

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

Volume LXI, Issue 22

Monday, March 19, 2018

sbstatesman.com



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

Anh Nguyen's work, above, features two traditional southern Vietnamese garments made out of potato paper bags and flowers. The installment is part of the Wang Center's latest exhibit "Potasia," on view through June 15.

State Comptroller investigates Stony Brook Foundation

By Rebecca Liebson
News Editor

Two high-level Stony Brook officials received \$300,000 each in housing loans from the Stony Brook Foundation (SBF) that they were not required to pay back, according to a recent New York State Comptroller's report.

The foundation's 2014-15 tax filings also showed that it paid an additional \$455,664 to cover the cost of taxes on these loans, bringing the total amount paid to the SBU officials to \$1,055,664.

The tax-free "loans," given to Senior Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the Stony Brook Foundation, Dexter A. Bailey, Jr., and former Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dennis Assanis, were discovered by a Feb. 26 audit from the New York State Comptroller's Office, which scrutinized the oversight of various SUNY non-profit fundraising foundations.

The report outlines a litany of lapses and conflicts by SUNY foundations that resulted from a lack of regular oversight.

"SUNY does not regularly examine the foundations' books, and my auditors found instances of questionable expenses," New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli stated in a press release. "SUNY administrators need to improve their oversight efforts to make sure billions of dollars are being handled properly."

Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. called the audit a "non-issue" at a University Senate meeting on Monday, March 5.

"I think a careful review shows that there was really nothing there," he said, adding that the Foundation conducts its own internal audits every year through financial advisory service Grant Thornton.

In regards to the \$300,000 payments, Stanley said the Foundation uses housing loans like these as a competitive recruitment tool.

"One of the biggest challenges we have is recruiting outstanding

Continued on page 4

USG letter chides administration for lack of cooperation

By Aleeza Kazmi
Assistant Multimedia Editor

Stony Brook's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) passed a resolution during its senate meeting on Monday, March 1, outlining its discontent with the lack of transparency and collaboration between the campus administration and USG.

USG shared the resolution, titled "Shared Governance Resolution of 2018," on its Facebook page on March 6. The resolution states that not consulting with USG before policy implementations violates both SUNY and Stony Brook policies that establish a shared governance model to enfranchise all stakeholders on campus.

"There have been numerous cases where really key and critical decisions affecting the student body have been made with little to no consultation with student government," USG President Ayyan Zubair said.

Zubair, who wrote the resolution for USG, noted the recent decision to merge the roles of vice president of Student Affairs and the dean of students, and the decision to get rid of winter commencement were two instances in which USG should have been involved.

"When I initially heard that winter commencement was being canceled that was news to me, I had not been informed of it, I hadn't



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

Stony Brook's Undergraduate Student Government meets in the Student Activities Center on Aug. 31.

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University will offer BA in biology

By Mike Adams
Assistant News Editor

Stony Brook University's College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is expecting to add a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in biology program in time for the Fall 2018 semester, CAS Dean Sacha Kopp announced in an email on Sunday, March 11.

The interdisciplinary program, which has received approval from the New York State Education Department, will allow students to combine a less intensive major curriculum with any one of 40 non-science minors from CAS. While a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree requires about 70 credits in math, chemistry, physics and biology, the BA would forgo a number of advanced biology courses for its minor requirement.

While Kopp described the BS as a "specialist degree," the BA is billed as a degree that combines scientific training with skills such as communication, making it advantageous for students wishing to pursue careers in science, business or law.

"Employers have told us that it's not the acronym (BS, BA) that's the most important thing about a degree, nor is the choice of major," Kopp wrote. "Rather, it's the ability to write and communicate; to work in teams and in diverse cultures; and demonstrate leadership — skills that one might cultivate through an interdisciplinary minor found in the College."

The program is not currently approved for federal financial aid, but once certification is complete the university said courses taken toward the program's minor will count toward New York state's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

An informational page on the BA program on Stony Brook's website claims both the BA and BS degrees can be finished in about the same time, though students could potentially complete the BA quicker by taking major and minor courses simultaneously. The university also claims a BA would not put prospective medical school students at a disadvantage when applying for the next level in their education. The page cites data from the Association of American Medical Colleges that showed just 51 percent of students who enrolled in medical school in 2012 majored in biological sciences to support its claim.

Students looking to pursue a BA in biology can speak to undergraduate academic advisors in the undergraduate biology program for more information.



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NEWS

Professor, student research group find massive penguin colony in Antarctica

By **Brianne Ledda**
Staff Writer

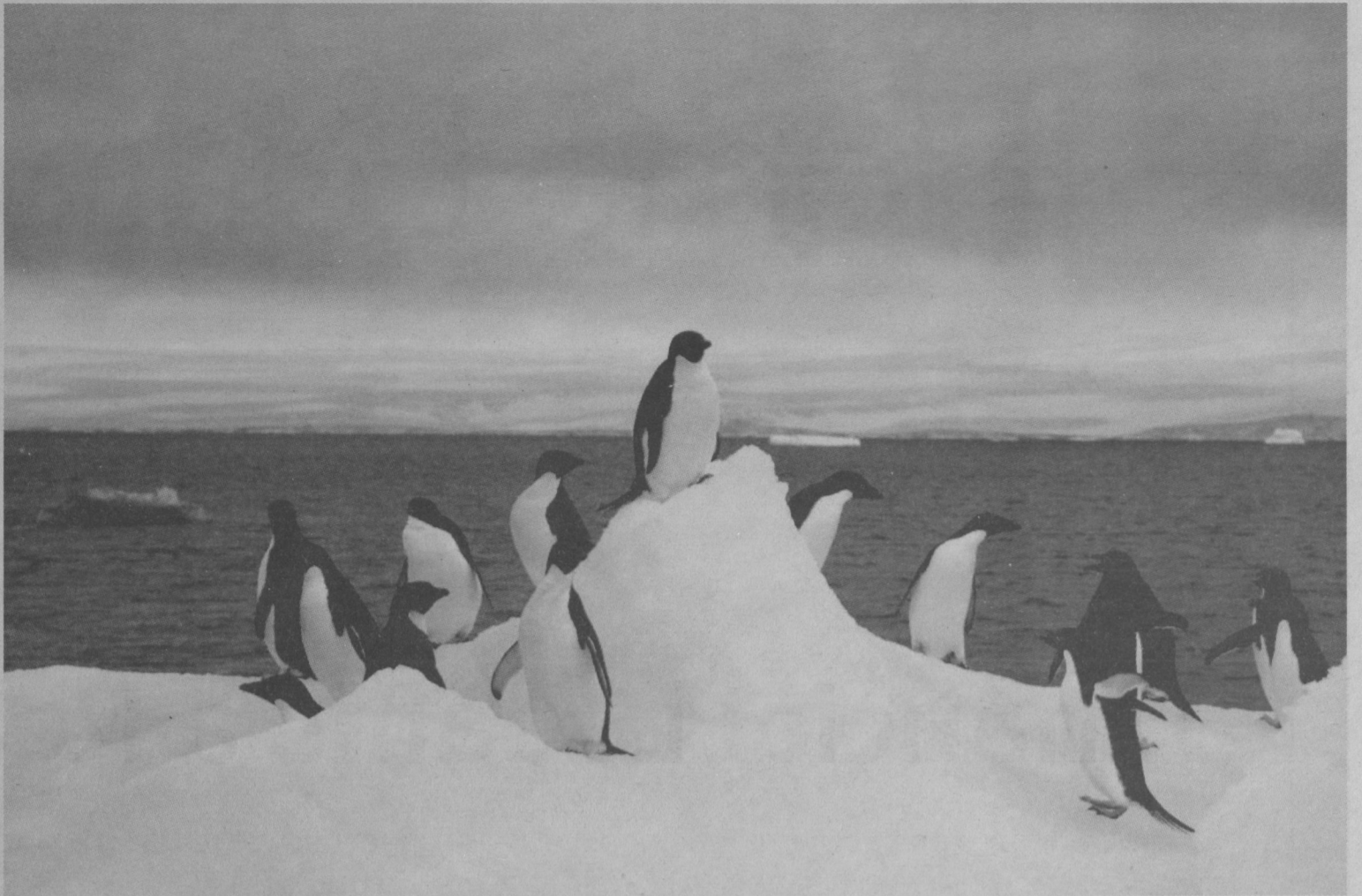
Stony Brook Ecology & Evolution Associate Professor Heather J. Lynch and a team of Stony Brook students, along with researchers from other universities, discovered over 1.5 million Adélie penguins on the Danger Islands near the edge of the Antarctic Peninsula, where the species was previously thought to be in decline.

