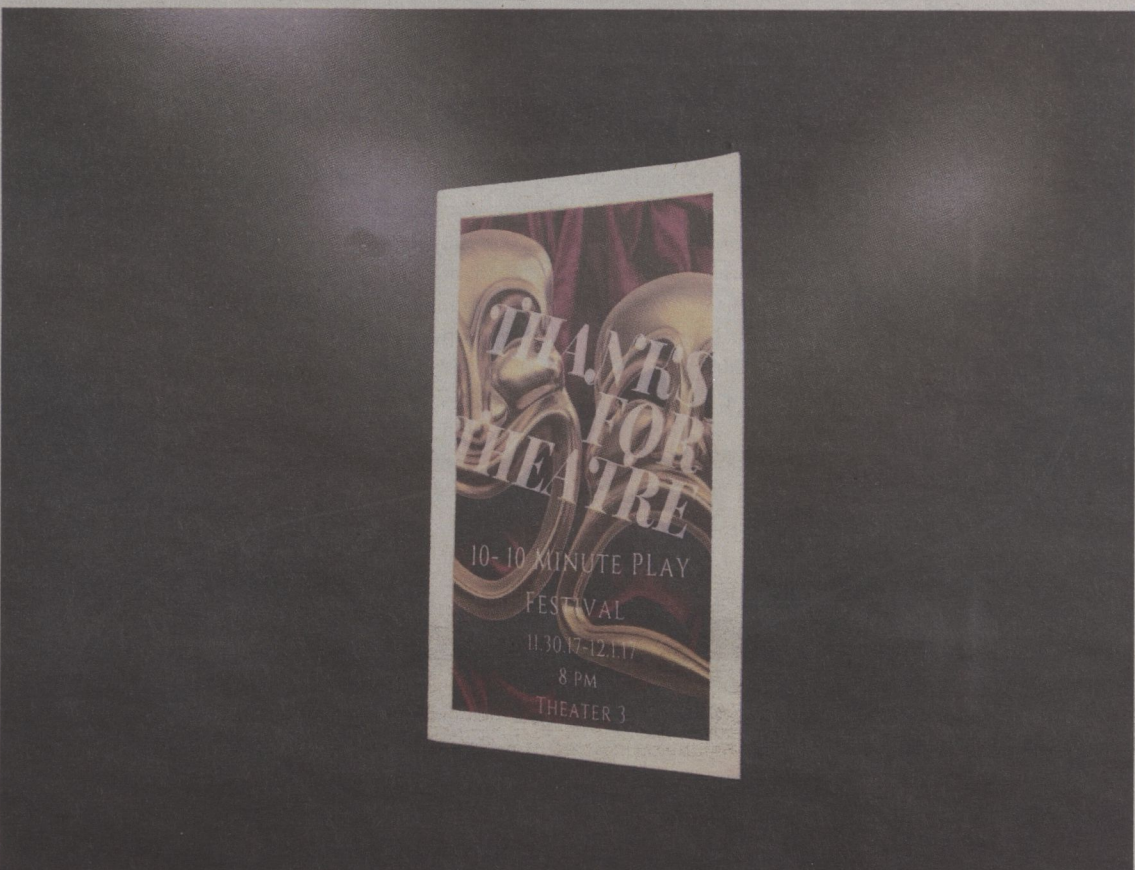


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHARLES B. WANG CENTER

The traditional tea ceremony for the Charles B. Wang Center's cultural program, The Way of Tea in Asia.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ/THE STATESMAN

The production of 10, 10-minute plays from five different student playwrights was led by SBU senior theatre arts major, Kristen Spencer on Nov. 31 and Dec. 1.



ESTEBAN IDROVO PONCE

Stony Brook Pocket Theatre performed its postmodern rendition of "Macbeth" from Nov. 17 to Nov. 19.



# OPINIONS

## THE STATESMAN

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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.

