

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

Volume LXII, Issue 10

Monday, November 5, 2018

sbstatesman.com

Former SBU student's Title IX lawsuit closed

By Rebecca Liebson
News Editor

A Manhattan federal judge filed an order to dismiss former Stony Brook student Sara Tubbs' lawsuit against the university on Tuesday. Tubbs' suit, which was filed in 2015, alleged that the university showed deliberate indifference in handling a Title IX case she opened.

Tubbs claims she was raped by fellow Stony Brook student Daniel Verdejo after an on-campus party they both attended in 2014. The Title IX office found Verdejo not responsible for the charges filed against him. Tubbs tried appealing the office's decision before filing suit, but the Title IX board upheld its decision.

In his decision, U.S. district court judge Nelson Roman noted that Tubbs' case raised "distressing issues." "The Court is not saying that University Defendants were model citizens, nor that their process was ideal," he wrote. "Even though University De-



SUZANNE BARRY / THE STATESMAN

SBU's Hillel organization held a vigil on the Stony Brook University Academic Mall for the lives lost at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on Saturday, Oct 27.

fendants could have - and perhaps should have - demonstrated greater compassion in handling a sensitive allegation, their responsibility derives from the need to be nominally vigilant about access to educational opportunities through the loose framework of a discrimination statute," he continued. "Although the court is sympathetic to the plaintiff's difficulties, unfortunately the law in this area repeatedly sings the same tune, 'You can't always get what you want.'"

Roman did not address Tubbs'

claims that she was sexually assaulted by Verdejo, since federal charges against him have since been dropped.

Tubbs faced several difficulties leading up to Tuesday's decision. In 2016, her former law firm, Stewart Karlin P.C., dropped her as a client. In 2017, Tubbs started a GoFundMe campaign to try and raise \$25,000 to hire an expert witness to help her case.

Tubbs' lawyer, Christopher Weddle from the firm Timko &

Moses, told The Statesman, "It is a comprehensive decision. Judge Roman clearly put a lot of thought into it." He added that he had not yet discussed the ruling with Tubbs in person, and that he is waiting to hear back from her on how she would like to proceed.

Stony Brook University did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Private attorney Frederick Brewington, who led Verdejo's legal team, was not immediately avail-

Frances L. Brisbane pledges \$1M to SBU

By Brianne Ledda
Assistant News Editor

This article has been updated with an interview with Jerry Edwards, director of housekeeping in the Health Science Center Basic Science Tower.

Frances Brisbane, Stony Brook's vice president for Health Sciences Workforce Diversity, has pledged \$1 million to the university to start a fund to benefit SBU custodial staff.

More than half of the \$1 million planned gift from her estate, called the Owens-Brisbane Wellbeing and Educational Advancement Endowment for Health Sciences Custodial Staff, is allocated to educational opportunities for the cleaning and housekeeping staff and is partially designated to aid hardships encountered by workers.

Jerry Edwards, director of housekeeping in the Health Science Center Basic Science Tower, said that workers come from all walks of life — listing Turkey, Peru,

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Stony Brook University students show enthusiasm for midterm elections

By Samantha Robinson
Contributing Writer

Ahead of Election Day on Tuesday, Nov. 6, *The Statesman* randomly surveyed 50 students around campus to get their take on this year's midterm races. Forty-six students said they were registered to vote and 42 said they plan to vote.

Thirty-one of the students surveyed identified as Democrats, while three of the students identified as Republicans. Four said they were registered as Independents, five had no official party and three chose not to respond.

Almost all students, even the ones who were not registered, said they think voting is an important right.

"It's the main tool we have to hold our leaders accountable," David Carlson, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Ecology and Evolution, said. "I find it to be an empowering experience. It's only one vote, but many elections are very close, especially in the swing

district we live in. I want to exercise my ability to influence the process."

While most agreed upon the significance of voting, there was one student who did not feel the same.

"I feel that my vote doesn't matter too much, in the end. It's up to the higher powers," Samantha Baum, a junior English major, said.

Despite the general enthusiasm students expressed about voting, many were unfamiliar with the candidates running in local elections.

In New York's 1st Congressional District, where Stony Brook University is located, Democratic candidate Perry Gershon is looking to unseat two-term Republican incumbent, Lee Zeldin. Twenty-five students had heard of Gershon and 24 had heard of Zeldin. None of the students surveyed had any knowledge of the candidates' platforms.

"I don't know the candidates yet," Jamila Khanfri, a sophomore mechanical engineering



ARACELY JIMENEZ / STATESMAN FILE

New York voter registration papers distributed by Stony Brook's Vote Everywhere group in partnership with the Andrew Goodman Foundation.

major, said. "I plan to read up on them when it gets closer [to the election]."

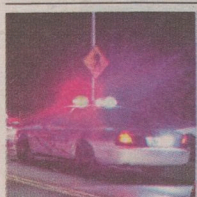
Of the students surveyed, three said they would be voting

for Gershon, while zero said they would be voting for Zeldin.

New Yorkers will also vote on the junior Senate seat this election cycle. The incumbent, Democrat

Kirsten Gillibrand, will face Republican challenger Chele Farley. Twenty-eight students had heard

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Highlights from last week's police blotter.
An unknown person filled a vehicle with leaves.
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MONEY SMART SEAWOLVES

Money Smart Seawolves Workshops presented to SBU students, faculty, and staff by The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship Services in partnership with Island Federal

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Brisbane's donation to benefit custodial staff



COURTESY OF STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Frances Brisbane, vice president for Health Sciences Workforce Diversity at SBU. She recently pledged \$1 million to the university to start a fund for SBU custodial staff.

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a few examples — and sometimes need help with traveling expenses if there is a family emergency, for example.

“We had a person one time who had to go to the Philippines. He didn’t have all the money,” Edwards said. “Some way, Frances found out about it. He made it to the Philippines.”

Brisbane — the former dean of the School of Social Welfare — made the donation to honor the memory of her friend and former Stony Brook custodian, Elsie Owens.

“She’d want me to do this for the custodial workers,” Brisbane told Stony Brook News. “If I had a single reason, it’s that.”

In an interview last week, Brisbane told Newsday about the time she arrived at Stony Brook 50 years ago to interview for her position at the School of Social Welfare, Owens pulled her aside and offered advice about the office’s dynamics. Brisbane later got the job, and she and Owens remained friends until 2005, when Owens passed away at the age of 77.

Owens and Brisbane connected over their passion for community activism. Owens served as president of the Brookhaven chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for 20 years. She and Brisbane attended civic functions together, and when Owens went back to school to get her master’s degree in social work, Brisbane helped her.

