

THE BROOK

JUST APES WITH TROUSERS?



Evolution vs. Creation

Four Views

From President Shirley Strum Kenny

We are certainly starting our next 50 years with a flourish. Our School of Journalism has unveiled its “Newsroom of the Future,” a high-tech information hub where students can gather and disseminate news simultaneously for broadcast, online, and in print. New York Blue, one of the five fastest super-computers for non-military purposes, was recently unveiled at Brookhaven National Lab. And I am happy to announce that Eric Kaler has been appointed Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Two things that set Stony Brook apart are our wide-ranging research and life-affirming humanitarian efforts. I experienced both on a recent trip to Madagascar, a country of stark contrasts, with breathtaking beauty and extreme poverty.

My husband Bob and I traveled with Dr. David Krause, a renowned paleontologist in our Department of Anatomical Sciences, to the remote village of Berivotra, where he and his research team have made major fossil discoveries. On this trip,



With children from the Sekoly Riambato.

however, Dr. Krause and his colleagues from the School of Dental Medicine were interested in dentation of a much more recent vintage. In less than two weeks, a dental team of four fourth-year students and two faculty saw nearly 600 patients and extracted more than 1,800 teeth. They even saved the life of an eight-year-old boy who had a severe oral infection. We also visited the *Sekoly Riambato* (Malagasy for Stony Brook School), built by the Madagascar Ankizy Fund, a charity founded by Dr. Krause to construct schools and provide education for Malagasy children.

Our travels also took us to the lush tropical rain forest in south-east Madagascar, where we were able to glimpse rare species of lemurs. Stony Brook anthropologist Dr. Patricia Wright, in addition to her discovery of new lemur species, played a primary role in the creation of Ranomafana National Park. She is a MacArthur “Genius” and has been awarded a knighthood from the government of Madagascar.

Our trip to Madagascar once again confirmed that Stony Brook is improving the lives of people around the globe. I am extremely proud of all we have accomplished. The smiles on those beautiful young faces speak eloquently of why your continuing support of this great University is so important.

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On our cover: Illustration by Milton Glaser

What's New On Campus



Stony Brook Southampton's inaugural class poses in front of the campus' historic windmill.

Stony Brook Southampton Welcomes Trailblazer Class

Opening weekend for the nearly 150 trailblazers in Stony Brook Southampton's inaugural class was anything but run-of-the-mill. In the five-day orientation that began August 30, students at the University's new college of sustainability posed for a historic photograph, planted a "First Year" tree, and enjoyed a memorable dinner with the Dean and new faculty that featured a gourmet menu and biodegradable "spudware".

Spirits were high as the new students navigated the developing campus and moved into the renovated Southold and Amagansett residence halls with help from a group of goodwill ambassadors—members of the University's Residence Life Executive Board.

At the opening reception, President Shirley Strum Kenny and Dean Martin Schoonen welcomed the students to the small and caring community. At dinner later that day those concepts came to life as Dean Schoonen, faculty members, and administrators circulated among the new students with trays of hors d'oeuvres.

Freshman Kevin Bocanegra Guzman from New York City commented on the tangible sense of community and common purpose on campus: "I'm all about helping individuals, and at this college you can help an individual as well as help a whole community and the world."

Students and faculty posed on the hillside in front of the windmill for a "trailblazing" group photo that captured the energy of this great adventure. "This is a watershed moment," remarked Dean Schoonen. "We've transformed a concept into reality."

Said freshman Judith Rosena, "I'm proud, because it's such a small school, and we're the pioneering class."

New Provost Named



Eric W. Kaler, former Dean of the University of Delaware's College of Engineering, has been appointed Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Kaler, a chemical engineer, became Stony Brook's ninth Provost in October.

"Eric Kaler is just the right person at just the right time to lead the development and expansion of our academic programs in the 21st century," said President Shirley Strum Kenny. "As a scholar, scientist, and administrator, Eric is extremely well prepared to take on this important role."