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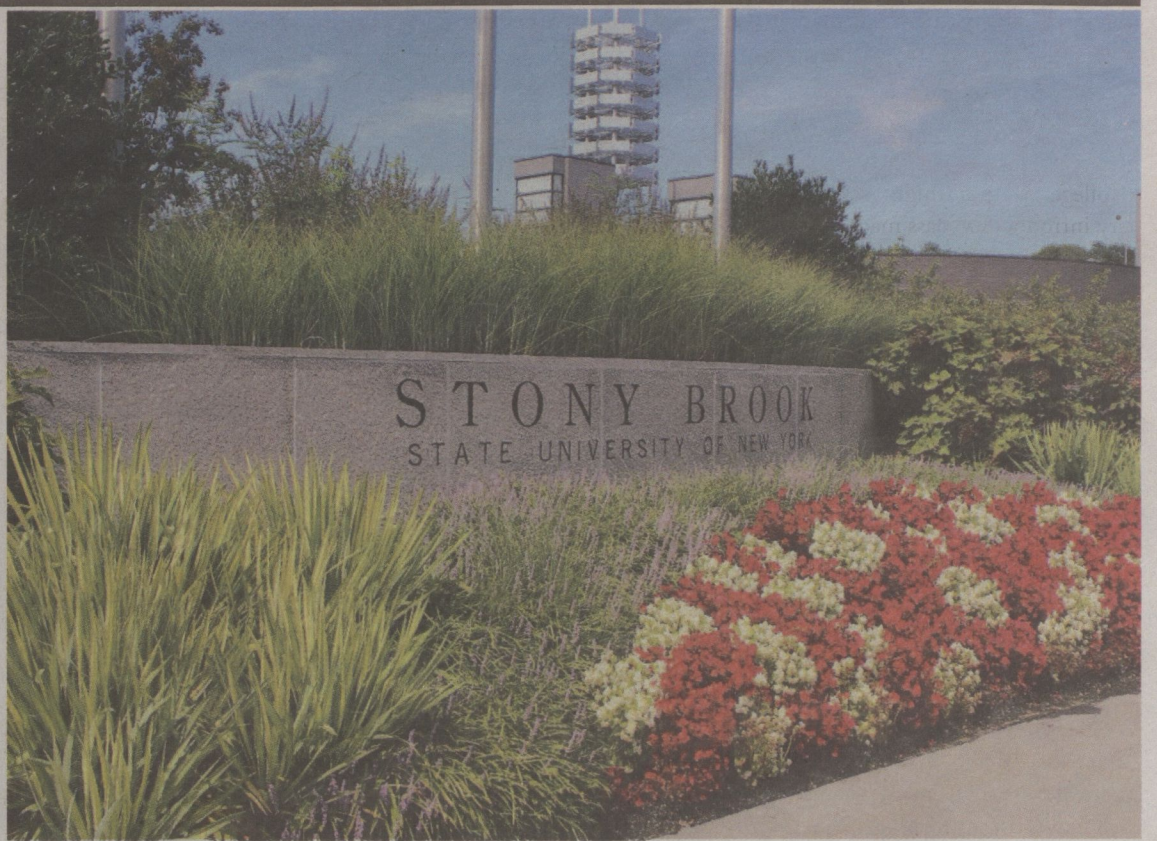
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MANJU SHIVACHARAN/STATESMAN FILE

Some Stony Brook University students believe that more financial support from the campus community could greatly benefit student-alumni relations and programs.

## The Alumni Association could do more if they had more money

By Bryan Carroll  
Contributing Writer

Would it be possible if Stony Brook took a cue from the University at Albany and offered free caps and gowns that are paid for by their Alumni Association? Students at the University at Albany pay \$20 a semester through an optional partnership fee that is charged to all students taking six or more credits each semester. According to the University at Albany, "the Student-Alumni Partnership allows students to tap into a network of more than 145,000 alumni, take advantage of the numerous events that is designed to help students gain business, professional and leadership skills. From networking and spirit events to scholarship opportunities, the Partnership is designed to help students make these years the most of their Albany experience. If a student did not want to support the partnership, they would opt out." The Stony Brook administration should consider a proposal for a similar line item fee. In turn, current students would be able to help foster a connection between fellow and future students.

According to the Alumni Association at Stony Brook website, "As a new graduate from Stony Brook University, you are now an official Seawolf for Life." That being said, the mission of the Stony Brook Alumni Association is to reach, serve and engage all Stony Brook alumni and current students in order to foster a lifelong intellectual and emotional connection to the university. I believe there is no better way of propelling this charge to help the greater community through a potential opportunity given to current students.

