

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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Chinese international students' expulsion uncovers widespread scam

By Rebecca Liebson and Xueying Luo

News Editor and Contributing Writer

Editor's note: Zoe Li's quotes have been translated from Mandarin to English. Li's first name has been changed in order to protect her identity.

The recent expulsion of several Chinese international students at Stony Brook University has uncovered a widespread scam that lures customers in by guaranteeing their acceptance into the country's top graduate schools in exchange for tens of thousands of dollars.

An investigation by *The Statesman* found that at least seven students were expelled for submitting falsified Stony Brook transcripts in their graduate school applications. However, these students claim that their transcripts were forged without their consent by outside companies who promised to help secure their acceptance into graduate school.

Stony Brook officials said this week that they did not intend to investigate these companies further and that students who used outside firms for help with admittance did so at their own risk. One step that has been taken by the university is to better educate students on academic integrity in the United States at orientation so they are not as vulnerable to such scams.

This issue was first brought to light in August when a former Stony Brook student, Jin Riuli,

sued Chinese education consulting firm Diguo Jiaoyu along with a second student who had attended The Ohio State University. Jin claims that Diguo falsified her transcript without her knowledge, ultimately leading to her expulsion from Stony Brook. The company filed a counterclaim denying all charges on Sept. 27.

The lawsuit encouraged several other students to come forward with their own stories. Among them is former Stony Brook student, Zoe Li, whose story has been translated from Mandarin.

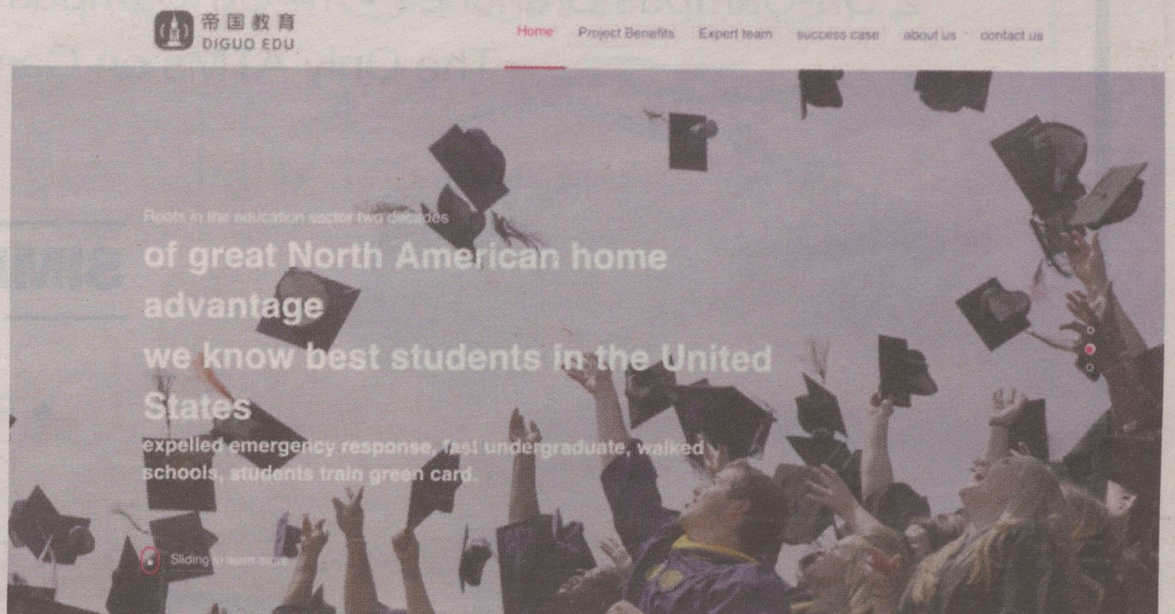
On April 26, 2018, Li attended a meeting with her academic advisor that changed the course of her life.

The advisor told Li she was being investigated by Stony Brook's Academic Judiciary Committee for submitting a falsified Stony Brook transcript in her application to the New York University School of Professional Studies.

Li said she was bewildered. Up to that point she had never gotten in trouble at school. She wasn't a straight A student, but she worked hard to earn a 3.0 GPA at Stony Brook.

Despite receiving solid marks, Li still had some anxiety about applying to graduate school. This led her to seek out the services of the Chinese education consulting firm, De Ren.

"Even though I thought my GPA met NYU's requirement, I still felt like there was a possibility



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Consulting firm Diguo Jiaoyu's website translated from Chinese. The company claims a 100 percent admission rate to Columbia and New York University.

ty that they wouldn't accept me," she explained. "I saw the company guaranteed that I would 100 percent get into grad school if I went through them."

These companies claim to have internal connections with university officials who will admit students into their schools so long as the students make a donation to the university.

While it's unclear whether those claims are true, student testimonials collected by *The Statesman* have revealed that these companies often resort to unethical practices, including submitting falsified transcripts and other official documents on behalf of their clients in order to increase their

chances of being admitted.

However, Diguo claimed in its countersuit that their clients were well aware of the documents they had prepared for them and sent to the universities on their behalf. The firm also specifically denied having any contact or financial transactions with Jin.

Hiring consultants for college and graduate school admissions is common practice in China. A 2011 survey from researchers at the University of Iowa found that 57 percent of Chinese undergraduate students studying in the U.S. reported using a consulting firm to assist with their applications.

While many of these compa-

nies provide legitimate services — matching students with the right universities, editing application essays, setting up interviews with admissions officers — others rely on fraud and forgery to get results. These companies prey on students with low grade point averages, promising to get them into prestigious universities like NYU and Columbia University even if they lack the necessary qualifications.

Telling the legitimate firms apart from the illicit ones is no easy task. A 2016 investigation

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The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences shut down

By Joe McQueen

Contributing Writer

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Stony Brook announced on Oct. 5 that it would be shutting down operations effective immediately.

The school had not yet admitted any students.

"Stony Brook University has made the decision to currently suspend the operation of and the solicitation of applicants to the Stony Brook University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences," Media Relations Officer Lauren Sheprow wrote in an email. "We continue to review program options for the future."

Sheprow did not give a concrete reason behind the school's closure.

Stony Brook first announced plans to open a pharmacy school in 2015, with the goal of having its first freshman class in Fall 2016.

"Establishing a School of Pharmacy and approval to confer a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree is

one of the most important academic advances Stony Brook University can achieve right now," President Samuel Stanley Jr. stated in a press release when the announcement was made three years ago.

According to a report from *Newsday*, Stony Brook began accepting applications for the school in February 2018, with the goal of enrolling the first pharmacy doctorate class by August 2018.

The school then began applying to the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) for pre-candidate status. In order to begin enrolling students, the school had to receive approval from the council as well as the New York State Department of Education.