Kaler succeeds Robert L. McGrath, who stepped down as Provost to focus on his role as Vice President for Brookhaven Affairs. McGrath had been Provost since 2000.

"I am extraordinarily excited to take on this challenging position," Kaler said. "Stony Brook has in a very short time emerged as one of the country's leading research universities, and I look forward to helping that growth continue and accelerate."

At Delaware, Kaler led an engineering school that has consistently ranked among the best in the nation since he was named Dean in 2000. During his term, the College of Engineering grew from 900 to 1,200 under-

graduate students, and research funding nearly doubled to almost \$50 million annually.

Kaler has an active research program in the areas of thermodynamics, microstructure, and materials synthesis properties of complex fluids. In 1984, he was one of the first to receive a Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation.

da Vinci Robot Debuts

Stony Brook University Medical Center became the first on Long Island and in New York City to acquire the da Vinci® S HD™ Surgical System, the most technically advanced robotic-assisted surgical system. The new da Vinci robot makes it possible for surgeons to perform complex procedures without large incisions by way of superior visualization, enhanced dexterity, and greater precision. Patients experience shorter recovery times and better outcomes with the da Vinci robot, compared to conventional surgery.

The Medical Center invested approximately \$2.5 million to purchase and activate the robot. Initially, it will be used to treat prostate cancer patients needing radical prostatectomy. However, plans are underway to incorporate the da Vinci robot for other urologic procedures, as well as for applications in general, cardiac, gynecologic, and pediatric surgery.

Rahuldev (Rahul) Bhalla, M.D., a nationally recognized expert in minimally invasive and robotic surgery, has joined the Department of Urology as Director of Robotics and Minimally Invasive Surgery. He will proctor faculty on the capabilities of the surgical system. ■



Dr. Bhalla heads robotic surgery program.

Compiled and written by Shelley Catalano

Research Roundup

Cutting-edge research culled from Stony Brook's best and brightest minds.



The cultural impact of actress Anna May Wong is among topics explored in Lim's book.

Asian American Idols

Shirley Jennifer Lim, an assistant professor in the Department of History, came up with the idea for her first book as an undergraduate when she realized no one else had written on the topic. *A Feeling of Belonging: Asian American Women's Popular Culture, 1930-1960* (New York University Press) highlights the cultural activities of young, predominantly unmarried Asian American women from 1930 to 1960, a crucial period in which American-born Asians began to make their presence felt in the United States. Despite their legal status as citizens, Asian Americans continued to struggle to claim cultural American citizenship in this era of racial segregation, Lim notes. But through their American cultural practices—wearing poodle skirts, going to the beach, and competing in beauty pageants—Lim shows how these women asserted not just their American-ness, but their humanity.

“When I started doing the research for the book there was only one historical scholarly book on Asian American women's history. People told me there were not enough records to write another history. So I was delighted and surprised when I found such wonderful sources as sorority records and youth magazines.”

By combing through archives of magazines, yearbooks, and films, Lim explored topics such as the nation's first Asian American sorority, Chi Alpha Delta; the impact of Chinese American actress Anna May Wong, a famous and successful stage and screen actress of the 20th century; and Asian American youth culture and beauty pageants.

Lim, who teaches courses such as the “Damned and the Beautiful: Race and Gender in 20th-Century Youth Culture” and “U.S. Women of Color,” is now working on a comparison of the careers of entertainers Josephine Baker and Anna May Wong in Europe in the 1920s.

