

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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College of Arts and Sciences cuts pharmacology major

By Rebecca Liebson
News Editor

Acceptance into the undergraduate program in pharmacology has been suspended indefinitely, due to a programmatic decision from the College of Arts and Sciences, said Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacological Sciences Michael Frohman.

Faculty learned that the program was in jeopardy several months ago. Meanwhile, students were kept in the dark as the department negotiated a plan to try and save the major by using external funding. Students weren't made aware until Jan. 30 when they received an email notifying them that the decision had been finalized.

"A donor was found who was willing to address the financial needs as initially described by CAS but this did not change the decision of CAS to end the major on a programmatic basis," Frohman wrote in an email to *The Statesman*.

The details around why the CAS rejected this funding still remain unclear.

After making repeated attempts to contact Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Sacha Kopp for clarification, *The Statesman* was redirected to Media Relations Manager for the School of Medicine and Health Sciences Gregory Filiano without expla-



GARY GHAYRAT / THE STATESMAN

David Rohde, online news editor for *The New Yorker*, speaks to an audience in the Student Activities Center on Wednesday, Feb. 21. Rohde was kidnapped and detained by the Taliban in Afghanistan for seven months in 2008.

nation.

Filiano provided the following statement via email: "After careful and strategic consideration, campus leadership determined the proposed solution to privately fund the program was not practical or sustainable."

Although the CAS has halted funding for the program, the vast majority of instructors are employed by the School of Medicine, not the CAS.

"We can't be directed [by the CAS] not to teach pharmacology," Frohman explained, adding that they would continue to provide the required courses until everyone in the program graduates.

The one faculty member who was

employed by the College of Arts and Sciences, Robert Watson, has since been reassigned to the Department of Neurobiology & Behavior.

Watson was responsible for teaching the two lab courses — BCP 403: Principles of Pharmacology Laboratory and BCP 404: Advanced Pharmacology Laboratory.

"The lab was taught at a high level, and where possible I brought real-world experiments into the classroom," Watson stated via email. "Beyond just learning lab techniques, students were encouraged to think critically and creatively about the experiments they were performing."

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More men than women choosing to come to Stony Brook

By Andrew Goldstein
Opinions Editor

Women make up a smaller percentage of Stony Brook undergraduate students than they did a decade ago, despite having higher retention and graduation rates than their male counterparts.

In 2007, the ratio of males to females was 49.8 to 50.2, according to a report by the Stony Brook Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness (IRPE). Since then, the male population has increased by 1,529 while the female population has increased by 316. This translates to a 53.3 to 46.7 percent male-to-female ratio in Fall 2017.

"We've actually seen more females apply than males in our applicant pool," Rodney Morrison,

associate provost for enrollment and retention management, said. "And we've had more females that we've admitted over the last four years than males."

Around 1,200 more women than men applied to Stony Brook for Fall 2016. Both sexes had roughly a 40.7 percent acceptance rate, which meant about 500 more women were admitted than men. Despite that, 229 more men than women enrolled to be full-time students that year, according to data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, a system of interrelated surveys collected from educational institutions.

Charles L. Robbins, vice provost for undergraduate education and dean of the undergraduate col-

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Long Island Immigrant Student Association hosts TPS Teach-In session

By Gary Ghayrat
Assistant News Editor

In response to the Trump administration's decision to revoke Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for beneficiaries from El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Sudan, Long Island Immigrant Student Advocates hosted a TPS Teach-In session in the Humanities Building on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

According to The Center for Migration Studies of New York, about 26,000 people in New York State receive TPS, a program that protects people from countries that are suffering from past natural disasters or current armed

conflicts. Since as early as 1999, the program has allowed more than 300,000 TPS beneficiaries throughout the U.S. to work with authorization and live without the fear of deportation.

"These are populations that have been in the U.S. for a long period of time," Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology Tiffany Joseph said. "They have families, they have lives here, but unless somehow they can adjust their status or their TPS expiration date is renewed by the U.S. government, then these people run the risk of becoming undocumented, which creates a lot of uncertainty not only for them but also for their families."

The Trump administration ended TPS for about 450 Sudanese last September, some 50,000 Haitians and 2,500 Nicaraguans last November, and nearly 200,000 Salvadorans in January, which are all going to expire in 2019.

Nancy Hiemstra, an assistant professor from the department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, said one of the reasons for ending the program was because people falsely assume immigrants like TPS beneficiaries are a drain on the economy.

According to Long Island Wins, a nonprofit communications organization that focuses on immigra-

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ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

The Heavy Engineering Building at Stony Brook University. More men than women are enrolling at SBU.



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The sport is harder than it looks.

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Why texting is dulling our empathy.

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Sports
Women's Lacrosse takes down Denver

No. 2 Seawolves shine on offense and defense.

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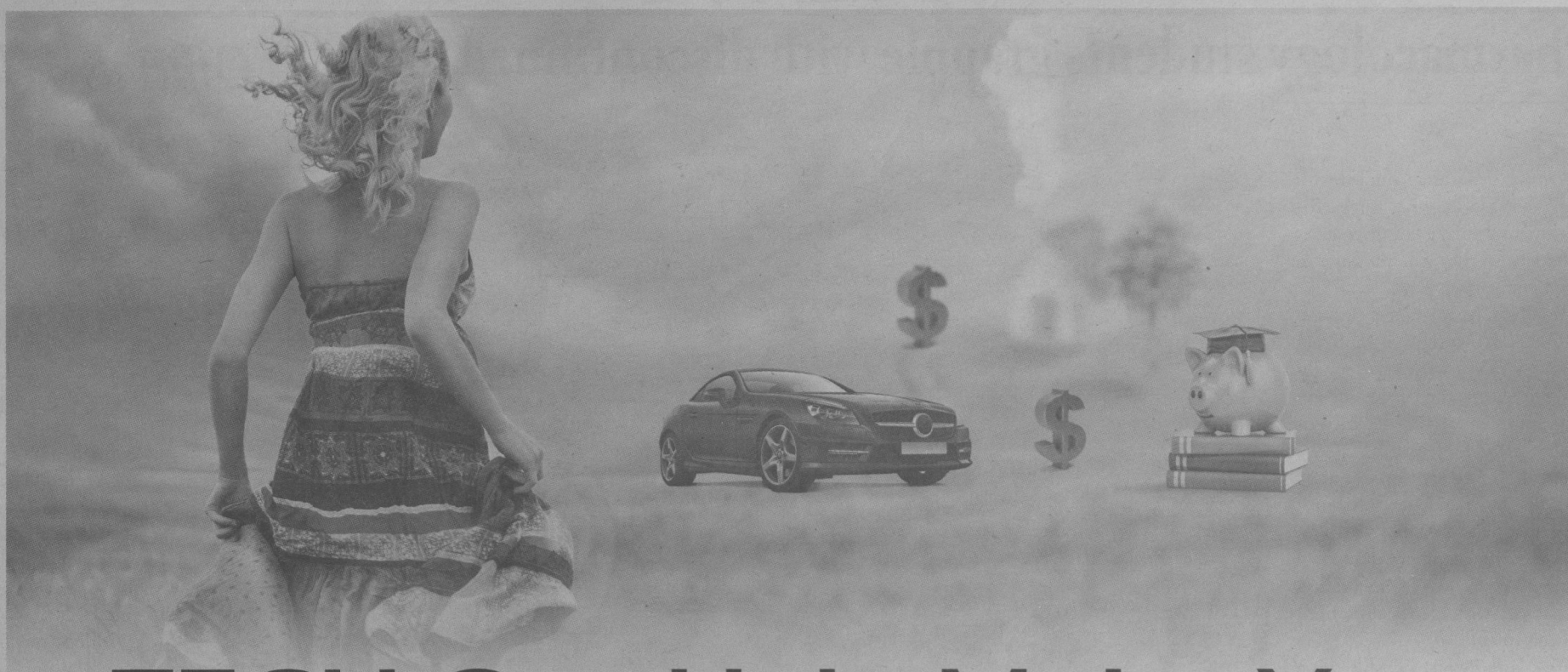
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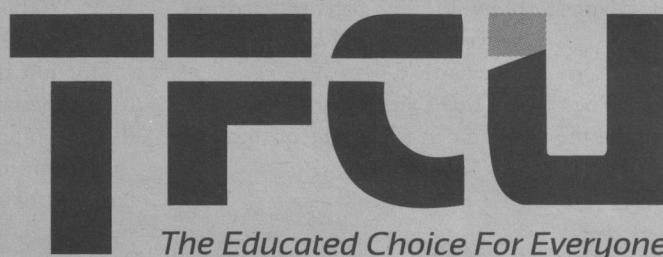
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NEWS

Pharmacology students grapple with discontinued major

Continued from page 1

Watson's departure, coupled with insufficient funding, has forced the department to make drastic changes to the labs so they can continue to offer them.

