

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS



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THE STATESMAN

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Getting to know your student government

By Christine Powell and Emily McTavish
Staff Writers

The Undergraduate Student Government, or USG, isn't just another acronym that gets thrown around campus; it is also an enormous part of the university. The undergraduate student body is represented by USG, a governing body of elected and appointed officials that includes executive, legislative and judicial branches.

While the elected officials attend SBU, USG is structurally and monetarily autonomous, functioning separately from the university. Its budget, which totals approximately \$3.1 million a year, is financed by the mandatory Student Activity Fee of \$94.25 paid each semester by all full-time undergraduate students and is unaffected by any state budget cuts. The budget must, however, receive approval from the University President's designee, Vice President of Student Affairs Peter Baigent.

Resources garnered from the Student Activity

Fee fund USG's operations, opening weekend activities, large-scale events like the Roth Pond Regatta, outdoor movies and discounted trips to local attractions. Other funds are allocated to clubs and organizations on campus, which must first apply for official recognition by the USG.

USG also maintains agencies like the Student Activities Board (SAB) and the Student Programming Agency (SPA), which is known for bringing in comedians like Kevin Hart and Aziz Ansari, guest speakers like Ralph Nader and revitalizing the Stony Brook Concert series with acts like Wiz Khalifa and Bruno Mars. Additionally, the USG oversees Providing Academic Support to Students (PASS), a free tutoring service.

"USG is here to guide freshmen toward getting involved and finding out more of what Stony Brook had to offer," Amanda Cohen, a senior English major and vice president of clubs and organizations, said in an email.

"If the case so happens that there is not, anyone is able to start a new club with the guidance of

Student Activities and USG," Cohen said.

USG was established in 2003 when it succeeded the Student Polity Association, which originally formed in 1959. The Student Polity Association's original purpose was to distribute the Student Activity Fee. However, it was decertified in 2002 due to invalid elections and an unapproved operating budget in the spring of 2001.

A new form of student government was needed to distribute and monitor the use of the Student Activity Fee, and so USG was born. According to its website, USG currently oversees and funds more than 300 clubs and organizations on campus, hosts its own events and provides free tutoring centers for students.

The organization's officials are elected by the undergraduate body. Members of USG's executive board and senators receive stipends, and there is a payroll for employees.

The USG office is located in Suite 202 of the Student Activities Center and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

NEWS

Recap of last years news... or what you've missed

By Chelsea Katz
Staff Writer

When entering a new school, it's easy to get lost in all the novelty of being in a different place. From donations and debacles to Wiz Khalifa concerts, here are some of last year's most pressing events to help the class of 2016 get a sense of what Stony Brook University is all about.

Nadia Habib escapes deportation

Born in Bangladesh, Nadia Habib, a psychology major at SBU, came to the United States when she was just a year old.

In September 2011, Nadia and her family learned that she and her mother, Nazmin, were bound to be deported to Bangladesh because of their undocumented status.

The New York State Youth Leadership Council worked with them on the case, and more than 100 demonstrators protested outside the Federal Plaza building in New York City when Nadia and her mother presented themselves for deportation.

After Nazmin Habib had been fighting for asylum for herself and Nadia for 10 years, the Habibs were granted one year to apply for permanent residency.

Simons donation and the Academic Success Fee

In December 2011, James H. Simons, former chairman of the mathematics department, and his wife, Marilyn, donated \$150 million to the university. The donation helps fund scholarships, new faculty positions, construction on a Medical and Research Translation building for researching diseases and more.



EZRA MARGONO / THE STATESMAN

New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo signs a check for \$35 million from the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant application for Stony Brook on Dec. 14, the same day James Simons announced he was donating \$150 million to the university.

The donation marks one of the top 10 donations ever made to a public university and the largest in SBU's history.

Within the same week, University administration announced the "Academic Success Fee" to fund scholarships and hire new faculty.

Unrelated to the Simons donation, the fee originally asked students to pay \$37.50 every semester, starting with the fall 2011 semester.

Administration soon took back the fall 2011 fee and started to add the Academic Success Fee to tuition bills in spring 2012.

Calendar debacle

During the spring 2012 semester, Charles Robbins, the vice provost for under-graduate education and dean of the undergraduate colleges, announced

that the administration had created a new academic calendar that would only recognize federally mandated holidays as days off from instruction. Religious holidays will not be observed. Despite petitions from students and chaplains of the Stony Brook campus, classes will be in session on major religious holidays including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Good Friday and the first two days of Passover. Arguments over the new academic calendar spurred statements from conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh.

Alumni are winners

Stony Brook alumni found success in film and music during the most recent awards season. Mark Bridges '83 won the Academy award for costume design for his work on "The Artist," which won the Oscar award for best

picture.

Bridges holds a bachelor's degree in theatre arts from SBU and a Master of Fine Arts degree in costume design from New York University. Steven Mackey won the Grammy award for Best Small Ensemble Performance for his album: "Lonely Motel: Music from the Slide." Mackey earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of California Davis and, in 1980, a Master of Arts degree in music from SBU.

Wiz Khalifa

Wiz Khalifa performed for a sold-out crowd of 3,750 students and non-students at the Stony Brook arena in April 2012. Khalifa followed opening acts Miguel and Chevy Woods. The concert sold out in four hours, with the box office opening at 9 a.m. and running out of tickets at 1 p.m.

The do's and don'ts of campus safety

By Jessica Suarez
Staff Writer

As an incoming freshman, you may suddenly lose your way around campus. Then what do you do? Learning your way around Stony Brook University is one of the biggest challenges you will face. Fortunately, Stony Brook is serious about promoting safety throughout the campus community. There are many different services that every student can take advantage of to ensure personal safety.

The walking service offered by the Residential Safety Program, or RSP, is one.

If you are feeling unsure about walking back alone to a residence hall or parking lot at night, this service will have an RSP member escort you to your destination.

The RSP is a student-based organization with more than 300 undergraduate and graduate students who make it their goal to keep our campus a safe community.

Students who work as walk escorts are easily identified by the neon green vests that they are required to wear. The walk service is available between 8 p.m. and 3:30 a.m. by

calling 631-632-WALK.

In addition, members of RSP work as desk monitors at the entrance of every residential hall between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. These monitors check-in and verify residents and guests who come back to the dorms during these hours.