The school requested that the ACPE board of directors not consider a May evaluation team report and instead authorize a second "comprehensive on-site evaluation" during the 2018-19

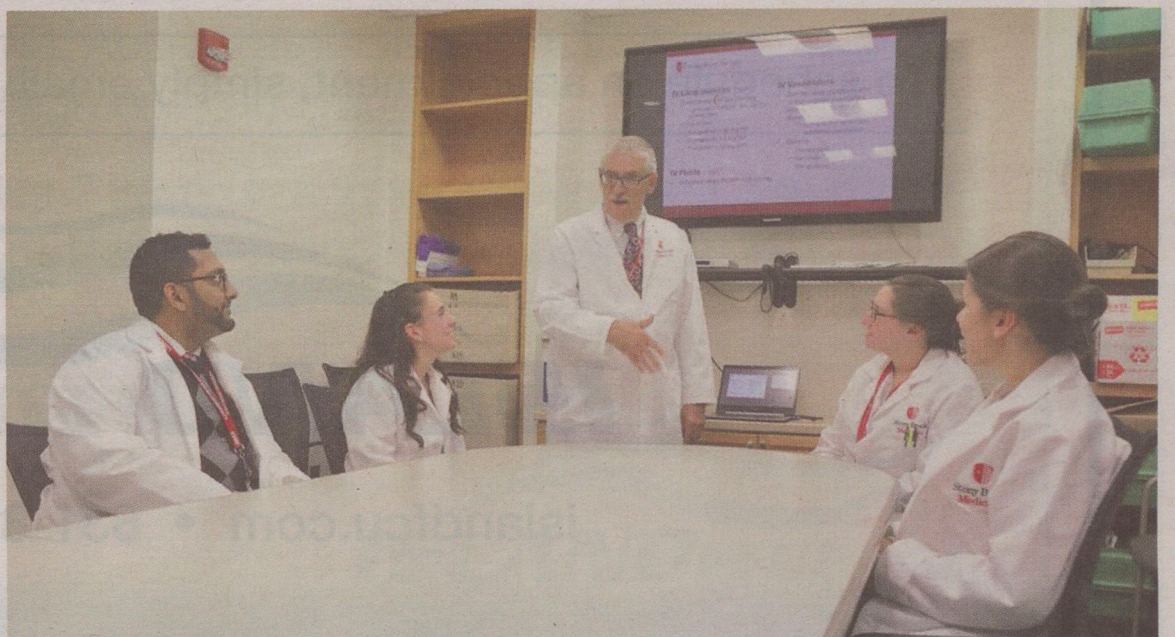


PHOTO COURTESY OF STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences announced on Oct. 5 that it is shutting down operations effective immediately. It has yet to admit students.

school year to provide the basis for the pre-candidate status of their doctorate program.

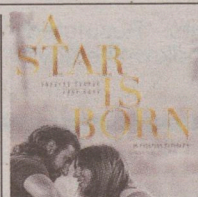
The board agreed and planned to evaluate the program this school year.

When asked if the university plans on reinstating the pharmacy school in the future, Sheprow said in an email "The University is making every effort to identify alternative positions throughout the institution in

which affected faculty and staff might be retained." Dean of the School of Medicine — which would have overseen the School of Pharmacy — Kenneth Kaushansky could not be reached for comment.



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At least seven students expelled for submitting falsified SBU transcripts

Continued from page 1

from Reuters examined the business practices of New Oriental Education & Technology Group, one of the most widely used private education service providers in China. Several former New Oriental employees alleged that the firm had engaged in fraudulent behavior ranging from writing college application essays and fake teacher recommendations for their clients to falsifying high school transcripts.

A lack of oversight could intensify this problem in the coming years. According to a report from the China Global Television Network, in 2017 the Chinese government halted a practice that required education consulting firms to get licenses from provincial education bureaus, making it easier for new companies to form.

Some of the most popular firms used by Stony Brook students include Diguo (which also operates under the name Empire Education) and Ivy Elite Education. These companies advertise mainly through social media and word of mouth. In some cases, students are offered discounts for referring their friends.

The Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China set up a website to try and verify some of the existing firms, but only firms that are based in China are included.

Diguo and Ivy Elite are based in the United States so they are not included in the list. De Ren is based in China but it has not been verified by the Ministry of Education's website.

An internal document obtained by The Statesman shows the rates Diguo charges, ranging from \$30,000 to \$100,000 for master's programs based on GPA and ranking of the school applied to.

In Li's case, her mother's friend suggested she use De Ren to apply to NYU.

"I know that when applying to school you have to supply a lot of materials and do a lot of paperwork," Li said. "I was told this

company would be able to take care of everything for me, so I thought it would be easier."

In June of 2017, Li contacted a representative from De Ren through the Chinese social media app, WeChat.

"They told me they could get me in through one of two ways," she said. "They said they would either use their internal connections with admissions officers from NYU or they would make a donation in my name to help secure my spot."

The two agreed that Li would pay \$35,000 total for the company's services, including a \$2,000 charge up front.

The representative told Li that all she had to do was provide her official transcript and De Ren would take care of everything else.

Scenshots from Li's WeChat conversation with the representative show that when Li asked if she had to send the company any other materials, the representative wrote back, "Don't worry. You won't have any problems getting in. You just need to wait to get your offer."

Graduate schools typically require transcripts to be sent directly from a student's undergraduate university in a sealed envelope. Li said she was unaware of this rule at the time, so she assumed that having her transcript sent to NYU on her behalf was included in De Ren's services.

When asked if she ever questioned De Ren's methods, Li explained that based on the accounts of other students who had used De Ren and similar companies, she had no reason to doubt the firm's legitimacy.

"I personally know a lot of students who have used this type of company," she said. "A lot of them have even gotten through graduate school and are back in China now."

Li was not so lucky. After receiving word of her upcoming hearing, she tried contacting De Ren to find out what happened. The representative Li had originally spoken with repeatedly sidestepped her questions and eventually stopped responding to her altogether, she said.

On May 11, Li attended her hearing along with four other students who were under investigation for the same offense.

Three days later, she received an email from the Academic Judiciary Committee notifying her of its decision.

"The Academic Judiciary Committee has recommended that you be EXPELLED from the University, effective immediately, with a permanent notation of academic dishonesty placed on your academic record due to the accusation and the nature of the accusation," it read.

"[When I found out I had been expelled] the first thing I felt was anger," Li said. "I had been in high school and undergrad for seven years. During that seven years, I never cheated once. I finished all my school work perfectly, yet Stony Brook still decided to expel me because of this situation."

Li channeled her rage into action as she set out to prove her innocence through the Academic Judiciary's appeals process.

She gathered a variety of materials to support her case, including two character witness letters from former professors.

Li also convinced the purported CEO of De Ren, Wang Cheng, to send a video of himself admitting that he falsified Li's transcript unbeknownst to her.

"I hereby certify that the transcript of [Zoe] Li, used to apply for New York University for admission of fall 2018 was manipulated and submitted by me on my company's behalf," the man said in the video. "[Zoe] Li was not notified of any information related to this matter. Nevertheless, Li's appeal was denied."