"You'll still be able to get through 403 and 404, they'll just be different in character than what you thought you were getting into," Professor and Vice-Chairman of the department Paul Fisher said. "It will be writing papers, and in some cases be reading and doing independent study but it will still be called 403 and 404."

Students will also have the option to take an equivalent lab in a different subject with permission from the department.

"This is the worst possible thing that could happen to the program because now we don't have hands on lab coursework that could be applicable to finding a job right after graduation," junior pharmacology major Irena Pigulevskiy said. "That just completely devalues our degree because that's such an essential component of it."

Pigulevskiy has chosen to continue pursuing a degree in pharmacology. But the cuts have provoked some students to change paths entirely. Take sophomore pharmacology and European studies major, Mark Falko, for example.

"For me, this is something that I don't feel comfortable with. Graduating with a major that is no longer a major," he said.

Falko came to Stony Brook specifically for the undergraduate pharmacology major, since it was one of only three universities in the U.S. that offered it.

Around the same time he learned that pharmacology was in trouble, Falko overheard news that the European studies program was also at risk of losing funding.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ / THE STATESMAN

Acceptance into the undergraduate program in pharmacology has been suspended effective immediately. Professors in the program were reassigned to other departments.

"What do I do now, with no majors left?" he asked.

Now, after taking out \$20,000 in student loans to attend Stony Brook, Falko said his goal is to pursue a degree in interdisciplinary studies and try to graduate as soon as possible. "I definitely would not have come to Stony Brook if I knew this would be the case."

At a Feb. 1 informational meeting for all pharmacology majors, some students raised the idea of starting a petition to try and reverse the CAS' decision. However, Frohman warned that protest was unlikely to result in any meaningful change.

"At the end of the day writing petitions isn't going to help," he said. "The dean, the provost and the president don't argue with the fact that this is a fantastic program."

He urged students to try and empathize with those in the administration, noting that many of the decisions being made were likely the result of budget cuts coming from the state level. "At the end of the day, they have to make hard decisions without having a precedent. No matter what, sometimes you just can't make everybody happy."

Setting the reasoning behind the cuts aside, Pigulevskiy said what upset her the most was the lack of transparency from the administration throughout the decision-making process.

Students were notified after the major/minor declaration deadline and days before the end of the add/drop date for enrollment, which Pigulevskiy said made things hard for anyone trying to replan their schedules in accordance with the changes.

"When I heard it, it sort of seemed like my world was falling apart because everything that I had envisioned, that I had already meticulously planned for seemed like it could just be going to waste and that I'd have to reconsider everything," she said.

While she has tried to maintain a positive outlook, Pigulevskiy said the fact that the CAS turned down an opportunity to fund the program is discouraging to say the least.

"It just goes to show that the school doesn't care about its students," she said. "I really fell in love with this field of study and I felt like it was extremely unfair to just have the rug pulled out from under me at such a late point in my academic career."

Officials seek to explain gender gap in enrollment

Continued from page 1

leges, said that there is a team looking into those numbers and the reasons behind them, but it is not clear because other universities with similar profiles to Stony Brook have a higher female enrollment.

"It needs to be drilled down and understood better," Robbins said.

While officials did not identify a singular reason for this gap in gender enrollment, they mentioned the prominence of certain programs at Stony Brook as a possible factor.

"Stony Brook has a reputation for specializing in STEM fields, and STEM fields are disproportionately male," Braden Hosch, assistant vice president for institutional research, planning and effectiveness, said.

Hosch said that external pressure to go into STEM rather than social sciences has led to a natural increase in enrollment to the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS), making it the fastest-growing college at Stony Brook in recent years. This enrollment skews male.

"When you look at our engineering program, it's probably about 75 to 80 percent male," Morrison said. "College of Arts and Sciences, I want to say, is about 50 per 50. Journalism we have more females. That's where, in terms of the data sort of points to where we're most skewed towards men at."

As of Fall 2017, the School of Journalism was 56.4 percent female, according to IRPE. The CAS was 51.7 percent female. The School of Business was 41.4 percent female, and CEAS was 22.9 percent female.

"It's not just here at Stony Brook," Morrison said. "I know there's lots of education nationally to try to get women into Science and Engineering and currently we have some programs as well."

In an attempt to recruit more women, Stony Brook's Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program hosts programs for middle school and high school girls to try to promote and educate more women on the benefits of science and engineering programming.

While efforts like this may have increased the number of women who enroll in the CEAS, women are still a minority in the program by far.

"If you take a look at the proportion of women in CEAS, it's been growing," Hosch said. "But because it was 18 percent before and it's 20 or 21 percent now, nevertheless you see the huge growth it ends up still pushing more men in overall."

Stony Brook students and advocates hold TPS info session

Continued from page 1

tion issues, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center estimates TPS holders in Long Island will contribute about 2 billion dollars to the Long Island economy. "They're far from a drain on the economy. These are very much integral to our local and state economies," Hiemstra said.

Hiemstra, who studies private companies and individuals who lobby for policy changes, said much of the lobbying effort to get rid of TPS has been a "money making opportunity" for local governments.

"The United States has the largest detention and deportation system in the world," Hiemstra said. "This is a billion dollar industry, so any changes in status that are creating more undocumented people is kind of feeding this system."

To help individuals who are about to lose their TPS, Carlos Piovannetti, a managing attorney at the Immigration Legal Services of Long Island, said people should organize to call officials, write let-

ters, march in the streets and try to put as much pressure on officials. "Change starts from a very, very, very minoritarian position," Piovannetti said. "This is what history has taught us."

Rodman Serrano, a senior English education major, said his parents fled from the Salvadoran Civil War in the 1990s to seek a better life for their family.

"Because of TPS my parents are able to live a more secure life," Serrano said. "My family is one of the

hundreds of thousands of families who are protected by this program. We have established our lives here."

Serrano said he is an introverted person who is very shy, but the January announcement of TPS termination for Salvadorans made him realize he has many privileges. "I feel the weight of responsibility for my parents' sacrifices," he wrote in a The New York Times op-ed article.

"There are many things that I can do to speak out on behalf of

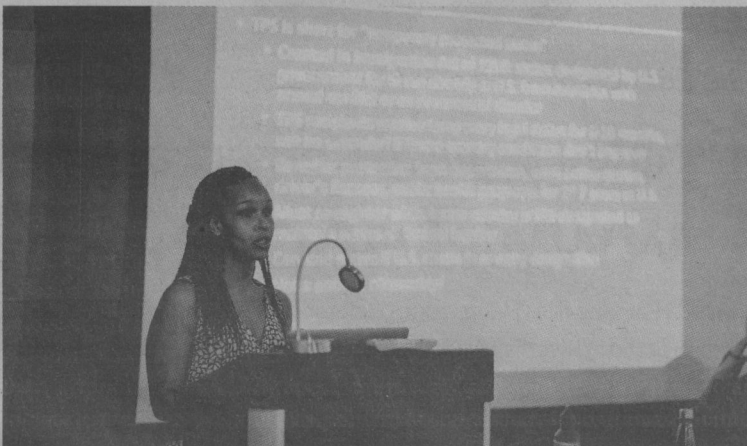
my parents and to speak out on behalf of many families who don't have the courage or fearing everyday what's going to happen to them," Serrano said.

