

THE STATESMAN

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sbstatesman.com

SBU student expelled for forgery

By Rebecca Liebson
News Editor

A former Chinese international student at Stony Brook has accused a Chinese education firm of committing fraud and unjust enrichment after the company forged documents which she claims led to her expulsion from the university, according to a lawsuit filed in Manhattan federal court last month.

Former SBU student Jin Riuli and her co-plaintiff, former Ohio State University student Yu Shanchun, each paid education consulting firm Diguo Jiaoyu \$45,000 to help them get into graduate school at Boston University and Columbia University respectively, the lawsuit states.

While Diguo advertises itself as a legitimate service which uses "internal connections" to help students get accepted into prestigious universities, according to the complaint, in reality the company relies on forged transcripts, resumes and letters of recommendations to get the desired results.

According to the suit, both plaintiffs were unaware of Diguo's illegal tactics.



DOYEON JEAN JANG / THE STATESMAN

Students shop for clubs on the Academic Mall at Stony Brook University's Involvement Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 5. A second Involvement Fair is on Sept. 12.

"Diguo would fraudulently claim that they have connections with high-ranked officials in those universities who are willing to accept money as a form of donation to the school or as a contribution to help start-up foundation at the school in exchange for admission," the lawsuit states.

According to the suit, although Diguo was duly organized in New York in 2017 and has an address

in Manhattan, the company exclusively operates online, with most of its business done through the popular Chinese social media app, WeChat.

The suit also claims that Diguo uses word of mouth to draw in clients by "recruiting independent Chinese-speaking individuals such as F-1 Visa Chinese students who successfully accepted/graduated from their universities

to disseminate deceptive information and rumors about having a 100% successful rate to prestigious universities by using Diguo's service."

Jin heard about Diguo from a friend at Boston University who put her in touch with Diguo employee Zhang Shuntao, according to the suit.

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University raises over \$630 million

By Gary Ghayrat
Assistant News Editor

Stony Brook University has raised \$630.7 million through its "Campaign for Stony Brook" fundraiser over the past seven years, according to a release from late August.

The campaign's focus was to raise funds for financial aid, endowed chairs and professorships, research, interdisciplinary academic programs and facilities.

"The Campaign for Stony Brook dramatically underscores the importance and impact of philanthropy across our campus and I am extremely grateful to my fellow campaign leaders, and to those who contributed the extra resources we need to continue to educate and prepare the leaders of tomorrow," President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. stated in the release.

The Campaign for Stony Brook started in 2011 with a \$150 million donation from the Simons Foundation and former Math Department

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Stony Brook professors join state task force to battle ocean acidification

By Brianne Ledda
Assistant News Editor

Three Stony Brook faculty members have signed on to a statewide task force to combat ocean acidification, which was announced by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos on Aug. 22.

Malcolm Bowman, a professor in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS), R. Lawrence Swanson, the associate dean of SoMAS, and Dr. Carl Safina, an endowed research chair for nature and humanity at SoMAS, are all members of the team.

Increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has caused a 30 percent increase in acidity since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

The changing ocean pH levels can spell out disastrous consequences for both the ecosystem and coastal economies. The increased acidity leads to fewer carbonate ions, which are crucial for organisms like shellfish such as oysters and clams, sea urchins, coral and certain types of plankton to build shells and skeletons through calcification. Even the decline of just

one species can provoke a ripple effect, affecting its role in the ecosystem and symbiotic relationships with other marine life.

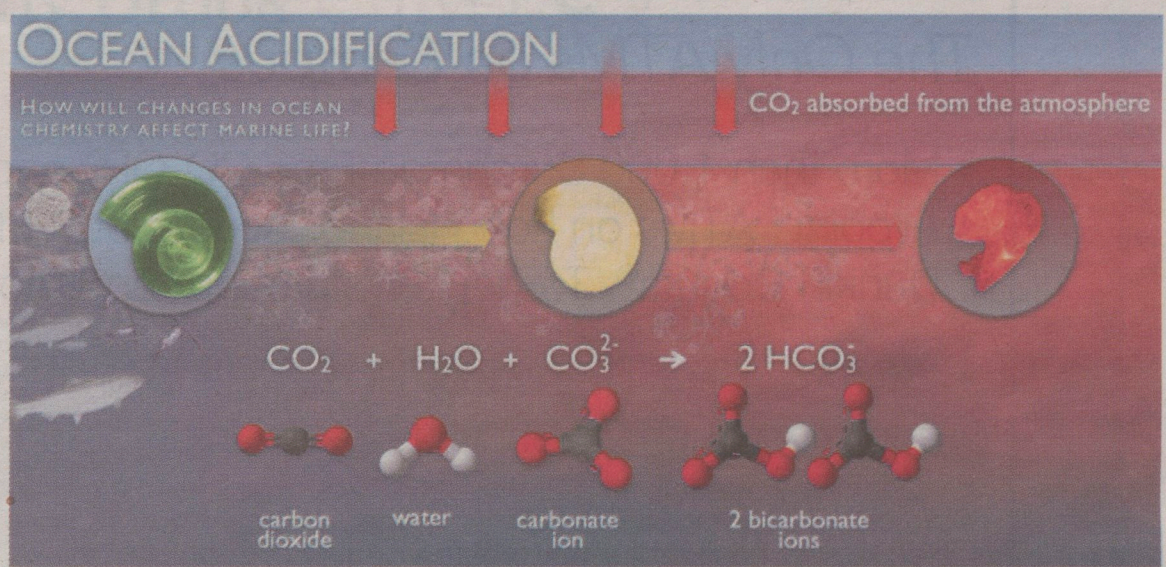
Consequently, fishing industries may suffer.

Bowman, describing the problem at hand, compared acidification to a stomachache.

"If you get indigestion, and you feel really gassy, you can eat antacid tablets. That's neutralizing acid in your stomach," he said. "More and more CO₂ is being absorbed by the ocean, and the ocean's getting more acidic. Here's the big problem: How do you get it out? How do you give an antacid tablet to the ocean?"

The team, according to the DEC press release, will produce a report and an action plan to mitigate the impact.

"Ocean Acidification (OA), if not fully researched or understood, can have a potentially devastating impact on Long Island's commercial and recreational fishing industries, particularly shellfishing and its impact to overall health of Long Island's coastal waters," wrote DEC Deputy Commissioner for New York City Sustainability, James Gennaro, in an email sent through the DEC office of media relations. "This is why the



PUBLIC DOMAIN

The acidity of the ocean has increased by 30 percent since the Industrial Revolution, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Governor Cuomo made this issue, including the need to identify practical steps to mitigate OA, a priority in the NYS Ocean Action Plan."

According to Gennaro, though the task force was first initiated in 2016, there hasn't been a meeting yet, as various government offices needed to choose appointees to the task force first. A contract with SoMAS was also established during that time to support the team's work.