"I have reviewed all available documents and listened to the full audio of the hearing tape in order to understand the facts of the case," Interim Assistant Provost for Academic Success at Stony Brook, Rachelle Germana, wrote in her decision. "Unfortunately, the additional information provided, including WeChat records and audio/video recordings, are not possible to verify. I have no way of knowing 'who' this person is and whether the information is 'real' and 'truthful.' Moreover,

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A poster advertising Diguo used as evidence in Jin's lawsuit, claiming a perfect market reputation.

even if this information is taken as truthful, it is still suggestive that you were aware of the services and methods used to 'help students gain admission' who would not otherwise be qualified."

Li said she believes that Stony Brook's decision to expel her hinged on the fact that she would pay thousands of dollars just to increase her chances of getting accepted. "They don't think that honest students would be willing to spend \$35,000 just to get into graduate school," she said.

But for many of Stony Brook's 1,569 undergraduate Chinese international students, this is a small price to pay in return for an American education.

International students must pay out-of-state tuition to the tune of \$24,540 per semester — roughly 3.5 times what their in-state counterparts pay.

This is on top of any additional time and money spent obtaining visas and relocating to the United States. International students are also ineligible for federal or state tuition assistance.

Li said she was upset at Stony Brook's failure to warn students about companies like De Ren.

"Stony Brook doesn't care about Chinese students' futures and the time and effort they spent while studying here," she said.

Officials from Stony Brook's China Center — the office tasked with recruiting Chinese international students and providing them with guidance once they get to the university — refuted these claims.

"I care about international students (Chinese international students included) here at Stony Brook University, and I believe it is important to provide the knowledge and resources to support their academic success," Associate Director for the Chi-

na Center, Trista Lu, wrote in an email.

After learning about some of the cases of application fraud, Lu said she worked with the Academic Judiciary Committee and other international students this summer to devise new ways to educate international students about academic integrity in the United States education system.

As a result, all international students must now attend additional training sessions on academic integrity at orientation. In one of the sessions, students discuss various hypothetical scenarios involving academic integrity.

"The students will look at the cases and then discuss with the [International Student Ambassadors] on what would you do?" Lu wrote. "The international student ambassadors (ISAs) will help determine the red-flags in the cases that our international students (Chinese international students included) may or may not [be] aware [of] because of their cultural and educational background."

When asked if Stony Brook has considered taking action against these companies in order to prevent more students from being expelled for application fraud, university spokesperson Lauren Shepro gave the following response via email: "In general, students bear responsibility for their own admission documents and transcripts. If students engage an external organization to assist with their admissions documents, it is ultimately the student's responsibility to ensure that the organization conveys accurate information on their behalf."

NYU did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

De Ren could not be reached for comment.

Case 1:18-cv-07308-JMF

John Steven
New York City University School Board, in cooperation with the New York University Board of Directors, established New York University Shanghai Branch, a number of corporate activities, real estate development and investment, for more than 40 years of experience, known as "New York real estate giant, business wizard"

Kimi
He has worked in the American Education Center, Harvard Management Company, and Columbia International College. He has participated in the formulation of admission policies for mainland students and has maintained close cooperation with the Harvard School Donation Foundation. During his tenure, Harvard developed the "Pointing App" and established a talent pool of 3,000 international students; he founded the Harvard American Student Network in New York and served as the chairman, won the "China-US Cultural Exchange Award" of the International Education Alliance, "Elite International American" and "Outstanding Contribution Award" and honorary "All American Chinese Outstanding Young Entrepreneur"

Abby Zhang
He holds a dual degree in mass media and finance from New York University and an MBA from Cornell University. He has worked for the Central Education and the New York University Admissions Office where he is responsible for international student recruitment and interview.

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A document pulled from Riuli's law page that shows some of the alleged Diguo employees with "internal connections" listed on the company's website.

Annual Security Report shows uptick in crimes reported on campus

By Maya Brown
Contributing Writer

The number of crimes reported on campus and at residential facilities rose between 2016 and 2017, according to the 2018 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, which was released last Friday.

The total number of rape crimes reported on campus rose from 16 in 2016 to 22 in 2017. Out of that total in 2017, 20 of the reported instances took place in residence facilities. This does not include the three cases of statutory rape that were reported in 2017.

Ten fondling crimes were reported on campus in 2017, up from eight reported in 2016.

"Although the number of rape crimes is concerning, it does show that the victims are comfortable enough to report it," Eric Olsen, assistant chief of police at Stony Brook University, said.

The number of burglary crimes on campus also rose, with 17 reports in 2016 and 21

in 2017. Olsen said that items such as electronics, phones and cash are stolen most frequently. "Burglaries have been one of the worst crimes because people take advantage of the trust the students have with the campus," he added.

These statistics don't include offenses that were said to be unfounded, false or baseless. The report said that university police found seven offenses to be unfounded: three rape incidents and four burglaries.

The statistics showed high numbers of alcohol and drug referrals as well. Though the number of drug referrals stayed the same at 171, alcohol referrals rose from 156 in 2016 to 168 in 2017. Olsen said that university police tries to limit the number of drug referrals through education programs.

Dating violence crimes are the highest they've been in three years, with 31 reports in 2017 compared to 24 in 2016 and 20 in 2015.

Domestic violence and stalking crimes have risen in

2017, with 31 reports of dating violence being the highest.

Despite increases elsewhere, the number of hate crimes has stayed low. For most categories of hate crimes, there were 0 instances reported. However, there was one report of intimidation and two reports of destruction, damage and the vandalism of property in 2017. In 2016, the campus saw three reports of intimidation and no reports of destruction, damage and vandalism.

When asked what measures were in place to ensure students' safety on campus, Olsen pointed to the SB Alert system which notifies the campus community of relevant emergencies and crimes through text, voice and email messaging, the university web page, campus LCD panels, voice capable fire alarm systems, the campus outdoor siren, Facebook, Twitter and other external media.

In Olsen's eyes, "Campus safety means trusting the campus police department and the students being able to be comfortable with [them]."

2018

Annual Security and Fire Safety Report



Stony Brook University

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Annual Security and Fire Safety Report was released on Sept. 28. The report shows an uptick in crime.

The Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is updated and released every year and the data collection is required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and the Higher Education Opportunity Act. This act requires all colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs to keep and disclose information

about crime on and near their respective campuses.

In an email sent to the campus on Friday, Chief of UPD, Robert J. Lenahan wrote "[T]he Annual Security and Fire Safety Report is a valuable resource for individuals containing information about current university policies developed to provide for the safety and security of the campus community and all visitors to our university."

Citizen's Police Academy teaches students about law enforcement

By Evelin Mercedes
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook University students in the Citizen's Police Academy course entered the fourth course of the semester, Use of Force, with large smiles on their faces and greeted the officers with delight in Roth Cafe's room 122.