The discovery was announced in a paper published in *Nature's Scientific Reports* on March 2. The colonies were discovered about two years ago, when satellite imagery from 2014 showing the distinct pinkish color of their guano, or feces, prompted further exploration. The full scale of the colonies was not realized until Lynch's team went on an expedition to physically count the penguins.

The research has been propelled into the international spotlight recently, with articles published by *The New York Times*, *Time* magazine and *BBC*.

"I think the visuals was the key to the excitement surrounding this paper (at least as far as the public is concerned)," Lynch wrote in an email. "Oftentimes we are so focused on the research that we don't take many photographs or videos, but in this case we had this amazing drone footage and I think it was the video flying over the colony that really captured the public's imagination here."

Lynch said that in the short term, the publicity has caused everything to come to a standstill, though in the longer term it may lead to more funding. Because of the difficulty of access to the Danger Islands, the expedition had to be done from a privately-chartered yacht, which is far more expensive than the large cruise ships that



JASON AUCH/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA CC BY 2.0

Adélie penguins gathered around on an iceberg in Antarctica. A supercolony of penguins was found by Associate Professor Heather J. Lynch and a team of Stony Brook students and researchers from other universities.

Lynch's lab usually uses for penguin census work.

"This kind of 'high risk, high reward' field work is exceptionally hard to fund, in large part because NSF will not fund smaller yacht work because of the associated liability," Lynch said. "These yacht-based expeditions have to be privately funded and there are only so many private foundations willing to sponsor this kind of research."

Lynch didn't actually go to the Danger Islands for the research this time. She stayed back as mission

command and kept an eye on the sea ice.

Three of her students did go, in addition to a few other students and principal investigators. One of the students, Rachael Herman, a master's student at Louisiana State University at the time, is now a Ph.D. student in Lynch's lab in the department of ecology & evolution at Stony Brook.

"Working on this project in the Danger Islands, you know, and just leading her students and hearing about her lab just really made me want to come work with her, and it's

definitely a major reason why I came to Stony Brook to do my Ph.D.," Herman said.

Lynch specializes in survey work, which is why so many students from her lab went on the expedition.

They used satellite imagery and drone surveying to help estimate the number of penguins. Casey Youngflesh, a Ph.D. student in the ecology & evolution department who went on the expedition, said that groundcounting, the process of physically counting the population in person, was the most effective method.

"One of the goals of the project was to test whether all of these things were in agreement with each other," Youngflesh said of the preliminary data. "Groundcounting is obviously the best thing that you could do."

The research was funded by the Dalio Foundation, a philanthropic organization that has donated over \$1.3 billion since its founding in 2003. Lynch said that her team is currently working with the Stony Brook administration to expand research in Antarctica.

University defends fundraising operations after audit discovers questionable practices

Continued from page 1

people to Stony Brook," he said. "It's a tremendous advantage if the Foundation can help kick in sometimes to do this."

Such incentives have helped with retention as well, Stanley said, since the recipients are required to remain in their positions for five years in order to receive the full payment. While Stanley characterized the loans as standard practice approved by their internal auditors, the 2014-15 audit report by Grant Thornton said mortgage loans should be limited to \$50,000. The audit also said there were no loans reported that fiscal year under this program, but \$900,000 in employee loans were reported in 2014.

The loans to SBU officials were just one example of practices questioned in the report.

The SBF was one of 10 campus fundraising foundations operating without the required contracts

with SUNY. Although its contract with SUNY ended in March 2015, the SBF has not been audited by the SUNY Office of the University Auditor since 2007.

Despite this, Stanley claimed that the foundation has continued to abide by the previous rules of the contract. The president assured that the foundation was working to reestablish its contract with SUNY, noting that negotiations were currently underway. When asked why the negotiations have not reached a conclusion after nearly three years, Stanley declined to comment, stating it was "not standard to talk about that in public."

The SBF and the University of Buffalo Foundation lacked official guidelines for contract procurement. This allowed both foundations to award contracts on the basis of longstanding relationships or referrals rather than bidding.

Stanley took issue with this finding as well. Although exceptions were made for a few con-

tracts, he noted that "The Stony Brook Foundation does competitive bidding for most of the contracts it has because they do want to get the best value."

Despite maintaining a balance of more than \$40 million, the SBF also lacked an official policy for managing its agency account. This account is of particular interest to the campus community since it is used to collect and disburse student activity fees, club fees and all other non-state funds the foundation collects from students, faculty and staff.

The foundation also failed to report an affiliation between a board member who served on the foundation's investment committee and a firm that provided the foundation with investment services on its 2015 conflict of interest disclosure.