In September of last year, Serrano said he and a few others drove to Washington D.C. and encountered U.S. Representative for New York's 2nd congressional district, Peter King.

"He just did not want to listen to us," Serrano said. "It was very disheartening, you know, trying to share your story with someone who has a lot of power, who can really make an influence for my parents, and my family."

Serrano said he's been volunteering for community services and organizations to advocate for resources for undocumented students and students whose parents rely on TPS to make the school more open and welcoming for everyone.

"I'm trying to do everything I can to stand up and to use my voice," Serrano said. "It's the American thing to do to fight for your family, fight for what is right."



GARY GHAYRAT / THE STATESMAN

Assistant Professor of Sociology Tiffany Joseph speaks at the TPS Teach-In on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

2018 Brookfest announcement makes security clearance criteria unclear

By Chris Parkinson
Assistant Sports Editor

21 Savage, the Atlanta-based trap rap artist set to perform at Brookfest on April 4, is notorious for violence in his songs. With an added criminal history that dates back to his adolescence, questions are being raised on how the 25-year-old "Savage Mode" rapper was able to pass security clearance to perform.

Born Shayaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, 21 Savage was kicked out of numerous schools while growing up in Atlanta. He was placed in juvenile detention in high school for threatening another student with a gun.

In 2014, Savage was caught driving with 22 grams of marijuana, 89 pills of hydrocodone, a Glock .40 and a Ruger .9mm, according to DJBooth.net.

Another possibility for this year's performance was Houston-based rapper Travis Scott. However, the Undergraduate Student Government deemed him "to be too reckless" said Justas Klimavicius, the executive assistant to the Jaliel Amador, vice president of Student Life and Programming. Scott had previously been arrested in May 2017 for inciting a riot at a show in Arkansas.

USG has stated that security checks are in the hands of the University Police Department. UPD has denied access to performers in the



NRK P3/FLICKR VIA CC BY 2.0

Rapper Lil Wayne performing in Norway in 2013. He refused to comply with the university's security clearance and was unable to perform at Back to the Brook 2017.

past, but the criteria for what constitutes permission to perform is vague.

Back in the the fall, New Orleans rapper Lil Wayne posted on Instagram that he was coming to Stony Brook for Back to the Brook, which proved to be false.

"[Lil Wayne] expected to come into [Island Federal Credit Union

Arena] without getting patted or wanded or pass through a metal detector, meanwhile he had a gun charge," Amador said. This prompted USG to withdraw their offer to Wayne.

Despite Lil Wayne's denial, there have been performers in the past who have a criminal record.

Last year's Brookfest performers included DNCE, Joey Bada\$\$ and Alison Wonderland. Bada\$\$ has a history of run-ins with the law, having previously been arrested twice, once in October 2013 following a performance along with rapper Ab-Soul, and again in January 2015

for assaulting a security guard in Australia.

Many students have also voiced their disapproval of the recent decision on USG's Facebook announcement, complaining about the abundance of rap choices through the recent years.

"Oh look, yet another rapper," a Facebook user posted on the USG Facebook page. "How bout changing it up every once in a while."

Several other comments were negative, calling the decision "trash." One user even posted a link to a Facebook video of 21 Savage performing at an Atlanta Hawks halftime show with the title "Worst NBA halftime performance ever!"

"USG should provide a poll for students to vote on," Nicolas Rutig, a sophomore health science major, said. "Also trying to get more dates available [at Island Federal Credit Union Arena] so more artists could be asked would work."

In the past, USG has polled students. Wayne was included in the polling for Back to the Brook that took place in the fall, but USG decided to go with Post Malone. This year, there was no poll included for Brookfest, leaving USG to go with whichever artist was available for the dates of the show.

New year rewards loyal anime fans with premieres for high-profile shows

By Claudia Motley
Contributing Writer

Between the new arc of the infamous "Fate" series, hit romance show "Just Because!" and the manga-based "Made in Abyss," last year was a good run for anime.

So what's in store for the new year? Here's a quick listing of what anime fans can look out for in 2018.

1. Made in Abyss, Season 2

After the show made it big in the anime fandom last summer, fans can breathe a sigh of relief, as the show is said to continue with a second season. The new season (also based on the ongoing manga series) was announced at the "Deep in Abyss Katari" event last November, where they first showed the sequel preview. The storyline revolves around the adventures of a young girl named Riko and a robot boy named Reg, who journey into the mystical and dark underground world known as The Abyss. The show is surprisingly twisted, reflecting the manga's darker, more gruesome undertones. Much of the horror still has yet to arise from the point the first season cut off, so fans should expect some rougher seas in the sequel.

2. Sword Art Online: Alicization and Sword Art Online Alternative: Gun Gale Online

"Sword Art Online" (SAO) is a show that helped make anime mainstream. Based on a light novel series, SAO dives into the world of virtual reality. The main character, Kirito, gets trapped with hundreds of other players in



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"Made in Abyss" is one of the anime shows with new seasons starting in 2018. The series won Anime of the Year at Crunchyroll's 2017 Anime Awards.

the world of "Sword Art Online." A death in the game results in the death of the person themselves, so the players fight for survival in order to reach the last level and escape the game. Both the first and second season were split into

two different arcs, making for four total storylines that surprisingly run quite smoothly.

The "SAO Alternative" season will be a side story based on the first arc of season two, "Gun Gale Online," and will air this spring.

The official third season of SAO, "Sword Art Online: Alicization," was announced following the Tokyo Aki No Saiten event (Fall Festival) in October, with the first visual teaser appearing on the SAO Twitter account. Though the official release

date is still unknown, the creator teased a 2018 release.

3. One Punch Man, Season 2

The long-awaited new season of "One Punch Man" comes with a catch: it will not be animated by the same studio. Madhouse, the first season's animating studio, will be stepping down, and J.C Staff Studios will be working on it instead. The new studio is primarily known for animating romances, like projects "Toradora!" and "Golden Time," whereas Madhouse has had a history with darker, mature styles. J.C Staff's experience in that area is slim to none. Because of this, the upcoming season of "One Punch Man" could be a hit or miss.

The first season of "One Punch Man" follows a superhero named Saitama that is tired of being a hero. After meeting a cyborg boy named Genos, Saitama sets on an adventure to battle a countless number of villains. Though the release date was supposed to come out at the end of 2017, there is still yet to be any news regarding its airing, so there's also likely to be a wait with this one.

4. Tokyo Ghoul:re

Much like "Sword Art Online," "Tokyo Ghoul" plays a massive role in mainstreaming anime culture. It is set in a world where humans share society with ghouls that feed on human flesh. Kaneki, the show's protagonist, falls into the hands of a twisted ghoul and ends up becoming one himself. At least, half of him does. The darkness and gore has left many viewers craving more. The new addition to the "Tokyo Ghoul" franchise is said to release this April.

Marvel's new film "Black Panther" inspires students during Black History Month

By Adubi Oluwabukunmi
Contributing Writer

Students and members of the Stony Brook community discussed and celebrated the black American experience at "On Being Black: The Black American Dream," an event hosted by Ta- bler Quad resident assistants at the Tabler Arts Center Black Box Theatre on Friday. The performances and discussions covered a variety of subjects, from social consciousness to black image and identity. The latter discussion brought the new Marvel movie "Black Panther" to the front of everyone's mind as an inspiring depiction of black culture and heritage.

"The movie being released during Black History Month is actually such a very powerful statement in within itself," Matthew Loye, a junior anthropology major, said. "I loved it. The way that they displayed African culture in the movie, I definitely thought they had done justice and I really enjoyed it. The arts, the costume, the colors and the way the sets was setup, it was a very African movie."