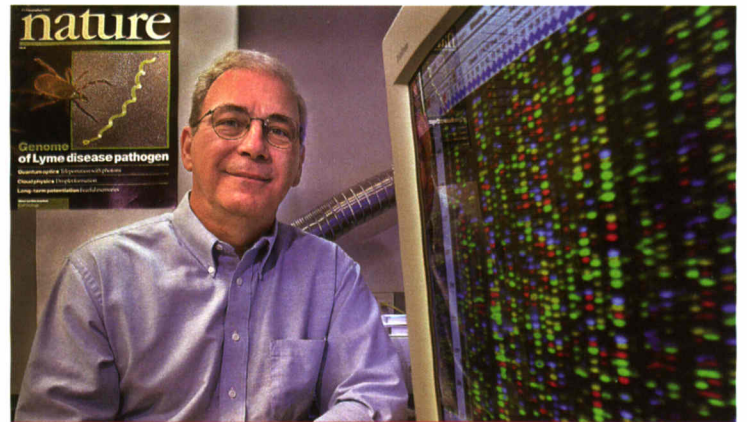
Demystifying Pain in Dementia Patients

How do you determine the pain a dementia patient is suffering and treat them when they can't communicate? Researchers at the Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook University believe they have a tool that will help better assess the pain of Alzheimer's and other dementia patients, and with a \$797,929 grant from the New York State Department of Health (DOH), they can now study the effectiveness of that tool. The grant for this three-year study will fund a collaborative project with two other nursing homes, Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Center and the Maria Regina Residence. Dr. Frank Cervo, Veterans Home Medical Director, is the principal investigator. Co-investigators include Dr. Lory E. Bright-Long, medical director, Maria Regina; Dr. Suzanne Fields, Chief of the Division of Geriatrics and General Internal Medicine at Stony Brook University Hospital and medical director, Gurwin; Patricia Bruckenthal, associate professor of Clinical Nursing, Stony Brook; and John Chen, associate professor and biostatistician, Department of Preventive Medicine, Stony Brook.

The grant will study the functional assessment tool that the Veterans Home created with a previous DOH grant. The tool, CPAT (Certified Nursing Assistant Pain Assessment Tool), is used by Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs)—the primary caregivers for residents—to determine the pain level of their patients. According to Dr. Cervo, this new grant will allow the researchers to evaluate CPAT to see if it is reliable and if its use will improve the quality of life of nursing home residents with dementia, reduce their pain, and improve their function. The easy-to-use tool—which asks CNAs to observe patients and check off boxes indicating a patient's behavior, facial expressions, mood, and mobility—is already being utilized at the Veterans Home.

Knocking Out Lyme Disease

Researchers at Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) are collaborating on groundbreaking research that could lead to a vaccine that may help eliminate Lyme disease. The scientists have received their second Lyme disease-related patent for developing chimeric, or “combination,” proteins that may advance the development of vaccines and diagnostic tests for Lyme disease. The technology combines two proteins, OspA and OspC, which are normally present on the surface of the *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacterium that causes Lyme disease, but at different parts of the organism's life cycle. “Combining pieces of these two proteins into one chimeric protein should trigger a ‘one-two-punch’ immune response more capable of fending off the bacterium than either protein alone,” says Brookhaven biologist John Dunn, a researcher on the BNL Lyme disease team. “These chimeric proteins could also be used to distinguish disease-causing strains of bacteria from relatively harmless ones, and help assess the severity of an infection.”



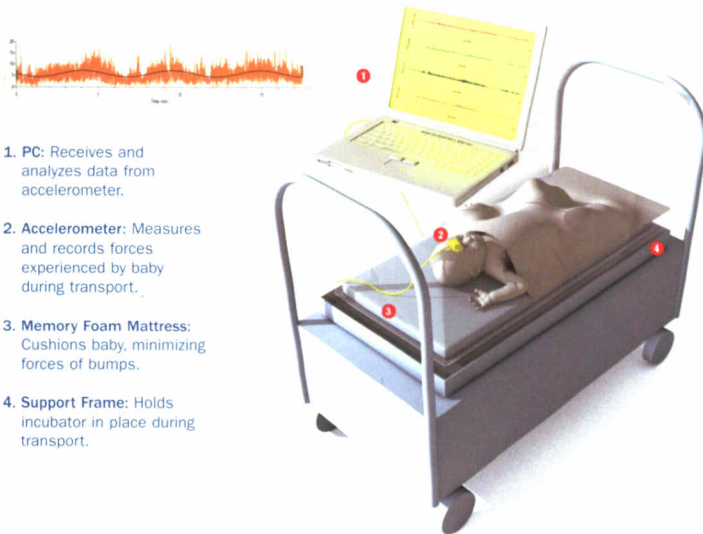
Biologist John Dunn is on the BNL team working to develop a Lyme disease vaccine.