The University Police also offers a ride-service program called "2-Ride." Anytime between dusk and dawn, students can contact University Police for a ride from either an officer or a security service assistant who will come to any on campus location to pick you up and drive you to your destination on-campus. This service is available all year round.

While walking around campus, you may have noticed the blue light phones in many different locations. These phones provide immediate contact with the University Police 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are more than 100 blue light phones on campus, according to the University Police website, and they can be operated simply by pressing the big red emergency button.

Just last year, SBU launched SB Guardian, a mobile device app known as a blue light phone in your pocket. This app gives students the

option to turn their cell phone into a personal safety system. It includes two modes: panic call mode and precautionary timer mode.

The panic call mode can be used through a one-touch call that will automatically contact the University Police. This feature allows University Police to find out the caller's location and basic information about the caller so they can respond.

The precautionary timer mode gives users the option to set a timer when they are traveling from one to destination to another on campus. If the user does not deactivate the timer, indicating that he/she arrived at his/her destination safely, the user will receive a text message three minutes prior to the expiration and a phone call one minute before. If the user does not reach his/her destination, a panic call will notify University Police of their location.

Members of the SBU campus must register online to take advantage of the SB Guardian program.

The Office of Emergency Management offers another service to help keep students safe by keeping them updated and informed through a notification system called SB Alert.

This alert system is used to inform

members of the campus community of any type of emergency, threat or dangerous situation. The system can be used during a minor situation such as a power outage. But it is also crucial when students need to know what precautions to take during a serious threat.

Notifications and updates during a situation will immediately be sent to registered members via text, phone call or email. Students must register online to take advantage of this SBU alert system.

Starting college and adjusting to a new environment can often be stressful and overwhelming, especially during freshman year. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) consists of licensed and certified mental health professionals that are available on campus to all students. CAPS encourages all students—especially freshmen—to contact them when experiencing difficulties. CAPS is located on the second floor of the Student Health Center.

SBU offers a variety of programs and campaigns throughout the year to keep students aware of safety on campus and to promote a safe environment for all.



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Construction set to enhance campus

By Khloe Meitz
Contributing Writer

Students hear it during class. Sandbags and fences loom like trolls in the middle of their paths, and its inconveniences, no matter how brief they sometimes are, seem to pop up unexpectedly when students are already running late.

It's construction, and according to the university's website, it's going to make Stony Brook University more efficient, more effective and more economic.

The construction is part of an initiative to update and streamline the university called "Project 50 Forward" and will include new residence halls, academic buildings, dining halls, parking areas and clinical buildings, as well as renovations to re-purpose and repair existing facilities.

The project's website says that Project 50 Forward "will help propel Stony Brook University into the top 20 public research universities, add value to a Stony Brook degree, and set us on a trajectory for the next 50 years," all points the university hopes will attract more students—and consequently more tuition—to help bridge the school's nearly \$30 million gap from state budget cuts.

Anticipated progress for the construction will be laid out in a 10-year plan lasting from 2013 until 2023 called the Facilities Master Plan, or FMP, which is currently in progress. The FMP is a collaborative effort between the urban design firm Cooper, Robertson and Partners and architect Scott Blackwell Page.



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Inside the new campus recreation center during a media tour last spring.

Both collaborating architects will be assisted by a consulting team and an advisory committee of representatives from the State University Construction Fund, University department leadership and subcommittees representing many areas within the University community.

Because the project's designers are looking to build a campus that will be large enough to sustain a growing population, they have calculated into FMP what they consider a "target growth" for the university.

By 2023, according to the draft FMP—which is available online—SBU expects to see 3,000 more students, which will necessitate 3,300 more beds. It will also boast 1.5 million gross square feet of new academic space, 580,000 gross square feet of renovated academic space and 1.20 million gross square feet of residential space.

But with the financial crisis still apparent across the country, some may wonder where the university can

find the money to fund such a large undertaking and why it would spend money on a private consulting firm's assistance.

The project's website claims that "the funds the University is using to pay for the consulting services come from a targeted gift from the Stony Brook Foundation" and that no state funds are going to be used in the initiative.

The university's consistent message is that once these research and academic facilities are built, Stony Brook will be a university of a different caliber and will attract not only more scientists and professors, but students as well.

So while students may find the construction around campus inconvenient now, and while there is no end in sight for at least ten years, it may help to remember that it's all supposed to make students' degrees a little more impressive and their time a little more enjoyable.

A guide to clubs and organizations

By Alexa Gorman
Online Editor

Stony Brook University is home to more than 300 clubs and organizations, all run by students.

At the beginning of each year, the campus-wide Involvement Fair showcases the clubs and organizations offered at Stony Brook. This year, the event will take place during Campus Lifetime on Sept. 12.

The Undergraduate Student Government oversees clubs and organizations on campus and allocates club budgets. It comprises seven

executive board members, 22 senators, four class representatives and a judiciary board. Freshmen are eligible to run for the class representative position in mid-fall.

The clubs and organizations on campus vary in size and type—from sports clubs, to dance groups, to volunteer organizations, to school subjects and graduate preparatory clubs. Requirements for each club are different, but students must have a 2.5 GPA to hold a position.

The university encourages students to get involved in some type of

extracurricular activity, and if there is nothing of interest offered, students can create their own club or organization. The step-by-step process can be found on the USG website: stonybrookusg.org.

One organization still budding at Stony Brook is Humans vs. Zombies, where students team up to see who can survive the 'zombie apocalypse' fought with Nerf guns across campus. More than 400 students signed up for the battle last year, and the club has seen significant growth in its numbers since the first game started in spring 2010.

If academia sounds more appealing, Stony Brook has ample amounts of pre-professional societies and interest groups. Volunteer organizations such as the Alternative Spring Break Outreach, or ASBO, sends student to areas in need.

USG Vice President of Communications Sophia Marsh said the best way to overcome the SBU commuter school stereotype is by getting involved and joining a club.

"It's the best way to meet people who are like-minded," she said. "And it's the best way to become part of the

FUN FACTS ABOUT SBU

-Every SBU student gets into every athletics game on campus for free with his or her SBU ID.

-SBU has more than 300 clubs and organizations on campus that all students can get involved in. A group of four students is eligible to start a new club if its purpose differs from the ones that already exist.