In the past, Brisbane has donated nearly \$500,000 to the university, according to U.S. News and World Report.

Her generosity cannot only be measured in dollars, however. She consistently gives gifts to the custodial staff — just last week, she made Halloween bags, and Edwards said that she has even donated multiple turkey dinners in the past for Thanksgiving.

“For me to witness such greatness, such kindness, I feel like I’m really blessed,” Edwards said. “You hear about people doing things, but you don’t see them every time. But this, I’m able to witness with my own eyes.”

Brisbane did not have time to interview with The Statesman, she wrote in an email, though she was grateful for the opportunity.

Students polled about voting

Continued from page 1

“I have to do some research,” junior computer science major William Braxton said. “I need to look up who’s on the ballot, and, sadly, I haven’t had the time to do it yet.”

Eighteen students including Braxton said they needed to get more information before deciding who to vote for.

Senior economics and information systems double major, Thomas O’Leary, said he didn’t want to rush into making a decision before educating himself on the issues.

“I haven’t really looked into the candidates of the elections, so I don’t think I can make an informed decision,” O’Leary said.

Students also weighed in on what issues matter most to them for the upcoming election, including issues that would turn them away from candidates.

The most common answer was women’s rights, with 13 students giving this as their response. Other notable responses were climate change, education, immigration, each mentioned by five students and the environment, cited by four students.

Stony Brook University’s Center for Civic Justice, whose goal is to support active and engaged students within their communities, has done all it can to ensure students are prepared for the election.

“Our efforts over the past several weeks have been focused on ensuring students have an opportunity and to be well educated and informed about the decisions they might be making when they come out and vote,” Steven Adelson, the co-director of the center, said.

On National Voter Registration Day, the center held

an event where they provided students with the opportunity to learn about this year’s ballot. They had over 700 students attend the event, Adelson said.

“In 2016, approximately 53% of our students voted in the 2016 presidential election, which is a little bit above the national average for college students. For students who voted on campus, 86% turned out,” Adelson said

“Voting is one of the most important ways you can make your voice heard.”

-Carly Shephard
Co-director of the Center for Civic Justice

Adelson is optimistic that this year will mark a change. He hopes young people and college students will turn out to vote.

“Voting is one of the most important ways you can make your voice heard,” he said. “If you have the ability to vote, the eligibility to vote, it’s important that you make your voice heard, not only for yourself, but for those who might not be able to vote.”

This sentiment was echoed by junior biology major Connor Henry.

“There were a lot of people in the 2016 election who put Harambe and other jokes in their ballot, but your vote counts, guys,” Henry said. “Vote.”

Police Blotter

On Oct. 25 at 12:14 p.m., the gate arm at the Health Sciences Center parking garage was found broken. The case remains open.

On Oct. 26 at 3:52 p.m., a physical altercation broke out between two visitors at Stony Brook University Hospital; there were no injuries reported. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate

On Oct. 26 at 9:25 p.m., three staff members were struck by a patient at Stony Brook University Hospital. The case is closed as the victims refused to cooperate.

On Oct. 26 at 5:03 a.m., staff at Stony Brook University Hospital reported that a patient kicked a vitals machine and rendered it inoperable. The case is closed.

On Oct. 27 at 1:59 p.m., a white board on a resident’s door at Dreiser College was found damaged. The case remains open.

On Oct. 28 at 2:45 p.m., a patient grabbed another patient’s arm at Stony Brook University Hospital. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate.

On Oct. 29 at 4:42 p.m., a former employee attempted to access the Social Security website at West Side Dining. The case remains open.

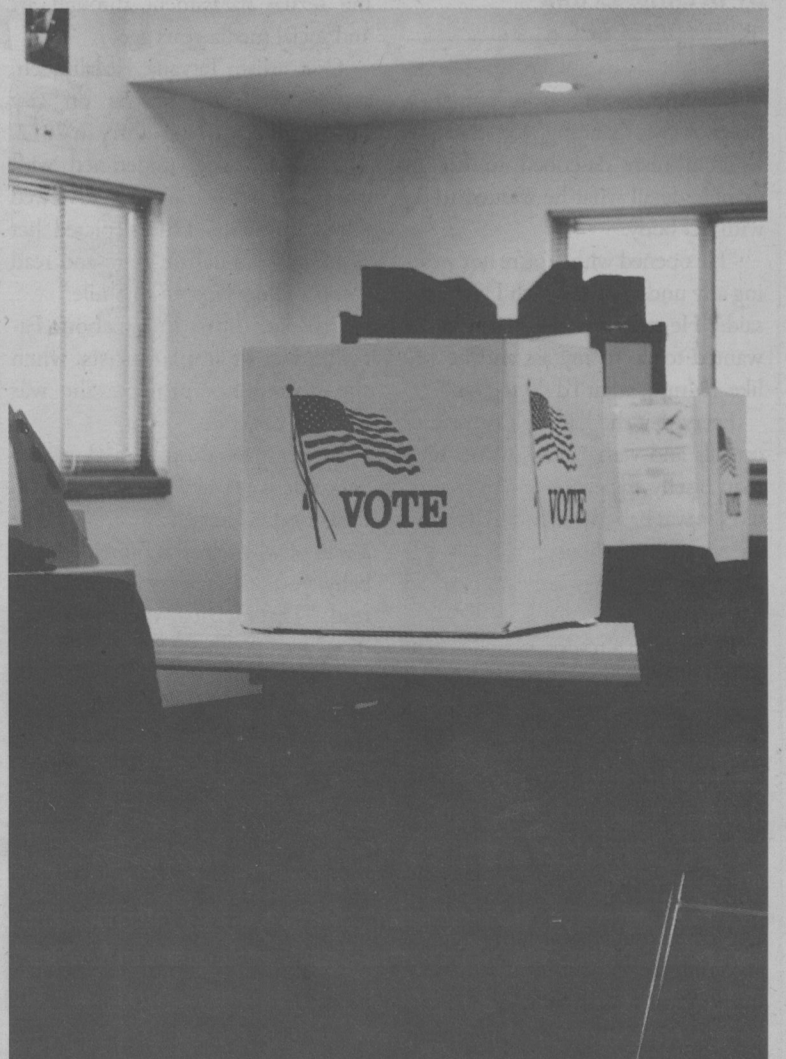
On Oct. 30 at 2:45 p.m., a couple was arrested near the Zebra Path after they attempted a robbery. The case is closed.

On Oct. 30 at 11:25 p.m., two student referrals were issued after the students were caught smoking marijuana in a parking lot in Kelly Quad. The case is closed.

On Oct. 31 at 2:34 a.m., a patient damaged a wall with the door at Stony Brook University Hospital. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate.