PHOTOS (LEFT TO RIGHT): CAROL VAN VECHTEN; COURTESY BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

Ultimately, the research could lead to a vaccine that is effective at different stages of the organism's life cycle. With Lyme disease as the most common vector-borne disease in the United States—with approximately 25,000 new cases each year and growing—the development of a vaccine is critical to stopping the spread of this infection.

Preemie-um Ride

Premature babies and other infants have long received special care by Dr. Shetal I. Shah, an assistant professor of Neonatology in Stony Brook's Department of Pediatrics. But now preemies across the country may benefit from his recent revolutionary invention, for which Shah was named by *Technology Review* magazine as one of the top innovators worldwide under the age of 35. His invention, which measures forces imparted on preemies during transport or trauma, will help doctors better treat their tiny patients.



1. **PC:** Receives and analyzes data from accelerometer.
2. **Accelerometer:** Measures and records forces experienced by baby during transport.
3. **Memory Foam Mattress:** Cushions baby, minimizing forces of bumps.
4. **Support Frame:** Holds incubator in place during transport.

Dr. Shah's invention measures forces imparted on preemies during transport.

"Any time a premature infant requires transport to a state-of-the-art, highly specialized NICU [neonatal intensive care unit] such as Stony Brook, the device could be used to minimize the inflammation associated with those external forces, ultimately mitigating the increased risk of complications," Shah explains.

"Measuring secondary forces, their effects on the body, and what levels of force are considered safe is novel," he continues. "The basic premise is that mechanical forces transmitted to our bodies create inflammation, which is detrimental to everyone, but particularly to newborns, who have larger-than-normal responses to inflammation. These excessive responses have been linked to everything from neonatal chronic lung disease (also called Broncho-Pulmonary Dysplasia) to bleeding in the brain."

Shah adapted an accelerometer to measure forces of trauma on the body. The device is secured to the newborn and gives doctors a "dosage" reading of how much acceleration (per unit time and cumulatively over the entire transport) the preemie experienced. This will help physicians better gauge the risk of developing co-morbid conditions. In addition to the accelerometer, Shah developed a transport system (patent pending) to help cushion the preemies, ensuring a smoother, safer ride on their road to health. The military is studying the potential of this system to protect and transport soldiers with head trauma.

For his next project, Shah and his colleagues are working to understand better the unique inflammatory response associated with medical transport in preemies, which may lead to the development of anti-inflammatory medication to decrease the stress of trauma/transport.

To view the list of all the innovators under 35 named in *Technology Review*, visit www.technologyreview.com ■

On the Horizon

A team led by Serge Luryi, distinguished professor and chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has received an award of \$4 million from the Department of Homeland Security over the next five years to develop a radiation detector with superior isotope identification and directional capability. The new detection technology will better identify "dirty bombs," which are a possible terrorist threat to the United States. "The main issue of interest to Homeland Security applications is not the sensitivity of a radiation detector, but its ability to discriminate between harmful and benign nuclear materials. This is the key to eliminating false alarms in apprehending nuclear terrorists," Luryi says.



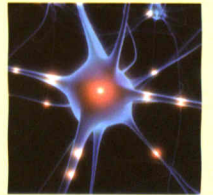
High-tech bomb detection

Joan Broderick, a research associate professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, has been awarded a \$3.2 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to conduct an effectiveness trial on "Coping Skills Training for Arthritis." Broderick reports that clinical trials have shown that Pain Coping Skills Training (CST) for arthritis reduces pain, improves physical functioning, and reduces psychological distress. Through this grant, Broderick will test an innovative health-care model that integrates CST into patients' community medical setting/physician offices through nurse practitioners. "If the trial is successful, it will set the stage for training nurses to provide treatment to improve the quality of life of millions of arthritis patients," says Broderick.