-Many clubs and organizations, including the Undergraduate Student Government itself, put on events during Campus Lifetime (Wednesday from 1 to 2:20 pm), which is a time when almost every student on campus does not have class.

-The Earth and Space Sciences building boasts both a planetarium and a museum.

-The Commuter Lounge in the Melville Library is open 24/7.

-On a nice day, the Staller Steps is one of the best places to hang out with friends, play sports and tan between classes.

-Students that meet specific requirements can take part in the many paid psychology experiments that take place in the Psychology building.

-Starbucks, which is on the second floor of the Union, accepts meal points.

-The atrium in the Humanities building is a beautiful and quiet space with a glass window ceiling that is great for studying.

-There are free movies offered at The Staller Center for the Arts on the largest screen in Suffolk County at 40 feet.

-Every student gets a balance of \$2 to print each day, which equals 40 single-sided pages or 25 double-sided pages. The balance rolls over and is reset on Saturday and Monday mornings.

-The Writing Center in the Humanities building, the Math Learning Center in the Math Tower, the Chemistry Learning Center in the Chemistry building and the Business Learning Center in Harriman Hall are available to students who would like extra help.

-On Fridays, the whole campus wears red to show its school spirit. In addition to earning discounts from the bookstore and the Seawolves Marketplace, you might even get free giveaways if you are spotted by faculty and staff.

-We are the Stony Brook Seawolves, and when someone asks you, "What is a Seawolf?" you reply with, "I'm a Seawolf!"

Compiled by Jaclyn Lattanza



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Classes to take and not to take

Your guide to first-year classes

By Rolyne Joseph
Contributing Writer

College students who have a deep curiosity and affection for learning new materials and concepts are welcome to take interesting and appealing D.E.C. courses, which are part of a Diversified Education Curriculum that allows students to develop knowledge and comprehension of study provided by their major during their first year at Stony Brook University.

“My goals for students to learn in class are to have logical thinking and what’s going on in the universe,” said Jin Koda, a professor who teaches AST 101, also known as Introduction to Astronomy.

AST 101 is a D.E.C. Category E course. Students will develop a broad understanding and knowledge of the solar system. The course offers a description of planets, stars, galaxies, black holes, pulsars, quasars, supernovae and white dwarfs, according to Stony Brook University academic programs.

“I believe they enroll because they are curious,” Koda said. “Not only because they need credits.”

Students who have a strong scientific knowledge of astronomy are encouraged to take AST 203, which is also a D.E.C. Category E class. This course demonstrates an examination of the physical nature of the universe. Students with knowledge of physics and mathematics can also enroll.

Students who are interested in drawing should enroll in ARS 154: Foundations of Drawing. This course is a D.E.C. Category

D. Students will use drawing equipment and tools to strengthen their craft.

“Art is one of the beautiful things that a human has to offer,” political science major Justin Gamba said. Students who take a variety of courses can enhance their thinking skills and comprehension skills. College students will have a variety range of talent and passions, according to Peterson’s College Search website.

AST 248, or The Search for Life in the Universe, is a D.E.C.

to the Stony Brook website. Students will explore how life exists in earth.

Another course to take is EST (Technology and Society) 330, Natural Disasters: Societal Impacts and Technological Solutions.

This is a D.E.C. category H course. Students learn the study of the physical causes of natural disasters and how natural disasters have an impact in society.

Among the subjects discussed in class are the use of technology, engineering, architecture, and local arrangements to lessen

aware on my surroundings and that made me watch the news more often.”

Students should have prerequisites. U3, juniors with 57-84 credits earned and U4, seniors with 85 credits or more are eligible to take this course.

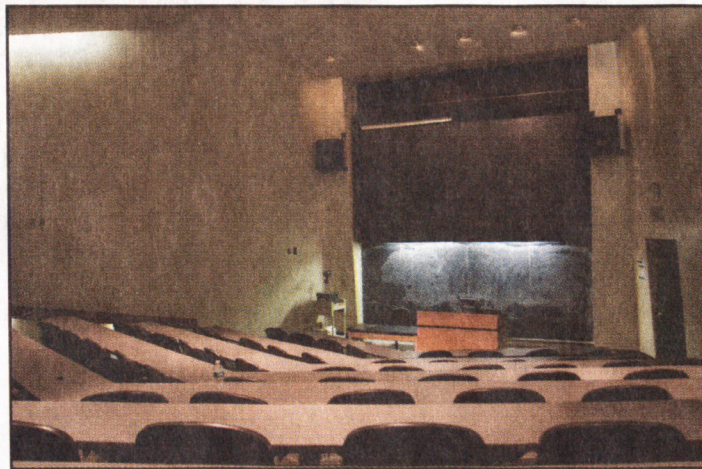
Another interesting D.E.C. course is HUI (Italian Literature and Culture Courses in English) 239: Modern Italy, a D.E.C. Category I course.

This class displays the political, social, and economic structure of Italy, as well as the study of cultural life and institutions, according to SBU Academic Programs.

“The most interesting subject I learned about Modern Italy was the section on Italian gangs and secret societies like the Camorra and the Mafia,” biology major Sophia Charlotin said. “It was very exciting to learn about their rise and fall and on how they obtained control over politicians, gained money, and lost their influence overtime due to police intervention.”

This course goes into details about the historical development of Italy, with comparisons to American models and standards. Students will have a strong understanding of the Italian culture. The course will cover materials on Italian studies, scholars of art, film and literature.

“I would definitely recommend this class to everyone who wants to learn anything about Modern Italy because the subject itself is so fascinating, and the Italian movies and documentaries I watched during this course were eye-opening and informative,” Charlotin said.



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Javits lecture halls, some of the larger lecture halls on campus.

Category E course that analyses the role of science in modern society through exploration and inquisition. The course provides students a deep understanding of the evolution of life and the development of intelligence and technology.

Among the topics that will be discussed in class are the development of life and the understanding of the atmosphere and the biosphere, according

accessibility.

Students will acquire information on the role of society on cross-cultural technology transfer and post-disaster assistance, according to SBU Academic Programs.

“You will obtain valuable information from this class,” said Kofi Acheampong, a journalism student with an interest in catastrophe and collision. “When I took this course, I became more

A guide to surviving freshman year

By Nina Lin
Staff Writer

It's August. The leaves are changing color and your parents are crying as you wave them a happy goodbye, moving your TV and five different gaming consoles into your brand new dorm room. Your stomach is rolling with nerves and excitement at the thought of the good times you're going to have breaking into the college scene.