The Citizen's Police Academy is a 12-week, one-credit course in which the University Police Department's (UPD) Community Relations Team introduces students to basic law enforcement concepts such as police ethics, defense tactics, vehicle and traffic stops, physical force, FATS (Firearms Training Simulator) and active shooter incidents. The course began in Summer 2016 as a community outreach program. Classes take place on Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Assistant Chief of Police, Eric Olsen, said in his 20 years as an officer for the New York Police Department, he never saw a program like the Citizen's Police

Academy at SBU. After seeing the public's reaction to the Alton Sterling case — in which an unarmed black man was shot dead by two Baton Rouge police officers sparked widespread outrage after a bystander video of the situation went viral — Olsen said he knew he needed to help change the way citizens perceive law enforcement.

"I personally was frustrated with some of the media coverage on the [Alton Sterling police shooting]," Olsen said. "They don't really put the interactions into context and they just show you the video. This is what made me say 'we have to do something,' at least something that will educate people so they have their own opinion."

Olsen began the Oct. 2 course with a PowerPoint depicting the various ways officers use force when they deal with civilians based on what they learn in their police academies. The slides showed why physical force is important, who it can be used against and when it is correct to use in an escalating situation.

"Citizens can use physical force to defend themselves or any other person when in imminent danger, assist a police officer and defend their home or business," Olsen explained.

Olsen ended the presentation with a video of a police-civilian situation that displayed the force continuum, guidelines that help law enforcement officers and civilians know how much force can be used in any given situation.

An officer's presence in any given situation is considered a level one interaction because they're not using any force. It is deemed the best way to resolve a situation. In level two of the force continuum, the officer will initiate contact with verbal commands. Then in level three, the officer may use soft techniques such as pepper sprays or handcuffs to restrain an individual. Level four requires hard techniques such as using a baton to strike low-impact areas. Level five is the last resort, when officers use firearms or strike the suspect in harmful areas if

they believe the individual is a serious threat.

Students squealed with joy when they learned they'd have the opportunity to use handcuffs in a partner exercise. In two-person teams, each partner took a turn telling their "suspect" to turn around and put their hands behind their back before handcuffing them. Some shimmed the cuffs around trying to figure out how they worked, raising their eyebrows and asking their partners how they were supposed to use the handcuffs.

The instructors were then able to use a special key to unlock the "suspect's" handcuffs.

"Whenever you cuff somebody, palms are out," Officer Peter Thomson said, as he demonstrated the technique on Officer Jared King. "You yell 'turn around, turn around.' Now he doesn't see me and he doesn't know what I'm going to do," Thomson said.

The second exercise included batons, which serve as tools for stopping suspects without causing a large amount of physical harm. The main idea of this exercise was for the students to maintain eye contact with Officer Thomson as he moved a paper-like baton slowly from left to right, making direct contact with their batons.

Throughout the course, officers emphasized the power of verbal commands. On the force continuum scale, level two can prevent altercations from escalating into level five situations.

"I joined this course because I plan on going into the field similar to this after I leave college," junior sociology and psychology double major Ethan Taveras said. "I think all citizens should get involved in something like this because you really don't know the actions that are going through a cop's mind and it's something good to know to avoid any type of extra conflict."

The final drill involved OC Spray (pepper spray), which only contained water and wasn't a typical oil-based spray. As a level three type of force, its results can be more harmful than physical force. The officers in the room described their experiences getting sprayed on their faces and emphasized how important it is to get medical assistance after having direct contact with pepper spray.

"My favorite part has been learning the mentality behind what they do because it's quick sometimes that their actions might come off as wrong but it's not necessarily wrong," junior health science major Shanthi Chidambaram said. "I loved the use of pepper spray because it's less physical if that makes any sense. You can be a little farther and have it still work."

The Citizen's Police Academy course is largely made up of one thing: great sportsmanship. Classmates applauded each other after they took turns attempting every drill in the three-hour course. There was laughter, students encouraging one another and instructors ready to lend a hand.

UPD hosts other outreach programs on campus including Coffee with a Cop, Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) and Active Shooter Preparedness workshops. The upcoming Active Shooter Preparedness workshop with UPD and Risk Management will be on Nov. 14 at 1 p.m. in Roth Cafe room 122.

"We're not here to teach everybody that the police are 100 percent correct all of the time; that's not our goal," Olsen said. "Our goal is to give you the information and to have fun. Maybe when you see a [confrontational] video you'll be like 'hey you know what, that officer could've used more or less force there, I learned that in class.'"



JONNATHAN PULLA / THE STATESMAN

A university police officer instructing students during the Citizen's Police Academy. Students can learn more about law enforcement through the 12-week academy.

OPINIONS

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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

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

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



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Flags displayed during Hispanic Heritage Month at U.S. Army South in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. There are several ethnic groups included within Hispanic America.

Stop homogenizing the Hispanic community

By Anna Correa
Arts & Culture Editor

It's not hip to use Spanish lingo. It's not exotic to be Hispanic. Not every Hispanic wants to talk about the wall or immigration issues. Playing "Despacito" or "Mi Gente," singing along to them and absolutely butchering the lyrics nonchalantly doesn't mean you understand my culture or know about Latin music. Not everyone celebrates Día de los Muertos or Cinco de Mayo. And it's especially not cool to oversexualize Hispanic women and men.

Hispanic identity is often seen as homogeneous. Not all Hispanic people come from the same country, nor do we all share the same cultural traditions, but the over-stereotyping and fetishizing of Hispanic people has become a norm in American culture.

In 2012, 69 percent of Hispanics in the U.S. said they don't see a shared cultural identity, according to the Pew Research Center. We all know that we're Hispanic, but we are also more than just this generic label.

Before you even get to know me, you read my last name — Correa — and probably assume it is Spanish because of the spelling and label me, but my family's last name is actually of Portuguese origin spelled in a Spanish way. If that doesn't show how complicated Hispanic culture is, I don't know what will.

There are several ethnic groups within Latin America — Asians, blacks, whites, mestizos (European and Native American), mulattoes (European and African ancestry) and zambos (Africans and Native Americans). Religion is also an important part of Hispanic culture, and many assume that we're all Christian.

A Hispanic identity is like a tree, getting increasingly complicated as you move further up. Saying I'm Hispanic, Puerto Rican, Dominican or Sephardic Jewish — which is an ethno-religious group of people with origins from Spain and Portugal — doesn't even come close to describing what a Hispanic person is. Each group of people has its own cultural identity and traditions.

The Latin American narrative in Hollywood films tends to default to a struggling immigrant story, in which the person's poverty leads them to a life of crime. I've yet to see a mainstream successful Hollywood film about Caribbean people or other Latin American groups, but even if I were to complain about the lack

of diversity of Hispanic film content, there's lack of representation of Hispanics in Hollywood as a whole. I cannot expect Hollywood to change the content of its films when they're only using a handful of Hispanic actors.