On Oct. 31 at 1:37 p.m., a patient spat on another patient at Stony Brook University Hospital. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate.

On Oct. 31 at 2:23 p.m., a student reported that an unknown person filled their vehicle with leaves at the parking lot near Greeley College. The case is closed as the



WYOFIL FILE WYOFIL FILE / FLICKER VIA CC BY 2.0

A voting booth. In a survey of 50 Stony Brook students, 46 said they were registered to vote.

ARTS & CULTURE

Hillel holds vigil for Pittsburgh synagogue victims

By Alexander Bakirdan
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook University's Hillel organization held a candle-light vigil on Monday, Oct. 29, in remembrance of the 11 people who lost their lives to an anti-Semitic attack in Pittsburgh.

The attack hit the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill, a residential neighborhood in Pittsburgh on Saturday, Oct. 27. It was the deadliest anti-Semitic in the history of the United States, claiming 11 lives and injuring at least six others, including four police officers.

Stony Brook Hillel, which works to be a home away from home for Jewish students at Stony Brook, held this event so that students could process their feelings in the wake of this tragedy.

"I needed it, I felt surrounded by my community and that's exactly what I was looking for right now," Rachel Chabin, a religious program chair of the Jewish Student Association and a student representative of the Hillel Board of Directors, said. "I just don't think Judaism is meant to be done alone."

About 200 people attended the vigil, ranging from students, faculty, community members and members of the interfaith community at the university. The turnout for the vigil was so high that Hillel ran out of flyers before the start of the event.

At the beginning of the vigil, Rabbi Joseph Topek, who has been a Rabbi at the university for 37 years, spoke to the attendants,



SUZANNE BARRY/THE STATESMAN

The vigil on the Academic Mall held to honor the lives lost at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on Monday, Oct. 29. Eleven people lost their lives in the anti-Semitic attack on Saturday, Oct. 27.

urging them to remain strong and remember their common humanity in this time of tragedy.

"It is up to each and every one of us to build a society where no one lives in fear because of who they are," Topek said.

As 11 candles were lit, the student lighting each one announced the name of the victim they were lighting it for. Not a single person whispered a word as several speakers, including representatives from the Muslim Students Association, Roman Catholic Ministry and the University's Office of the President,

asked people to embrace unity and hope and shun hatred during this crisis.

A psalm was read and several hymns were sung including Hine Ma Tov, a Jewish hymn that promotes unity. Students also sang "One Day," a popular song by Jewish-American singer Matisyahu who said it's "about struggle, I guess, about trials... it's trying to like overcome those things." At the end of the vigil, everyone came together to sing the national anthem of Israel, "Hatikvah."

Some students at Stony Brook felt the impact of this anti-Se-

mitic attack on a deeper and more personal level, particularly the President of Seawolves for Israel and active Hillel member, Neil Dasgupta, who grew up in Squirrel Hill, just down the road from the Tree of Life Synagogue.

"This hits very close to home. I grew up there and went to elementary school there," Dasgupta said. "Squirrel Hill is the nicest of all my memories, it's my childhood home."

Dasgupta said that he was shocked to see the news and the very first thing he did was reach out to his friends and family to

make sure that they were okay. He recounted his memories of Squirrel Hill in a short speech that he delivered to the attendants of the vigil, mentioning how he frequently drove by the synagogue on his way to school.

Topek said he felt the vigil gave the community "an opportunity to grieve." He also believes that people must move forward from this event unafraid.

"Don't live in fear, don't let it frighten you. That's what they want, that's what lets the hate and the haters win," Topek said. "Don't let the hate win."

Brooklyn artist launches sexual harassment series

By Brianne Ledda
Assistant News Editor

Brooklyn-based artist Hannah Provisor was waiting for the bus when a man described to her in graphic detail what he wanted to do with her body.

"He opened with 'You're not wearing any underwear,' which I was," she said. "He started telling me what he wanted to do to my ass and he was like, 'Mmm, what I'd do to you.'"

Every day she battles a barrage of catcalls and verbal harassment. One man briefly trailed her and a 6-year-old she was babysitting when they left an apartment, shouting for "sweetheart one" and "sweetheart two" to talk to him.

Provisor, in a response reminiscent of the #MeToo movement, launched a web series on Instagram illustrating real women's experiences with sexual harassment. Her drawings focus on healing, both for herself and the women who step forward.

Eighty-one percent of women who were raped, stalked or physically assaulted reported significant impacts, according to an article published by the National Sex Offender Public Registry (NSOPR). Yet despite their suffering, many survivors hesitate to seek help.

In a build-up to the #MeToo movement, women started protest-

ing sexual harassment through art and social media years ago.

One artist, Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, started plastering posters on city buildings across the country in 2012. The posters were underlined with quotes from women interviewed about catcalling. One depicted her own face in a defiant stare and read "Stop Telling Women to Smile."

Provisor didn't know about Fazlalizadeh, or similar artists, when she started her project. She was just fed up.

In her first illustration depicting harassment, posted in late August, Provisor drew herself standing against a wall of white speech bubbles. "Hey baby, you got a pretty mouth," one read. "That's what I want. That look nice," read another.

She was able to quote near verbatim because she tracked every encounter in a journal.

Her father, Joe Provisor, a community-building and restorative practices trainer, knows what she faces on the street but doesn't fear for her.

"If anything, she has the potential for provoking someone, because she will call back or confront someone," he said.

Although she's illustrating now, Provisor, a Los Angeles native, originally made the cross-country trek to New York City after college to launch an acting career without a second



PHOTO COURTESY OF HANNAH PROVISO

A piece by Brooklyn-based artist Hannah Provisor, who has a web series on Instagram where she illustrates women's experiences with harassment.

thought. The 23-year-old graduated from Penn State with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Musical Theater in 2017.

Transitioning to life in New York, however, wasn't easy for Provisor. Even though it had always been omnipresent, she'd never experienced so much street harassment in her life.

It got to the point that she struggled to be intimate with her boyfriend, Los Angeles-based film director, Kai Patterson.

"At first she painted it in this comedic light because she was trying not to show how much it affected her," Patterson said.

It was hard for him to hear. He felt helpless. She wanted things to

change, but Patterson doubted that they could. At the end of arguments, he'd retort, "What are you going to do about it?"

That's when Provisor brought up the idea for her art series to him.

Melissa Forbis, an assistant professor in the women's, gender, and sexuality studies department who organized a 2017 exhibition on the history of activism against sexual violence, pointed out that being able to repost things that others create, like art, enables people to participate in the #MeToo movement without reliving the trauma of their own story. But, though she wants to avoid an overstatement, Forbis thinks there needs to be another action component to the movement.