Then there are only nerves as your parents drive away, leaving you behind to your new life. A life you had planned out a million times in your head over the summer, full of new people, new parties, new things. A life that you suddenly have no clue how to begin. How are you going to get started on all those new things if, at the moment, you're sitting on your bare mattress, contemplating the finer points of college life in an empty room?

Here's a tip: Ditch the consoles. Go outside. Get involved. There's a reason why those who are involved in campus life tend to be happier than those who aren't. Participation in school events, clubs and activities allows students to have a part in shaping their community. In a university with more than 300 clubs and sports teams, it's a guaranteed method of meeting people of like minds and interests. There are even plays and concerts at Stony Brook's Staller Center for the Arts, as well as movie nights scattered throughout the campus. Remember, staying inside your dorm room deprives you of a life outside of it.

It's also a pretty good way to waste your school tuition. Skeptical? Bring out your tuition bill and take a look at the list of fees. The average full-time student



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Students at the Holi festival last spring in Mendelsohn Quad.

pays approximately \$95 for the school's Activity Fee, \$75 for its Recreation Center and Fields fee, and \$250 for its Intercollegiate Athletic fee alone. Staying inside makes the most out of your campus resources.

That's a lot of money to throw away. Plus, working out at the various campus gyms maintained by your Stony Brook tuition fees is a good way to ditch the extra 15 pounds gained at one of the five major campus eateries – Kelly Café, Roth Café, the Union Food Court, the SAC food hall and Jasmine, SBU's premier location for Asian cuisine.

But an active social life – or the lack thereof – is not the only worrisome thing a college freshman might face. Any new dormer might have heard of The Roommate: an infamous creature that can make or break your dorm life at Stony Brook. There's nothing as worrying as living with a virtual stranger, after all. What

if he's a snorer, or sings like a frog in the shower? Or what if, one fine morning, you wake up to a vacuum hose to the face because you're just an honest slob, but he's an upright neat-freak on a Sunday morning cleaning spree?

In truth, new dormers might not realize the benefits of having one, or even two, roommates. For some, their roommates are their very first friends in a place that could feel isolating and depressing for newcomers. And for new dormers that are tripled? Three in a room meant for two might mean shared drawers and cramped quarters, but it might also mean gaining an extra friend out of the bargain.

For problems that go beyond that, Stony Brook has a Resident Assistant on every floor of every wing. Trained to ease your transition from home to college dorming, they are a great resource for just about every problem imaginable. Make friends with your RA, as well as your

neighboring hall or suite-mates. The more people you know living in the same place and situation as you, the more enjoyable dorm life will be.

Of course, though campus life could mean a plethora of new experiences for many freshmen, it is still important to remember that this is only meant to supplement your education. So listen to this next tip, which is absolutely imperative: Go to class! Believe it or not, attendance counts a great deal for your grades. Missing only one or two lectures can be enough to keep you out of the loop long enough to pull that almost A into a C-. But college might be the only place in your life where time is abundant and yours to do with as you please.

Ultimately, you are the one that decides how you invest this time—whether you study for that 4.0 GPA, use it as a springboard for your future career, or use it to do absolutely nothing. The choice is yours, so be sure to use it wisely.

Freshmen finding friends before moving in

By Sarah Elsesser
Contributing Writer

Facebook, LinkedIn, Google+ and other social networking sites not only take on the task of keeping up with old friends, but they also help people make new ones, which is a vital step in the transitional process for college freshmen.

At a university like Stony Brook, where roughly 24,000 students are enrolled, getting to know your peers on an intimate basis may seem like a daunting task.

But with social networking sites, it has become easier to get a jump start with making friends and connecting with fellow classmates.

The new trend is using Facebook to meet and talk to other incoming freshmen, as well as finding a roommate before actually setting foot on campus. Stony Brook seems to be in sync with this new phenomenon since it gave freshmen the option of

using RoomSync, an online roommate matching app run through Facebook.

RoomSync, often compared to online dating sites, asks students to fill out a short questionnaire and write a brief biography before being matched to possible roommates.

"I think RoomSync is very comprehensive and tries to find you a compatible roommate," psychology major Sharif Patwary, a freshman, said. "Although it is no match.com, it does a pretty good job."

However, people have turned away from this innovative app and looked to Facebook groups to aid them in connecting with other Seawolves. In a survey taken for this story, 74 percent of the 47 students polled admitted to not using RoomSync for different reasons. Some wanted a traditional random roommate, others already had someone in mind and a few just felt the app was inadequate.

"I thought the concept of

RoomSync was good, but in reality, the program was not all that user-friendly," said Albany Jacobson Eckert, 18, a marine vertebrate biology major. "The formatting came out all weird, which made it difficult to navigate around it. In the end, I chose to have a random roommate selection instead of requesting on RoomSync."

For those who turned to Facebook groups, they found that there were a plethora of ones to join. For example, each Undergraduate College, or UGC, has its own group, where students can connect solely with the 400 or so students that will be living in their quad. While there are six separate UGC groups, there is only one dedicated to the class of 2016. It's here that most people go to introduce themselves, confide in others about precollege jitters, ask for advice about the math placement test and simply post topics to get conversations going.

"Getting to know one another is a big game changer. It's amazing

when you already know a lot of the people before even starting the semester," electric engineering major Semir Pupovic, 18, said. "And it's not like the page is dead, too. There is always someone that's going to reply to a question you may have or give some support."

These groups aren't just great for interacting with new students, though. Any day you can find one of the 350 clubs or organizations posting information or see upperclassmen trying to sell used copies of textbooks. Besides that, 87 percent of the students polled would agree that the best part of the groups is the valuable information offered by the upperclassmen.

"The fact that many current students are only a click away and available to answer all questions or concerns is really comforting," freshman Mira Gor said. "I speak from personal experience when I say that having such groups on Facebook really made me feel like I am getting to know my peers better already, and am getting the chance to expect what college work is going to be like from student testimonies."

Gor also said, "if it weren't for the social media sites, I personally feel like I would be very lost come August, and it is because of these sites that I feel much more comfortable and confident about transitioning to college life."