When contacted, a representative from the Comptroller's Office said although the foundation's actions may not be good business practice, they were not illegal.

USG calls out Stony Brook administrative officials

Continued from page 1

been asked of it, I don't think anyone in student government had been asked of it," Zubair said. "The day-to-day minor things, I understand that you can't dispose us for everything ... but the really big ones, the ones I just highlighted, there should be student input for that."

USG has repeatedly notified the administration of its frustration with the lack of inclusion on big decisions and was ensured that it would be included in the future, but there were no improvements, Zubair said.

"In his new role as interim VP of OSA and Dean of Students, Dr. Rick Gatteau has already had productive meetings with the undergraduate student government executive council and the president of the GSO and is committed to keeping the lines of communication active and open," Alida Almonte, manager of Uni-

versity Media Relations, said in an email statement.

At a University Senate meeting on Monday, March 5, USG treasurer Alex Bouraad asked Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. why the student body as a whole was not sent emails about the hiring freeze and the resignation of College of Arts and Sciences Dean Sacha Kopp. Stanley said the failure to send the email about Kopp's resignation was a communications error that he takes responsibility for.

"It is really important that we, again, try to be as transparent as we can during this time," Stanley said.

USG is hopeful that the administration will include it when making policy changes that affect the students in the future, Zubair said.

"I know that these are hard times for a variety of reasons, and I think the best way to kind of combat hard times is for people to come together and make decisions in an inclusionary process," Zubair said.



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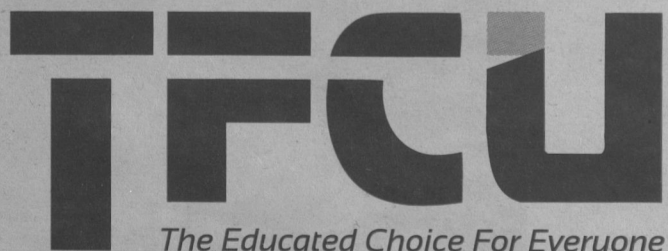
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Pocket Theatre takes sharp aim at SBU administration

By Chris Parkinson
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook's Pocket Theatre presented two original staged readings for audiences at the Staller Center for the Arts on March 3 and 4, which were both written in response to cuts to the theatre arts program.

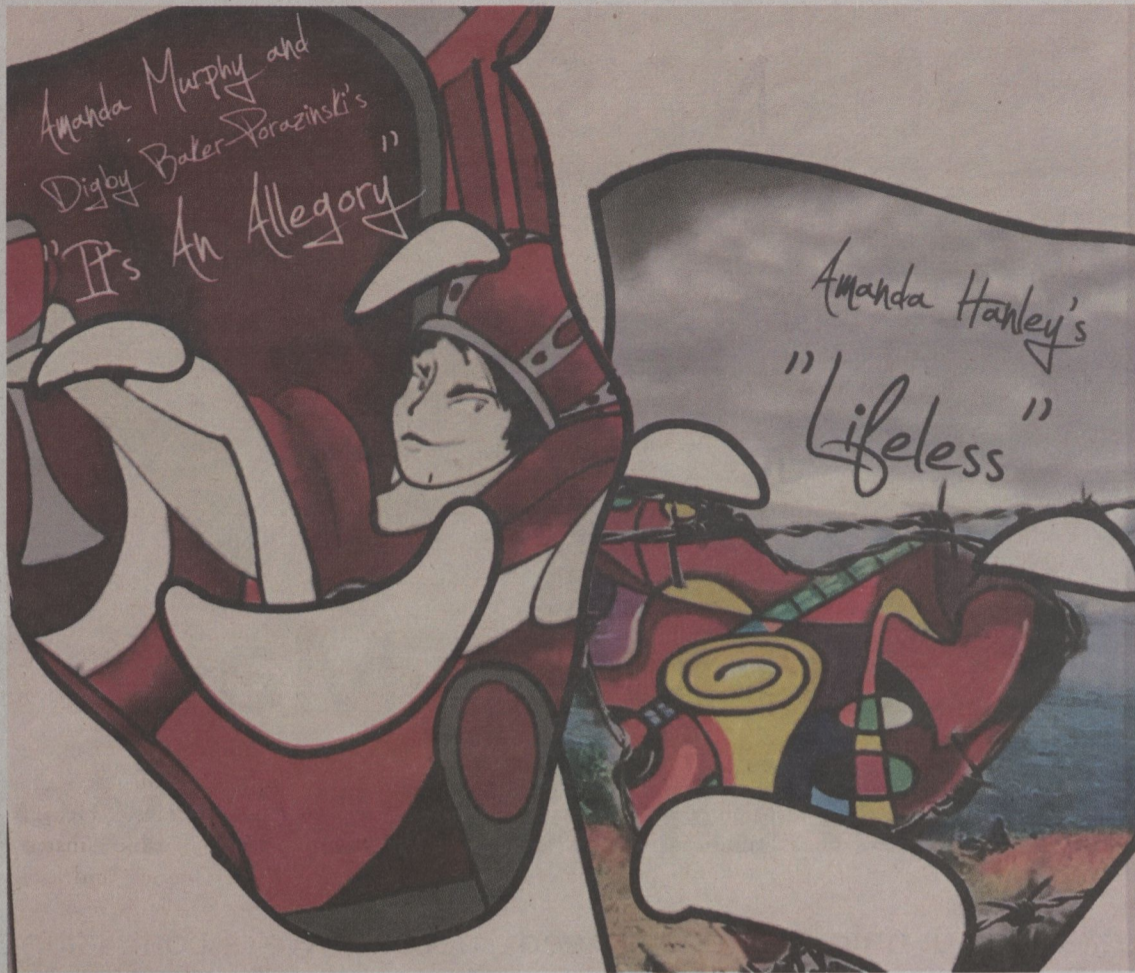
The cuts were announced on June 22 of last year, in an email from Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Sacha Kopp, who recently revealed he will resign on July 1. The cuts affected humanities departments, including programs in theatre arts, comparative literature and cinema and cultural studies.

The first play, co-written by Stony Brook alumnus Amanda Murphy and sophomore political science major Digby Baker-Porazinski, "It's an Allegory," took aim at President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.'s judgment in handling Stony Brook's budget.

The play revolves around a king, who, unsure with his own decision-making, decides to cut earnings from parts of his kingdom, including theater, which hints to the "allegory" portion of the play's title. The king eventually has to deal with an uprising from the "Troubadours," with help from the audience who was involved in the play by clapping and stomping in unison. The king then signs an agreement reinstating theater and everyone celebrates.