"Black Panther," directed by Ryan Coogler, is the first Marvel movie to have a black director and a majority black cast. The movie, which debuted on Feb. 16 in time for Black History Month, portrayed black excellence at a time when most black people needed to be inspired.

"It was important [that "Black Panther" came out during Black History Month]," Fatima Henry, a graduate student in higher education, said. "Black History Month is more than just the African-American experience, and I feel like the film definitely portrays that. It was very impactful and I think that right now in the state that we are as a community, we definitely needed this."

Starring Chadwick Boseman, "Black Panther" follows the story of T'Challa as he assumes the throne of the fictional nation of Wakanda after the death of his father. Long hidden from the

rest of the world, Wakanda is the most technologically advanced nation on the planet thanks to its exclusive access to the fictional element vibranium.

T'Challa ends up in conflict with his cousin, Erik Killmonger, played by Michael B. Jordan, over the path of their home country and its role in Africa going forward. Killmonger, born N'Jadaka and raised in America, causes a rift that almost tears Wakanda apart. By the film's end, T'Challa defeats his cousin and Wakanda begins helping other African nations.

"The movie being released during Black History Month is actually such a very powerful statement in within itself,"

-Matthew Loye
Junior, Anthropology

"I thought it was really impactful and significant, sort of like a symbol and message of like representation for black people," Aba Jahnisealey, senior technological system management major, said. "Seeing black people in a position that's, you know, not just like slavery, like being kings and being people who have control of their environment and world is pretty cool."

"Black Panther" depicts the rich dressing culture of African nations. Most characters in the movie wear African native attire made with different colors and African designs. The film also explores some of the problems most African countries faced, such as colonization, or are still facing, like the ongoing #bringbackourgirls crisis in Nigeria.

In April 2014, 276 Chibok female students were kidnapped by members of the extremist Boko Haram group in northeast Nigeria. The incident drew international attention, but over 100 of the girls are still missing. The movie presented an alternative reality, Boseman's T'Challa and Lupita Nyong'o's Nakia rescue female hostages from a terrorist group in the Sambisa Forest in northeastern Nigeria.

According to The New York Times, "Black Panther" broke box office records and shattered "a myth about the overseas viability of movies rooted in black culture." Domestic ticket sales passed \$400 million and foreign box office totals reached \$300 million through the film's second weekend in theaters, according to Forbes.

Theaters scrambled to add showtimes to accommodate crowds. An AMC outside Atlanta scheduled 84 showings for the movie's debut on Friday, Feb. 16. On Sunday, AMC Loews Stony Brook 17 had 18 showings of "Black Panther," far exceeding the five respective scheduled showings of films like "Annihilation" and "Game Night," which both debuted on Feb. 23.

A lot of people showed their love and support for the movie before it came out during Black History Month. A video on Instagram showed students at Ron Clark Academy, a non-profit middle school in Atlanta, jumping on desks and chairs, clapping, dancing and singing in reaction to finding out that they were going to see the movie "Black Panther." Pictures were posted on Instagram of people wearing colorful native African attires and using the hashtags #WalkingintoseeBlackPantherLike and #ForTheCulture.

"I think it is something that we needed to make us feel good about ourselves." Nekita Whyte, the assistant director for university apartments, said. "I think we had a major accomplishment during this month; black history. Its amazing everybody should go see it. Wakanda forever!"



"Black Panther" star Chadwick Boseman speaks during a panel for the film at San Diego Comic-Con on July 22, 2017. The film debuted on Feb. 16, 2018.

ARTSY EVENTS

Feb. 26

Film Screening: Kiki

In this Black History Month event, the Student Activities Center Sidney Gelber Auditorium will present the film "Kiki," about the experiences of several young LGBTQ people participating in contemporary LGBTQ Latino and African-American Kiki culture. The event will also feature an analysis of the concepts after the movie is finished.

Feb. 27

Black in Latin America

The Black History Month Committee will screen the PBS Series, "Black in Latin America." The third part of a trilogy that began in 1999 with the broadcast of Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s first series for public television, "Wonders of the African World," an exploration of the relationship between Africa and the New World. In this screening at 7 p.m. at the Sidney Gelber Auditorium, the rich cultures of Haiti and the Dominican Republic will be explored.

Feb. 28

Lecture Series

In this edition of the Richard Nasti Lecture Series, Christine Contrada, a professor in the writing department, will present on the popular history of Florence, Italy. She will connect its past to its present, balancing its Renaissance roots and contemporary reality. The presentation will begin at 4 p.m. in the Center for Italian Studies Meeting Hall in Melville Library.

Feb. 28

Cuarto Basso

Cuatro Basso is a double-bass quartet comprised of students from the music department's Doctor of Musical Arts program. They will play a concert from the program's musical repertoire. They will be performing at the Melville Library Atrium at 12 p.m.

March 7

Art of the Violin Concert Series

Performing in the Melville Library Galleria at 12 p.m. are students of professor and artist-in-residence Jennifer Frautschi. They will be playing works from the violin music collection.

March 7

Starry Nights

In this star-studded performance, Stony Brook's artists-in-residence, professor of music and doctors of musical arts come together to create a unique concert. The featured artists include violinist Philip Setzer, violinist Arnaud Sussman and cellist Colin Carr, The performance takes place at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$38.

March 9

Wonderstruck

As a part of its Spring Film Series, the Staller Center for the Arts presents "Wonderstruck." This story follows a young boy from the Midwest who feels compelled to travel to Manhattan following a freak accident, and a young girl from New Jersey on the same journey 50 years before. The film begins at 7 p.m.

March 9

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

As a part of its Spring Film Series, the Staller Center for the Arts presents "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri." This story features Frances McDormand as an adamant mother who pressures the local sheriff to solve her daughter's murder when the police fail to make any progress. The film begins at 9:15 p.m.

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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PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTORIA DEANGELIS

Hispanic Staten Island resident Gabby Pardo in front of a mural in Manhattan. The Hispanic population on Staten Island is about one-quarter of the white population.

Why I am proud to identify as a white Hispanic from Staten Island

By Gabby Pardo
Assistant Opinions Editor

I have an enormous amount of pride in where I'm from and my background. I grew up on Staten Island. When I meet people that aren't from Staten Island, I always get teased with jokes saying, "Isn't that just Jersey?" or "You're not even a borough." I just laugh it off and take it because home will always be home.

I identify as a Hispanic woman. I take pride in introducing myself as Puerto Rican, Ecuadorian and Brazilian.

Staten Island, however, has a majority white population. According to the United States Census, as of July 2016, 76.6 percent of Richmond County identified as white. This number dominates other races, including African-Americans with an 11.8 percent population and Asians with 8.8 percent. The Hispanic population on Staten Island is only 18.4 percent, about one quarter of the white population.

When I tell people about my background, they're either shocked, nod my statement off or don't believe me. I may emphasize my background, but I've adjusted to introduce myself as a white Hispanic, meaning my skin tone may be olive, but my actions sometimes deceive me as the white girl stereotype. I even joke around and say I'm a white girl trapped in a Hispanic body.

To me, being a white Hispanic means having white girl stereotypes sprinkled into your personality while still upholding a Hispanic background. I am able to embrace both my Staten Island upbringing and my Hispanic roots. I still get offended, however, when people think I am joking about my background. I recently went on a date where I told the guy I'm Hispanic and he couldn't

believe it. He couldn't stop saying, "If I was a stranger, I would've never thought," as he continued laughing after.

I take two different approaches to the offense. On one hand, I'm offended because the Spanish background tends to be negatively stereotyped. I once had my ex-boyfriend's white father ask him if he was going to eat tacos when he was heading to my house for family dinner. We didn't.

The other side of the offense is that these comments make me feel as if I don't express my Hispanic heritage enough. I can't help that I grew up around mostly white people. I went to a very diverse high school, but the gap between white and Hispanic students was still 20 percent. My close friends are all white, except for my best friend who is Puerto Rican, and all of my neighbors have been white.