Exploring that for a minute: the Alumni Association operates on fundraised monies and on very limited state support. And

through those monies, the Alumni Association provides services to campus that ultimately help foster a sense of community. If the Alumni Association had more resources at its disposal, it would be able to bring more well known speakers to campus or hold more activities on campus that departments might not have the resources to organize. In addition to the events on campus, the Alumni Association supports scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate students every year who demonstrate Stony Brook's tradition of excellence in and outside of the classroom. I would imagine that would be only enhanced if the Alumni Association had more funds.

As it stands now, the Alumni Association sponsors many Stony Brook annual traditions including Homecoming weekend, the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner and dozens of enriching workshops, social networking events and other alumni-exclusive programs on campus. Take a look at that next event flyer you see, you might just notice a particular tagline that would have otherwise gone unnoticed before: "Proudly supported by the Alumni Association." The impact of the Alumni Association is ever so present even though we might not have given it much thought. I can only conjecture how an influx of donations would lead to more support given directly to departments, student clubs or to available research.

The potential magnitude of support is impressive. During the May 2017 commencement, there were 4,292 baccalaureate graduates, 1,999 masters and 449 doctoral candidates who became alumni. In December 2010, 2,346 Seawolves earned their degrees. If those same students gave \$20 dollars during one semester, the Alumni Association would have received

\$49,920. In a single academic year, the Alumni Association could have raised a tentative \$99,840 if there was a 100 percent collection rate. If the Alumni Association took those monies and put it into an interest bearing savings account, the yearly interest would be \$998.40. That would potentially be enough money for a total reimbursement of 15 cap, gown and tassel packages at the bookstore.

It is hard for a student to ask other students to pay more for anything. It is even more difficult to suggest that other students pay more in associated broad-based fees on campus when there is no fee to join the Alumni Association presently. However, the potential benefits to this "partnership" would be seen immediately if you decided to donate while you were still a student. For example, this elective fee could go toward your cap and gown at graduation. I feel no student should need to stress about the affordability of a ceremonial outfit after they labored four, five or even six years for a degree. The respective student governments could even potentially consider subsidizing caps and gowns for students in the short term.

In closing, I am asking the administration to start a dialogue around the potential benefits to the greater community if we as a university created a new elective fee that would be paid semesterly to foster alumni relations. This partnership would theoretically create a living "Alumni Connection" for students (undergraduate and graduate) to participate in the hopes of making a lasting impact, proverbially going far beyond your own time on campus. I wonder, if the current 136,000 alumni of Stony Brook were given an opportunity to invest in their college and by extension their future selves as alumni while they were still students, would they?



# Treat me like a college student whose time is important

By Andrew Goldstein  
Opinions Editor

College is not high school. Every introductory class made sure to tell this to me. I was taught to spend three hours outside of class for every credit hour of class. Professors would expect me to put in extra effort to stand out. As a college student, I am, on some level, an adult who can manage his time, prioritize and work towards excellence.

And yet, I find professors treating me and fellow students as though we are back in high school, or even middle school. Back in high school, it didn't matter when you finished your test or when a teacher finished giving a lesson. We were considered too immature and hormonal to control ourselves inside the classroom; there was no way teachers would let us out to wander the halls. The schedules were organized so that no one could leave class early. You could ditch. But once you set foot in the class you were staying until the end of the class no matter what.

This should not be the case in college. We have other classes, internships, part-time jobs and extracurriculars. If a professor finishes the day's lecture, students should be allowed to leave the class. If students finish in-class tests early, they should be allowed to leave class. If there is a three-hour lab that students are able to finish in two hours, they should



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**A lecture hall during a final exam. Often, professors will require students to stay the entire time that class is scheduled even if the lesson has already been completed.**

be allowed to walk out of the class without fear of losing points. Everything has been completed. If I can still get all of my work done for class, I should not be subject to losing a full letter grade for every two unexcused absences as many classes declare in their syllabi.

Of course, if a professor finds that class after class, they finish

lessons early for whatever reason, they should change their plan to make full use of class time. It might be time to add complexity or totally restructure. I don't mean finishing with five minutes left, but with a third or more of scheduled class time still extant.

During my gap year in Israel, one of my rabbis stood in front

of the class and wrote out the tuition we had all paid to attend. He then divided it by the months we would be in yeshiva, the number of days of class per week and the number of hours we had class every day. He told us that we would incur no penalties for missing classes, but for every failure to attend we were, in

essence, giving away money for nothing in return.