The staged reading concluded with all the characters dressed like college students and walking away from the stage as Baker-Porazinski projected his final lines.

"That isn't how the story ended," Baker-Porazinski said with a Stony Brook sweater on. "Maybe someday, someone will write a better story. I can't wait to see it."



CHRIS PARKINSON/THE STATESMAN

Stony Brook's Pocket Theatre hosted a night of readings on March 3 and 4 in the Staller Center for the Arts. The theme was criticism against the university's budget cuts.

In Baker-Porazinski's profile, he gives special thanks to "the Stony Brook administration for coming up with literally the entire plot." He also gives thanks to his co-writer Amanda Murphy, who he said "came up with the idea for "It's an Allegory," as well as most of the characters and many of the scenes."

The other play performed was junior theatre arts major Amanda Hanley's "Lifeless," which depicts a world without fine arts. The arts

were banned from the kingdom following the assassination of the queen while she watched a rendition of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." Any person who was found with art would be jailed and anyone creating art would be executed.

The reading gave a look at what outlawing the arts could come to. The play featured an underground room dedicated to preserving fine arts which Prince Ethan, played by sophomore English major Leigh

Riley, and Princess Holly, played by undecided freshman Emily Webb, eventually find. In this hidden room, they find their mother's violin and realize that their father banned fine arts because it reminded him of their slain mother.

The story ended with the princess jumping in front of a child, who was going to be executed by shooting for her crime of drawing with chalk. Realizing his mistake while visiting his daughter, who is in a coma from

being shot, the king begins to play the violin that his wife once owned in the hospital. Princess Holly awakens to his playing of the violin. But shortly after, the king is shot down by a terrorist for using an instrument of art. As a result, the king is left paralyzed.

Prince Ethan then takes over the throne under his father's orders, where he reinstates fine arts and apologizes for the wrongdoing of his father. The ending displays a metaphor for how the world really should be: free to pursue artistic expression without fear of punishment for it.

Throughout the night, it was clear how members of the performance felt about Stony Brook's decision to cut the theatre arts major, as well as what theater means to them.

"The theatre arts department has given us so many gifts with which to approach our various trials and tribulations," Baker-Porazinski said. "It's the deepest desire of everyone involved in this project that we might give something back."

Freshman biology major Alice Fomina, who played the role of the queen, mother and Barry, who ran the underground art reservation in "Lifeless," said her time in theater has forged strong friendships.

"The thing about theater is it's not about putting together an end product, but it's a process," Fomina said. "Theater friendships are different because you spend a lot of time with a specific set of people and by the end of a production, you're forming multiple friendships at once instead of one-on-one friendships, everyone is like a family."

Stony Brook's Pocket Theatre will next perform "Urinetown" on March 30, 31 and April 1 in Theatre Three of the Staller Center.

SBU alumnus Mark Bridges wins Oscar for costume design

By Joseph Konig
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Stony Brook alumnus Mark Bridges walked away from the 90th Academy Awards on Sunday with two prizes. And one of them was an Oscar.

The 1983 graduate won the Academy Award for Best Costume Design for his work on the Paul Thomas Anderson film, "Phantom Thread." By the end of the night, Bridges secured a second prize to go with his golden statuette: a jet ski.

In an effort to encourage shorter speeches at the 90th Academy Awards, host Jimmy Kimmel ended his monologue by promising an almost \$18,000 Kawasaki jet ski to the Oscar winner with the briefest acceptance speech. Later in the show, Kimmel upped the ante by including a free trip to Lake Havasu in Arizona. Bridges' acceptance speech clocked in at 36 seconds.

At the ceremony's end, Bridges rode out atop the massive jet ski in a life vest with the team behind Best Picture winner "The Shape of Water," still on stage. Beside Bridges on the jet ski was actress

Helen Mirren, who helped introduce the gag award at the beginning of the show as the Vanna White to Kimmel's Pat Sajak.

Bridges worked with Anderson and "Phantom Thread" star Daniel Day-Lewis to design extravagant dresses for the film, which follows an obsessive fashion designer in 1950s London. Day-Lewis requested he choose his own clothes each day of shooting, Bridges told The New Yorker. In order to accommodate the method actor, Bridges designed an entire wardrobe for the star to dress from during the film's production.

The Oscar victory is Bridges' second. He previously won for Best Achievement in Costume Design in 2012 for his work on "The Artist."

He was also nominated for his work on the 2014 film "Inherent Vice," directed by Anderson. Bridges worked with Anderson on all of the director's feature films.

Bridges is a 1983 alumnus with with a bachelor's degree in theatre arts. He then studied at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he received a Master of Fine Arts in costume design in 1987.



VALERIE DURANT/A.M.P.A.S.

Oscar winner Mark Bridges and Helen Mirren on a jet ski onstage during the Oscars on Sunday, March 4. Bridges is a 1983 alumnus with a degree in theatre arts.

Review: Striking staging in *The Band's Visit* is its strength

By Kraig Klein
Contributing Writer

"The Band's Visit," currently running at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre, is one of the shortest shows on Broadway right now.

It tells the story of a 1990s Egyptian band, led by the straight-laced Colonel Tewfiq Zakaria, played by Tony Shalhoub.

On its way to an Arab music festival in the city of Petah Tikva, the band mistakenly winds up in a remote Israeli town and has to stay overnight at a cafe owned by an Israeli woman named Dina, played by Katrina Lenk.

During that stay, the Egyptians and the Israelis are able to connect with each other through the power of music and a shared desire to break from a monotonous, "dead" life.

It is a quaint story with a few emotional moments, but those moments don't resonate as strongly as one might wish.

The show lasts only an hour and a half and is performed without an intermission, making it the first one-act musical I have attended.

The brevity is justified, however, since the story covers only one night's worth of events.

One of the most striking features of this production is its overly complex set design. Indeed, for a show that basically stays on one street for most of the time, the set designers created an



"The Band's Visit" is one of the shortest shows on Broadway, with a 90-minute runtime. The musical is currently running at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre.

intricate array of faded tan buildings that open up like books to reveal various scenes. One building opens up to display Dina's cafe, while another one swings open to show a ticket booth.

In one of the most memorable parts of the production, all of the buildings open up to show a neon pink roller derby, complete with a disco ball and 1980s pop music.

Complimenting this elaborate set is the rotating stage, which uses a moving circle as a possible emphasis on the cyclical and repetitive nature of life in Dina's

town. It was surprising that such immense artistic creativity was poured out for what is essentially a minimalist show.

Lenk, as Dina, is the highlight of the production. Her role is quite an undertaking since she sings most of the songs, yet Lenk excels in her performance. Her strong voice reverberates throughout the theater, and her passionate movements and inflections reflect the pent-up stress of a lonely woman whose life lacks excitement or intense romance.