"This is new science, and setting the stage for this critically important initiative took time," Gennaro said. "As chair of this Task Force, I am confident that the OA Task Force will fulfill the Governor's vision of a comprehensive scientific and policy proposal roadmap to protect Long Island and NYS from the effects of OA."

Swanson said that ecologically, ocean acidifica-

tion could have "potentially devastating consequences."

Though there's yet to be an official meeting, the "core working group" — including the chair, Swanson and other SoMAS professors and graduate students — has been meeting to set the "organizational stage" for the group, Swanson said.

Swanson said the team was quite diverse, which he thinks is beneficial.



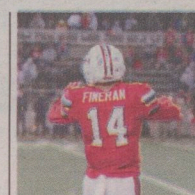
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Wolfie Seawolf
Mascot
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Education firm sued for fraud

Continued from page 1

Although Jin was initially asked to pay \$48,000 because her GPA was only 2.0, she was able to negotiate the price down to \$45,000, the suit states.

A couple of weeks after making the payment, Shuntao informed Jin that she had been accepted into Boston University, sending her a photo of her acceptance letter through WeChat, according to the complaint.

Shortly after receiving word of her acceptance, Jin was contacted by Stony Brook University's Academic Judiciary regarding a fabricated transcript sent to Boston University and she was later expelled, the suit states.

Jin's attorney, King Lun Wu, provided the following statement via email:

"I believe that the deciding officials at Stony Brook University on Ms. Jin's case have made an unfair decision. While we respect Stony Brook University's policy of Academic Integrity, it is important to realize that Ms. Jin's case is of a more complicated nature that required more consideration and empathy from Stony Brook's fac-

ulty. Upon further investigation and media exposure, more and more victims have come forward and contact our office. This is especially concerning because the total number of victims remain unclear.

At the end of the day, it is important to keep in mind that Ms. Jin did not fabricate her transcript, nor did she know that her transcript was being fabricated; therefore, Ms. Jin's academic integrity should not be the question in this case. Ms. Jin will be appealing her decision for the final time to Dr. Charles Robbins, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education.

We hope that Dr. Robbins will be more considerate and understand that he is not only making a decision for one student, but setting a precedent for many other student victims at Stony Brook University and other schools as well."

When asked about the lawsuit, a representative from Diguo told *The Statesman*, "It's not our mistake, the students know what we are doing for them. We want students to succeed but when they are not a success they want a lot

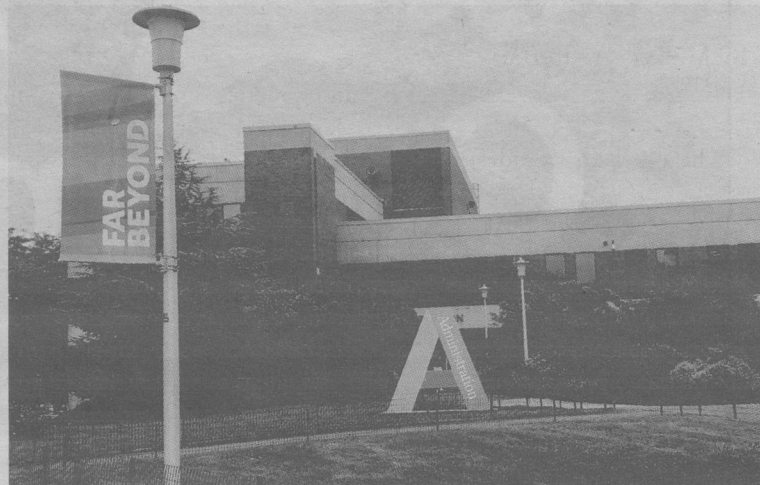
Seven-year campaign for SBU exceeds goal

Continued from page 1

Simons. Eighty of Jim Simons' colleagues at Renaissance Technologies, a company he founded, also donated more than \$127.4 million. The campaign leadership and the Stony Brook Foundation Board of Trustees collectively donated \$310.9 million. And with donations from alumni, foundations, corporations and others since then, the campaign has exceeded its goal of \$600 million by 5 percent, according to the release.

"The seven-year comprehensive fundraising campaign for Stony Brook exceeded its goal because thousands of friends and alumni—47,961, in fact—recognized the Campaign for what it was and will continue to be: an irrefutable endorsement of Stony Brook as an unparalleled engine of social mobility, breakthrough research, innovative teaching, and exceptional medical care all making a positive impact in society," Senior Vice President for University Advancement Dexter Bailey wrote in an email statement.

The news release stated that over 80 percent of the donations have been received. Some of the campaign accomplishments included 44 newly



EMMA HARRIS / THE STATESMAN

A view of Stony Brook's Administration Building. The Campaign for Stony Brook exceeded its goal of \$600M.

endowed chairs and professorships, \$52.6 million for financial aid, \$125.9 million for facilities and campus life and \$209.1 million for research and other investments.

"For the School of Medicine, the incredible generosity of our friends has catalyzed several innovative and impactful research and clinical programs, advancing what we know about cancer, cognitive decline, and several important diseases," Dean of the School of Medicine and Senior Vice President for Health Sciences Kenneth Kaushansky said in

the release.

The campaign has been billed the most successful fundraising effort in SUNY history. According to the release, the previous Stony Brook fundraising campaign, which concluded in 2009, raised \$361.7 million.

"Building a strong fundraising program is essential for Stony Brook to compete effectively with our aspirational peers for top students, faculty and research programs," Bailey stated in the release.

USG Senate fills final positions for term

By Mike Adams
Opinions Editor

Stony Brook University's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Senate voted unanimously to appoint sophomore social work major Victoria Correa as the commuter student representative for the Faculty Student Association's (FSA) Board of Directors in the Senate's second meeting of the semester on Thursday, Sept. 6.

USG's Executive Branch recommended Correa, the undergraduate coordinator for the Office of Commuter Services & Off Campus Living, to fill the last of USG's three board positions within the FSA. In a brief speech to the senators that preceded the vote, Correa said her status as a commuter student and experience with CSS would make her an ideal fit for the spot.

"I am a commuter student myself," Correa said. "And I see there are problems and there are things going well that I want to bring to everybody's attention. Forty-seven to 50 percent of Stony Brook is commuter students. That's a very large population that we want to make sure are represented."

The Senate voted 19-0, with two vacancies, to appoint Correa. She ran unopposed, which CAS senator and senior mathematics major, Andrew Machkasov, noted was not something he had seen in previous semesters with USG.

"It's not something that's happened before. Last year, the resident-student candidate was a senator, the year before that the commuter-student candidate was a senator at the time as well," Machkasov said. "It's quite possible that no one here was a commuter, which is unfortunate, or that nobody else was interest-



MIKE ADAMS / THE STATESMAN

Members of Stony Brook's Undergraduate Student Government Senate at a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 6.

ed, which is why the executives had to appoint somebody from outside. I didn't know [Correa] beforehand, but from her speech and the fact that several people vouched for her she sounds like a great candidate for the position."