College is the same. I am paying approximately \$207 for every credit hour of class. If I decide to miss one hour of a three-credit class, I forfeit \$17.25. If I decide to miss an hour and a half it totals to \$25.88. A three-hour class costs me \$51.57. These are choices that I can make. If a real lesson has been given over by a professor in the less-than-scheduled time, I should be allowed to accept my losses and go on to do other work or socialize as I see fit.

Some classes inherently require attendance. It is impossible to learn from a discussion-based class or lab class without attending. But for many classes, while it might be more difficult, it is possible to excel without attending a number of times. Opinions writers have previously written about Stony Brook's absence policy. When Fast Company offered unlimited vacation, employees took around the same number of days off. I want this policy not because I want to stop attending classes entirely. I want this policy because I have calculated if I could afford ditching one class to work on another class.

As this semester comes to a close I ask professors: Can you please trust me to be mature about your class and others? Can you manage class time the way you expect me to? Can you treat me as a college student?

# Please reschedule our finals to reduce student stress

By Andrew Goldstein  
Opinions Editor

Finals are hard. Cumulative or not, these exams are instant stress-makers for students across fields and majors.

Just look at how many de-stress events the university held last week. The Society of Women Engineers had a "Stress Free" event on Monday. On Tuesday, Omega Phi Beta held a Spa Day. Wednesday was Pet Therapy Day, De-stress Fest and Sigma Iota Sigma's Smash Away Your Stress event. Students were invited to Relax in the SAC on Friday.

I have written previously about finals stress with some advice on how to handle it. But no matter how many stress-control techniques you have or how many de-stress events you go to, sometimes it is out of your control.

This semester's finals schedule, like the finals schedules before it, stacks the beginning of finals week with the common STEM exams. Many students take BIO 203, BIO 204, and CHE 321 in the same semester. Come finals, these students have an 8 a.m. final three days in a row with the least amount of reading days beforehand. I was one of these students both semesters last year. It is horrible.

I have heard stories of students seriously considering purging to get out of at one of these finals

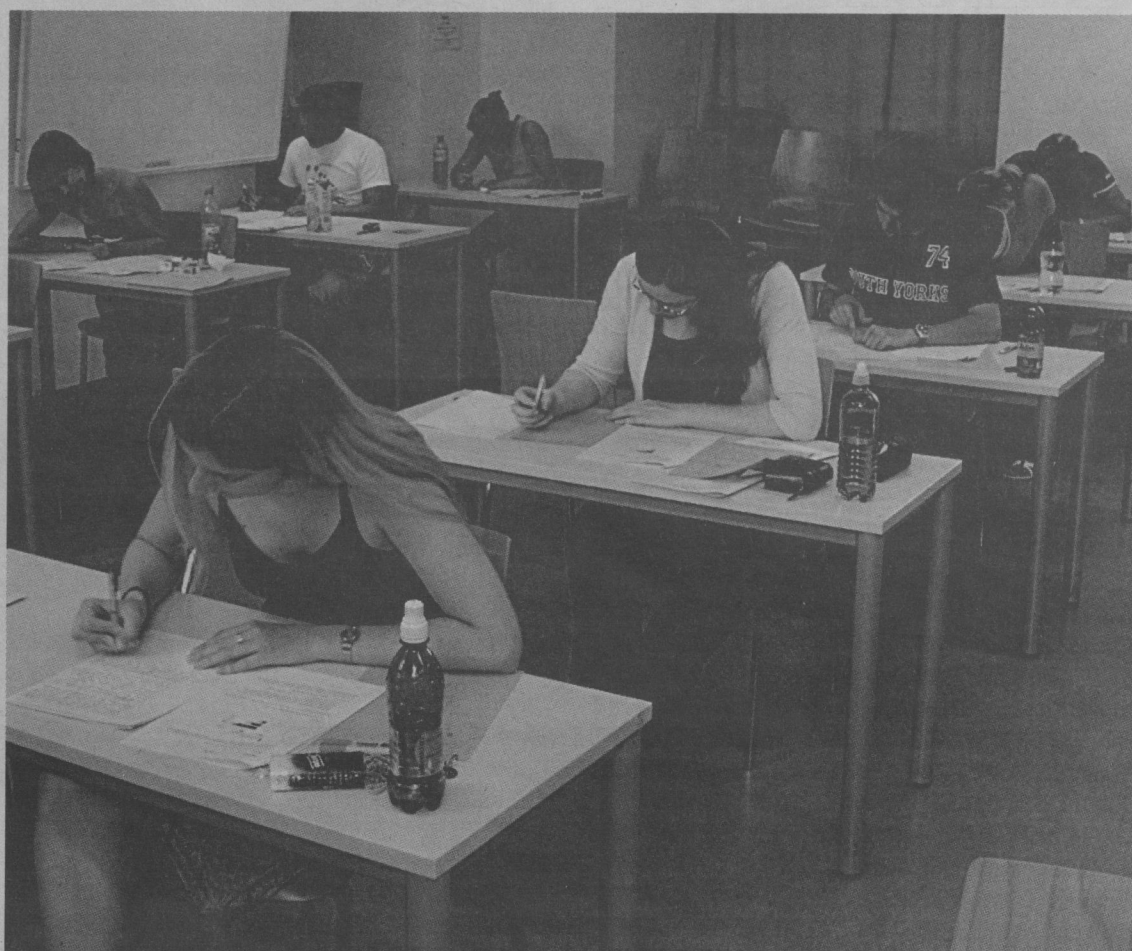
in the cycle. To expect students to switch mindsets from human physiology to the only test of biology lab to the electron movements of organic chemistry with only 24 hours between each is unreasonable.