The Staten Island girl stereotype includes having a love for Starbucks, carrying Michael Kors bags 24/7 and being white. I embody two of the three qualities. I am proud of my Staten Island upbringing. Why should I be expected to give up Starbucks or Michael Kors just to eliminate the shock from strangers about my background?

I embrace my Hispanic background all of the time. One of my Spotify daily mixes is all Spanish music that I'll listen to anytime, any place. My parents and extended family have also exposed me to Spanish dancing and the language. I also crave Spanish food anytime. I have it for dinner, but not every night, and have also been taught how to cook certain Puerto Rican dishes. Am I perfect at these things? No, but what matters is I am aware of the elements that make up my culture.

I have never judged anyone by their skin tone when meeting them. I've just been limited to mostly white friends, because of Staten Island's demographics. My friend group at Stony Brook has expanded my perspective and contributed to my identity. My group is a melting pot of both whites and minorities. My two best friends on campus embody this situation perfectly. One of them is white, while the other is Jamaican.

Because I have more diversity in my friend group, I've been able to be more open about my background through school events. I participated in the Caribbean Student Organization's fashion show last semester in honor of my Puerto Rican side. I've attended parties where there is a majority minority population and felt even more comfortable embracing my Hispanic origins. I had never been to a party like that back home before. I found others who can sing along to the same songs as me, dance with me and most importantly, have as much pride in their background as I do. I was held back all of these years from embracing my ethnicity as much as I wanted to because of the overpowering white population.

I am sorry society that I cannot be the typical Hispanic woman that you want me to be. I may fulfill some of your stereotypes. I am loud. I am family-oriented. I love to watch and play soccer. But I am not what you expect me to be. I am much more than that. I speak fluent English. I don't eat Hispanic food for dinner every night. I will still carry around my large Michael Kors bag and Starbucks with Nicky Jam blaring through my headphones. I will speak with a clear, American accent unless I am speaking Spanish. I am a white Hispanic from Staten Island and couldn't be more proud.

Too much texting is making us more emotionally ignorant

By Samiha Ahmed
Contributing Writer

Ding! Removing your gaze from your textbook, you pick up your phone and begin reading your text. Your mind is bogged, trying to decrypt the meanings that lie underneath the message. The string of emojis that follows the three-worded text certainly doesn't help. Is she being sarcastic? Is she angry? Am I reading too much into this?

In the past, phones were simply used as a mode of communication. Now, we can call, text, use the internet, pay our bills, play games, do homework, etc. Because our phones have so many functions, our messages may not be a priority, causing us to put little thought into what we are saying.

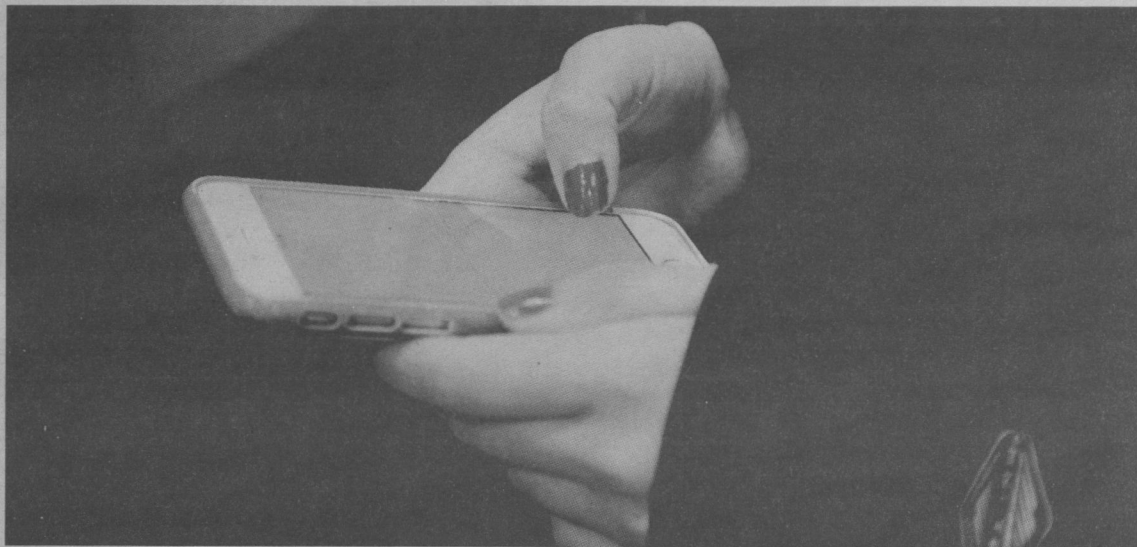
Even receiving a reply to a simple "How are you?" can be hard to understand. If someone texts "Okay," you don't really know how genuine they are. If they reply "Great," you don't know if they are being sarcastic or not. It's almost as if messages get lost in translation — even though you're speaking the same language!

Sometimes it can be difficult to understand the meanings behind text messages because in the moment, you don't really know what the person at the other end of the conversation is feeling or thinking. There is no facial expression, no body language, no tension to get a feel of the atmosphere of the conversation. The only way you can judge how the other is feeling is by looking at the screen with the

message on it. Tchiki Davis, Ph.D., wrote in *Psychology Today* that text messages are inherently incomplete and lack contextual information. It's up to the reader to decode the information.

Texting undermines people's emotions because people dumb down their messages and add in emojis to do the job that words do: convey emotions. People don't seem to put much effort into what they write to others. Because texting has become so commonly used and convenient, quick responses have become the norm. The use of emojis and acronyms have made this even easier. No more semicolons and closed parenthesis to show a "winking face." People had to type a bunch of keys to get a simple "smiley face" in a text message, but now we have over 2,000 different emojis. Young adults also use various shorthands to text, such as "hbu?" to express "how about you?"

The use of emojis in text messages makes them less personalized. People put less thought into what they are texting because they seem to think that little images can replace words. For example, the word "ok" has been replaced by a "thumbs up" or a "smiley face." In contrast, texting allows us to hide our emotions, which we can't do when talking over the phone or in person. A change in tone can reveal a lot about how we're feeling. We can stutter or hesitate when talking to others, but with texting we can't. We can take all the time we need to reply and decide what we want to express to others. People are able to deceive others



ARACELY JIMINEZ/STATESMAN FILE

Someone texting on their phone. Studies have found that texting and the lack of physical interaction in day-to-day communication reduces people's intimacy and trust.

because they are hidden behind a screen, making it tougher for the receiver to understand the message they got.

Do we see more people chatting away with a phone pressed to their ear or more people tapping their phones at the speed of light? The latter seems to be more ubiquitous. Teens use texting as their first option and, sometimes, only mode of communication unless it's urgent. According to Pew Research, cell phone owners ages 18 to 24 exchange an average of 109.5 messages on a normal day. Also, 55 percent of people who send or receive more than 51 texts per day report preferring them to phone calls. People seem to be having less and less conversations over the phone. Teens and young adults seem to think that phone calls are a last

resort, making calls awkward and inconvenient because they require time and your undivided attention.

As a person who doesn't use her phone much, I prefer phone calls. I remember calling one of my friends to help her with a homework assignment. She was so weirded out by the fact that I was calling instead of simply texting her because, "No one does that anymore!" I also call all my cousins and friends to give them personalized birthday messages. They find it special because I am the only one who doesn't just send them a text message with a cake and balloon emoji.

This affects our society because we begin to care less about what our friends, family and acquaintances are feeling or thinking, making us more ignorant and closed off.

In *The Psychology of Cyberspace*, John Suler wrote, "For some the lack of physical presence may reduce the sense of intimacy, trust, and commitment in the therapeutic relationship. Typed text may feel formal, distant, unemotional, lacking a supportive and empathic tone." By putting less thought into our messages, we choose to be mediocre in the things we say. If you are talking to a person face to face, you will, most likely, be more attentive and aware of your responses than you are when you reply to a text message. We would all benefit from more face-to-face communication because we would have a better understanding of one another. By giving people our undivided attention, we show that we care about what they have to say and how they are saying it.