Even though the point of these groups is to connect with others, one mustn't just stick to talking to people behind a computer screen. Facebook is key when you don't have the opportunity to talk to your classmates in person. However, as journalism major Robby Cimino, a freshman, puts it, "Meeting and making friends in person will never be obsolete."

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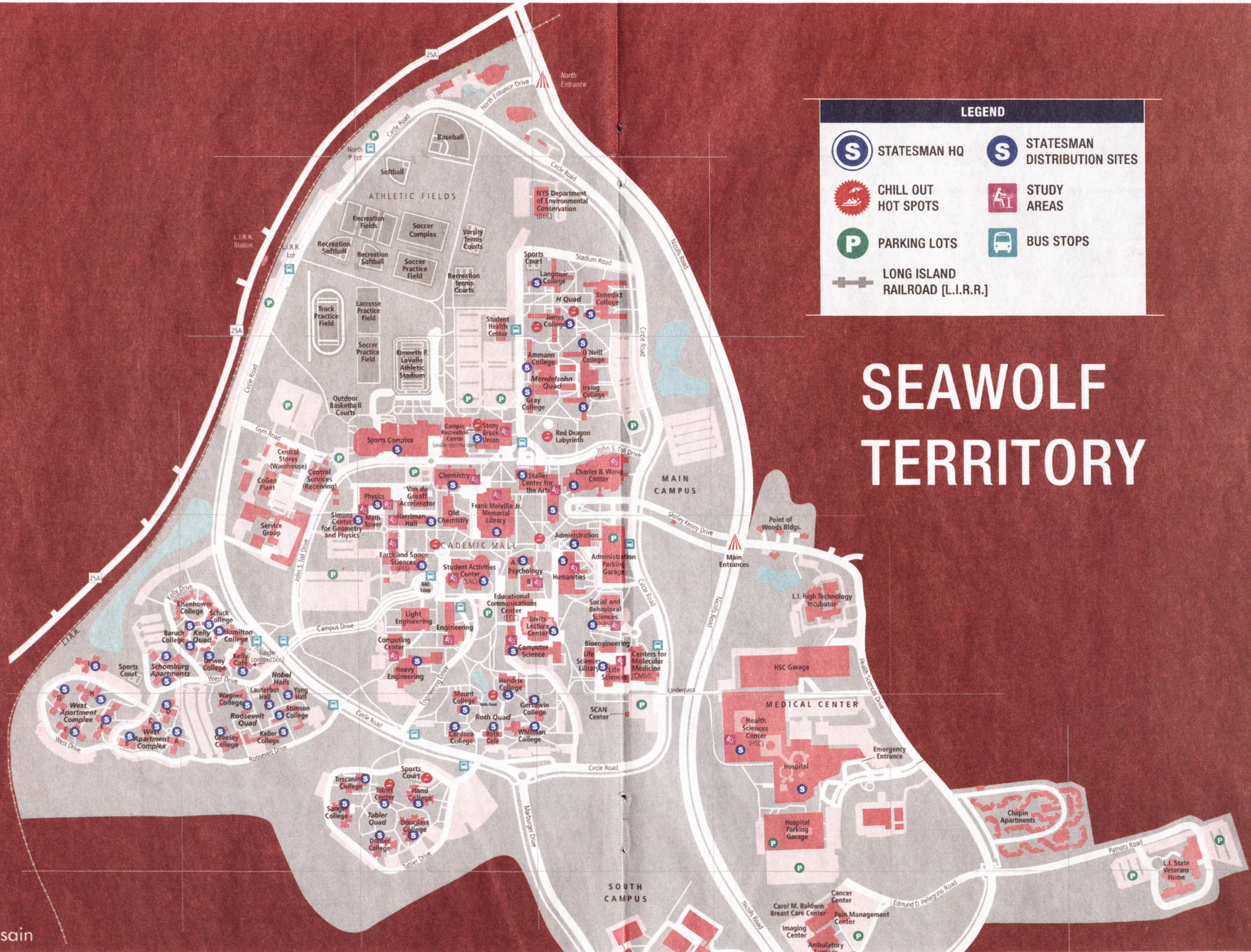
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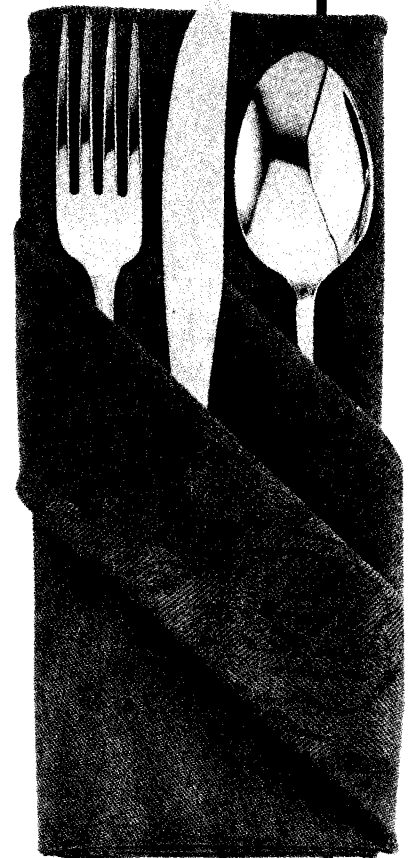
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Having fun in college

A guide to Stony Brook campus life

By Dipti Kumar
Contributing Writer

University life: BFFs, prolonged lectures, test-induced nail biting and knotted nerves.

Student life at Stony Brook University is a lot like unwrapping a gift box; the excitement builds as you inch closer to revealing what is inside.

With a campus spanning more than 1,400 acres, this place is filled with unexpected bursts of activities and an A to Z list of clubs students can be a part of.

Where do I start?

Start at the center; take a walk from the Melville Library to the Administration building and the tantalizing aromas of Jasmine will lure you through the doors of the Charles B. Wang Center. Recreating a Zen garden-like tranquility, the stark contrast in architecture is soothing here, making it a good place to find "me" time. While you soak your senses in the Asian culture and cuisine, be wary of the slightly pricy food: it can pinch your budget.

For those of us who need our meals to go, the Student Activities Center and Student Union Deli offer up a wide variety of food with an easy check out. The best part: you can make use of your ID card for more than just access zones. Put cash on your card and swipe it to earn bonus points; a big plus! If you're a campus resident, don't fret over where you could grab a bite over the weekend; both places are



EZRA MARGONO / THE STATESMAN

The Wang Center is one of the many places on campus where students can go to relax and study

open on weekends.