"It's been very positive, but right now where do we go, especially in the wake of the Kavanaugh hearings?" she said. "We're seeing, I think, a polarization among those who really don't think it matters that much versus those that do. White women sort of opt for the privileges of whiteness over what may even be their own pain, so this may be a time of choice for a lot of people — now, are you willing to align with this kind of privilege over other kinds of violence that is done to people you know?"

Provisor, a white woman herself, knows her choice.

Hellenic studies presentation on refugees in Greece

By Chris Parkinson
Sports Editor

Anastasia Karakasidou, an anthropology professor at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, spoke at the Stony Brook Center for Hellenic Studies on Monday, Oct. 29 about the influx and impact of refugees on the island of Lesbos, Greece.

Karakasidou specializes in studying the culture of cancer in different nations such as Bulgaria and Greece. She was on the island working in a monastery dealing with cancer treatment during the refugee crisis in the summer.

Karakasidou discussed the way in which the citizens of Lesbos came “face to face with humanity” as refugees landed on the north shore of the island and the different reactions the natives had to the refugees landing on shore.

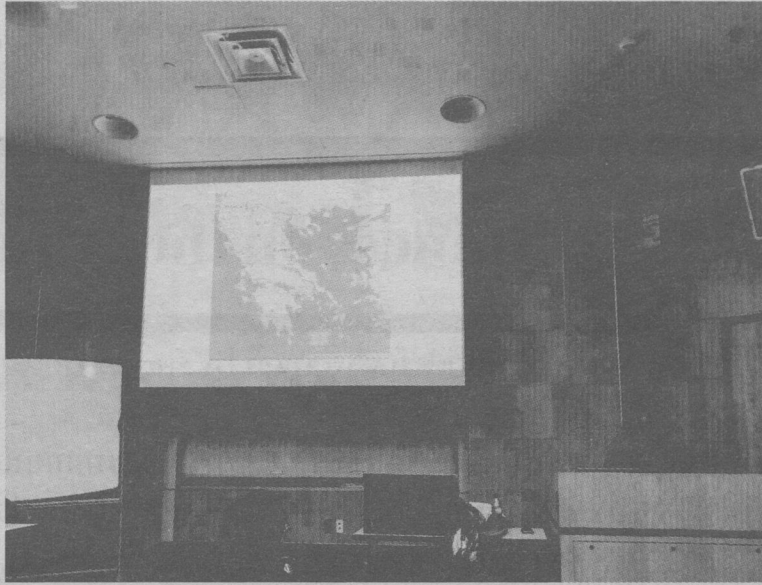
These refugees came from a variety of nations such as Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Morocco. Karakasidou documented eyewitness accounts from citizens, who would see the refugees come onto the island from their makeshift boats on a daily basis.

“Curse them,” Niko, a Lesbos native Karakasidou spoke with while on the island, said. “They are eventually going to take our jobs and eventually our homes.”

Other citizens were helpful with the incoming population, offering water and bread to those that had just arrived on shore or on the dock waiting for their papers.

Lesbos is one of the furthest islands from the Greek mainland, located just 10 kilometers from the shore of Turkey. It has become a hub for refugees escaping the horrid conditions of war.

As refugees land on the shore, they have a 40-meter walk to a port where they can fill out refugee papers. Some are sent to



CHRIS PARKINSON/THE STATESMAN

Anastasia Karakasidou, an anthropology professor at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, speaking during a presentation hosted by Stony Brook’s Center for Hellenic Studies on Oct. 29.

Athens or stay in the camps that were created on Lesbos to hold the homeless. A large hotspot for migrants is the Moria camp, which holds 9,000 people when it is only meant for 3,100.

Several agencies and groups have become involved in aiding Greece with the crisis, including Doctors Without Borders and the International Rescue Committee. The United Nations has assisted in alleviating the crisis by renting out houses for tenants to live under a roof instead of in a camp or park.

Karakasidou described how the refugee situation in Lesbos has caused a media frenzy, with several news outlets covering the harsh conditions of the camp and the island. It also shined a light on how Greece has been left to deal with the refugee crisis despite groups saying they would assist.

With at least 90,500 refugees in Lesbos, tourism, a main source of income for the island, dropped drastically. This left

citizens and the government alike searching for a solution. Karakasidou spoke about how celebrities such as Angelina Jolie visited the island and saw the horrid conditions that the camps were in. She promised that she would return to the island the next summer with her family, yet never did.

In an attempt to help, the E.U. reached an agreement with Turkey on March 18, 2016, stating that the country had to cut down on the number of refugees entering Europe from the nation.

Currently, U.N. Border Patrol boats are stationed around the area of Lesbos. Thousands of refugees still remain, with numerous parts of the island still cluttered on the outskirts and rough living conditions inside of the camps.

The Center for Hellenic Studies’ next presentation will take place on Nov. 19, when Professor Kostis Smyrlis of New York University comes to campus.

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

TO HIJAB OR NOT TO HIJAB

By AFSHANA HOQUE

I have been wearing the hijab for about 10 years now and it has been a significant part of my life. When I first started out I was very conscious of it, especially because it was not my choice. My mom asked me to wear it and I said sure. But very few girls in my school community wore the hijab, so I could easily feel it on my head the first two years.

After that, it became a part of me to the point where I could not imagine a life without it. I have been fortunate enough to not encounter any hate crimes related to my hijab; but recent increases in hate crimes towards hijabis, after the 2016 elections, has made me more aware of it. Regardless, I wear it proudly as it is a representation of my religion and way of life.

The religion requires it for the sake of keeping modesty, however, girls should choose to wear it themselves — and it shouldn’t be forced upon her. Hijab comes from the root word “haya” which means modest in Arabic.