My family's way of celebrating the Chinese New Year

By Matthew Yan
Staff Writer

"Gung hay fat choy!"

Chances are that you heard this (or "Gong xi fa cai," its Mandarin equivalent) a lot last Friday if you happened to be walking through a predominantly Chinese neighborhood like Flushing, Queens. It literally means "Congratulations and good luck!" but traditionally it's been used while greeting others in celebration during the Lunar New Year. Stony Brook's Graduate Student Organization hosted a party in the Student Activities Center to commemorate the occasion, while East Side Dining had a special menu for the same reason.

But if most countries around the world have already celebrated the New Year back in January, what's the point of doing it twice?

The Lunar New Year is a collective term referring to all of the New Year's celebrations that coincide with the traditional Chinese lunisolar calendar. It is celebrated throughout Asia, particularly in countries like Japan, Korea and China.

Like western New Year's celebrations, the Lunar New Year is both a time of reflection of the past year as well as a time of preparation for the future.

Although I can only speak from the Chinese perspective, it's handled dramatically differently from its western counterparts.

Traditionally, New Year's celebrations begin with a lot of



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A plate of mandarin oranges on a table. Mandarin oranges are a symbol of wealth and prosperity, and are used as decoration during the Chinese Lunar New Year celebration.

physical labor. The day before New Year's is spent cleaning every nook and cranny of the house to chase away evil spirits, bad luck and ill omens that love to linger in unkempt households while, in turn, inviting in good spirits and fortune. This could take hours, even in the most orderly of households. For reference, my family worked from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. this year to leave our home spotless, only taking breaks for meals.

My mother loves to leave mandarin oranges on tables and dressers around the house. These symbolize wealth and prosperity due to how similar the word for mandarin sounds to the word for gold or riches. She loves them so much that she once refused to take them off my bedroom dresser, instead allowing them to decompose and melt into

the wood, (something I have never let her live down). Eating meat is also forbidden at this time, since it angers the Buddhist gods that venerate all life.

Things get truly exciting the day of New Year's. Parents give their children red and gold envelopes filled with money — usually between \$20 and \$50 — called lai see or hong bao, depending on whether you speak Cantonese or Mandarin Chinese, respectively. This is to wish them good luck and ward off more evil spirits (though the little bit of extra pocket change never hurts). Parents aren't the only ones doing this; anyone of a higher social standing can give an envelope to someone close to them lower in social standing. It's not uncommon to see married couples giving envelopes to their younger,

single friends and family or bosses giving envelopes to their employees.

Everyone eats a special assortment of candy and snacks in the morning and at the end of the day. These candies each represent a different value important to Chinese families, like pistachios as a pun for cracking smiles (and thus promoting happiness) or coconut candies for strong family relations — another pun based on how the Cantonese word for coconut sounds similar to the words for grandfather and son. As the world becomes more globalized, some families have added their own favorite candies to the mix. Chocolates wrapped in gold foil like Ferrero Rocher have become a favorite among chocoholics.

In town, people ignite firecrackers to scare away more evil spirits as

buildings are lined in more red and gold decorations to symbolize fortune and joy. If you know where to look, you can also see the famous lion dance march down the street. This ancient tradition dates back to the Tang dynasty and is performed annually to — you guessed it — scare away evil spirits with kung-fu based routines that performers spend all year practicing.

Back at home, families meet for their annual New Year's dinner. Everyone wishes each other well with a hearty, "Gung hay fat choy sun tai geen hong!" (I wish you good luck and great health!) In some households, this is the only time they see or hear from each other, which makes it an even more momentous occasion. Expect mounds of green vegetables, crispy fried pork dripping with sweet red sauce and sizzling hot pans full of stew, among other delectable dishes. Stories are swapped, laughs are had and prayers are made for the ones who couldn't make it to the table this year.

The Lunar New Year is a prized tradition in Chinese culture and many others, reaffirming the importance of family and their most treasured values. It's a time-consuming task as much as it is a celebration of everything that has happened and will happen. If any of this has gotten you interested, then take a trip to Flushing or Chinatown on Feb. 5 next year. You might find something for your own family to celebrate.

The Quidditch field is where I feel most comfortable

By Shaina Montero
Contributing Writer

Imagine you're walking by a field. The grass is ripped up from the cleats of energetic athletes holding sticks between their legs, trying to throw a volleyball into one of three hoops — congratulations! You've found yourself a game of Quidditch.

To break the sport down, there are seven players on each team: one keeper, one seeker, two beaters and three chasers. The object of the game is to score the most points by throwing a quaffle, which is really a volleyball, into one of the three hoops. The keeper and the chasers are the only ones who have the potential to score.

The basis of Quidditch sounds pretty simple, right? But there is much more to it. The keeper acts as a goalie and guards the hoops so you can't score. Additional defenders are the beaters who throw bludgers, which are dodgeballs, at the opposing team. When hit with a bludger, the player, after saying "Ouch," takes their broom from between their legs and runs back to touch their team's hoops. This action repeats throughout the entire game as each team gains control of the quaffle.

Now, onto the most asked about position, the seeker. I think that people get the most excited about it because they remember that Harry Potter was the seeker, or they want to know how we got our hands on the



ARACELY JIMENEZ/STATESMAN FILE

Marek Bugaj defends the goal hoops during a Quidditch practice in Sept. 2015. The Quidditch team was created in 2010 and is a gender inclusive, full-contact club sport.

magical gold ball. Well, sorry to break it to you, but the position is not as glorious as it seems. There is no flying ball and, as you should know, we don't fly either.

But hey, don't get too disappointed. The snitch is a player in gold shorts that runs around the field, and it's very enjoyable to watch. The seeker tries to catch, and possibly tackle, the snitch and grab the ball that's hanging off the back of the shorts. Watching it puts you on edge, as the rest of the game goes on behind it. Once the snitch is caught, that team is awarded 30 points, and the game ends. Like most sports, the team with the most points wins.

I get it. It looks weird and it's definitely not the first thing that comes to mind when you think of sports. We're labeled as Harry Potter geeks and people passing by shout "10 points to Gryffindor!" There's ridicule and judgment from others, but the key is that we have fun and no shame.

When I first set foot on the Stony Brook campus, I already had my eyes set on joining the Quidditch team. Originally, I felt this corresponded with my dorky composure and obsession with Harry Potter, but there is so much more to the sport. First of all, not everyone who plays loves the magical wizarding world

it originated from. Most people haven't even read all of the books.

Although there are many different aspects to Quidditch, you don't have to be at the level of a professional athlete to play and enjoy yourself. Within a few practices, you begin to understand the point of the game and slowly work on becoming a dominating player on the field.

One of my favorite things about Quidditch is its gender inclusivity. Quidditch is open to everyone, including people who don't identify with the gender binary. There is a rule where, for each team, there cannot be more than four people

of the same gender on the field at once, excluding the seeker.

Being on the Quidditch team puts me in a relaxing and accepting environment. When I'm not playing Quidditch, I'm overwhelmed and my work is constantly on my mind. Once I step onto the field, it's as if I hit the pause button and my focus changes to something fun for the two-hour practice. With schoolwork, you are on your own, but with a sport, you have other people to help you and to rely on. The aspect of working as a team toward a common goal has allowed me to form close bonds with my teammates, and they have become some of my best friends.

Being involved in a challenging sport brings out a new side of me. I work hard and sometimes, when I don't score or I lose the ball to the other team, I get frustrated and emotional. Having my teammates there helps me calm down, and they tell me to not be so hard on myself. They are my friends but on a whole new level. They are the ones who pick me up, dust me off and get me through my frustrations.

People think Quidditch is odd and are discouraged because of that. I feel that just because something is different doesn't mean you shouldn't try it. I never thought that I would be this invested in the Quidditch team, but it's become one of my favorite things to do. It brings me happiness in a stressful environment, and I'm sure it can do the same for many others.