In 2016, only 2.7 percent of film roles in Hollywood went to Latinos, according to the 2018 UCLA Hollywood Diversity Report. And you typically don't see Hispanics playing the role of the intelligent scientist, the genius writer or the hopeless romantic.

What doesn't help the matter is how Latin American men and women are portrayed in the media and films. The Hispanic women I see in films, television and the news wear tight-fitting dresses — leaving practically nothing to the imagination — and they act more like dumb trophy wives than independent, strong individuals. If she isn't a beautiful woman, she's a poorly dressed maid who speaks broken English and is quite submissive. She is the background character — the joke of the scene.

Late actress Lupe Ontiveros, a Mexican immigrant, played a maid over 150 times in her 35-year career in Hollywood. She said she wanted to play other roles like Hispanic heroines, but those roles weren't available to her. In a 2002 interview with *The New York Times*, Ontiveros said she didn't get the part when she spoke in perfect English. Casting recruiters wanted somebody with a thick accent, playing on one of many Hispanic stereotypes.

The men are usually portrayed as criminals, drug-dealers, goofballs or something to be fantasized about. People praise shows like "Narcos," a Netflix show about drug dealing in Colombia, and glorify the narrative of criminal activity. It's sickening to keep casting Hispanics for roles that make us seem like we're extras or tainted with evil.

I want to see Hispanic characters with more depth to them. I don't want the women to just breathe, stand around and look pretty, and I don't want the men to seem violent and savage.

So after you finished binge-watching "Narcos" or just heard another Spanish song on your Spotify playlist, you feel the urge to start using the two Spanish words you know or heard multiple times in the show you've been watching or the song you've heard. When the song "Mi Gente" plays on your party playlist, you'll look at me and ask "Do you

understand what they're saying," and "Can you teach me Spanish?" even though you don't actually want to learn the language.

There's a time and place to bring up the few Spanish words you learned in high school that you can barely put into a sentence. People use Spanish lingo all the time, but you shouldn't have to throw in a couple of Spanish words into the conversation just because a Hispanic person is in the room. Also, telling someone to speak Spanish on the spot when they just want to talk about everyday things doesn't make them feel welcome. It makes them feel like there's a barrier, as if you think they're different.

In my experience, the way people talk to a Hispanic can be inherently sexual on some occasions. When I talk about a guy that I'm attracted to, I don't want the advice to be to call him "Papi" and show off the goods. Saying that you're a nice mix is also not a compliment. I'm not a dog. I'm a human being.

Maybe what you said was just a joke that you really didn't mean, but the problem is that it's the same joke told over and over by multiple people. When you say these things to a person, you're confirming the stereotype that a Hispanic woman is "easy" or not worthy of one's love and respect. You're objectifying her and confirming to her that she is somebody's toy to be played with, not somebody who deserves to be cherished.

I hate to break it to you, but Hispanics are not troublemakers. I grew up in a home in which my parents and grandparents encouraged me to be a strong, independent woman with morals, but sometimes I don't think people understand that. The tough love we get pushes us to strive for more.

Maybe some of this ignorance stems from the lack of education about Hispanic cultures and Spanish history in classrooms. Stop using Spanish words because you think it's "cute" — Spanish isn't a trend or a silly language. Stop talking about my people like you know every single thing about them — there are some things you have to experience and you can't read in a textbook. Stop trying to change how you talk around me. Stop thinking what you see on TV represents every single Hispanic. And stop encouraging me to disrespect myself by telling me to dress like what you think a Hispanic should look like based on the media's stereotype of what Hispanic is.

Suffolk County's tax on plastic bags should be raised to be effective

By Maya Brown
Contributing Writer

“Would you like a plastic bag for five cents?”

Students at Stony Brook University and the rest of Suffolk County will hear this when they purchase something at a grocery or apparel store. While paying extra just to carry out what you bought may be irritating, this five-cent charge needs to be higher. I question if this current installment is actually effective toward its goal: reducing the amount of plastic bags being used by consumers.

The law became effective on Jan. 1, 2018, and it requires retail stores to charge customers a minimum fee of five cents on carryout bags. According to the law, its purpose is “to encourage consumers to use their own reusable bags to reduce the environmental impacts associated with single use bags.” There is a huge patch of plastic debris found in the North Pacific Ocean, double the size of Hawaii, known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. This law can be seen as a start to reducing the amount of plastic bags being found in drains, waterways, roads and the ocean.

It's ridiculous to pay extra to carry stuff I just purchased. College apparel and food are already pricey enough — a Stony Brook University crewneck sweatshirt



ANNIKALUDIN/Flickr via CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

A collection of plastic bags in a trash can at Stony Brook University. Stores in Suffolk County are required by law to charge customers at least five cents for plastic bags.

at Shop Red West costs \$50 or more — so hearing that I have to pay an extra five cents reminds me that more money is being spent. I personally never end up purchasing a plastic bag, and I usually carry my products

in my hands or stuff them into my backpack.

Even though the charge is a smart way to discourage customers from wanting plastic bags, I also believe five cents is too small a price to discourage

plastic bag usage and make a change. Five cents can be found pretty much anywhere.

“I think it's good that we are charging for plastic bags, but five cents really isn't enough, as it doesn't do any damage to

people's wallets,” Kelsey Nelson, a freshman marine vertebrate sciences major, said.

Besides being a method to carry things, plastic bags can also be reused in creative ways such as for wastebasket liners. For consumers to really not want to purchase a plastic bag, the law should be revised and the fee should be raised to at least a dollar, which will ensure consumers won't spend money on plastic bags.

In doing this, I believe the number of reusable shopping bags being used will increase, which will ultimately be better for the environment. According to Greener Ideal, an independent environmental news and green living publication, around 100,000 marine animals are killed each year as a result of plastic bag pollution. Forty-six thousand pieces of plastic are found in every square mile of the ocean and it takes 1,000 years for one plastic bag to fully degrade. These statistics should make people rethink their environmental decisions and ask themselves: “Do I really need to use a plastic bag for this?”

While the five cent charge for plastic bags is a smart environmental idea, a rise in the fee for plastic bags would make this installment much more effective. Would you be willing to pay a dollar for a plastic bag?



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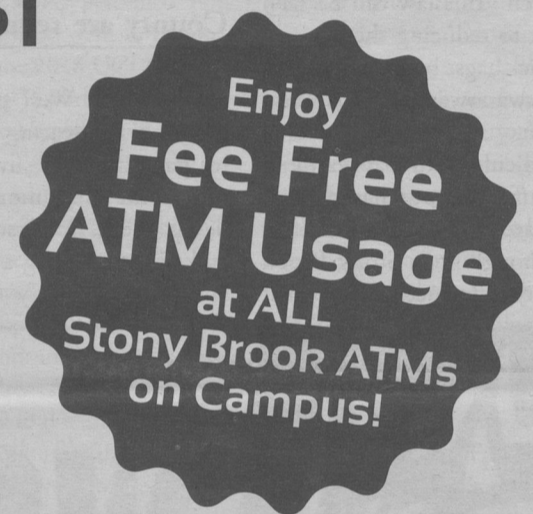


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ARTS & CULTURE

Review: A Star is Born

By Nick Zararis
Contributing Writer

Every so often, a movie about the behind-the-scenes of a particular lifestyle captures a moment in time perfectly.