Organizing the test schedule sounds stressful itself. To set up all those finals for all those classes so students can attend them must be a nightmare. But it must be possible to organize the schedule so that not all the most common exams are bunched together at the beginning.

Maybe it's because I live on campus and otherwise live in Nassau County, but I would be perfectly content with having a BIO 203 exam the first week of finals and a CHE 321 final sometime the second week. I can live with the fact that this shortens my break and means having to worry about school for longer. But having more time means I can dedicate more time to studying and less time to cramming. It means that I can take the time to manage my stress as I study for the hardest final on my schedule.

This is even worse for commuter students, who need to make the time to travel, most likely having to cut studying time, impairing the ability to perform the morning of the exam.

This leads into a further question about finals schedules: does it make sense to have finals that



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**Students in the middle of their final exams. Many de-stressing events took place at Stony Brook University to help students relax in preparation for finals weeks.**

start as early as 8 a.m. and end as late as 11 p.m.? This semester I have a day where I have finals in the earliest and latest blocks of the day. Besides the stress of having only nine hours and 45 minutes to go from the mindset of

one final to the other, I must be awake and function at my best at 8 a.m. and keep it going through 11 p.m. I don't think I will be able to nap.

Extend finals for a full second week. Spread out the common

finals. Of course it would be nice to get more reading days, but the purpose of finals week is to have full days to study and take tests anyway. More reading days wouldn't help; better scheduling would.



# Women's Basketball falls in fourth straight game 68-36

By Mike Adams  
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook Women's Basketball entered the second quarter of Sunday afternoon's matchup against Northwestern trailing 14-13, courtesy of a late layup from Wildcats sophomore guard Byrde Galernik.

The score was stagnant for the first few moments of the second, until Stony Brook freshman forward India Pagan hit a layup in the paint to put the Seawolves up by one point.

That would turn out to be the last time Stony Brook held the lead in the game, and the Seawolves went on to lose to the Wildcats 68-36 by the time the final buzzer sounded.

"I thought we came out strong in the first quarter, and from there Northwestern really dominated the game," head coach Caroline McCombs said in a press release. "We did not stop them in transition, and they were two steps ahead of us all night."

Stony Brook continued to have problems with ball security on Sunday, registering 20 turnovers against just nine total assists, as many as Northwestern freshman guard Jordan Hamilton had by herself. The Wildcats capitalized off the Seawolves' errors to score 18 points off turnovers.

While Stony Brook junior guard Jerell Matthews had a solid night from the floor, with a team-high 13 points on 60 percent shooting, the rest of the team's offense was lacking throughout the game. The



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

**Junior guard Jerell Matthews passes the ball over a defender during a game against Yale back on Dec. 6. Matthews was the bright spot for the Seawolves, scoring 13 points in a 32-point loss to Northwestern Sunday afternoon.**

Seawolves shot 24 percent overall from the field, under 16 percent if Matthews' shots are removed from the equation. Junior guard Shania Johnson, the team's leading scorer this season, hit just two of the 13 shots she took.