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VOTING

Candidate	Position	Stances on the Issues
Kirsten E. Gillibrand <i>Democrat</i>	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand opportunities for women by supporting female small businesses owners and women in STEM. • Fighting for stronger unions and a livable minimum wage. • Protect the environment for future generations. Gillibrand is calling for an aggressive change to combat climate change.
Chele Chiavacci Farley <i>Republican</i>	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to keep the donor tax money and use it on education. • Will fight for money to fix roads and transit systems that will create new jobs for New Yorkers, while lowering taxes. • Will work to prevent the overprescribing of opioids and to increase the access of long-term treatment.
Lee Zeldin <i>Republican</i>	House of Representatives 1st Congressional District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosponsored the Local Control of Education Act, which prevents the federal government from forcing schools to adopt Common Core. • A member of the House Financial Services Committee and introduced bills to improve lending to families and small businesses. • Voted in support of Equal Pay for Equal Work twice. • A member of the Climate Solutions Caucus, Coastal Communities Caucus, Congressional Shellfish Caucus and Long Island Sound
Perry Gershon <i>Democrat</i>	House of Representatives 1st Congressional District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes in free tuition at public universities for the middle class. • Plans to decrease taxes for small businesses, provide tax incentives for new businesses, upgrade infrastructure and support affordable housing. • Wants to address coastal beach erosion caused by rising sea levels, and he wants to protect our bodies of water from pollution. • Supports a federal guarantee of equal rights for LGBTQ.
Kate Browning <i>Democrat</i>	House of Representatives 1st Congressional District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to make significant investments in preschool programs to eliminate the achievement gap. • Will fight to protect the coasts and farmland. • Supports The Equality Act that would amend existing civil rights to ban the discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex in areas of housing, public education, work, etc.
Andrew M. Cuomo & Kathleen Courtney Hochul <i>Democrat</i>	Governor & Lieutenant Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuomo increased education funding to the highest ever, increasing aid by \$1.1 billion. • Cuomo is securing the \$15 minimum wage and passed the largest affordable housing program in New York history. • Cuomo has banned fracking and made record investments in conservation.
Marc Molinaro & Julie Killian <i>Republican</i>	Governor & Lieutenant Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molinaro believes that New York State has responsibility to fund preschool special education. • Wants to provide staff with the training to aid individuals with all levels of ability and to hire individuals with disabilities. • Has vowed to only serve two terms if elected and plans to push for an amendment that implements term limits for state elected politicians.
Howie Hawkins & Jia Lee <i>Green</i>	Governor & Lieutenant Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to make all CUNY, SUNY and community colleges tuition free. • Hawkins is a socialist who believes in solidarity by the working class and the oppressed. He wants to establish a public bank and a state-owned Social Wealth Fund. • Wants all new vehicles in the state to be zero emission by 2025.
Larry Sharpe Andrew C. Hollister <i>Libertarian</i>	Governor & Lieutenant Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to repeal regulations that have a net loss and to simplify taxes. • Wants to reduce our carbon footprint by increasing the efficiency of our energy and make it more affordable. • Plans to legalize marijuana and hemp farming.

Written by Donovan Bush
Layout by Aleeza Kazmi
Multimedia Editor

GUIDE



<p>Stephanie A. Miner & Michael J. Volpe <i>Serve America Movement</i></p>	<p>Governor & Lieutenant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports programs like the House Stability Support Program to create a rent supplement for low income families across New York. • Wants to cut property taxes to prevent residents from leaving New York. • Wants to get as many people to vote as possible by instituting early voting, election day voter registration, voting by mail and electronic poll books.
<p>Keith Wofford <i>Republican</i></p>	<p>New York State Attorney General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to create jobs and grow the economy so that we can give talent the opportunity to succeed. • Wofford will investigate opioids with local attorneys and engage in prevention and recovery with the community
<p>Letitia "Tish" A. James <i>Democrat</i></p>	<p>New York State Attorney General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to expose for-profit colleges and prosecute them for false statements they make to people seeking higher education. • Wants to protect consumers from abuse and financial fraud. • Wants to protect the environment for generations to come. • Plans to enforce the Equal Pay for Equal Work law.
<p>Michael Sussman <i>Green</i></p>	<p>New York State Attorney General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will "strengthen the state's Public Integrity Unit" by pushing for a public finance law that will take money out of state politics and prosecute people who use their positions for personal gain.
<p>Christopher B. Garvey <i>Libertarian</i></p>	<p>New York State Attorney General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes that the Sullivan Law, the SAFE Act and the New York Knife Ban Law all violate the 2nd amendment and are unconstitutional. The Sullivan Law requires permits for concealed weapons and the SAFE Act is a set of numerous firearm regulations.
<p>Nancy B. Sliwa <i>Democrat</i></p>	<p>New York State Attorney General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinks that New York should assist residents by giving them a tax credit if they adopt a shelter animal. • Wants to protect the transfer of assets from seniors to their children and grandchildren, with the lowest taxes as possible. • Believes that all schools should provide mandatory animal education.
<p>Thomas P. Dinapoli <i>Democrat</i></p>	<p>New York State Comptroller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While in office, Dinapoli exposed the abuse of special education funds and he advocated for new oversight. • Uncovered corruption and fraud of taxpayer money that led to 200 arrests and the repossession of over \$50 million. • Used shareholder influence to increased diversity on corporate boards to include more women and minorities.
<p>Jonathan Trichter <i>Republican</i></p>	<p>New York State Comptroller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to be an independent and responsible Comptroller who can end backdoor borrowing, which is borrowing without voter consent, by refusing to sign off on new issuances. • Is "offering an optional defined contribution plan that provides better retirement value for new State and local workers.
<p>Mark Dunlea <i>Green</i></p>	<p>New York State Comptroller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to create a public bank and reduce the tax burden on low and medium income households. • Wants to transition to 100 percent clean energy by 2030. • Wants to reform economic development spending and increase the state Comptroller's oversight of public spending.
<p>John J. Flanagan <i>Republican</i></p>	<p>New York State Senate - District 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flanagan supported the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act and worked to extend the Child Safety Zone law. • Supports a two percent cap on local property taxes and cutting personal income tax for 4.4 million New Yorkers. • Fought to require the Department of Environmental Conservation to release more information regarding toxic spills to the general public. • Led a successful effort to ban the possession and sale of legal drugs.
<p>Kathleen Cleary <i>Democrat</i></p>	<p>New York State Senate - District 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to protect vulnerable areas to ensure clean air and water and push for the use of renewable resources. • Believes that every child should have access to a quality education that is fully funded. She will fight to ensure Long Island receives its share of school funding. • Wants families to have affordable childcare and a living wage.

*Information was collected from candidate's websites and various other sources. No information was found for Cruger E. Gallaudet, Steven Englebright, Christian W. Kalinowski, DuWayne Gregory, Judith A. Pascale, Debra Brown, Jay H. Schneiderman, John M. Kennedy Jr. and all New York Supreme Court Justices.

OPINIONS

THE STATESMAN

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

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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SASCHA ROSIN/STATESMAN FILE

Post Malone performing at Back to the Brook in September 2017. The Undergraduate Student Government canceled Back to the Brook this year because of low ticket sales.

Inside USG: Why Back to the Brook really failed

By Justin Ullman
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 18, Stony Brook University's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) posted a letter on their Facebook page claiming that the Back to the Brook Vol. 1 Concert was canceled due to insufficient "promotion of the event." From the outside, the concert's cancellation looks bad; 50 Cent tweeting about it and BET covering it certainly does not help. From my perspective as a USG Senator, it only looks worse.