In Bradley Cooper's directorial debut, "A Star Is Born," the director and leading man tells a story of both the allure and danger of fame. The film is the fourth remake of the same plot — a fading male superstar of the music world finds a young female singer with amazing talent and makes her into a star while falling in love with her. The romantic arc provides an explosive and haunting backdrop for a tragedy of epic proportion.

Jackson Maine (Bradley Cooper) is a bonafide rockstar whose personal demons fuel his downward spiral. There is not a day that goes by where Maine is not drinking a gin and tonic or popping a prescription pill just to avoid dealing with the very real internal issues that stem from his abusive childhood.

The film starts with Maine stumbling into a drag bar simply looking for a drink to keep his post-show haze going. This is where he stumbles into Ally (Lady Gaga) for the first time. Maine hears Ally sing "La Vie En Rose," and he's absolutely blown away.

From there, the standard romantic courtship formula that movies follow is thrown away. There is genuine chemistry between Cooper and Gaga on screen, and while their duets are mind-blowingly good, their interactions are the most beautiful part of the film. The way in which

long-term relationships initially develop is masterfully captured.

Instead of simply saying "I don't think your nose is big," Maine outlines Ally's nose with his finger and says "Your nose is beautiful." This becomes their recurring romantic tick throughout the remainder of the movie. Maine falls in love with Ally's genuineness in just one night.

In addition to the superb chemistry, the film also masterfully juggles the struggles of fame through two characters trending in different directions. Maine is dealing with the effects of years of fame and is a hard rocker until the end, but the singer just can't give up his old ways because of the changing times. Ally, on the other hand, quickly jumps at the chance to hide her true self to gain the approval from the people she once despised.

The level of dedication from Cooper in the making of this film is nothing short of extraordinary. Basically known for always portraying a preppy jerk in films like "The Hangover" and "Wedding Crashers," Cooper embodies everything that an old school rockstar stands for. The mannerisms of someone with substance issues down to him slurring entire scenes of dialogue are masterful character work. The director, leading man and co-writer of the film learned how to play guitar, sang his own songs and dramatically altered his voice into a gravelly tone that sounds far older than he looks.

The supporting cast has a memorable performance from Sam Elliot, who plays Jackson's older brother and manager Bobby. Their relationship is always tense because

Spanish flamenco troupe leaves audience in awe

By Anna Correa
Arts and Culture Editor

World-renowned flamenco dancer Eduardo Guerrero's entrance onto the stage was anything but lacking drama. Receding from the shadows came a figure in a teal suit walking painstakingly slowly down a diagonal rectangular light that led to the audience.

Each step had a purpose, as he put one foot in front of the other in sharp motions and then suddenly, three-quarters into the diagonal, struck a pose. A woman's voice murmured, so he crossed over to a circular spotlight, dancing intensely for a brief moment, and the once dark backdrop turned to a vibrant red.

"He played between stillness and extravagant movement. He moved from one spotlight to the next," Orna Szency, a former semi-professional flamenco dancer, said. "He was playing with absolute stillness, which is the hardest thing to do on stage. He played the audience so well."

Guerrero, along with the Compañía Flamenca, a Spanish dance troupe, performed "Flamenco Passion," a two-act performance with 12 different dances at the Staller Center for the Arts on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Flamenco is a dance that originated in the southern region of Andalucia,

Spain. It is a mixture of Arab, Christian and Jewish music and dance that the gypsies of the region adapted. The first flamenco schools were in Cádiz, where Guerrero is from.

As he danced the caña, one of the most important flamenco dances, with speed and bullfighting movements, he became a puppet of the guitar, struggling to break free, digging his foot into the ground, stomping over and over but also stopping to do pirouettes with his arms contorting around his body. His feet were in sync with the clapping and his wet hair flowed with the swift motions of his legs. The singers sang "Ah oh Gitano (Gypsy)."

"I've seen the best dancers in the world," Szency said. "He reminded me of Antonio Gades. He was very traditional. He reminded me of him but with a twist, he had something very animalistic about him. Like no boundaries, no limits."

Szency's daughter, Aline Szency, a research lab coordinator in the psychology department, described Guerrero's performance as raw and his stillness as a tease for the audience. Aline Szency couldn't help but say that his second solo was unforgettable, with Guerrero walking on stage with a red and orange suit that nobody could ignore.

of how difficult Jackson is to manage since he is a functioning addict. At the end of the third act, there is a true tear-jerking moment between the two where the brothers find peace.

The soundtrack features a wide range of genres including country rock, love duets, and modern pop music. The highlight is the song "Shallow," the duet that is an abridged version of the plot.

This is a tried and true formula, however, Cooper's dedication to craft, Gaga's character development and the music ties it all together in a recipe for a truly memorable movie.

The Potluck Sikh Spotlight: Guru Granth Sahib

"Sikhism is a monotheistic religion. We believe in one God and we call HIM Waheguru," Sagardeep Singh, a senior mechanical engineering major, said. "On October 20, we go to gurdwaras where the priests recite Guru Granth sahib ji starting from October 18. On this day, not just Sikhs, but people from all backgrounds come together to celebrate at the Gurudwaras."

"On this day the Sikhs have a joyous celebration," Minal Chawla, a freshman biology major, said. "I celebrate this festival with full zeal every year with my family. On the actual Gurgadi day, singing of Bani takes place and Langar (free communal food) is served. We visit the Gurudwara every time on this day and do Sewa (voluntary service) by serving Langar to the people at the Gurudwara. Honestly, it is the best feeling in the world."

"My memories of celebrating this event are of coming home from school, quickly doing some school work and then showering and putting on my pretty Indian clothes," Simrat Kaur, a senior biology and psychology major, said. "My family and I then head out to go to the Sikh temple in the evening around 7pm, listening to hymns in the car on the way there. Once we get there, we pay our respects to the Guru Granth Sahib and immerse in prayer with family and friends, followed by the singing of hymns. I love the warm feeling I get in my heart when the whole room is singing these beautiful hymns together at night. We then have a free communal meal known as Langar which consists of amazing handmade food made at the temple. It is a day of spreading kindness and service as we have learned to do from our gurus."



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEATRIX MOLNAR

The Compañía Flamenca performed at the Staller Center for the Arts this past Saturday. Flamenco has roots in Arabic culture and originated in Southern Spain.

"His flexibility, his footwork, his stamina was unreal," Aline Szency said.