The Senate also elected graduate public policy student Matthew J. Walker to the position of parliamentarian in a 14-0 vote. Walker is CSS's Graduate Coordinator for Off-Campus Living, and USG Treasurer Adrian Ortega vouched for his reliability in a short endorsement.

"Matt's really reliable and he types really fast," Ortega, a junior computer engineering major, said, provoking laughter from the senators.

Further down the agenda for the night were concerns senators had about USG's new online payroll service, Ceridian Dayforce. Several senators have been unable to log in to their accounts on Ceridian's website, and several more were unable to input their office hours for payment.

"I completely understand it's con-

fusing, I'm still learning a lot about it," Executive Vice President and senior political science major Abdelrahman Salama said. "Send me all your hours for this week. After this week it is your responsibility."

Going forward, Ortega asked all senators to make sure to clock in and clock out on Ceridian during their office hours and properly log the time they spend serving during USG events in the interest of maximum transparency.

Machkasov noted that the issues with filling out positions and properly logging payroll hours were nothing unusual for this stage of the fall semester and just a symptom of senators adjusting to their new roles.

"We haven't had a formal training of how to do our position, and we just switched to a new payroll system," Machkasov said. "There's a bit of a learning curve, some people may or may not end up deciding this is for them. But it seems like everything all in all is going fairly smoothly."

Convenience store gets upgrade

By Emily Selleck
Contributing Writer

If you're in the market for groceries this semester, you won't be able to find them on the west side of campus.

The West Side Dining convenience store is more than tripling in size as it undergoes a major renovation but is not expected to open until the Spring semester.

Director of Marketing & Communications for the Faculty Student Association Angela Agnello said the convenience store would be closed throughout the Fall 2018 semester.

"The tiny 300-square-foot store that was at West Side Dining could not accommodate the needs of students with such a limited selection of grab-n-go items," she said. "The brand new 2,000-square-foot store will offer grab-and-go sandwiches and salads, fresh produce, grocery items, coffee, beverages, snacks, ice cream novelties and cookware."

Agnello said a temporary store inside a pop-up tent has been set up for the time being, offering a small selection of items.

"During the construction, the Faculty Student Association has set up a temporary store behind West Side Dining, near Kelly Quad and a short walk from the West Apartments, so you can use your Dining Dollars or Wolfie Wallet to buy snacks, beverages and grab-n-go options," she said.

Senior art history major Jade Blanco, who lives in West Apartments, said she was glad the convenience store was getting an upgrade.

"I think the convenience store is good in theory, but there needs

to be items in the store that are useful for upperclassmen," she said. "It's great to have grab-n-go options, but fresh items and other foods students can actually use

"It's great to have grab-n-go options, but fresh items and other foods students can actually use for cooking would be beneficial."

-Jade Blanco
Senior art history major

for cooking would be beneficial."

Dutch exchange student and sociology major Elisa Groothuis said it was difficult to grocery shop without a car, and the current pop-up shop wasn't doing much to help.

"The bus to Target only goes one day a week and an Uber is very expensive," she said. "It would be nice if there were more (grocery) options on campus this term, but I think it's good they're renovating the main store."

The West Side pop-up shop is open Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-3 a.m. and Saturday-Sunday 8:30 a.m.-3 a.m.

ARTS & CULTURE

Renowned composer plays Sufi songs at Wang Center

By Melissa Azofeifa
Staff Writer

The rain and thunder roaring outside of the Charles B. Wang Center on Thursday evening, added to the magic of Amir Vahab and his ensemble's music, as they brought to life 13th to 14th century poetry from Sufi poets—Rumi, Hafiz, Baba Taher and Yunus Emre.

Vahab has been hailed by the New York Times as the “ambassador for a silenced music,” and is considered one of New York's most distinguished composer/vocalists of Sufi and folk music. He sings in many different languages with his own particular mystical style.

Vahab uses instruments and songs of the Middle East, including Persian, Turkish and Azeri. As an instrumentalist, he plays and teaches a number of instruments specific to the culture which have survived through time. Vahab has been coming to the Charles B. Wang Center sporadically to perform since 2002, when the center opened.

Vahab introduced the Sufi tradition to the audience as “the mystical heart of Islam”, and the performances proved that it was exactly that.

Sufism itself, was about a human relationship with the divine. Sufism is a mystical Islamic belief

and practice in which Muslims seek to find the truth of divine love through the direct, personal experience of God.

Early Sufism came about as a reaction to the secular nature of the Umayyad dynasty. This was the first Muslim dynasty to rule the empire of the caliphate. The dynasty was initially resistant to Islam until they converted in the year 627, they ruled from 661–750 CE.

The event was titled “Sufi songs of love by Amir Vahab,” which provoked thoughts of two lovers in absolute bliss.

Before starting with the music, either Yvette Goughassian or Gail Wiggin, who made up Vahab's ensemble for the night, would read the translations of the poems and songs they were about to perform in English.

The translations helped to transport the audience to a higher spiritual plane and the sounds of the ancient instruments the Oud, the Ney, the Tanbur and the Daf were the vehicles.

As Gail Wiggin read the translation of the first poem, it was evident it wasn't the romantic kind of love these poets spoke of.

“I have learned so much from God, that I can no longer call myself a Christian, a Hindu, a Muslim, a Buddhist, a Jew.” Hafiz's poem said. “The truth has shared so much of it-

self with me that I can no longer call myself a man, a woman, an angel or even pure soul. For God is too vast and tremendous to be restricted to

always been a success.

Nandini Charles, an audience member whose origins are from Mysore, Southern India, men-

used when playing it.”

“Sufi Songs of Love by Amir Vahab” transported the audience to the ancient Middle East. The



MELISSA AZOFEIFA / THE STATESMAN

Amir Vahab playing the ancient Persian instrument, the Ney, at the “Sufi Songs Of Love” event hosted at the Charles B. Wang Center on Sep. 6, 2018.

one belief rather than another.”

Director of Cultural Programs for the Charles B Wang Center, Jinyoung Jin, said she has seen Vahab's performances twice since she began her career at Stony Brook in 2013, and the show has

tioned feeling nostalgic.

“It's my first time seeing Sufi music live and I loved it,” Charles said. “My mom played the Veena in India and it brought back memories because it sounds like the Tanbur, all ten fingers are

audience was reminded though poetry and music that we are all one.

“Tolerance is not enough, we living beings all have a particle of the creator inside of us, we all deserve to be loved and respected,” Vahab said.