By contrast, Northwestern shot 49 percent overall as a team, hitting 28 field goals to Stony Brook's 13. The Wildcats led the Seawolves in

bench points, points in the paint and second-chance points.

The Seawolves have not lost by more than 32 points since their 78-40 loss at Iona on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2013. Stony Brook's 36 points were the team's lowest total in a game since Jan. 30, 2013, a 68-35 loss to Albany.

The loss was the polar opposite of the Seawolves' early-season offensive

successes, which saw them more than double their 36 points from Sunday in three of their first four games. After the game, McCombs acknowledged the team has room to grow, and called on her squad to become more consistent.

"We have to become more consistent," McCombs said. "We have a lot of room for growth, and will continue to be resilient in our approach."

The loss drops Stony Brook's record to 5-4, the team's fourth-straight loss after going undefeated for five games for the first time in program history. The Wildcats advance their regular-season record to 6-4, snapping a three-game losing streak.

The Seawolves will look to get back in the win column when the return home to play Iona on Thursday, Dec. 14. Tipoff is slated for 7 p.m.

# Yeboah drops 30 as Men's Basketball defeats Columbia

By Ryan Pavich  
Contributing Writer

Redshirt-sophomore forward Akwasi Yeboah took charge of the Stony Brook Men's Basketball offense in the team's game Thursday against Columbia. Yeboah went on to score a career-high 30 points as the Seawolves overcame another halftime deficit to defeat the Lions 76-66 Thursday night at Levien Gymnasium.

Yeboah, who nearly tied his season high with 17 points in the first half alone, became the first Seawolves player to score 30 or more points in a game since forward Jameel Warney put up 43 points in the 2016 America East title game to take down Vermont and advance to the NCAA tournament for the first time in program history.

The Seawolves needed all of Yeboah's scoring, as the Lions held a 10-point lead at halftime. The team came out of halftime with newfound energy, going on an 8-0 scoring run to open the half, and taking its first lead of the game at 46-45 with just under 15 minutes left in the second half. The urgent play caught the attention of head coach Jeff Boals.

"I was really proud of our guys coming out and responding in the second half," Boals said in a press release. "I thought in the first half we played a little selfish, made some unforced errors and allowed them to be the ag-

gressors. Thankfully our guys came out in the second half and responded like I thought they would, and I'm really proud of their effort."

The Lions' leading scorer, sophomore guard Mike Smith, earned 18 points but struggled with his efficiency. Smith shot 27 percent from the field, and only shot 10 percent from inside the three-point line. Smith wasn't the only Lion to struggle to make his shot, as the Seawolves held

their opponents to 37 percent shooting overall.

The comeback capped off a much needed bounce-back victory for Stony Brook. The team played a pair of nail biters against Saint Francis on Saturday, where they won 85-83 thanks to a layup from senior forward Tyrell Sturdivant with five seconds remaining in regulation, and LIU Brooklyn on Monday, where they lost 75-71. Stony Brook improved to 4-6 this year, and split

decisions on a short two-game road trip.