Lenk's voice greatly complements the strong musical score, which incorporates Hebrew rhythms and Arabic instruments, like the qanun and lute, to paint a realistic picture of the Middle East.

She is truly the heart and soul of the show, even if her thick Israeli accent renders some of her lines unclear. Unfortunately, the rest of the cast fails to achieve the same level of performance as Lenk. Like Lenk, their thick Israeli and Egyptian accents hinder their delivery.

But unlike Lenk, they aren't able to overcome their accents with emotional singing and movement.

Some actors, such as John Cariani as the troubled cafe worker, Itzik, deals with this problem by dropping the thick accents while singing. Others remain trapped by a foreign tongue.

Dariush Kashani in particular is remarkably wooden as Zakaria, and although his character is purposefully rigid and unmoving, his flat delivery and overall lack of energy dehumanizes one of the main characters of the story.

Compounding these problems is the script, which contains large chunks of untranslated Arabic and Hebrew, and many of the intense emotional conflicts in the show are literally lost in translation as a result.

Is "The Band's Visit" a bad show, then? No, certainly not, but it is flawed. The humorous quips and cultural misunderstandings throughout the story are immensely entertaining, and Lenk's performance more than makes up for the shortcomings of the rest of the cast.

The show moves at a moderate pace with few lagging moments, and the score is beautiful. Yet, at the same time, the flaws do prevent the show from reaching a true catharsis.

If those flaws had been ironed out, perhaps this show would have more of an emotional impact.

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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 Socolian* 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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First issue free; additional issues cost 50 cents.



CHRISTOPHER CAMERON/STATESMAN FILE

The Administration Building in the winter. In an audit report by the Office of the State Comptroller, the Stony Brook Foundation's business practices were questioned.

Letter to the Editor: The New York comptroller's office is out of control

By Richard T. Nasti
Contributing Writer

As a Stony Brook Foundation (SBF) board member and Stony Brook alum, I was outraged to read the recent audit report by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), which targeted the State University of New York's (SUNY) oversight of campus-related foundations. Unfortunately, the report's unbalanced and misleading content has the real possibility of doing great damage to the SBF, in addition to other foundations, whose sole purpose is to support the mission of their respective campuses with donor funds.

The OSC completely and purposefully ignored the responses and comments provided by the SBF, ostensibly because it had to justify the resources and taxpayer funds used during the 15 months it spent conducting this futile exercise. The report also failed to mention a crucial point: as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the SBF is regulated by the Charities Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office and the Internal Revenue Service, not the OSC. Moreover, every year the SBF is subject to an independent financial audit, conducted by a professional firm — in this case Grant Thornton — and files a comprehensive IRS Form 990. Indeed, these audits have been completed without findings. What's more, the SBF is governed by 23 independent trustees on its board — highly qualified and capable individuals who work tirelessly for no compensation. It is also critical to note that none of the SBF's funds include any state money, but instead are all privately raised.

While I will refrain from dealing in a point-by-point

rebuttal of the document, a few simple examples clearly demonstrate the overreach and unbalance of the OSC audit. For example, the audit finds that four of the contracts let by SBF, totaling \$357,000 for the four-year period of the audit, were not competitively procured, but rather "were based on referrals or longstanding business relationships." The audit neglects to mention that nothing in the law requires the SBF to do so, although competitive procurement is used when warranted. Those that are not have a basis for doing so and are carefully scrutinized for the scope and dollar amount of the services procured. In this case, two of the four contracts mentioned were for the consultant who assists the SBF in arranging its annual fundraising gala where more than \$50 million have been raised for scholarships and other academic programs. Further, the dollar value of the consultant contract has not increased for the past six years.

Instead of pointing out potential legal or regulatory issues, the OSC's office simply substitutes its judgment for that of the board and staff of the SBF. For example, the audit cites \$5,154 for two retirement parties funded with private funds. These retirement parties were for two long-standing and well-respected members of the Stony Brook faculty and staff and the money spent had the complete support of the SBF board.

In addition, the audit describes the SBF's activities to supplement faculty and staff salaries and other benefits, including housing allowances, with privately raised monies. One of the reasons Stony Brook University occupies its position as one of the preeminent research universities

in the country is that it is able to attract the best and brightest to its campus. Additional private funding that the SBF provides the university makes these critical recruitments possible, and these funds are thoroughly documented and disclosed. In addition, they are reviewed by the SUNY administration and signed off on by the chancellor. I am at a loss to understand the problem the OSC has with these private funds being made available to hire top candidates for positions at the university.

SBF board members commit much time and treasure toward making Stony Brook the great university that it is and are exceedingly proud of the work done by the foundation's executive leadership and administrative staff. The SBF is now in the process of completing a \$600 million capital campaign with all funds raised from private sources. These funds are used for scholarship aid, endowed chairs and professorships, academic programs, new buildings and other critical university initiatives. Under the leadership of our board chair, Richard Gelfond, and people like board member Jim Simons, the SBF has played an integral role in the success of Stony Brook University. Agenda-driven "audits" such as this undercut the positive and constructive work done by the SBF, with real potential to negatively impact the university's ability to provide students from all backgrounds the top flight education and future that they deserve, and that a Stony Brook education provides.

Richard T. Nasti, Esq. serves as a member of the Stony Brook Foundation Board of Trustees and graduated Stony Brook with the class of 1978.

What we can do to achieve true political correctness

By Kraig Klein
Contributing Writer

The goal of political correctness is to eliminate racial and sexual discriminations promoted by the English language, whether those discriminations are made consciously or accidentally. To this extent there has been success, although conservatives still refuse to acknowledge the benefits of political correctness. The singular form of the word “they,” for example, has eliminated the gender discrimination inherent in the usage of gender pronouns, not to mention with respect to cissexuals and people whose gender identity is different from the one they were assigned at birth. By beginning with the correction of discriminatory words and phrases of the English language, we can ensure equality for all groups.

One aspect of the English language, however, has been surprisingly overlooked. In our attempts to establish gender and sexual equality, we have failed to guarantee total etymological equality. Maybe it is because the discrimination innate in the etymology of this particular word isn't as overt as it is in gendered pronouns. This word, which needs to be changed in order to achieve true political correctness, is the word, “human.”

The word “human,” similar to the word “woman,” falsely promotes the idea of male superiority. Notice how the word “man” is conspicuously prominent in the term, “human,” as though it is the males who are the defining aspect of the species “homo sapiens.” However, males are far from being the identifying characteristic of our

species. According to the United States Census Bureau, there are actually more females than males in America — the 2014 United States Census documents the population having 159,806 females in the U.S., which was 6,211 more than the number of males in the country. This is gender and identity discrimination of the highest order, for it is a gross misrepresentation of gender dynamics, yet it has gone unchecked.