The Harbor: Christian church by day, party by night

By Caitlyn McDuffee
Contributing Writer

Instead of sitting in pews, people are seated in folding chairs under a disco light in front of a stage where mass is performed. The TV mounted in the corner lights up lyrics of the gospels like a karaoke machine while the band and audience sings along, “Lord, I give you my heart. I give you my soul. I live for You alone. Every breath I take, every moment I'm awake, Lord have your way in me.”

89 North, a bar in Patchogue, is typically a music venue built for a fun night out.

But on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings, its dance floor and black wooden stage transform into the unlikely location of mass, held by a Christian-based group called The Harbor Church.

Allie Trevisan, the community pastor at The Harbor, was on track to become a doctor when a friend introduced her to the church.

“I was working full time in cardiology and I thought that was what I was going to do with my life,” Trevisan said. “Then God opened another door for me, and I accepted Christ as my savior. I ended up interning here and God led me in the direction to become a pastor.”

The church, known as a non-denominational Christian church that started 30 years ago as Lamb's Chapel, was tak-

en over 15 years ago by Pastor Mike Jankowski and was later renamed The Harbor Church.

The church started off with just one location in Center Moriches, but in 2016 another location

“I was working full time in cardiology... God let me in the direction to become a pastor.”

—Allie Trevisan
Pastor at The Harbor

opened at 89 North in Patchogue.

Scott Jankowski, campus pastor at The Harbor and son of Pastor Mike Jankowski, was one of the people who came up with the idea for the branch in Patchogue.

“89 North was actually our first choice for the new venue,” Pastor Scott Jankowski said. “We wanted a place that was unique and where all people would feel welcome. In a traditional mass setting, people tend to feel judged, so we wanted an environment where every-



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Main Street in Patchogue in 2010. On Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings 89 North, a Patchogue bar, converts into a meeting place for The Harbor Church.

one would feel comfortable.”

The setting of the masses held by The Harbor is non-traditional, but it allows people to give praise to God in a more interactive way and attracts people of all ages. There are moms cradling their children, young teens hanging out with their friends and elderly couples attending the mass. The church has reached so many people in the community just because of its location.

Carolyn Carrera, a Stony Brook University alumna, attends the mass regularly.

“You don't need a fancy building or even a pastor or priest,”

Carrera said. “When we come together in the name of Jesus. He is right there with us.”

The Harbor Church has several groups — Impact Children's Ministry, a high school and middle school group called The Exchange, a community group that meets around coffee shops and dinner tables, bible study groups, a focus group for people who want to delve more into specific topics, a men's ministry and a women's ministry.

The men's ministry has a subgroup called Outdoorsmen that meets on the first and third Thursday of each month

to discuss and put into practice outdoor hobbies such as fishing, camping and hunting.

On top of the bible study groups on Wednesdays and Thursdays, the women's ministry hosts a women's weekend retreat once a year to build relationships and talk about God.

“There have been many instances where people left their wallet or ID at the bar the night before and have come in to find it and stayed for mass,” Trevisan said.

“We have saved so many people by welcoming them with open arms and helping them get to know Jesus Christ our Savior.”

LACS Center brings Braceros photography exhibit

By Anna Correa
Arts & Culture Editor

The Latin American Caribbean Studies' (LACS) yearly gallery, Braceros, a photographic documentation of Mexican migrant laborers expressed through the lens of the Hermanos Mayo, a photography collective, opened on Sept. 5 at the Social & Behavioral Sciences Building in Rm. 320.

The gallery, curated by John Mraz, curator of international photographic exhibitions, and underwritten by the Mexican government, explores the Bracero Program, a labor loan program between the United States and Mexico that lasted from 1942 to 1964.

The Hermanos Mayo (the Mayo brothers) were refugees of the Spanish Civil War that emigrated to Mexico. They shared a sense of dislocation that can be felt in the images of the braceros going to the U.S.

Krislyn Rodriguez, a junior atmospheric sciences major, LACS minor and Latin American Student Organization social chair, said that she never knew these images existed and that it's important for herself, Stony Brook and Latin culture that this exhibit is here.

"What really got to me were the images of the braceros saying goodbye to their families, especially to their children. You can see the pain in the picture,"



ANNA CORREA/THE STATESMAN

Braceros, Mexican migrant laborers, saying goodbye at the Buenavista Station. This is a photo in the "Farewell at the Buenavista Station" part of the Bracero's exhibit.

Rodriguez said. "The actual braceros are hopeful, not necessarily sad, but the family is just so distraught. Especially in Latino culture, family is a really big thing. It really emphasizes the sacrifices the men had to make."

The exhibit is organized into six themes — contracting centers, la ciudadela, farewells in the Buenavista train station, protests, the experience and the return — that document the overall experience of the labor movement.

Eric Zolov, Director of LACS

and a professor in the history department, said that the point of the exhibit is to humanize labor and to bring historical context to modern migration issues.

As you progress through the pictures, the number of people you see in the images goes down. The people look hopeful in the beginning but by the end of the exhibit, there is a sense of restless fatigue.

Ximena Lopez Carrillo, Ph.D. candidate studying mental health and psychiatry in the United States and Mexico, said that the Hermanos

Mayo were paid by the Mexican government to take photos of public works projects. They documented working-class struggles.

"In the beginning, they don't have any idea what they're expecting," Lopez Carrillo said. "The optimism disappears by the theme of protest."

The term "bracero" comes from the Spanish word showing how these are people who work with their hands.

The Bracero Program began in 1942, during World War II, to pre-

vent a labor shortage in the U.S. Similar to today's outlook of how immigrants will compete for jobs and lower wages, American farm workers were concerned about these issues back then, too.

According to the Bracero History Archive, the braceros, as well as domestic workers, had safeguards in their contracts, such as wage regulations and guaranteed employment for three-fourths of their contract. They suffered because employers took advantage of the cheap labor and ignored many of the rules in braceros' contracts.

Fernando Acevedo, a sophomore psychology major, said that he learned about the Bracero Program in a class last year about border relations between the U.S. and Mexico. Even as a Mexican-American, he didn't grow up knowing about the program and believes that it is something that should be known.

"I think it's cool that the school is showing this information because I feel that a lot of the information you get in elementary school, you don't learn about how the United States has abused Mexicans in ways that people don't see," Acevedo said. "With the Bracero Program, for example, they needed workers. So when they needed help from Mexico, they would bring Mexicans in, but we were no longer required, they would just send us back."