Coping with arthritis

Joel Levine, a professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, has received an \$825,000 grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to investigate remyelination in the central nervous system (CNS) when it is affected by multiple sclerosis (MS). MS is an autoimmune disorder that leads to chronic loss of myelin, the protective sheath of proteins and phospholipids around CNS nerves. Levine and his colleagues will be working to find out what factors contribute to the remyelinating that occurs in nerve cells in the early stages of MS and what causes it to cease eventually in long-term, chronic MS. The knowledge gained in these studies may lead to possible treatments to protect and rebuild nervous system tissues.



Myelin loss in MS patients

Three professors in the Department of Computer Science—C.R. Ramakrishnan, R. Sekar, and Scott Stoller—won a \$2.1 million grant from the Office of Naval Research for Advanced Research on Software Security for a project whose goal is to eliminate the threat of cyber attacks. Cyber attacks often exploit the process of a computer trusting information received from external sources. Most computer systems lack the means to correlate the trustworthiness of specific data elements, potentially opening the door to invasions. The project will develop techniques and tools for enforcing and maintaining trust relationships in computer systems with service-oriented architectures.

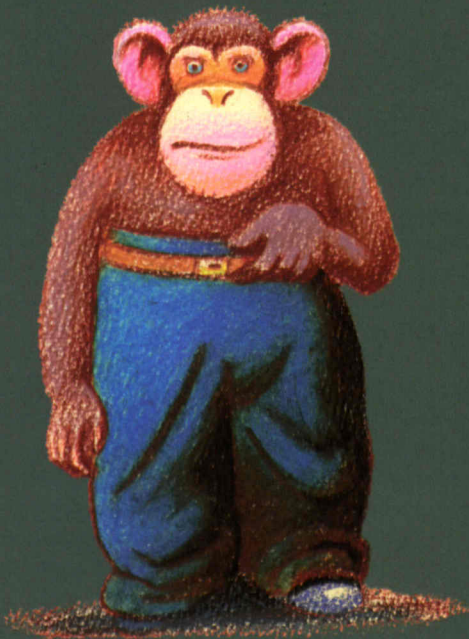


New cyber security tools

Evolution vs. Creation

Faith, Science, and Trust

Four views on the subject.



I used to host holiday dinners at which guests included my great-aunt Debbie, a John Birch Society member, and my uncle Eugene on the other side of the family,

a Marxist. Debbie and Eugene knew their beliefs were incompatible, and they would always snipe at but avoid each other. One Thanksgiving, it finally happened—Debbie and Eugene exchanged words! The rest of us froze, hoping to overhear every profound and surely antagonistic remark. It was the biggest letdown in family history. The two politely discussed a local highway construction project—safe territory. It wasn't worth the eavesdropping.

I remember this episode whenever I hear of encounters between science and religion, which seem to be growing as harsh as ever in what is generally described as a battle of beliefs. We see it in book titles like Christopher Hitchens' recent diatribe, *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*, and Richard Dawkins' *The God Delusion* of a few years ago. On the other side, we see it in Christian fundamentalists who entirely dismiss evolution, and in some Buddhists who, as the Dalai Lama remarks, see science as a "killer of religion".

When evolutionary scientists refuse even to testify at legislative hearings on bills that would allow the teaching of creationism in schools, it's easy to forget that a conversation actually is possible. But how can we make it interesting?

The problem—strange as it may sound—is that neither science nor religion is ultimately about beliefs. If they were, they would be as insubstantial as the houses in that Monty Python skit that are held up by the beliefs of the occupants, and which crumble when the beliefs waver.

Science and religion stand on thicker ground than that. One reason is that a key element they share is trust. All human experience—from having relationships, hiring nannies, and electing politicians, to mailing letters, boarding aircraft, and even, it now seems, brushing your teeth and playing with toy trains—depends on trust. Without trust, life would grind to a halt like a machine drained of oil.