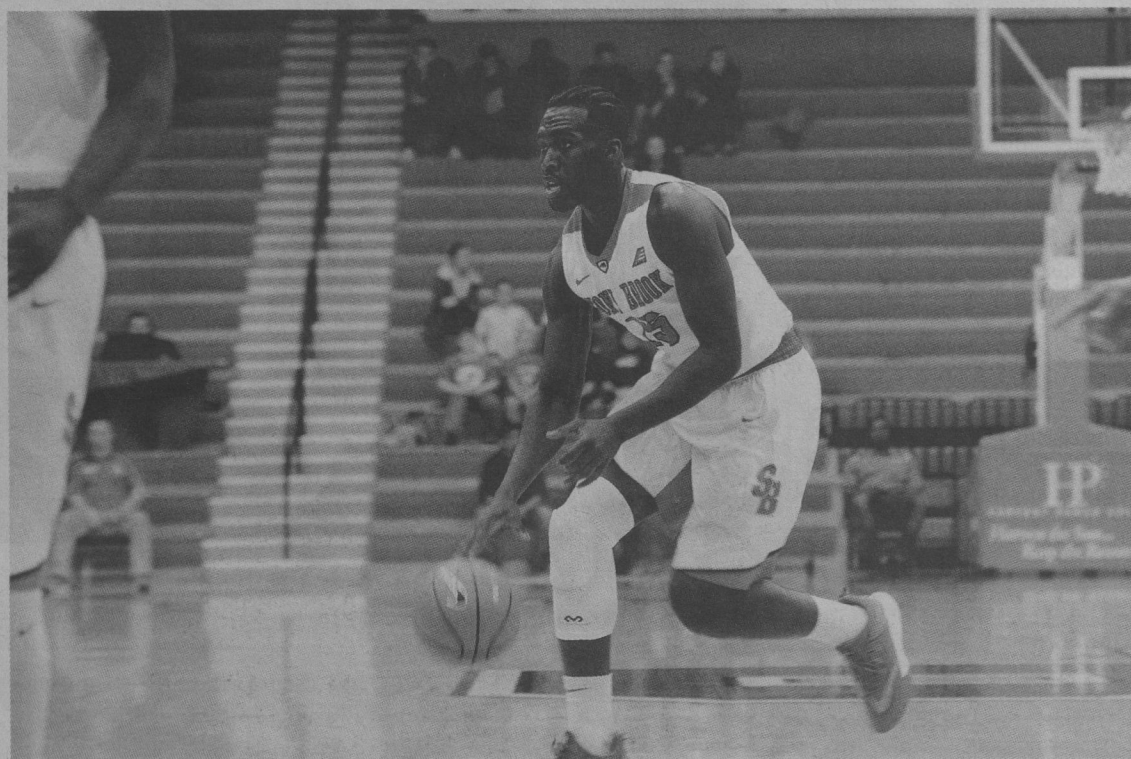
The Seawolves made a notable change prior to the game, inserting junior guard Jaron Cornish and senior guard Bryan Sekunda into the starting lineup in place of senior guard UC Iroegbu and freshman guard Jordan McKenzie. Cornish has posted double-digit scoring totals in each of his last three games, while Sekunda has shot 66 percent from beyond the arc over that same stretch.

Cornish continued to play effectively in his first start for the Seawolves, shooting 55 percent from the field and scoring 11 points in 22 minutes. Sekunda, however, had a rough night, missing all four of the shots he took. However, Sekunda did contribute four rebounds and two assists in 31 minutes of play.

Stony Brook's free throw shooting in this game showed a large improvement from their season trend. The team shot 75 percent from the charity stripe, up from their season average of 64 percent. In particular, this performance blows away their 53 percent free throw shooting from the LIU Brooklyn match.

One of the reasons for this turnaround is Sturdivant. The forward has struggled opening the season with free throws, shooting just 43 percent entering the match against Columbia. He bounced back on Thursday, shooting 70 percent from the line and sinking the final five Stony Brook points via free throw to ice the game.

Stony Brook will return home for a matchup against rival Hofstra on Dec. 12, with tipoff scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Island Federal Credit Union Arena. The Seawolves have an opportunity to exact revenge for a tough loss to the Pride last time around, a 96-58 blowout last year on Dec 13.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ / THE STATESMAN

**Sophomore forward Akwasi Yeboah looks to make a play in a game against Shawnee State. He scored a collegiate-high 30 points in Thursday's 76-66 win over Columbia.**



# Fall 2017 Sports Recap



EMMA HARRIS / THE STATESMAN

Senior forward Tyrell Sturdivant makes the game-winning layup during the final seconds of the team's win over Saint Francis on Dec. 2.



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

The women's soccer team celebrates its second-ever America East Championship in program history after a win over Vermont on Nov. 5.



SAMANTHA MONTES / THE STATESMAN

Junior middle blocker McKyla Brooks helped lead Stony Brook Volleyball to its first ever NCAA tournament berth this season.



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

Junior wide receiver Nick Anderson (No. 87) and senior running back Stacey Bedell (No. 21) celebrate a touchdown against UNH on Oct. 14.



GARY GHAYRAT / THE STATESMAN

Senior defender Danny Espinoza scored his first career goal, also the game-winner, for the Seawolves against Seton Hall on Sept. 1.



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

Junior forward Cheyenne Clark helped lead Stony Brook Women's Basketball to an undefeated 5-0 record to open the 2017-18 season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STONY BROOK ATHLETICS

Stony Brook Men's Cross Country poses for a photo after placing first in the America East championships in Vermont on Oct. 28.