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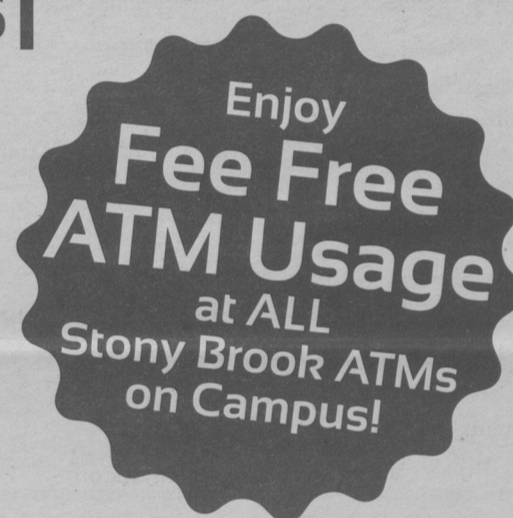


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COURTESY OF TIFFANY KORMENDI

Tiffany Kormendi claims history professor, Larry Frohman, made inappropriate comments to her. A former student sued Frohman for similar remarks in August.

My history with Professor Frohman and his defensive administrators

By Tiffany Kormendi
Contributing Writer

My name is Tiffany Kormendi. I am a graduate student in the BA/MAT program in history and social studies education. Before I entered college, I thought, "Hey, I'll study hard, have some fun and graduate in five years with my two degrees." However, by Spring 2017, my college experience became one any student would have just wanted to end.

In Spring 2017, I took CEG 524, a seminar on late-modern Europe, with Professor Young-Sun Hong, who is married to my program director, Dr. Lawrence Frohman. I emailed Professor Hong a question regarding locating a reading assignment on Stony Brook's online library... A student would expect their professor to answer the email; however, in my experience, Hong and Frohman shared their emails regarding students with each other, blurring the lines between professional and personal.

Frohman cced Professor Hong and responded to my question, referring to me as a "bad girl."

I knew right then Frohman would try to stir up trouble with me, since he has repeatedly done so in the past, while numerous students and the university for years have condoned this and other kinds of behaviors. I began to experience issues with Frohman as the semester wore on.

In March, Frohman told me

via email "You are way off track for student teaching in the fall. You should plan on student teaching in the spring, not the fall, and focus instead on taking more time with your individual course, learning more, making sure that you get at least the minimum grades you need." Up until that point I have never failed any course in my program. In fact, the Assistant to the History Chair Susan Grumet, when I had a meeting with her, told me I was on track to do student teaching in the Fall 2017 (when I was expected to graduate) I emailed Frohman reminding him of what Grumet told me and continued to remind him that at that time I was indeed on track to student teach and graduate in the fall. Frohman replied to that response where I detailed my plans to finish all my coursework before student teaching with "Tiffany: I can't save you from yourself. But, as I said, you are not doing well academically, and you need to focus on learning more from the courses you are taking rather than rushing through."

As the Spring 2017 semester progressed, I became increasingly alarmed that Frohman was telling me information that differed from that of the Director of Field Experience and Student Teaching, Charles Backfish and Susan Grumet. Since Spring 2017, I have continued to have numerous problems with professors in the history program.

By May of 2017, I received an email from Backfish regarding

attending an orientation for student teaching. At that point I felt a small sigh of relief that the end was near, but I was very wrong. In August of 2017 I was informed I had failed my last class prior to student teaching and as a result I would not be student teaching and graduating in the fall like I was repeatedly advised. I knew Frohman was behind it all but I could not speak out since I knew no one would believe me. As I started to repeat courses, other problems started to occur with the history department. I had to retake one course in particular, CEG 532, with Professor Donna Rilling. As a graduate student I am required to have her signature in order to have permission to retake the course. When I attempted to get her signature by explaining my situation she responded in an email, saying "Although I do not know your record or circumstances, what I glean from you is that you would do well to focus on completing your undergraduate degree, and then perhaps take some time before pursuing a Masters...your program chair.....can offer you more extensive advice than I..." It sounded eerily familiar to what Frohman was telling me during the spring of 2017.

I strongly believe in my gut that Frohman has influenced how professors of mine have viewed me and my work, and a recent event in Spring 2018 solidified that original feeling. Professor Brooke Larson of CEG 535, admitted it in writing.

Continued on page 9

Stony Brook's Title IX process is broken

By Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

We are the leaders of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, a student club on campus that works to educate students and advocate for issues surrounding gender equality. With the Department of Education actively removing protections for survivors of sexual assault and the #MeToo movement taking hold across the country last February, we organized SBUToo, a march in support of the #MeToo movement.

Our goals for the march were twofold: to raise awareness on campus about the issues of sexual harassment and assault, and to pressure the Stony Brook administration to enact specific policies that support the rights of survivors of all genders. Despite Stony Brook's purported commitment to gender equality, with its frequently touted HeForShe university status and Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities, we had deep concerns about Stony Brook University's history of mishandling sexual misconduct cases. During December of last year, following reports that the Stony Brook Hospital had settled three sexual harassment cases, President Stanley said in a widely posted video that he was "standing up for women in the fight to end sexual harassment." We created the march in part because we intended to hold him and the university to that commitment.

Stony Brook has a long and sordid history with alleged Title IX violations. In 2014, Stony Brook was one of 76 universities that the Department of Education said it was investigating for possible Title IX violations. In January 2015, SBU graduate student Sarah Tubbs sued Stony Brook for Title IX violations, alleging "deliberate indifference" from Stony Brook officials during the disciplinary process for her sexual assault. Among her more disturbing allegations were complaints about the Title IX process at Stony Brook, including University Police Department (UPD) officers saying she did not fight back sufficiently during her assault, Community Standards officers asking her to cross-examine her attacker during the disciplinary hearing and taking almost twice the standard 60 days to conduct and conclude the investigation.

This January, both Stony Brook Women's Swimming and Diving Head Coach, Janelle Atkinson, and Assistant Coach, Jordan Bowen, were quietly let go without explanation.

These firings followed reports that Atkinson had, for months, subjected her players to verbal, emotional and mental abuse, telling players that they were faking their mental illnesses, ignoring players' physical injuries during practices, threatening to take away players athletic scholarships and spots on the team and making light of a player's previous sexual assault. Despite numerous complaints from players to Stony Brook Director of Athletics Shawn Heilbron over three months, nothing was done.

Most recently, Stony Brook University has been the subject of another Title IX lawsuit brought by former SBU graduate student Erin Mosier. In it, Mosier has said that her advisor, SBU history professor, Lawrence Frohman, repeatedly sexually harassed her in class, mocked her intelligence because of her blonde hair and gaslit her in private, denying he made inappropriate comments. After learning of Mosier's Title IX complaint against him, Frohman hired a private investigator to harass her friends and smear her character. After being told by the Title IX office that "we can't guarantee your safety," Mosier resorted to having friends escort her around campus and eventually transferred to SUNY Old Westbury to finish her program.

Particularly upsetting is that, in all of these situations, these students did nothing wrong. Tubbs made an official report of her assault to UPD within two days of her assault and went through the university disciplinary process to prosecute her assailant. Members of the women's swim team repeatedly had meetings with SBU Athletics Director Shawn Heilbron to complain about Atkinson's misconduct. Mosier, after telling both Frohman and her department chair that his comments were inappropriate, went through the Title IX disciplinary process in good faith.