Guerrero's second solo, Segurilla, was more passionate than the former. His feet dribbled against the floor — he could fit countless steps into a four count, with his heels barely touching the ground. If his feet could breathe, you would hear no breath in between the clicks of his heels and the floor. His shoes were an instrument themselves. The musicians and singers whisper "Aguanta aguanta (hold on)," "dura dura (harder)," "ah me gusta (oh I like it)" and "caballero

(gentleman)," which pushes him to dance with more intensity and speed.

Olivia Espinoza, a junior sociology major and burlesque dancer, said that she was inspired by his performance and wants to use some of Guerrero and the dance troupe's moves in her dances.

The dance troupe had their own presence, dancing in sync in elegant costumes. The women wore white dress and aquamarine dresses, called batas de cola, with several layers of long trains. They skipped around the trains and used their costumes as accessories to their dance, but beyond

their beautiful costumes, their best performance was when three out of the five dancers danced the farruca, a more recent flamenco style that is a traditional male dance. One of the women switched out her dress for a suit and danced with the men, keeping up with their passionate steps as they formed different lines and figures.

Espinoza said. "I thought it was so incredible thinking of gender and expression. What I really appreciated was the femininity and actually how masculine it was, and how masculine it was to be so feminine."

Latina alumna discusses L.I.'s segregation and gangs

By Anna Correa and Alexandra Grace Gaspar
Arts and Culture Editor and Contributing Writer

Executive director Rahsmia Zatar of S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth (Struggling to Reunite Our New Generation), a non-profit gang prevention organization, spoke about how her racial and socioeconomic struggles growing up on Long Island have empowered her to make changes in local communities, at the Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) Center Latina Alumna in Residency Luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 10.

Surrounded by undergraduate students from minority communities, Zatar said she grew up in poverty in the affluent community of Roslyn Heights in Nassau County, where she faced racial struggles as a Latina without much representation.

"From a very young age, I understood and was confronted with the fact that there was class and race. We lived in Section 8 housing. Everybody knew you lived on Laurel Street," Zatar said. "Can you imagine being a poor five-year-old and wanting to have playdates and the messages you got back was you couldn't invite anybody over because they were never going to be able to come over to your house?"

Inspired by her background, Zatar wanted to pursue social work. She met Sergio Argueta, the founder of

S.T.R.O.N.G. Youth, at her first class in the Stony Brook School of Social Welfare master's program.

Based in Uniondale, S.T.R.O.N.G.'s mission since its founding in 2002 is to reduce youth gang and gun violence and help formerly incarcerated youths trying to seek change when re-entering their communities. On its website, it says that S.T.R.O.N.G. is now "one of the leading youth and gang prevention and intervention agencies in the Northeast region."

The organization has worked with over 78,000 people and has programs with 800 youths in Suffolk and Nassau County. It also provides vehicles to pick up kids and bring them to the organization, Zatar said.

"The segregation that exists here on Long Island has had horrendous implications on the communities that S.T.R.O.N.G. focuses on. Gangs on Long Island is not something that's new either," Zatar said. "When we talk about what leads kids into gangs, it's seeking basic normal human needs. A lot of gang involved kids are demonized."

After Zatar spoke, students discussed being Latino in predominantly white affluent communities and being treated differently or oppressed because of it.

"I'm Mexican and my parents are immigrants and the area I grew up in



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC ZOLOV

Attendees discussed the socioeconomic struggles of Latinx communities on Long Island with Rahsmia Zatar.

Queens is very affluent. I was the only Latina in my neighborhood. Everyone else was white," Lisseth Aguilar, a sophomore political science major, said. "I felt ashamed of my identity. I didn't want to be recognized as a Latina. When I got to high school, that's when I started hanging with a lot more Latinos, which I never had in my life, and it made me aware of certain issues that I didn't even know that was happening, and one of that is the incarceration rates of minorities in the criminal justice system."

Another student who worked in a museum this summer that had

an exhibition on Robert Moses, an architect who designed much of the infrastructure on Long Island during the early 1900s, said that she had some issues with the exhibit because the racist intentions of infrastructure on Long Island were not mentioned.

"It goes to show how easy [it is] to perpetuate this idea that Long Island is white picket-fence," Isabela Kyle, a junior Hispanic languages and literature major and LACS minor, said. "You're just going to lie to these people seeing the exhibit. I thought it was so strange."

Growing up with immigrant parents — a Dominican mother and Brazilian-Palestinian father — Zatar's parents encouraged her to speak Spanish in the house and told her to embrace her heritage. When she was in middle school she noticed that there was only a handful of Latino students. In the sixth grade, she went to the principal and asked to start a multicultural advisory committee so faculty could be aware of minority students' struggles.

That same year, when she attended a workshop on the U.S. prison system and minority communities, Zatar asked in a Q&A what is driving the incarceration rate of Latinos and blacks to be so high, and this question sparked her interest in social work and helping incarcerated men.

"Long Island is considered one of the most highly segregated regions of the country. Historically, the way Long Island was set up was to intentionally isolate and segregate people of color. The landscape of Long Island lent itself to the formation of gangs," Zatar said. "People didn't want to acknowledge that Long Island had poor communities and had communities of color. Now working with the population of young people that I do, I think it's an important message making sure that they understand that their conditions don't have to define or doesn't necessarily predict a negative outcome."

Review: Ella Mai's debut album is like a diary entry

By Evelin Mercedes
Contributing Writer

R&B singer Ella Mai's social media countdown is finally over for her self-titled debut album, "Ella Mai," which was released on Oct. 12.

Mai prepared the world for her arrival this past year with her chart-topping hit "Boo'd Up," which hit 100 million streams on Spotify on Sept. 26.

DJ Mustard discovered her through Instagram videos of her singing in 2015 and soon enough they began working together, releasing three introductory EPs. Signed to Mustard's label, 10 Summers, Mai began collaborating with him to create her own sound. It led to the releases of her "Time" and "Change" EPs in 2016 and "Ready" in February 2017.

From track one to 16, "Ella Mai" runs through a series of emotions. The first few songs ("Good Bad," "Dangerous," "Sauce," "Whatchamacallit feat.

Chris Brown" and "Cheap Shot") detail failed relationships where she must cut ties with those who hurt her. By the time the album reaches "Shot Clock" Mai has done some self-reflection, realizing letting go is necessary for her happiness.

The album begins with a somber Mai on a 12-second track uttering the definition of emotion "E: Emotion. A natural instinct of state of mind deriving from one's circumstances. Mood or relationship with others. A rollercoaster." This sets the mood for the entirety of the album as a self-reflective, loving and exciting inside look into her life. The British singer-songwriter uses a variety of drum beats and guitars accompanied by vocals from Chris Brown, John Legend and H.E.R. throughout the album.

In the second song, "Good Bad," Mai implies a relationship flaw many couples have to face when sharing your life with someone else. "So what if I wake up with an attitude?" she asks.