The original cancellation announcement perpetuated a misconception that the sole reason only 24 tickets were sold for the concert was due to insufficient marketing and advertising. I feel that was a deflection of blame away from the underlying issue.

The atmosphere on campus and students' responses on social media told a completely different story. I conducted a survey about the concert to increase student feedback and collected over 520 responses through social media and face-to-face conversations with students. The results gave a clear picture of the concert's shortcomings, and it certainly did not coincide with the official USG statement.

The first survey question was intended to address the notion that marketing was to blame, and the student response signified a majority of students were aware of the concert. Because the news of a concert is also spread further by word of mouth, the marketing was more than sufficient. Advertisement viewers are not necessarily potential customers, which I noted and sought to address. After cross-analyzing the results from several questions about ticket pricing, scheduling and interest, I concluded 64 students who answered the survey were potential customers.

So why did that interest not translate into ticket sales? The answer lies in the third question.

An overwhelming majority of students, 92.6 percent of respondents, were not satisfied

with Ashanti as a headline artist. I gather from this that most students were unwilling to pay \$20 for a concert with a headliner they did not want to see.

This is not a statement on the quality of Ashanti's music or the success of her career. What this data points to is simply that Ashanti's music does not appear to resonate with most of our generation.

However, I have to give credit where it's due. The Vice President of Student Life, Kojo Dansoh, pulled off an incredible feat by booking a new headline artist within 24 hours of Teyana Taylor's cancellation. He worked to the best of his abilities within a short time to make a concert feasible. The decision to cancel the concert was also tough, but it was the right call in the face of a difficult choice: spend roughly \$100,000 of students' money to run a concert few students would attend, or cancel and save the money for future USG events.

The issue is not how he handled the situation — but how the Student Activities Board (SAB) put themselves in that situation.

Historically, USG has conducted public opinion polls to determine which artists the students would prefer to see perform. This year, input from the general student body was forgone. Even the USG Senate was not consulted for our opinions. We were just told to trust the process blindly when we asked for details.

The SAB insisted upon booking solely R&B artists in an attempt to place music diversity at the forefront of the concert as opposed to years of EDM and hip-hop performances at USG concerts.

I share the belief that music diversity should be considered, but I draw the line when the students' opinions are completely subverted in place of what one person may feel is "important," regardless of who the person is. Picking a headline artist should come down to student interest.

So, what solutions are available to address the issues which arose from this concert? How can we

ensure we learn from our mistakes in time for Brookfest?

I think USG should return to determining the headline artist with a public opinion poll. Once the students are given the opportunity to voice their preference, the SAB can use that information along with any other concerns they have to choose the headline artist and opening acts. The only surefire way to include students' input in the concert-planning process is to ask them directly.

My second suggestion is that the \$100,000 saved from canceling Back to the Brook should be used for Brookfest in the Spring. Ideally, the money would contribute to booking a more popular artist than we can typically afford, and ensure that students' ticket prices are either drastically reduced or completely free. As ticket revenue in the past was intended to cover only part of the cost of a concert, reducing ticket prices is financially feasible with an extra \$100,000 in the bank. This would serve both to increase turnout and to repay you for this concert.

In the face of this event, the SAB and the rest of USG learned many lessons, but the rejection of objective reality within recent official USG statements is alarming to me. To truly improve in the future USG has to look at the situation objectively without trying to deflect any blame, and show some humility. Many senators and executive council members are being proactive in trying to improve themselves, and USG has picked up its pace as a whole. However, the real underlying issue of artist choice is still being overlooked to avoid having anyone take the blame.

As a USG Senator, it is my duty to speak up, and I will no longer stay silent when there is anything less than 100 percent transparency and the students are not heard. I encourage you to hold USG to the same standard and to express your opinion loudly. The USG budget is roughly \$3.3 million — that is not their money, it is your money. Never forget that.

Voting is a hard-won privilege everybody should try to exercise

By Mike Adams
Opinions Editor

Millions of Americans will flock to the polls on Tuesday in midterm elections for hundreds of national and state offices. But if history is any indicator, millions more people — over 60 percent of the U.S. population in 2014 — will decline to cast a ballot.

There are plenty of reasons why voter turnout in the United States tends to be lower than most developed nations. Countries like Australia, Germany and India hold elections during the weekend, or make Election Day a national holiday. Countries like Brazil make voting compulsory. While certain U.S. states mandate employers give their staff time to vote on Tuesday, there is no national law that makes that necessary.

This country was not originally designed to be a fully inclusive democracy. When the U.S. Constitution was implemented in 1789, only white, property-owning men over the age of 21 could vote. It took until 1971 to get to the point where all men and women without felony convictions who complete an often arduous registration process can participate in elections.

Those structural bulwarks against true democracy have had a real impact. Two years ago, the Electoral College that decides who the president will be

every four years failed, electing a candidate who lost the popular vote for the fifth time in American history.

But the popular vote does not fail. There is no substitute for consensus.

I have my own political views, but I don't want to waste time on them here. I just want to speak to the students who have the ability to vote, but have already decided to stay away on Election Day. I side with the late writer David Foster Wallace here, who spoke about the illusion of not voting in his book, "McCain's Promise."

"If you are bored and disgusted by politics and don't bother to vote, you are in effect voting for the entrenched Establishments of the two major parties, who please rest assured are not dumb, and who are keenly aware that it is in their interests to keep you disgusted and bored and cynical and to give you every possible reason to stay at home doing one-hit-ters," Wallace wrote "In reality, there is no such thing as not voting: you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some Diehard's vote."

So just vote if you have the privilege. Take five minutes to do some research. Vote for a candidate you believe in, vote against a candidate you don't. Vote for an issue you're passionate about. Vote for the children who are too young to



BECKY MCCRAY/Flickr VIA CC BY-NC-ND

Americans will have the opportunity to cast their ballot in the midterm elections on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Voter turnout rates in the U.S. are lower than most developed countries.

cast a ballot over concerns that will alter their future. Vote for the elderly and the schedule-stuffed workers who can't make it to the polling place. Vote for the millions of American citizens

living in territories like Puerto Rico who don't get a voice in national politics. Vote for the thousands of felons in this country who had their suffrage revoked because of their convictions.

But most importantly, vote for you. Stand up and be counted as somebody whose opinions should matter to a politician. Make yourself heard over an army of people trying to shut down the conversation.

Stony Brook lacks equality when it comes to bathroom locks

By Alex DiNuzzo
Contributing Writer

Gender inequality still exists at Stony Brook University; you can find it on the bathroom doors.

If you're a female student in a corridor-style dorm, you get a full list of bathroom codes for every floor your first day at Stony Brook. In Benedict College's H-Quad, for example, there are seven different codes for seven female-only bathrooms, but no such thing for men. This was also confirmed via email with Campus Residencies. In Wagner College, girls weren't even given the codes on the first day.