Need a fresh air fix?

The undulating bike paths and walkways are perfect for breathing in the clean, crisp air. Skip the boring bus rides and instead explore the campus on foot. On the other side of the LIRR is Stony Brook itself, a quiet town worth biking through where you can also indulge in the select few restaurants. If you want to rent a bike, there's a store just a couple of meters away from the station. Better yet, jump onto the train and hop off at Port Jefferson, a good weekend hangout spot. From the foot tapping notes of the jazz bars to the lip-smacking good

seafood, the streets of Port Jeff (as it is referred to by the student body) are both eclectic and exciting.

Burning the midnight oil

Study time can be monotonous, but break it up with picking different spots every other day to study. The Melville Library and the Student Union are good places to get some real work done. The most important feature these locations offer are the "SINC" sites. These computer labs allow students to print work and make for a (usually) quiet place to study.

"Lights, camera, action"

Who doesn't love watching movies and theatre? The Staller Center for the Arts keeps its schedule crisp and engaging; global films earn an audience at the film festival, unique scripts get a stage and talented musicians play the right notes. The choice is yours. Keep tabs on the bulletin boards around the campus and the campus emails so that you keep your activity calendar filled in.

Whatcha waiting for?

As the semester madness unfolds, make sure you get yourself into as many clubs as you can, and explore more than you anticipate to.

Weekend life at Stony Brook

By Chelsea Katz
Staff Writer

While some students pack up to head home for the weekend, the Weekend Life Council toils away to provide programming for students who stay on campus by co-sponsoring events with campus clubs in the hopes of creating a more exciting weekend environment.

During the 2011-2012 academic year, the council sponsored 30 events. Notable events included S'mores Indoors & A Whole Lot More, the Murder Mystery Dinner, Back to the 80s Dance, once per semester Relax-in-the-SAC programs, Putt Putt on the Plaza, monthly Game on with Gamers' Guild, Red Hot Roller Rink and more. With between 200 and 400 students participating in Weekend Life Council every week, a total of approximately 3,030 students attended weekend life events throughout the year.

"The Weekend Life Council will help any group with promoting an event," Christine Noonan, evening and weekend life coordinator, said. "We've worked collaboratively with the Gamers' Guild for the past year on co-hosting monthly game nights. I'd advise the group to contact me and I would invite them to a council meeting where we can discuss their ideas and how we can best assist."

The council also regulates the Weekend Life Grant, which is money specifically allotted to clubs and organizations seeking financial assistance for events and programming. According to Noonan, the council has no particular criteria for choosing what programs to co-sponsor. The council looks for feasibility, or how realistic the program will be; whether or not the program will enhance weekend life; and how open the event is to the student body.

Like other student services such as the Craft Center, student media organizations and other student clubs and organizations, the council receives funding from the Student Activities budget.

Before the council was founded in August



HAN TSE/THE STATESMAN

Two scenes from the Murder Mystery Dinner from a weekend life event last February. These events are held throughout the semester.

2011, students who stayed on campus went to programs sponsored by Red Hot After Hours, a group similar to the Weekend Life Council. The council put on double the amount of programs during the last academic year than Red Hot After Hours had sponsored. "The main difference between Weekend Life Council and Red Hot After Hours is that WLC last year was a paid group of 5 students, whereas Red Hot After Hours was a group of student volunteers," Noonan said. Noonan thinks that the increase in programs has to do with having a group of paid workers as compared to the past when it was just a group of student volunteers.

The Weekend Life Council consists of eight undergraduate students and one graduate student co-supervisor. Those who wish to apply to be a part of the council can find applications in emails from the Student Life email list and Facebook. The council is not, however, currently accepting



any applications, as it hired seven new students this past spring and has a full staff.

During the upcoming year, the Weekend Life Council is sponsoring a weekend-long showing of "Snow White and the Huntsman", as well as events such as Gamers' Alley, haunted laser tag and more.

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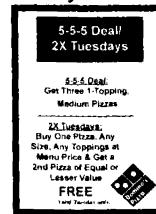
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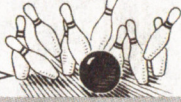
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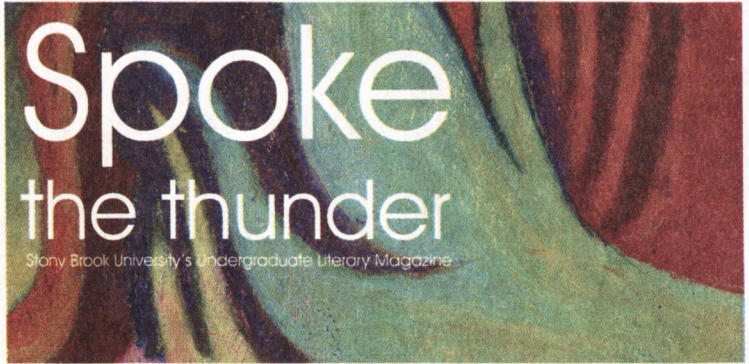
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Where to go off campus for fun

Compiled by: Chelsea Moccio

Avalon Park and Preserve: This park is a must-see for nature lovers. It is also the home of the Stony Brook Duck Pond. The park has numerous trails for enjoying the peace and serenity of the park and its lush landscape. There are numerous gardens and woods to walk through. The park is located at the intersection of Harbor Road and Main Street in Stony Brook.



Port Jefferson Village: Port Jeff, as it is commonly known, is one of the stops offered through the Suffolk Transit bus service. The village is complete with a variety of shops, from art galleries to a tea store. The port also has an ice skating rink, which is open to the public starting on November 23. The village hosts a variety of special events on certain weekends throughout the year, such as Dickens fest in December and trick-or-treating the weekend before Halloween.

The Bench: Even though you have to be 21 to drink, this restaurant and bar is still a good place to go to eat dinner and catch a game. Conveniently located behind the train tracks on 25A, this spot is a Stony Brook must-see. The campus bus routes bring you just a few minutes away from the Stony Brook student-filled establishment.



Country House Restaurant: Located on 25A, this restaurant isn't just known for its food; according to local legend, the place is haunted by the spirit of Annette Williamson, who was murdered in the house during the Revolutionary War.