Similarly to the previously released single "Trip," this song is extremely catchy. From the third song "Dangerous" to "Cheap Shot," Mai was evidently seeking a more fast-paced blend in this new album. With the quick beats and "I don't wanna be with you anymore" kind of lyricism, she has seemingly channeled other artists.

Then from track seven, "Boo'd Up," to track 16, "Naked," Mai goes through a transformation. The songs reflect the emerging emotions one feels when a new unfamiliar relationship begins. Getting closer to someone can lead to the inevitability of going through heartbreak. The beginning of "Close" signifies the desire to get closer even though there will be some kind of pain through it all.

"Gut Feeling" feat H.E.R. signals the beginning of a relationship, where the butterflies are all over the place and there's nothing one can do but enjoy



10 SUMMER/INTERSCOPE

R&B singer Ella Mai's social media countdown is finally over for her self-titled debut album, released on Oct. 12.

them and see where things go with that person. She says "A, Aware. For now I am aware, and as I stare into your soul, I see it clear, can we start again from here?"

The entire album is about sharing an immense connection with

someone. The messages in the beginning and end of some of the tracks also unnoticeably spell out something: E.L.L.A. M.A.I. She allowed this album to become her diary and it's a reflection of Ella and her love life as a whole, without leaving out any details.

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SPORTS

Johnstonbaugh lifts Women's Soccer over UMBC 1-0

By Chris Parkinson
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook Women's Soccer picked up its second 1-0 victory of the season on Thursday, Oct. 11 at UMBC.

After a slow start that mostly involved passing and fighting for possession, senior forward Julie Johnstonbaugh took matters into her own hands, scoring on a pass from sophomore midfielder Kimmy Chavkin 14 minutes into play.

"It's always good to go on the road, get a shutout and a win."

-Brendan Faherty
Head Coach

This first shot of the match-up resulted in the lone goal of the night.

Head coach Brendan Faherty was satisfied with his team's

defensive effort that held UMBC scoreless.

"It's always good to go on the road, get a shutout and a win," Faherty said in a press release. "I was impressed with UMBC on the attacking side of the ball, but credit to our team defending to keep them off the scoreboard."

An element that dwelled over both teams in the game was the severe weather in the area. Lightning caused an hour-long delay that began with just around five minutes left in the first half.

"With the weather delay and the conditions of the field, I'm very happy with our student-athletes' ability to stay focused and finish the job," Faherty said.

Another factor that set the game apart was the physical style of play. Stony Brook and UMBC accounted for a total of 21 fouls combined, with sophomore midfielder Chelsie DePonte and Chavkin both being booked.

The Seawolves and Retrievers finished the first half about even on the stat sheet with three shots each. Sophomore goalkeeper Sofia Manner made one more save than Retrievers sophomore goalkeeper Jade Wilkins, edging her out 2-1.



JACQUELINE RYAN / STATESMAN FILE

Senior forward Julie Johnstonbaugh in a matchup against Albany last season. Johnstonbaugh scored the game's only goal against UMBC on Thursday, Oct. 11.

Manner finished the match-up with three saves. As play resumed, both teams looked to put pressure on one another. UMBC had an opportunity in the opening minutes of the second half, but the shot was sent over the goal.

Later on in the half, Stony Brook freshman forward Tatum Kauka had a shot at the goal but was denied by Wilkins.

Wilkins made another save off another Kauka shot just 40 seconds later. The freshman had two of Stony Brook's nine shots.

The Seawolves have clinched a playoff berth with the victory and head into their final two America East regular season games sitting in second place with a 9-6-1 overall record and a 4-1-1 record in the conference standings.

The team's next opponent, the

Hartford Hawks, are the current conference leaders with a undefeated 4-0 record. The two teams are currently tied with 13 points each, but Hartford has the upper hand by a single game.

The Seawolves look to even their record against the undefeated Hawks as the team heads back home for a scheduled 6 p.m. kickoff at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium on Thursday, Oct. 18.

19 combined goals in two games help SBU over Rutgers

By Peter Lupfer
Sports Editor

Stony Brook Hockey's weekend home-and-home series with the Rutgers Ice Knights was a one-sided affair, with Stony Brook combining for 19 goals in a pair of victories. The Seawolves took game one on the road in an 11-1 routing on Friday, Oct. 12 before returning to The Rinx in

Hauppauge for an 8-1 win on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Stony Brook made a number of roster adjustments heading into this season to return its offense back to form after dipping below a four goals per game average for the first time in over a decade in 2017-18. The Seawolves added four transfers from NCAA DIII programs and 10 freshmen to supplement an already skilled

group and, through the first four games of the season, the changes appear to be panning out.

"I think it's sustainable," head coach Chris Garofalo said about his team's scoring production. "If you look at the way we're moving the puck, our vision, the new additions that we brought in, if the guys keep using the puck and not trying to go through everybody, we'll produce."

The Seawolves are averaging eight goals per game through their first four undefeated games, with the past three wins coming by seven or more goals.

It is unrealistic to expect production levels to remain so high throughout the season, but newly acquired junior forward Nick Belger gives reason for optimism. The SUNY Plattsburgh transfer has found the back of the net seven times in his past three games, including a hat trick against Rutgers on Friday night.

Sophomore forward Charles Peck tied Belger for the scoring lead with a hat trick in Friday night's victory and senior forward Brad Riccardi followed close behind them with two goals of his own. Junior goalie Richard Shipman was in goal for the third straight game, making 15 saves on 16 shots for his third win of the year.

Shipman was given Saturday night off, with Stony Brook going to junior goalie Sean Keating for his first game as a Seawolf. Keating, who hadn't started a game since 2014-15, instantly looked comfortable in net, making 29 saves in his first collegiate win.

"We wanted to get Keating a game and to get him warmed up," Garofalo said. "We think

he's going to be a really good goalie for us and we wanted to get him in this game. He looked good but he's a little rambunctious in the net."

Keating was assessed two penalties on the night, a first for unsportsmanlike conduct in the first period and another for interference in the third. The Seawolves were able to make it through both of those penalties, served by sophomore forward Joseph Slevin and Belger, respectively, without allowing a goal.

Stony Brook struck 1:15 into the first period to take a 1-0 lead on a wrap-around goal by Belger, but fell off from there and went into the locker room after 20 minutes tied at 1-1. The Seawolves returned to the ice zoned in for the beginning of the second and controlled the game for the rest of the night, recording 41 shots the rest of the way.

Stony Brook's 19 goals are the most that they've recorded in a single weekend since the weekend of Oct. 25 and 26 in 2014 when the team put 22 goals on the board against West Chester University.

The Seawolves head upstate on Friday, Oct. 19 to take on the Syracuse Orange in their first Eastern States Collegiate Hockey League conference matchup of the season. Puck drop is scheduled for 6:30 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AZTEK PHOTOS

Junior forward Nick Belger looks for an opening past a defender in Stony Brook's victory over William Paterson on Oct. 7. Belger scored a hat trick on Friday night.

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