"I had to ask for the bathroom code the day I moved in," Kylie Flannery, an undecided freshman student living in Wagner College, said. "Then I had to tell my roommate because she didn't know either."

How is it fair that these young women had to ask for a code just so they could use the bathroom?

"There have been many times when the bathroom is necessary in emergency situations. I know many girls who have had to go in quickly for an emergency, but the locks are in the way," Carolina Ruiz, a freshman biology major who lives in Benedict, said. "For example, say you're in a towel, and you want to take a shower. You want to get in the bathroom as quickly as possible, and the locks are in the way. You're half-naked in the hallways, and it is frustrating that we [women] are the only ones who have them."

If Stony Brook actually represents gender equality, then why don't the men have locks too?

It seems like Stony Brook is very different compared to some other SUNY schools when it comes to this problem. At SUNY Oswego, the residential halls aren't split up by gender and do not have a locking system for any of the bathrooms.

"In most Residential Halls the bathroom's are able to lock just by a regular door lock," a spokesperson for Resident Life and Housing at Oswego said via email.

It might be understandable at Oswego, but there are many universities with gender exclusive residential halls that still don't have locks and codes.

"I don't live in a coed hall, I share with 18 other girls, but we don't have a locking system at all, that's odd," Megan Krusinski, a freshman undecided major at SUNY Cobleskill, said.

Even colleges with halls separated by gender, like SUNY Cobleskill, don't have the annoyance of long codes cutting women off from the bathroom.

When a door has a lock, it is usually for privacy and safety. Although it can be irritating, I can see the school's reasoning for it. The problem here is why the women have codes and the men don't. If Stony Brook was truly an equal school, then it would either give male students locks on their doors too, so that they can stay safe as well or spend more time during the mandatory freshman seminar

talking about sexual harassment and giving strict punishments to those who are caught.

It's not fair to women to have to go through more difficulty just because some men can't stop them-

selves from peeping. And it's also not fair that men aren't given a safe space.



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An electronic lock with a number pad. In corridor-style residence halls at Stony Brook University, female bathrooms have numbered locks and male bathrooms do not.

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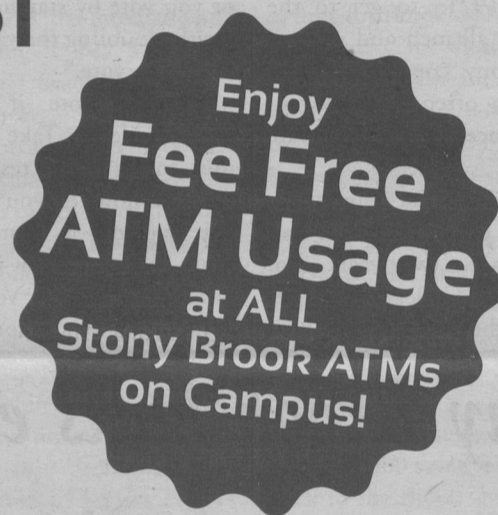


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SPORTS

Men's Soccer wins regular season championship with draw versus UMBC



CHRISTOPHER CAMERON/STATESMAN FILE

Senior midfielder Martieon Watson recorded an assist in the matchup against UMBC this past weekend.

By Ryan Pavich
Staff Writer

As soon as overtime drew to a close, Stony Brook Men's Soccer began its celebration. The regular season was over, the match between Stony Brook and UMBC on Wednesday, Oct. 31 was decided at 2-2 and the team was officially the America East regular season champion.

"Oh, it's a huge deal," senior midfielder Martieon Watson said about securing the regular season crown. "It's a huge deal. Not only to get some momentum going into the

semifinals, but the first seed is a home game. And in this America East a home game is a huge advantage. Our home crowd with us, the field that we're familiar with, it's a huge deal for us. Getting the number one seed is a step in the right direction to winning the tournament."

Watson and Gamwanya were both honored before the game as the Seawolves congratulated their senior class. Watson, the team's captain, tallied seven assists this season, more than double any other player on the roster. Gamwanya tied for the team

lead in goals with six, including three game-winning goals.

To claim the title, one of two things had to go the Seawolves' way. They could secure it themselves with a win or tie against UMBC, or Vermont could lose to New Hampshire. Both ended up happening, and the Seawolves were aware that the title was theirs heading into overtime.

"When it [went to] overtime, Coach called us over," Watson said. "He told us we just had a result for us in the other game, with Vermont and UNH, and he told us that UNH won the match. So he told us that we have nothing to lose going into the rest of overtime, just go out and try to win the game."

Stony Brook nearly won in the second overtime period. Red-shirt-sophomore midfielder Gabriel Fernandes broke through the defense in the 108th minute, juking out the goalkeeper and putting the ball into the corner of the net. Unfortunately for Fernandes, the play was whistled dead on an offside call.

To get to overtime, the Seawolves had an up and down game regulation. Freshman striker Jack Valderrabano had a couple of opportunities in the first 15 minutes of the first half, but couldn't get either of his shots in

the goal. Both teams went scoreless in the first period, but came out stronger after halftime.

Stony Brook opened the scoring floodgates first, finding an opportunity in the 51st minute. Watson found junior striker Jarred Dass in front of the net and Dass beat the goalie one on one to get the home team on the board. Three minutes later, Dass set up junior midfielder Mark Irvine for a shot that floated just beyond the reach of UMBC's freshman goalkeeper Quantrell Jones.

The Golden Retrievers responded quickly, cutting into the deficit in the 55th minute. A foul in the box rewarded senior midfielder James Gielen with a penalty kick. Gielen drilled it inside of the right goal post, shifting momentum right back to UMBC. Junior midfielder Nick Gumbs found the equalizer in the 63rd minute, breaking away from the defense and getting one past freshman goalkeeper Christian Miesch.

"We knew it was going to be a tight game, they came out and did a good job defensively," head coach Ryan Anatol said. "They

were trying to press us and make it difficult for us to play, we knew there was going to be quite a bit of space in behind them. Was a little disappointed after being up two to not put the lead away, but overall the guys battled. I think at times, a little timid with the situation, but I think it's understandable. It's good preparation for the upcoming games."

The program secured its second number one seed in three years by claiming the outright regular season title. It is also the first year ever where both the men's and women's soccer programs claimed the regular season championship in the same year.

"It's a great year for both programs, great year for the university," Anatol said. "I think it shows what a commitment the athletic department has put into the soccer programs, and put both programs in a position to be successful. A lot of credit to the players, they came out and worked all year."