New York City: With the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) stopping right on campus, NYC is only a train ride away. The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) offers free admission for all CUNY and SUNY students. The Museum of Natural History also offers a discounted rate for anyone with a SUNY ID. These museums, however, are just the tip of the iceberg; there are so many more things to do in the city. Multiple trips are needed to enjoy and experience everything that is in the city.



OPINIONS

A case in favor of studying abroad



ANUSHA MOOKHERJEE/THE STATESMAN

The rolling hills of Ireland are one place students can travel through Stony Brook's study abroad programs.

By Anusha Mookherjee
Opinions Editor

Studying abroad has always been something I wanted to fit into my years at Stony Brook. Taking advantage of the available short-term study abroad programs, I got to experience a three-week program in Ireland. It was by far the best way to get credits: studying under a wonderful professor and having all of Ireland as my textbook provided me with the hands-on learning experience I've always wanted. Yet along with my study abroad came some unwanted aspects of traveling with a group you don't know.

The only word I could use to describe my study abroad experience is 'unique.' As an experienced and well-traveled person, I didn't bond with the group and instead spent my three weeks with someone closer to my personality. Without the constant presence of a group, I was able to really experience the culture and

heritage of Ireland on my own terms. I took in more than I ever imagined from my experiences. Aside from the educational side, the social and cultural differences that I noticed on my trip made me realize the importance of the study abroad program.

It's hard to ignore the fact that abroad, many people just don't like Americans. They perceive us as loud, obnoxious and arrogant, and to say that most of the group lived up to this image would be an understatement. Most of the world sees this country to possess characteristics; it was unfortunate to see a small group hold up the stereotypes in just a few short weeks.

I'd say that the most important job of the study abroad program is to introduce students to other cultures and to give students the opportunity to realize that the stereotypes that most countries have about the American persona are true.

The people of Ireland were not

ready for the level of complaining that came from the group. Even the hotel staff's attempts to provide the best possible accommodations, food and hospitality weren't enough to meet the high level of overindulgence that the group were used to back in the U.S. It would be unfair for me to say I'm not a little spoiled myself, but I also learned very quickly that what we get at home is normally not the standard abroad. Just to be fair, I have a lot of experience traveling, yet nothing prepared me for this experience. The U.S. is very relaxed with its social norms, whereas Europe is not. To be blunt, it was embarrassing to walk with the group when the volume of their conversations was higher than the music coming out of pubs.

Some of the friends I made on that trip were incredible. A friend I made there,

Robbie, who was a paramedic, taught me about the EMS system in Ireland and even gave me a patch to bring home. The pub of the hostel

where we stayed had an amazing band that dedicated songs to my friend and me every night they played. The staff would hang out with us and always kept a watchful eye over us when we couldn't handle the environment we were in. Even in Dublin, the students attending Trinity College were willing to give us a tour of the city.

I highly recommend that everyone—especially those on the fence—take advantage of study abroad programs, even if it is just for a short-term program. The experiences, stories, friendships and cultural understandings you learn will stick with you and open your eyes to countries you may otherwise never get the chance to travel to. Ireland is a beautiful country rich in history. Its citizens are proud to be Irish and are some of the most hospitable people I've met on all my travels. Though I still have another two years at this university, I can safely say that my time in Ireland will be the highlight of my college experience.

Forget the myths you've heard about greek life

By **Alexa Gorman**
Online Editor

I am not a sorority girl. I don't parade around like Elle Woods. I don't scoff at people who wear anything but designer. I didn't get locked in a basement for "sisterhood" purposes before my initiation.

I am a girl in a sorority. My Greek letters do not define me, but they are a part of who I have become in college. I never thought I'd join a sorority in college, but it was probably the best decision I could have made as a freshman.

The Greek community at Stony Brook University is not typical, but it does give students a unique experience to say the least. Greeks make up about five percent of students, which is a relatively low number compared to other colleges across the country. The tight-knit community is part of what makes the SBU experience different—we are a continuously growing community with the common understanding of brother and sisterhood.

"From the outside looking in, you can't describe it. From the inside looking out you can't explain it." This quote has been used frequently during recruitment—and it's completely true. I can't explain what my sisters mean to me or how great it is to be a part of the Greek community, but I'll try.

In 2009, I was a freshman. I was initiated into my sorority in the spring semester of 2010, along with some of my closest friends. Some joined the same organization, while others ended up in different fraternities. Shortly after we were all initiated, our letters did not matter because a tragedy struck our community. Two members of the Alpha Phi Delta fraternity passed away in a car accident in late April. I had the pleasure of knowing one of those men.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXA GORMAN

An Alpha Sigma Alpha event early last year.

Letters and organizations did not matter that day. We were all deeply affected because we understood what the brotherhood meant. We stood together, laughed together, cried together, mourned and celebrated those no longer with us because we could all appreciate the fact that it could have been any one of us in that car.

It's been two years since the accident, and when I attended the memorial service a few months ago, I stood with the same group of girls. I saw the same faces. I comforted the same friends.

Some schools have individual Greek organizations with 400 members. SBU has about 400 members in the Greek system in total. Freshmen can participate in recruitment their first semester, but cannot be initiated into an

organization until their second semester if they have a 2.5 GPA or above.

Each chapter—comprising the specific people at SBU—hosts educational events, fundraisers and social events throughout the year. The core values of the Stony Brook Fraternity and Sorority Life are academic excellence, service, personal development, leadership, brotherhood/sisterhood and multiculturalism.

I never thought I would have spent my college years in a sorority, but it's my home away from home. My letters do not define who I am, but they made me a well-rounded person and gave me a fulfilling college experience. So, even if you don't think Greek life is for you, come check us out. You'd be surprised where you end up.

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SPORTS

What's in store for SBU Football



KENNETH HO / THE STATESMAN

Miguel Maysonet (#5) dove into the endzone during last years homecoming game.

By David O'Connor
Managing Editor

There is probably only one thing more difficult than achieving greatness: doing it again.

However, that is precisely what the Stony Brook University football team will have to accomplish this fall semester. After conquering the Big South Conference and proceeding to the second round of the FCS tournament, the Seawolves have a lot to live up to.

It is the 11th season of Big South football, and Stony Brook will look to win its third conference title. The first came in the fall of 2009, when the Seawolves shared the championship with Liberty University. The second came last year as Stony Brook played Liberty once again in the final game of the regular season, defeating the Flames 41-31 to conclude as part of a

nine-game win streak.