How should we correct this grievous offence? I, personally, suggest that we change the term, “human” to the term, “being.” The word “being” in and of itself doesn't promote one gender category and is neutral, thus respecting all genders, including transgender, third gender and agender. Also, it isn't as lengthy as the term “homo sapien,” which further proves its usefulness in replacing the sexist term “human.” (The main reason “homo sapien” itself isn't a suitable candidate is because the Latin word “homo” has become a microaggression degrading the homosexual population.) At the same time, the term “being” signifies that we are greater than brute animals, for in nature male dominance is all too common. Tomcats, for example, take it upon themselves to impregnate any female cat they come across, as do male dogs and stallions. We, on the other hand, have fully realized the importance of gender equality, and thus need to distinguish ourselves from such barbarity, which the term “being” successfully accomplishes. “Being” has, for a long time, been associated with some kind of divine knowledge, whether it be the Abrahamic Yahweh (another misconception of masculine domination that needs



EMILY THEIS/STAR TRIBUNE

Gender-neutral pronouns are becoming more common as identity becomes more fluid. Other efforts to achieve gender equality in language are being explored as well.

to be addressed at another time) or the fictional, eldritch “Old Gods” of H.P. Lovecraft. Consequently, “being” allows for the elimination of gender discrimination in an important part of the human language while asserting our species' superiority to other animals on planet Earth.

Unfortunately, the replacement of the term “human” with “being” will probably not be realized this year, especially with President Donald J. Trump in office. President Trump in particular has taken it upon himself to prevent the correctness of the English language, with one of his campaign promises being to replace the perfectly tolerant phrase “Happy Holidays” with the phrase “Merry Christmas,” discriminating against holidays

such as Kwanzaa and Festivus. Indeed, the conservative movement as a whole stands as a prominent obstacle and unfortunately cannot be bypassed easily.

Therefore, we must compromise. Today, the term “human” shall remain in use, but we must demand equality elsewhere. I suggest that we try to correct the term “man.” In relation to “woman,” “man” has no prefix, suggesting that “man” and “woman” are different when they are actually equal. Since “woman” and “female” derives its etymology from the adjective “feminine,” the term “man” should derive its etymology from the adjective “masculine,” thus creating equality, albeit an impure equality, of the two terms. As such, “man” should be “maman” or “masman” to contrast

with “woman” and “female.” This shouldn't be too radical of a departure for conservatives and hopefully they would begrudgingly agree to accept such terms.

If we need to create gender equality in our language, we need to correct the etymology of words like “human.” We have been looking too much at the obvious offenders like gendered pronouns, ignoring the subtle microaggressions that, like Russian spies, stealthily hide themselves in terms previously deemed to be “gender neutral.” Only when we conduct a thorough search of the English language, with support from a female president like Hillary Clinton or Oprah Winfrey, will we be able to truly obtain a state of political correctness.

I am healthier and happier thanks to my adorable pug

By Gabby Pardo
Assistant Opinions Editor

When I come home from college, I get a glimpse of joy when my pug greets me at the door wagging his tail, looking for cuddles and scratches. Yes, he may be needy with all of the walks and playtime that he craves. But his and other pets' neediness proves to make my family and other pet owners healthier than those who don't own a pet. Approximately 85 million American households have a pet. According to the National Center for Health Research, those with pets can experience lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol and more social support than those without.

I've come across people who've looked sideways at me when I brag about how amazing my pug is; it may come across almost as if he's the holy grail in my house. He is adorable, but he's definitely more than just a cuddle buddy. My dog has seen me smile, laugh, cry, scream and stress, yet he has managed to never fail as a companion. I can feel like the whole world is against me, but I know he will always be there for me to pet or curl up with even if I'm the one who messed up in a situation.



GABBY PARDO/THE STATESMAN

Assistant Opinions Editor Gabby Pardo's pet dog basks in the sun. Pets of all sizes and species can have positive effects on the health and social lives of their owners.

My dad has high blood pressure. He can come home from a long day of work and his mood will make a 180 when he pets my dog and watches TV with him.

Unfortunately, there are people who roam the world hating animals or despise the idea of having a pet, or feel having a pet is too much responsibility. However, the responsibilities of

feeding them, walking them, changing the litter boxes or fish tank filters makes us get off our lazy butts and be productive. There's something about doing a task so small in your day that adds a sense of accomplishment.

Young adults are also included in the pool of people that benefit from owning a pet. Stony Brook students, specifically, have the

opportunity to interact with furry friends right on campus. The university offers a special animal-based therapeutic program from Counseling and Psychological Services called PALS (Pet Away Life Stress). The goal of the program is to reduce stress among Stony Brook students through simply engaging with therapy dogs. It gives students a pet to

befriend when they're not home and, for those who don't own one, a feeling of a furry companion. The information page about PALS states that animal interactions reduce stress, blood pressure and anxiety, emphasizing the purpose of the program.

Why would you take five minutes out of your day to pet a random dog? Your mind can burden you with all of the things you have to do: study for biology, apply for that scholarship, go to work. Petting one of the PALS dogs will give you five minutes of time away from the stress. You can look at the cuddly creatures and interact with someone who senses you need them.

Having a pet can be expensive, but the health benefits, loyalty and companionship outweigh the cost. A pet doesn't necessarily mean a dog or cat; having a non-human companion is as easy as spending a few dollars on a goldfish for your dorm. My family may have a dog, but that's only because we're dog people. It's important to have a pet, but make sure it's the right one for you.

Next time you greet your pet, make sure to give them a little extra love for making you a healthier and better you.

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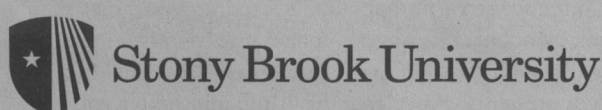
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Men's Lacrosse earns second straight victory with 7-6 win

By Chris Parkinson
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook Men's Lacrosse found itself up by one goal as conference foe UMBC took a timeout with 22 seconds left in the matchup. As UMBC came out of the huddle with a set play for the final seconds, Stony Brook's defense looked for one stop to seal its second victory of the season.

With time winding down, the Seawolves' defensive pressure was able to put an end to UMBC's three-goal fourth period and pick up the victory 7-6 on Sunday at UMBC Stadium.