The process failed both Tubbs and Mosier, and in retrospect, Tubbs said she encourages other survivors of assault at Stony Brook to go to outside police forces rather than reporting through the internal Stony Brook process. Both have expressed hope that their lawsuits will help other survivors reporting their assault or harassment through the Title IX disciplinary process. If Stony Brook is unresponsive to the complaints of students and faculty, as well as the widespread impression that the Title IX department cares more about the university's liability than justice for survivors, perhaps they will be more

receptive to alumni, donors and prospective students who press them on this issue.

It doesn't have to be this way for survivors at Stony Brook. We could recommend steps that the university can take, including the re-installation of in-person trainings on sexual harassment, implicit bias training for all faculty and staff and amendments to the Title IX process in the Code of Student Conduct to make it more student focused. A common complaint of both Tubbs and Mosier's lawsuits, one shared by many students, is uncertainty about the disciplinary process and investigations that, often without explanation, take much longer than the prescribed 60 days. This results in both the accused and accusing parties having their lives put on hold for months at a time, even over multiple semesters, with the Title IX office often failing to respond to questions about the status of one's case and when the investigation is expected to end.

We deserve transparent and responsive Title IX and Community Standards offices that give affected students updates on the time length of their investigation, explanations for as much as they are able to disclose about why an investigation will take longer than 60 days and a thorough explanation of the entire process. Additionally, a mandatory class on consent should be created for those found guilty of lower level sexual misconduct offenses who are not expelled or suspended. Instead of the currently allowed mere written or verbal warning, this would be a response that directly addresses the underlying misconduct as is standard with academic dishonesty and drug offenses, one rooted in the principles of education and restorative justice. Stony Brook could, as suggested by faculty groups such as the Concerned Women of College of Arts and Science, refuse to give professional benefits to faculty credibly accused of misconduct and establish greater diversity within the higher levels of Stony Brook administration. A campus dedicated to supporting survivors would have one or more specialists at Counseling and Psychological Services explicitly advertised for their expertise in treating trauma from sexual assault. As modeled by the creator of the #MeToo movement, the incomparable Tarana Burke, we could create spaces where survivors can come together for solidarity, a chance to share their stories and heal. Together, we could go far beyond.

University administrators covered for Professor Frohman

Continued from page 8

On numerous occasions, I have tried to bring my continually multiplying problems to an array of personnel and offices, such as Dean Ken Lindblom and Provost Michael Bernstein. Yet none of these personnel and offices have helped me thus far. Instead, most of them have "encouraged" me to consider another career.

During my meeting with Lindblom on Jan. 29, 2018, I brought to his attention numerous problems, in particular, the "bad girl" comment. When I showed Lindblom the email he responded "I think he's kidding. You don't think he's kidding?" When I had a meeting with Bernstein on June 11 with my parents to discuss the issues I was facing, I brought up how a classmate of mine allegedly had an impending lawsuit against the university and as a result, Frohman was not allowed on campus as of April/May of 2018, but still had contact with a professor of mine and guided her to give me a failing grade. Bernstein directed the conversation to whether or not I submitted a grade appeal regarding my claims that Frohman was influencing professors in the history department, while ignoring and failing to comment on the "bad girl" comment. I explained to him that my past experience with the grade appeal process has been negative, as the committee claimed to do a thorough review yet admitted it did not look at all the claims I made. I remarked to Bernstein that it is suspicious that someone can claim they did a thorough review, and instead select and choose what to look at. Bernstein argued that it is consistent with the university's policies.

In my opinion, Bernstein tried to separate the matters instead of realizing that I am arguing that there is a clear connection. He said "In your opinion that may be the case," but tangible evidence is hardly a student's opinion. Bernstein explained to my parents and myself that if a professor tells a student they should leave their program, "an instructor is entitled to do that and I may not agree with it and may do something else." Bernstein also said that he would follow up with me and he has not for the second time. I originally reached out to him by email on Feb. 2. The only response I received was that the appropriate leadership would reach out to me, and I can document proving that no one reached out.

In our June 11 meeting, I was again told, now verbally, by Bernstein that he would follow up with me. Bernstein then backtracked and claimed "A professor renders judgment and can document why they are rendering that judgment; then that is their judgment and they are the instructors in charge and not we," referring to himself and the vice provost sitting next to him. I then attempted to reiterate what

Bernstein said "to document" and I reminded him how Professor Larson did not include a single comment on my final assignment other than the note I received. Ultimately, another meeting ended with no clear resolution; rather, only with a confirmation that the university does not help students to navigate and solve these types of situations.

Some students in my program or even in the undergraduate program have faced worse from Frohman. Some have faced less. Nonetheless, there is a shared commonality in our story. A man, who is supposed to have guided, taught and inspired students to become the next generation of teachers, instead hurts, scares, bullies, harasses and stalks students. I can only speak for myself, but I certainly do not feel safe or comfortable being in my program anymore. Every time I walk into the Social & Behavioral Sciences Building where all my courses and the history department are located, I live in fear that will be the day a professor from my past confronts me for speaking out. If and when I do graduate, I sincerely wonder how I can enjoy that day, the day that so many students look forward to being done with their college career, knowing all the horrible experiences I had that easily could have been resolved if someone would have listened and helped me.

I highly doubt this is an isolated problem within the social studies teaching/history program. Because the university makes the process of reporting problems unnecessarily difficult by sending students to numerous offices repeatedly, there could be a possibility of other problems not being reported. If a student gets the "opportunity" to talk about their issues, I feel there will be minimal to no effort to solve the problem. The university needs to reevaluate its policies and procedures and the values it claims to uphold when handling cases of alleged professor misconduct.

The Statesman reached out to Provost Bernstein and Dean Lindblom multiple times for comment. Lindblom declined to reveal details of his discussion with Kormendi on ethical grounds, but confirmed it occurred and said he referred her to the Title IX Office.

Bernstein's Executive Assistant Kara DeSanna provided the following statement from the provost:

"Stony Brook University takes claims of discrimination and harassment very seriously and has processes in place to fully investigate them. Maintaining an environment that is free from discrimination is essential to creating and fostering a learning and working environment in which all members of our community can thrive. That is our commitment to our campus community and we continue to strive for that each and every day."



GARY GHAYRAT/STATESMAN FILE

Stony Brook University students march in support of the #MeToo Movement at a rally outside the Student Activities Center on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018.