But that was then, and anyone paying too much attention to past success will forget that Stony Brook is now in the position of the 'hunted,' the inevitable result of being the champion. The rest of the Big South will look to dethrone them.

The Seawolves' first test of the season will come on Sept. 1 at their home, LaValle Stadium, as they host their former Northeastern Conference rival, the Central Connecticut Blue Devils.

After a second home game against Pace University, Stony Brook will have an exciting month ahead with two games being broadcast on television. The first such game will be against Syracuse University at the Orange's home on Sept. 15 on SNY. The second televised game will be against Army at the United States Military Academy in West Point,

N.Y. That game will be at noon on Sept. 29 on CBS Sports Network.

Two weeks later, the Seawolves will begin their conference schedule with an away game at Coastal Carolina University on Oct. 13. It will be the first of five conference games for the team. After the first of these, Stony Brook will play two of them at home and two of them on the road.

Once again, Stony Brook will wrap up the regular season against Liberty. This time the game will occur in Lynchburg, Va., the site of the Flames' crushing victory two years ago. This time, however, the Seawolves have no intentions of history's repeating itself.

Going into the season, members of the Stony Brook squad have already been designated for the preseason all-conference team. On the offensive side were junior offensive

lineman Michael Bamiro, senior running back Miguel Maysonet and senior quarterback Kyle Essington. Maysonet was also named Big South Preseason Offensive Player of the Year. Junior linebacker Jawara Dudley and senior defensive back Dominick Reyes represented the Seawolves on the defensive side of the all-conference roster.

Maysonet stands upon the precipice of school and conference history. He has currently accumulated 2,761 yards in his career at Stony Brook. This is in fifth place in conference history, 873 yards short of the record set by former Liberty and Jacksonville Jaguar player Rashad Jennings. He is also 847 yards shy of Conte Cuttino's '10 school record.

With all this in mind and more, Seawolves football is looking to show that they have yet another conference title in them.

Soccer looks to repeat America East win

By **Jaelyn Lattanza**
Staff Writer

With schedules' including games against teams in the Big East and Atlantic 10, the Stony Brook men's and women's soccer teams are looking forward to challenging but exciting fall seasons.

The Stony Brook men's soccer team finished off the fall season as the America East Champions for the third time in school history with an overall 10-6-4 record and fell just one point short to Monmouth in the first round of the NCAA tournament. It completed its spring season with an undefeated 4-0-0 record.

Defending its title this fall will be 13 returning letterwinners, including seniors Leonardo Fernandes, who was named 2010 and 2011 Midfielder of the Year, and 2011 Striker of the Year Berian Gobiel. "We are excited," head coach Ryan Anatol said. "We have a big senior class that has a lot of experience. We are going to lean on our senior class as a whole."

However, he added that he is also excited to welcome his 2012 recruiting class, which is a "good mix of older experience" and young. He is expecting great things from junior transfer from South Florida defender Marius Krathe and freshman

midfielder Martin Giordano.

The Seawolves will play a tough 17-game schedule in the 2012 fall season against Big East and Atlantic 10 teams. Their home opener will be on Friday, Aug. 31, against Lehigh at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium, three days after they take on Big East opponent Villanova. The Seawolves will face Atlantic 10 teams when they compete at the Kentucky Invitational in Lexington, K.Y. Sept. 7-9.

As head coach for only his second season at Stony Brook, Anatol is excited for the 2012 fall season. Although he said the team likes to keep its goals in-house and in the locker room, he said "our focus has always been on us getting better on a daily basis. We set the bar high and reaching our potential is our number one priority."

After finishing the fall season with an overall record of 4-12-1 and falling short of the America East tournament, the Stony Brook women's soccer team, like the men's team, finished off the year with a successful 5-0-4 undefeated spring season, defeating the Japanese All-Star Touring team, Northeastern and Columbia. Head Coach Sue Ryan, who was named the 2011 recipient of the NSCAA Women's Committee Award of Excellence after being the



EZRA MARGONO / THE STATESMAN

Men's soccer won its third America East title last year.

coach for 27 years and collecting 195 career wins, told goseawolves.org. "We are excited for the season to get underway and to continue on the foundation that we established in the spring season."

Stony Brook returns 18 letterwinners, including eight of its top nine scorers from last year. Among those 18 are senior midfielder Sasha Kershaw and sophomore midfielder Regan Bosnyak, who were honored in the fall 2011 postseason awards. Kershaw was named second-team All Conference and Bosnyak gained All-Rookie consideration. The team

will also welcome 11 newcomers: ten freshmen and one transfer.

"Next season, with the help of our freshmen, we hope to show the conference who we really are and what we plan to achieve," associate head coach Steve Welham told goseawolves.org.

The Seawolves will play nine matches at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium and will face St. John's and Rutgers of the Big East this season. Their home opener will be two days after their four road-game run on Sunday, Aug. 19 against Temple at 2 p.m.

Replacements are key for Volleyball

By **Brandon Berger**
Staff Writer

Bump, set, spike! The women's volleyball team looks to continue its success in its 2012 campaign, just as it did in 2011. Last year, the Seawolves, led by senior Alicia Nelson, made it to the America East final, where they eventually fell to Albany after finishing the year 15-13. The women's volleyball

team looks to build on last year by replacing key players and ultimately getting back to the America East final and winning.

To replace their key seniors from the 2011 team, head coach Deb DesLauriers added four freshmen, all looking to make an impact on the team. As coach DesLauriers said on goseawolves.org, "I couldn't be more excited to welcome Melissa, Shelby, Stephanie and Nicole to the

Stony Brook family. They each are talented and skilled players who will be great additions to our program. But more importantly they are exactly the type of student-athletes that we want on our team."

The Seawolves open up 2012 with the Black Knights Invitational, held at West Point, against Indiana on August 24th. The Yale Classic, Rose Hill Classic and SHU Invitational follow, leading up to the start of

the 2012 season on September 25th against LIU at home. Stony Brook looks to get revenge for the America East final against Albany on September 30th and October 26th. The Seawolves are looking to continue the success of Stony Brook Athletics as a whole with a stellar season this year. With the support of the Stony Brook community in the stands, the Seawolves will be a team to watch out for in the America East.

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