"We had our best defensive effort of the season against a very disciplined and well-coached team," head coach Jim Nagle said in a press release. "Penalties let UMBC back in the game. I was proud the way our guys held on and got the W."

The 13 combined goals was the lowest scoring game the Seawolves have had through their seven games this season. The team has stepped up its offensive game as of late, notching a total of 32 goals in the last three games since scoring two goals against Hofstra on Feb. 27.

UMBC formulated a late rally as it entered the fourth period trailing 7-3, much like Stony Brook did in its previous game

against Virginia. The team got to work early by notching three goals in the period's first five minutes to shrink the Stony Brook lead to one goal; however, that would be the final goal of the game.

Stony Brook was outshot 37-22 in the game despite the victory. Both teams had equal opportunities at the net with 12 shots on goals each.

Throughout the season, every time the Seawolves have led going into the second half, they have come up victorious. However, this also applies in the losing margin, as the team has never come back from a halftime deficit thus far.

Sophomore goalkeeper Michael Bollinger got his fourth straight start for Stony Brook, posing a 50 percent save percentage and six shots saved. Bollinger's record in net improved to 2-2 on the year. He has stopped 36 shots total in the four games he has played. In every game in which he has received a victory decision, Bollinger has had a 50 percent or better save percentage.

Sophomore midfielder Wayne White had a strong outing for Stony Brook, scoring two goals on his two attempted shots. Sunday's matchup was Wayne's first multi-goal game of the season. His two goals helped the Seawolves secure a 4-2 lead heading into halftime.

Senior long stick middle Tyler Anderson and freshman attackman Jack Walsh both scored goals, their second and third goals of the season, respectively, in the first half as well. Walsh went on to score the seventh and final Seawolves goal with 48 seconds remaining in the third period.

A problem that the Seawolves ran into was their committed penalties. The Retrievers had sev-

en man-advantage opportunities, yet the team only capitalized on two tries. Stony Brook had three opportunities and scored two goals. Another Seawolves flaw was in the faceoff category, where they won just five of the 17 faceoffs in the game.

In the seven games, the team has been a part of 172 faceoffs, coming up victorious in 54 and losing 118 of them, or 31 percent.

Stony Brook now moves to 2-5 on the year along with a 1-0 start to its conference record with the victory.

The team travels back home to Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium for its second conference matchup against Hartford, who will be taking part in its first inter-conference matchup, on March 24. Faceoff is set for 1 p.m.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ/THE STATESMAN

Sophomore midfielder Wayne White passes the ball in a game against Brown on Feb. 24. White scored two goals in Stony Brook's conference opening win against UMBC.

Softball drops three games at James Madison Tournament

By Kenneth Fermin
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook softball team traveled to Harrisonburg, Virginia over the weekend to play against James Madison, East Carolina and Ohio in the James Madison Tournament. The team was initially supposed to play five games, but due to scheduling changes, only played three. The Seawolves struggled to gain any momentum and dropped all three of their matchups.

Stony Brook started the matchup against Ohio strong on the offensive end. Junior catcher Irene Rivera drove in the first run of the tournament for the Seawolves with a double in the second inning. Sophomore pitcher Taylor Pechin added two more runs with her first home run of the season in the third inning to put the Seawolves up 3-0.

The Seawolves were unable to retain the lead, as the Bobcats responded with two runs in the fourth inning and five runs in the fifth to take a 7-3 lead. Ohio freshman shortstop Katie Yun added some insurance runs in the seventh by hitting a two-run homer over left center field.

Junior centerfielder MacKenzie Brunswick gained another run with an RBI single to left field in the seventh inning to give the Bobcats a 10-3 lead, which they would hold on to win.

East Carolina dominated Stony Brook in the second game of the tournament. The Seawolves pitching were rocked by the Pirates offense, with each pitcher giving up two or more runs. Senior first

baseman Karlie Smith started the scoring rout for the Pirates with a double to right center field. Freshman shortstop Ashleigh Inae blasted a two-run homer over the right field wall to put the Pirates up 4-0 and knock Pechin out of the circle.

Senior designated hitter Meredith Burroughs added another run with a solo homer over the right field wall to give the Pirates a 5-0 lead. East Carolina gained seven more runs in the third inning capped off by a three-run homer by redshirt-sophomore first baseman Tate McClellan.

The Seawolves attempted to mount a comeback but found little success. Junior centerfielder Katelyn Corr drove in freshman shortstop Nicole McCarvill with an RBI single in the fourth inning. Pechin hit her second home run of the tournament with a two-run blast over left field to score herself and Rahrlich in the fifth inning. The deficit was insurmountable, as the Pirates won 16-3 in five innings via the mercy rule.

Stony Brook began the tournament on the wrong foot against

James Madison. The Dukes got the better of sophomore pitcher Melissa Rahrlich and scored five runs in the first inning. Rahrlich was taken out of the pitching circle after she gave up three more runs in the second inning.

Pechin didn't fare much better as she gave up an RBI triple to freshman right fielder Michelle Sullivan to further extend the deficit. Sophomore second baseman Madison Naujokas topped off the rout with a two-run home run over the right center field wall to give the Dukes an 11-0 lead.

The Seawolves were silent on offense and only able to get three batters on base by walks. Freshman pitcher Payton Buresch pitched a gem for James Madison and recorded the first no-hitter of her collegiate career. Buresch struck out four batters as the Dukes cruised to a 13-0 victory in five innings via the mercy rule.

Stony Brook will look to rebound after its three straight losses in its home opener against St. John's on Wednesday, March 21 at 2:30 p.m. at University Field.



MARIE MATSUNAGA/STATESMAN FILE

Sophomore pitcher Melissa Rahrlich winds up to pitch in a game during the 2017 season. Stony Brook dropped three games to James Madison, East Carolina and Ohio during the James Madison Tournament this past weekend.

SPORTS

Baseball team takes home weekend series versus Binghamton

By Ryan Pavich
Staff Writer

Stony Brook Baseball looked to bounce back from a rough home start last weekend with a three-game series against Binghamton. The series featured a wild doubleheader on Saturday, in which both teams combined to score 39 runs in 17 innings. Stony Brook dropped the second game of the doubleheader, but won the series on Sunday to improve to 9-8.

The Seawolves got off to a rocky start in the first game of the series. The team fell down 3-0 in the third inning when Bearcats senior shortstop Paul Rufo hit a solo home run to left-center off Seawolves sophomore starting pitcher Brian Herrmann. The pitcher would surrender six runs, but only three were earned runs due to multiple errors by his defense-extending innings.