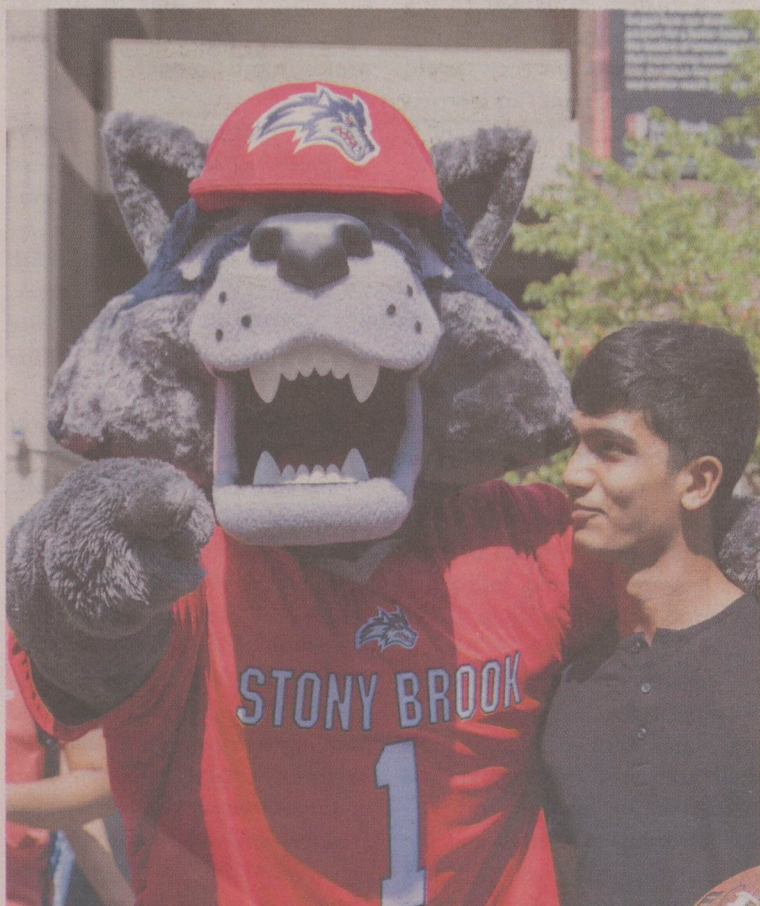
MULTIMEDIA

Photo highlights of the week



This week was packed with events on campus. Stony Brook Football had its home opener, students could check out over 100 clubs during the Involvement Fair, and the Center for Italian Studies hosted its annual Italian Vehicle Concorso.

Photos by Abhishek Cherath, Sara Ruberg, Doyeon Jean Jang and Alex Bakirdan



Men's Soccer draws at Siena for first time this season

By Ryan Pavich
Staff Writer

Saturday, Sept. 8 was a day of near misses for Stony Brook Men's Soccer, as the team managed to hit the mark on only one of more than 20 chances at the goal. The Seawolves left the field with a 1-1 overtime draw against the Siena Saints on the road.

The lone Stony Brook goal came in the 42nd minute off the foot of senior midfielder Serge Gamwanya. Junior striker Kyle Honor found Gamwanya wide open with a cross 10 feet in front of the goal and Gamwanya buried it for his team-leading third goal of the season.

Redshirt freshman midfielder Linus Johansson put Siena on the board first in the 31st minute. Saints junior forward Matt Crisafulli tiptoed around the edge of the field on the right side before crossing to Johansson, who put the ball away just inside the Seawolves' right post.

The scoring ceased in the second half, but there were plenty of chances remaining. The Saints controlled the offensive zone for a stretch of six minutes beginning in the 54th minute and created four shots and three corner kicks. Seawolves freshman goalkeeper Christian Miesch saved a

header in the 60th minute to end the assault and pushed the ball forward to begin a lengthy attack for the Seawolves that lasted 17 minutes and generated four different scoring opportunities.

"Overall it was a strong performance," head coach Ryan Anatol said in a post-game press release. "We wanted to carry the game and dominate play. We created over 20 shots and double digit corners which shows we were able to do that. But we were not sharp enough defensively at the beginning of the game, or in front of the goal and that was the difference between earning a win and a tie today."

Gamwanya in particular was a massive presence in Stony Brook's offense. He tallied eight shots in the game more than what Siena's starters produced combined. He had another shot on goal in addition to his goal in the first half and kept the tempo alive for Stony Brook to continue to pressure.

The Seawolves had a surge of shot attempts in the last five minutes of regulation time. They forced Siena freshman goalkeeper Greg Monroe to work hard in the closing minutes of the half, saving one shot while two other shots were blocked, including an



ARACELY JIMENEZ / STATESMAN FILE

Sophomore midfielder Serge Gamwanya dribbles the ball against New Hampshire on Oct. 8. Gamwanya scored the Seawolves' lone goal against the Saints en route to a 1-1 tie.

attempt with 15 seconds left by junior striker Jarred Dass.

The pace settled down in overtime, but Stony Brook still had several chances to steal a late road win. Gamwanya recorded the team's first shot in the 98th minute, but Monroe snagged his fourth save of the game on the strike. Freshman midfielder Jack

Valderrabano opened the second overtime period with a blast that earned Monroe his fifth save and Gamwanya had one final opportunity in the 110th minute but it went wide.

The Seawolves leave Siena with a 2-2-1 overall record in the 2018 season and head back home to Stony Brook for a two-

game homestand at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. The Seawolves' next game will be on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. when they host the Hofstra Pride.

"As we look towards Hofstra on Wednesday, we will be more focused in these areas and work on putting together a complete performance," Anatol said.

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|  ST. JOSEPH'S | MEN'S SOCCER WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 1-2 |  STONY BROOK |  STONY BROOK | WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 0-3 |  WASHINGTON STATE |
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SPORTS

Offensive explosion fuels Football to 50-21 home opener win

By Chuck Hamma
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook Football came into its Saturday, Sept. 8 game against Bryant hoping for a breath of fresh air. Last week's 38-0 loss to Air Force left the Seawolves stomaching the bitter taste of defeat, but yesterday's 50-21 victory at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium refreshed them.

Midway through the third quarter, it looked like the team would gag on its attempt to rinse out but ultimately emerged feeling clean. The Seawolves jumped out to a 20-0 lead, squandered it briefly, but powered back to emerge victorious in their home opener.

All three components of the team contributed to the scoring — the offense scored four times, the defense returned two interceptions for touchdowns and special teams came up with a blocked punt that it returned for a touchdown.

"It felt awesome to get a win under our belt," head coach Chuck Priore said. "We were ready to play and I thought we came out really excited to play, specifically offensively."

The Seawolves offense bounced back from a week one performance in which they had 75 yards and four first downs, amassing 426 total yards and averaged a lit-



Redshirt-sophomore linebacker EJ Fineran against Bryant on Saturday, Sept. 8. Fineran returned a 79-yard interception for a touchdown in the second quarter to take a 20-0 lead.

tle over seven yards per play. Both senior running back Jordan Gowins and senior running back Donald Liotine went over 100 yards on the ground, while Liotine added a receiving touchdown.