ANNA CORREA / THE STATESMAN

Stony Brook Football begins its celebration with the Golden Apple after reclaiming it from rival Albany during Homecoming on Nov. 4.



# SPORTS

## Hockey shuts out NYU 4-0 to complete weekend sweep

By Peter Lupfer  
Contributing Writer

The last game of 2017 was a strong one for the Stony Brook hockey team, who took down New York University 4-0 Saturday night at The Rinx in Hauppauge.

"I think the guys knew that it was an important game for us," head coach Chris Garofalo said. "We got the 'W' to move on to the next semester and I think we did a good job."

The team found offense by committee, with no player earning more than one point in the victory. Perhaps the best line for the Seawolves was a combination of freshmen forwards Charles Peck, Ian Bernes and Keith O'Brien, who were responsible for two of the four goals.

"I talk about consistency with everybody and they have been inconsistent," Garofalo said. "I think that today they had a really strong game and they played on

both ends of the ice. They were backchecking, they were doing the little things, and they have to remember that. It's up to them to understand that the little things will get you a long way and I think today they did a good job of that."

The win may not have been possible without the efforts of sophomore goaltender Richard Shipman, who turned away 24 shots en route to his first shutout of the year. After playing a full 60 minutes at Sky Rink Friday night, Shipman became the only Stony Brook goaltender other than sophomore Payne Yoder to start two consecutive games since November 2016.

"I just felt it was another great opportunity," Shipman said. "I had a game against Liberty where I got kicked out in the first period for a fight and then I got the call in the second game against Adrian and I got pulled for a momentum change. Two games straight I only played a period so coming

into this weekend, I wanted to seize this opportunity. I felt like I had blown that and my confidence was going downhill and I just wanted to take control of this opportunity."

Shipman's shutout was his second as a Seawolf and he will begin 2018 on an active shutout streak of 103:22. By then, sophomore goaltenders Payne Yoder and Brandon Rathwell, who both missed this weekend with the flu, will be ready to come back, giving Garofalo additional options in the crease.

Along with their returns, all currently injured players are expected to be ready for the second half, including senior forward Ori Benyamini, who has missed almost a month with an upper body injury. The Seawolves will need to be ready for a challenge when they return in January, with a matchup against the Eastern States Collegiate Hockey Association-leading Liberty Flames as soon as they return.

"[I want them to] stay in shape and do good in school," Garofalo said of his expectations for the team heading into break. "Get on the ice two or three days a week and just keep their legs going. Don't come back not skating for four weeks. Guys that are injured, get healthy. I might have one or two new guys come in that could

impact us and hopefully everyone is eligible to play. It's student-athlete, not athlete-student so you've got to be eligible."

The Seawolves will return to the ice regrouped and recharged Saturday, Jan. 13 at 8:30 p.m. when they host the Flames in an ESCHL championship rematch.

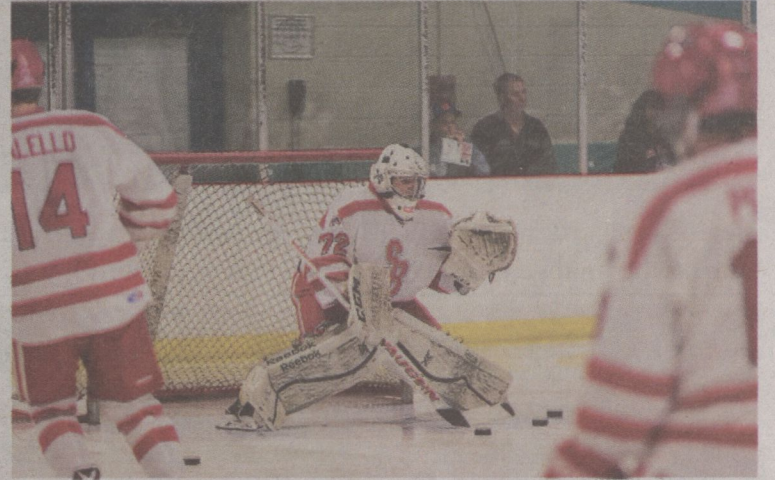


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Sophomore goalie Richard Shipman defends the goal during the hockey team's game vs. Delaware on Oct. 29.



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