Stony Brook took the lead back quickly, scoring five runs in the bottom of the third. Sophomore outfielder Michael Wilson delivered the big hit, knocking a two-run double to right field to tie the game at three. The team then extended the lead to 9-4 in the fourth inning, when junior outfielder Cristian Montes doubled down the third base line to bring home two runs.

Binghamton refused to fall behind so quickly. The Bearcats battled back in the seventh, scoring three runs to take a 10-9 lead. Stony Brook tied the game in the bottom of the inning thanks to senior outfielder Andruw Gazzola's solo home run. Binghamton took the lead

back in the eighth, scoring two runs for a 12-10 lead.

Sophomore infielder Nick Grande led off the bottom of the eighth with a walk, setting up Wilson's game-tying two run homer. The Seawolves rallied for three more runs in the inning, and senior pitcher Aaron Pinto closed the door on the Bearcats to secure the 15-12 Seawolves victory.

The second game of the series started on Saturday, but was finished on Sunday due to lack of sunlight. Junior pitcher Bret Clarke was sharp out of the gate, retiring 12 of the first 15 batters. He was spotted a 4-0 lead, but ran into trouble in the fifth inning, allowing a leadoff walk and back-

to-back singles, putting Binghamton on the scoreboard and ending his night.

Redshirt-sophomore pitcher Aaron Glickstein quickly surrendered Stony Brook's lead. Glickstein gave up a single to Rufo to make it 4-2. Binghamton senior catcher Jason Agresti lined a ball to right-center, scoring two and tying the game up. Binghamton took the lead in the sixth, scoring two on a single by junior outfielder Anthony Meduri to make it 6-4.

Stony Brook started a rally in the seventh, as Grande led off with a double down the right field line. Grande advanced to third on a wild pitch, and scored on a grounder from Wilson. Two batters later,

Montes got on base with an infield single and advanced to second on another wild pitch. Freshman catcher John Tuccillo drove him home on a single to right field, tying the game.

The game was suspended after the eighth inning with the score tied at six and required extra innings after it resumed on Sunday. Binghamton brought home two runs in the 10th inning, the first coming when senior outfielder CJ Krowiak hit a grounder to third to score redshirt-sophomore outfielder Daniel Franchi. The second came when Meduri singled to right-center, scoring sophomore catcher TJ Wegmann.

The final game of the series concluded on Sunday, and required a

late comeback from the Seawolves. Junior infielder Brandon Alamo led off with a double to left-center down 5-3 entering the bottom of the eighth inning. Freshman infielder Michael Palazzolo followed up with a single through the left side, and was bunted over to second to set the Seawolves up with two runners in scoring position.

Gazzola put a ball in play in the next at-bat, hitting a grounder to shortstop that was mishandled, scoring Alamo to make it 5-4. Grande popped up to make the second out of the inning, putting the pressure on Wilson to deliver and tie the game up.

Wilson delivered, smashing a three-run home run to right field and putting Stony Brook up 7-5. The bomb gave Wilson 10 RBI over the series.

"Just trying to find good pitches," Wilson said. "Put a good swing on it. The other guys helped out a little bit by getting on base."

Head coach Matt Senk praised Wilson's hot streak, giving him credit for putting the Seawolves on top that afternoon.

"There's a reason why he was drafted out of high school," Senk said. "He's got a tremendous skill set. When he really focuses, there's no part of his game that isn't plus. We're lucky to have him, and obviously he came up huge in the third game to get us the series win with that big home run."

Stony Brook will continue its home stand on Tuesday, March 20 with a single game against Manhattan at 3:30 p.m.



TIM OAKES/STATESMAN FILE

Sophomore outfielder Michael Wilson in a game from the 2017 season. Wilson recorded 10 RBI and the go-ahead home run in game three against Binghamton.

No. 1 Women's Lacrosse rolls against No. 13 Towson

By Gregory Zarb
Sports Editor

No. 1-ranked Stony Brook Women's Lacrosse kept its perfect record intact Saturday night, as the team held off No. 13 Towson at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium by a final score of 13-8. Senior attacker Kylie Ohlmiller tied her career high with seven goals and recorded one assist, good for a team-high eight points. Ohlmiller scored five of her seven goals in the second half, and this was the sixth straight game with a hat-trick.

"I'm really proud of our program, this was another great test for us," head coach Joe Spallina said in a press release. "I think we did some uncharacteristic things at times, but I tip my cap to Towson... they're a great team."

Tigers senior midfielder Emily Gillingham scored her third goal of the day to tie the game 7-7 with 13:25 remaining. Gillingham's goal

was the cherry on top of a 6-1 Tiger run that spanned nearly 21 minutes of gameplay and starting with 3:47 left in the first half. That's when Ohlmiller took the game into her own hands.

"She took the game over in the second half," Spallina said of his star player. "She made plays once she started to relax a little bit, and that's just another example of how much she means to this team."

The senior kick-started a 6-1 run for the Seawolves, scoring five of her team's six goals during the final 13 minutes of action of the second half. Sophomore midfielder Ally Kennedy scored the one other goal during the run, and the Seawolves were able to find their seventh straight victory.

"When it was 7-7 in the second half, I think our leadership emerged and got it done," Spallina said. "We deal with a lot of pressure [being the No. 1 team in the country], but we've done a good job so far having to live up to that."

Saturday's game could have been divided into 6-1 runs, occurring three times throughout the contest. Stony Brook opened the game on a 6-1 run, where the duo of Ohlmiller and sophomore attacker Taryn Ohlmiller combined for four of the six goals scored during the run.

Taryn Ohlmiller and Kennedy posted the same stat line, each scoring two goals and assisting on two other goals. Redshirt-senior attacker Courtney Murphy added two goals and collected four ground balls.

Both Murphy and Kylie Ohlmiller inch closer to NCAA records with each game. Murphy is 18 goals away from breaking Temple alumna Gail Cummings' record, who scored 289 goals during her career.

Kylie Ohlmiller has recorded 385 career points and needs 60 more to break the career points record of 445, which is held by Maryland alumna Jen Adams. The senior has collected 191 career assists, and needs 34 more to break the record set by Northwest-

ern alumna Hannah Nielsen, who recorded 224 assists in her career.

Stony Brook outshot Towson 31-17, barely controlling more ground balls by a final tally of 25-23, winning the battle in the draw circle 14-9. The Tigers had 22 turnovers compared to

the Seawolves' 16, and both teams earned 17 clears.

Stony Brook will be back on the road next weekend, starting its America East conference schedule. The team will take on UMass Lowell on March 24 at 12 p.m.



ARACLEY JIMENEZ/THE STATESMAN

Senior attacker Kylie Ohlmiller in a game against Denver. Ohlmiller scored seven goals in the 13-8 win over Towson.



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