"Those two guys really came to play," Priore said. "I'm happy with their progress and I think that our offensive line played much better."

Stony Brook was the first to crack the scoring column almost three minutes through the first quarter when senior quarterback Joe Carbone ran the ball in from a yard out. Carbone added another rushing touchdown, this time from nine yards out, at the end of the first to extend the Seawolves lead to 13-0.

The score remained that way until five minutes left in the second quar-

ter when redshirt-sophomore linebacker EJ Fineran picked off Bryant redshirt-senior quarterback Price Wilson and ran it back 79 yards for a touchdown, giving Stony Brook a 20-point lead. Bryant finally got on the board a minute later when Price found senior wide receiver Vincent Nisivoccia for a 27-yard touchdown, cutting the deficit to 20-7 heading into halftime.

Wilson and Nisivoccia hooked up for another touchdown at the beginning of the third quarter, this time from 14 yards out, which trimmed the Stony Brook lead to six. The Bulldogs then took a 21-20 lead with a little under seven minutes left when redshirt-sophomore running back Alfred Dorbor punched it in from two yards out. The Seawolves didn't panic and scored on the next drive when Carbone threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to Liotine, regaining a 27-21 lead.

"You could just feel that energy," Liotine said of that drive. "Once we were pushing into the red zone, we knew that that would be a turning point in the game if we can execute down there."

Stony Brook built upon the regained momentum toward the end of the third quarter when freshman defensive lineman Casey Williams blocked a Bryant punt and returned it 12 yards for a touchdown. After junior kicker Nick Courtney's field goal made it a 37-21 game, Gowins added a 27-yard touchdown and junior defensive back Damarcus Miller returned an interception 95 yards for a touchdown on the last play of the game, wrapping up a dominant 50-21 victory.

The Seawolves will travel to the Bronx next Saturday, Sept. 15, to take on the Fordham Rams at Jack Coffey Field. The game will begin at 6 p.m.

Women's Soccer earns 4-0 shutout victory over Wagner

By Kenneth Fermin
Staff Writer

Stony Brook Women's Soccer dominated the Wagner Seahawks offensively and defensively on Sunday, Sept. 9, leading to a 4-0 victory in front of a home crowd for the first time this season.

"Obviously it's our first game at home after four weeks on the road," head coach Brendan Faherty said. "So I am excited for our group to get a win — a shut-out win. We had some different players score which is really good. Scoring is really hard in soccer so it is exciting to get some kids to score goals today."

Stony Brook successfully enacted an aggressive attack strategy throughout the game, recording nine shots on goal and six corner kicks in the first half. The Seawolves broke the scoreless tie in the 22nd minute after sophomore forward Fanny Gotesson found an open sophomore midfielder Chelsie DePonte. DePonte split the Wagner defense and connected with a shot from the top of the box to the back of the net, giving the Seawolves a 1-0 lead.

"It was a scrappy play," DePonte said following the victory. "[Sophomore midfielder Kimmy Chavkin] sent a ball back into the box, Fanny got a touch on it and I was just in the right place at the right time."

The Seawolves also displayed an impressive defensive prowess, preventing the Seahawks from recording a shot in the first half. Wagner finally broke its shotless streak in the 55th minute off sophomore forward Mya Donnelly's scoring attempt, but sophomore goalkeeper Sofia Manner made a diving save to retain the Seawolves' lead.

Stony Brook forced an own goal in response to the Wagner shot attempt to extend its lead to 2-0. The Seawolves continued their offensive onslaught when freshman forward Tatum Kauka faked out the Seahawks' defense with a spin move and blasted a shot to the back of the net in the 70th minute. The score was Kauka's first collegiate goal and put the Seawolves up 3-0.

Junior defender Skyler Mackey put Wagner away for good in the 82nd minute, converting a corner kick from senior forward Julie

Johnstonbaugh into the goal, giving Stony Brook the 4-0 victory.

The Seawolves' originally scheduled home opener against the NJIT Highlanders on Thursday, Sept. 6 was cancelled due to inclement weather. While some teams would have used the extra two days to rest, Faherty called for an impromptu 60-minute scrimmage on Friday to rouse the struggling Seawolves as they looked forward to Wagner.

"On Friday, what we did was play a 60-minute scrimmage against ourselves which is something we normally would not do at this time of the year," Faherty said. "But with no game on Thursday, we wanted to get the legs moving and get a little bit of a workout in."

The extra practice paid off. Stony Brook completed Sunday's game with 23 shots and held Wagner to four, one week after the Seawolves were held to four against St. John's.

"Obviously we executed a little bit better," Faherty said. "To be honest, our defending was better and we did a better job with our front three of pressing

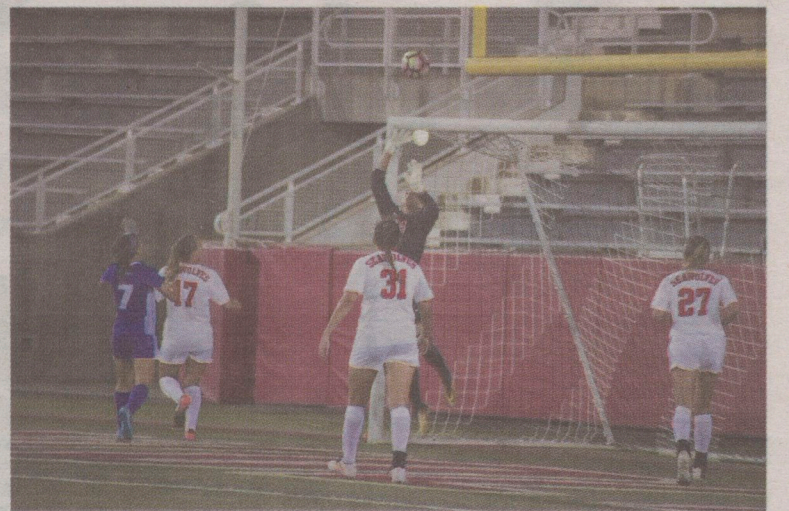
and re-pressing. We won the ball higher up the field so if you are winning the ball higher up the field, you're closer to goal, you will just be able to create more [scoring] opportunities."

Stony Brook will head back on the road next week, taking on the Iona Gaels and Hofstra Pride in two intrastate contests.

"I am excited to play two teams, both from New York," Faherty remarked. "One of the goals for the program is to be the

best team in New York. There are a lot of good college programs in New York so it is a hard ask and playing on the road against Iona will be tough as will playing against Hofstra on Sunday."

Stony Brook heads to New Rochelle, New York for their next match up against Iona in the first of the two-game road trip on Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 3 p.m. The team sits at a 3-4 record, while the Gaels currently have a 2-5 record, including losses to Albany and Binghamton.



Sophomore goalkeeper Sofia Manner makes a save in September 2017. She shut out Wagner in Sunday's 4-0 win.

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