Stony Brook will face UMBC once again in the America East Semifinals at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

Priore inks contract extension through 2022

By Ethan Tam
Contributing Writer

There may not be action on the field during Stony Brook Football's bye week, but the program has not remained quiet. Fresh off the heels of three-star defensive end recruit Keith Winfrey's decision to commit to the Seawolves, Director of Athletics Shawn Heilbron announced on Thursday, Nov. 1 that head coach Chuck Priore has agreed to an extension through the 2022 season. Priore's previous contract, extended in 2016, was set to expire after 2020.

"I am extremely appreciative of the confidence that President Stanley and Shawn Heilbron have in me to help lead the Stony Brook football program," Priore said in a press release. "I am fortunate to share this with a great coaching staff and administration. I want to thank our players for all their hard work and sacrifices both on and off the field."

Currently leading a 6-3 Seawolves team that is ranked No. 16 in the FCS Stats poll and is half a game back from first place in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), Priore has amassed an 83-64 record as Seawolves head coach since succeeding Sam Kornhauser in 2006. He previously went 39-9 as the head coach for the Division III Trinity Bantams. Priore led Stony Brook to four consecutive Big South conference titles from 2009 to 2012, helping the team ascend the ranks and receive an invitation from the CAA before the

2013 season. Stony Brook's highest ever ranking came in Week 10 of the 2012 season, when it was ranked No. 6 nationally.

Priore's best season came in 2017 when Stony Brook finished the season 10-3 (7-1 in conference), good for second in the CAA. Under his direction, the Seawolves made the FCS playoffs in 2011, 2012 and 2017, surviving into the second round all

mond in 2016 and a 29-27 comeback victory against No. 13 Villanova on Sept. 29. The Seawolves have been nationally ranked during every week of the 2018 season.

"Our vision for Stony Brook Football is to win at the highest level, which includes competing for a national championship," Heilbron said. "Under Chuck's guidance, Stony Brook has become



EVAN YUSON/STATESMAN FILE

Head coach Chuck Priore has amassed an 83-64 record as Seawolves head coach since taking over in 2006.

three times. Two of Priore's alumni have played at the NFL level — former New York Giants tight end Will Tye and former New York Jets linebacker Victor Ochi.

Priore has been at the helm of several key moments in Stony Brook Football history, including a 42-14 upset over No. 2 Rich-

mond in 2016 and a 29-27 comeback victory against No. 13 Villanova on Sept. 29. The Seawolves have been nationally ranked during every week of the 2018 season.

"Our vision for Stony Brook Football is to win at the highest level, which includes competing for a national championship," Heilbron said. "Under Chuck's guidance, Stony Brook has become

MSoc wins 11 A.E Awards

By Jason Brancato
Contributing Writer

The Stony Brook men's soccer team took home 11 America East All-Conference awards after completing a successful regular season. The awards, which were announced on Friday Nov. 2, were given to the staff and six different players, including senior midfielder Martieon Watson and freshman goalkeeper Christian Miesch.

The Stony Brook coaching staff was rewarded for their efforts with America East Coaching Staff of the Year honors. With head coach Ryan Anatol at the helm, the staff led the Seawolves to its second America East Regular Season Title in three years with only one conference game loss.

Watson and Miesch were the only two players in the America East Conference to earn three individual awards. Watson was named to the America East First Team, won America East Midfielder of the Year and also made the All-Academic team. Watson earned these awards by starting in every contest this season, scoring twice with seven assists. Watson's best game was against Binghamton where he scored a season high three points and dished out an assist in the 2-1 victory.

Miesch, the freshman from Switzerland, was chosen as the America East Rookie of the Year, along with being named to the America East Second Team and All-Rookie Teams.

He started at goalie for all but one of Stony Brook's games and had four shutouts. Miesch's best game was against New Hampshire, where he made nine saves in Stony Brook's 1-0 victory and was named America East Defensive Player of the Week. Miesch was also the only freshman to be named to the America East Second Team.

Senior midfielder Serge Gamwanya and junior striker Jarred Dass were both named to the America East First Team. Gamwanya won America Player of the Week three times, scored six goals and had three assists. His best game happened against St. John's when he scored a season high two goals in a comeback victory. Gamwanya previously won a first team selection in 2016.

Dass also had six goals and three assists on the season to secure his first America East First Team selection.

The two other Seawolves who won conference awards were junior defenseman Gustavo Fernandes and freshman midfielder/striker Jack Valderrabano. Fernandes scored four goals and also led the Seawolves defense that only let up 18 goals all year. Valderrabano was selected to the America East All-Rookie Team. Valderrabano's one goal all year was a game-winner against New Hampshire.

As the No. 1 seed in the tournament, the Seawolves next game will be at home against No. 5 UMBC on Wednesday, Nov. 7.

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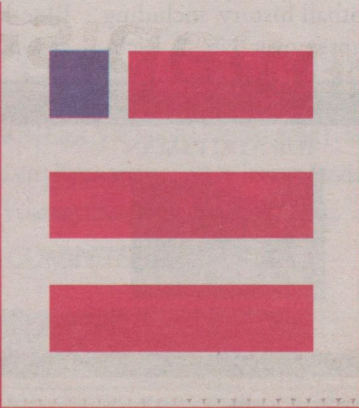
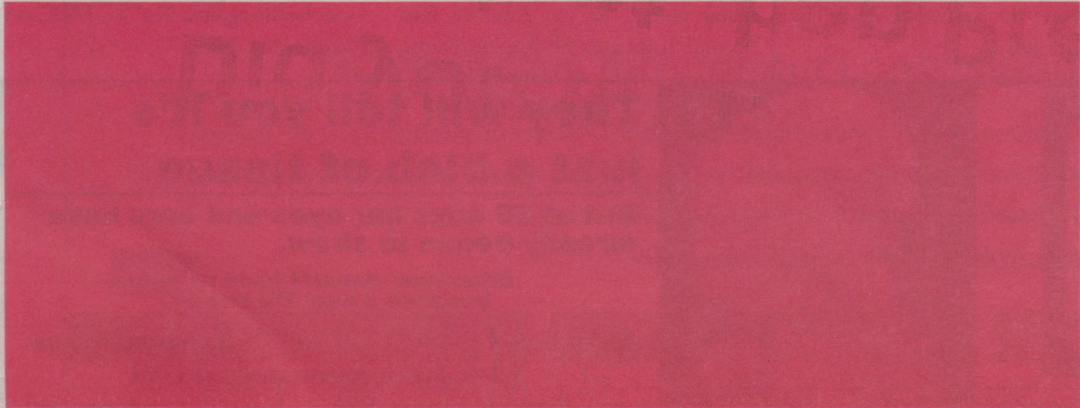
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