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Softball goes 2-3 in first Florida tournament of 2018 season

By Kenneth Fermin
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook softball team traveled to Fort Myers, Florida over the weekend to play against Wright State, the University of Connecticut, Southern Illinois University and Florida Gulf Coast in the Florida Gulf Coast University Invitational. The team finished with two victories in five matchups.

The Seawolves rebounded from three consecutive losses to top the Raiders for the second time in the tournament Sunday morning.

"Today's game was our best overall approach and effort of the weekend," head coach Megan T. Bryant said in a press release. "We can build on this. We have a better idea of what we have to do to be successful. Now it's important to focus on improving."

The team performed well offensively, recording 10 hits against the Raiders. Junior catcher Irene Rivera capitalized off a throwing error by the shortstop by scoring the Seawolves' first run. Sophomore infielder Allyssa Malony would drive in two runs with a single to left field later in the fourth inning to give the team a 3-0 lead.

After the Raiders cut the lead down to one run in the bottom half of the fourth, Rivera and sophomore pitcher Taylor Pechin responded with two RBI hits to give the team a 5-2 lead which the

Seawolves would ultimately hold to win the game.

Southern Illinois took on Stony Brook in game four, and the team started the game on top and never looked back. After a leadoff single, sophomore catcher Katelyn Massa doubled into centerfield to drive in the team's first run. Massa advanced to third off an error and scored following a single to left field from senior infielder Sydney Jones to put the team up 2-0.

Massa continued to give the Seawolves defense trouble in the following inning. She hit another double to left field to drive in two runs and gave the Salukis a 4-0 lead. She hit her third double of the game in the top of the sixth to give her team a five-run lead.

The Seawolves tried to rally back in the bottom of the seventh by getting two runners on base with two outs. The team was able to drive in one run before ultimately succumbing to Southern Illinois 6-2.

The UConn Huskies struck first in the first inning following two consecutive walks by senior pitcher Maddy Neales in Stony Brook's third game of the tournament. She struggled to maintain composure, erratically throwing back-to-back passed balls to advance the runners. Redshirt-freshman Olivia Sapp scored the Huskies' first run after Rivera's throw to second base was fumbled by senior infield-

er Chelsea Evans and Sapp made it home safe.

The Seawolves loaded the bases on three straight singles with one out in the top of third. Sophomore first baseman Melissa Rahrch drove in a run off a sacrifice fly to tie the game at 1-1. The team was unable to capitalize any further despite having runners on second and third, leaving both in scoring position.

Both teams remained quiet offensively until two Huskies reached base to begin the bottom of the fifth. Sophomore pitcher Carly Cutler grounded out into a fielder's choice to allow the runner to score, giving the Huskies a 2-1 lead. This would prove to be enough as UConn shut down the Stony Brook offense for the victory.

The second game had the Seawolves taking on the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles. The Seawolves' opponent got on the scoreboard first. Eagles senior infielder Brittany McGuire started off the bottom of the second inning with a single to left field. McGuire would score following back-to-back Stony Brook errors after advancing to second from a fielder's choice.

Stony Brook failed to produce any offense until senior infielder Ileana Torres started off the top of the fourth with a single to third base. Torres would advance to second following a fielder's choice and score off a single up

the middle by Rivera to tie the game at 1.

Both teams would fail to capitalize offensively until junior catcher Bri Bennett singled to third base to drive in freshman pinch runner Ashley Biddle and give the Eagles the lead in the bottom of the sixth. The Seawolves would fail to respond the following inning, despite loading the bases, and fall to the Eagles 2-1.

In the first game of the tournament, Stony Brook took on Wright State. Both of Wright State's runs were scored in the second inning. Sophomore outfielder Rebekah Lenos scored after freshman catcher Kaitlyn Skinner sent a double to right centerfield. Skinner would later score off a single by freshman infielder Kelly Dillow.

The Seawolves responded in the bottom half of the inning after Evans advanced to second base following a pass ball. Malony hit a single up the middle to drive in Evans. Freshman infielder Nicole McCarville drove her home with a single up the middle in her first collegiate at-bat to tie the game at two.

Pechin drove in two runs with a hit down the left field line to give the Seawolves a 4-2 in the bottom of the fifth. A single by Torres was enough for the 5-2 victory.

The Seawolves will travel to participate in the UC Riverside Highlander Classic tournament in Riverside, California. The team is in action next against Saint Mary's on Friday, March 2 at 9:30 a.m.



ARACELY JIMENEZ/STATESMAN FILE

Junior catcher Irene Rivera in a game in the 2017 season. Stony Brook went 2-3 in its first tournament of the year.

Men's Basketball falls to Vermont, faces Albany in playoffs

By Gregory Zarb
Sports Editor

Stony Brook Men's Basketball senior forward Junior Saintel slammed home an alley-oop pass from freshman forward Elijah Olaniyi with 1:16 remaining in regulation. The crowd at the Island Federal Credit Union Arena erupted, as the referee blew his whistle, signaling for a foul.

However, the foul was on Olaniyi and the basket was waved off.

"The one call, the one where I threw [Saintel] the lob, I think that was the momentum shift right there," Olaniyi said. "Like, if that was a no-call, we could've carried that momentum to a victory."

The Seawolves were unable to build off the deflating moment, and went on to lose their final regular season game to the Vermont Catamounts 69-60 Saturday night.

The Catamounts had three seniors score above 15 points, with guard Trae Bell-Haynes leading the way for his team with 19 points. Stony Brook redshirt-sophomore forward Akwasi Yeboah scored a game-high 21 points, but did not have a lot of scoring support to compliment his efforts.

Yeboah tied the game late in the second half after making all three of his free throws after getting fouled on a three-point attempt. Vermont responded with a 15-6 run over the final five minutes to seal Stony Brook's fate.

"I thought we really battled, I thought we really competed tonight," head coach Jeff Boals said. "I think we've been playing at a

high level and coming into this game we were confident, our guys have been preparing and making plays. But Vermont is a really good basketball team that doesn't beat itself. When you play a team like that you can't make mental mistakes because they'll capitalize on it."

The mental mistakes Boals referred to were offensive rebounds. While the Seawolves gave up only seven offensive rebounds in the entirety of the game, one crucial offensive rebound late in the game helped set Vermont up for victory.

Redshirt-senior forward Payton Henson collected Bell-Haynes' miss and converted a layup swarmed by Stony Brook defenders to give Vermont a four-point cushion.

"We definitely played well, and we battled hard too," Yeboah said. "We didn't back down from start to finish. Just unfortunate we couldn't get some key rebounds and make some key plays down the stretch. We just have to fix those and we will be back on track."

The playoff positions for the America East conference tournament were already decided before this game took place. The Catamounts were crowned America East champions back on Feb. 21 in a win over the Binghamton Bearcats. Meanwhile, Stony Brook had been locked into the fifth seed after UMBC beat UMass Lowell earlier in the day on Saturday.

Albany is the fourth seed, so Stony Brook will be traveling up to the capital city to take on its in-state rival for the third time this season. Both games ended up in defeat for the Seawolves, but there is some doubt

the team will be fully healthy by game time.

Senior guard UC Iroegbu left the game midway through the first half with an ankle injury. He was able to walk off the court under his own power, but immediately left the bench and headed back to the locker room with the team trainers.

"[Iroegbu] sprained his ankle. We don't know how bad it is, he's in a boot right now," Boals said of the injury. "We'll reevaluate

him once he sleeps on it. Hopefully it's not too bad."

Despite the injury, the team is confident it can face the Great Danes at its home court and walk away with a victory. The Seawolves are 4-2 in their last six games, and have looked like a much stronger team on both sides of the ball.

"When you play Albany, they're a very physical team," Boals said. "A lot of it is going to come down to how the game is called and offici-

ated. They're another veteran team, a bunch of juniors and seniors that have played in a lot of big games. It's going to be a low possession game. We have to step up and make shot. A lot of times, whichever team wins the rebound war wins the game."

The Great Danes and the Seawolves rank second and third respectfully in rebounding in the conference. The teams will face off one final time on Saturday, March 3 at the SEFCU Arena at 7 p.m.



SERENA TAUSZ / THE STATESMAN

Redshirt-sophomore forward Akwasi Yeboah attempts a layup in a game against UMBC on Jan. 31. Stony Brook fell to Vermont 69-60 and will face Albany in the conference playoffs.

SPORTS

Baseball sweeps three-game series down in Virginia

By Ryan Pavich
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook baseball team went down to Virginia for a set of three games against Iona, Sacred Heart and host Norfolk State. Stony Brook's offense led the way through a three-game sweep, improving its record to 6-1, its best start since the program moved up to Division I back in 2002.

The first ever meeting between Stony Brook and Norfolk State wound up being a one-sided affair.

Junior catcher Sean Buckhout got the scoring parade started in the third inning, as he singled home sophomore infielder Nick Grande from second base.

Freshman infielder Michael Palazzolo would double him home, then score off a dropped throw to the plate after junior outfielder Cristian Montes hit a grounder to third. The Seawolves doubled the lead in the fifth inning when Palazzolo reached on an error to score Buckhout, and was driven home on a double by sophomore outfielder Michael Wilson. Senior infielder Bobby Honeyman hit the sacrifice fly to score Wilson and wrap up the inning.

Sophomore starting right-handed pitcher Brian Herrmann made sure the Spartan

offense stayed grounded. Herrmann delivered the best start of any Seawolves starter in the early going, as he went five innings without allowing a run, striking out four and walking one on an efficient 62 pitches. Herrmann was relieved by senior left-hander Kevin Kernan and freshman right-handed pitcher Nick Insogna.

Stony Brook knocked out Norfolk State's junior starter Trey Hanchey in the seventh after a leadoff single, jumping right onto sophomore left-hander Jalen Rudolph. Junior right-handed pitcher Michael Russell, Buckhout and Wilson would all pick up RBI in the inning, and the lead ballooned to 11 runs. Junior outfielder Dylan Resk tacked on one more in the eighth with a sacrifice fly.

Stony Brook faced Sacred Heart in its second game.

The Seawolves offense got rolling early in the game, as they scored in each of the first four innings. Honeyman was at the forefront of the offensive explosion, as he tripled home a run in the first inning, singled in another in the third, and hit into a fielder's choice in the fourth to plate a third.

Sacred Heart's defense only added to the damage that Stony Brook created. Sacred Heart committed five errors, four of



MARIE MATSUNA/STATESMAN FILE
Senior infielder Bobby Honeyman in a game from the 2017 season. Honeyman helped lead the Seawolves to victory.

which came in the fourth inning. Stony Brook took full advantage, scoring four times in that frame and pushing its lead to seven runs.

The Pioneers never went away. After being held hitless for three innings by junior starter Bret Clarke, they collected four consecutive singles to score their first two runs. Clarke would allow a runner to reach scoring position in each of the next two innings before being relieved by freshman right-hander Brian Morrissey, who escaped a bases loaded, no out scenario to hold onto the lead.

Morrissey held the lead into the ninth inning before surrendering

a leadoff home run to senior outfielder Dan Schock, which kickstarted the rally. Morrissey was relieved by senior left-handed pitcher Cole Creighton, who got the first two outs of the inning before giving up a pinch-hit single that scored both runners. Creighton gave up another run to give Sacred Heart six unanswered runs before Pinto came in to record the final out.

The first game of the weekend pitted Stony Brook against a familiar foe in Iona.

Buckhout delivered the go-ahead runs in the sixth inning, when he lined a single to left that brought home junior infielder Brandon Alamo and

Montes to make it a 5-3 game. Redshirt-sophomore right-hander Greg Marino started for the Seawolves, and had a strong performance marred by two innings. Things got off to a tough start for Marino as he allowed a leadoff double to junior infielder Fran Kinsey, who later scored off a grounder to shortstop.

Pitching with a two-run lead at this point, Marino allowed the first two batters to reach, then threw a wild pitch to allow the lead runner to advance to third. After a single drove home another run to cut the lead to one, Marino got a double play ball to erase a runner and get him close to escaping with the lead.

Marino exited the game after throwing five innings, surrendering three runs on five hits, striking out five while walking one.

Redshirt-sophomore right-hander Aaron Glickstein came on in the sixth to relieve Marino, and earned the victory by pitching two and two-thirds shutout innings. Senior closer Aaron Pinto replaced Glickstein, who pitched the final inning and a third to earn his third save of the season.

A huge test awaits the Seawolves next weekend, as they travel to Gainesville to take on the top-ranked Florida Gators from March 2-4.

No. 2 Women's Lacrosse shuts down No. 20 Denver's offense

By Gregory Zarb
Sports Editor

The No. 2 Stony Brook women's lacrosse team has been off to a hot start this season, already defeating two nationally ranked opponents in USC and Stanford. After No. 1 Maryland lost to No. 7 UNC a day prior, Stony Brook needed a big performance to possibly secure the No. 1 position in NCAA rankings.

Scoring 16 goals in the team's home opener can do the trick.

"Well, we were No. 2 yesterday, and we're No. 2 today," head coach Joe Spallina said. "The big thing for me is that I think it would pretty cool if we woke up tomorrow and we were No. 1. One thing I've learned from coaching women's lacrosse is expect nothing."

It will be hard to not give the Seawolves the No. 1 ranking, as the team defeated the No. 20 Denver Pioneers 16-3 at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium Sunday afternoon.

Redshirt-senior and senior attackers Courtney Murphy and Kylie Ohlmiller combined for 10 of

Stony Brook's 16 goals. Murphy scored six goals in her return to LaValle Stadium after her ACL injury suffered last season.

"The first game, I was definitely more nervous than I was today," Murphy said. "I was able to get two games under my belt, but it was nice to put the white jersey back on and be out there with the team."

The redshirt-senior scored four of her six goals during an 8-0 run by Stony Brook that lasted nearly 20 minutes. The Seawolves led 5-2 before the run, and were up 13-2 with just under 15 minutes left in the second half.

The defense gave up three goals on the day, including only one goal in the second half. After giving up 10 and nine goals respectively in their first two games, the Seawolves wanted to come out with a dominant defensive display.

"I think our defense is really good when everyone is on the same page," redshirt-senior defender Brooke Gubitosi said. "I feel like the last two games, we only played okay. Today, I think you could

tell that we were all together and working together from the start to the end of the game. It's never an individual effort."

Stony Brook scored numerous times off free-position opportunities. Denver's defense was too aggressive at early points in the game, resulting in two quick free position goals from Ohlmiller, who ended the day with four goals and two assists, a total of six points.

After a quiet season opener against USC, Ohlmiller has scored 10 goals and recorded three assists in a two-game span, and she inches closer to NCAA records in both career points and career assists.

"We have so many threats, offensively and defensively, on the draw circle and the midfield," Ohlmiller said. "Everyone had touches on the ball, and everybody had good touches on the ball today. That's one of our main points, is that everyone on the field being on point and doing their job."

The team was able to do its job today, as the team dominated Denver all over the field. Outside of



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN
Redshirt-senior attacker Courtney Murphy in a game. Murphy scored six goals in the 16-3 win versus Denver.

scoring, Stony Brook led in shots, ground balls, clears, saves, draw controls and had fewer turnovers than Denver.

"That's a very good Denver team, they're going to win a lot of games this year," Spallina said. "For the most part, I thought our team came into today's game really focused. We had a good week of preparation, and a cou-

ple of really good practices leading into today and we were just dialed in."

National polls come out throughout the day on Monday, and the possible new No. 1 team in the country will be on the road for the next few weeks. First up, a game against No. 13 Northwestern on Saturday, March 3 at 12 p.m.

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