Trust is crucial to scientists and religious believers in this sense: Both have to defer to others about things beyond one's knowledge. These include data, theories, and findings for the scientist; the meaning of scriptures and rituals, and which leaders to follow, for the believer.

And both groups have to trust something more intangible: the scientific life and the religious life, respectively. For at the core, if not

sometimes the surface, of science and religion is a kind of humility. For scientists, it is the awareness that we don't know enough about the natural world; we know only fragments, and not all that we can. For believers in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, the humility lies in the awareness that the way we humans ordinarily lead our lives is imperfect, that we aren't all that we can be.

Scientists react to this humility by engaging in scientific inquiry, while religious believers respond by living a spiritual life, seeing one's life as a response to a call rather than as a career.

Scientists tend to be interested in the objects of trust—in trustworthy theories, techniques, and data—but know that their research can bring them to doubt such things. Religious people tend to be more interested in the first-person experience of trusting, being betrayed, and regaining trust. They are more conscious, too, that trusting is not something we choose but is forced on us from birth.

As Joseph Godfrey of St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia said recently at a seminar on this subject at Stony Brook University sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation: Religion teaches that we should trust not "human beings or chariots or a king"—not doctrines, or the military or money—but the spiritual life.

Also, institutions of each have been shaken by controversies involving trust. Scientific institutions have been charged with covering up unsafe practices, while convictions of priests for sexual abuse have undermined trust in religious institutions.

Striking parallels emerge in how scientific and religious institutions handle such episodes, ranging from ignoring and covering up the problems to addressing them quickly and forthrightly.

Science and religion have much at stake in understanding trust. Let's get the scientists and religious believers talking, not about their beliefs, but how they form and defend them. That would be a conversation worth overhearing.

Robert P. Crease is chairman of the Department of Philosophy and organizer of the Trust Institute at Stony Brook. His latest book is Ten Great Equations: Descriptions of Nature that Transformed Humanity.

Richard Leakey on the E-Word, The Good Book, and the World's Longest Commute



PHOTOS: HUMAN ORIGINS PROGRAM, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. PHOTO COMPOSITE COURTESY OF DOUGLAS THEOBALD. WWW.TALKORIGINS.ORG

"You can ask anyone to look at these fossils...if you look at all of them, you are left with the conclusion that if you are moving from left to right, having put at the left the oldest and the right the youngest... you see more and more of ourselves in the fossils."—Richard Leakey

Many Americans believe that God created human beings in their present form exactly the way the Bible describes it, according to a 2007 Gallup Poll. And during the first Republican presidential debate this past May, three of the 10 candidates for president raised their hands when asked who did not believe in evolution. Maybe that's why Richard Leakey, visiting professor at Stony Brook, who with his famous family has uncovered incontrovertible fossil proof of the evolution of mankind, wryly calls it "the E-word." The Brook's Carol R. Richards interviewed the 63-year-old paleoanthropologist on campus about evolution, climate change, and why he chose to commute from Kenya to Stony Brook.

The Brook Does it frustrate you that so many Americans refuse to believe the scientific evidence of evolution?

Richard Leakey It's extraordinary that a nation as successful and as powerful as the United States could conceivably have an education system that produces this sort of result.

The Brook I think every public school in America teaches the science. What seems to be causing the problem is the religion. Going back to this Gallup Poll, the people who deny evolution are older, less educated, and go to church more frequently. [See chart on page 14.]

Richard Leakey It speaks well of your evangelicals and their impact on science teaching. If you are really taught science well from an early age you certainly have the ability to think it through for yourself. I don't think science is well taught to a majority of kids in this country.

The Brook Your father wrote a book in 1934 called *Adam's Ancestors: An Up-to-Date Outline of What is Known About the Origin of Man*. Now he wouldn't have mentioned Adam if he weren't keenly aware that this was the crux, religion vs. the science that has uncovered the history of mankind. Darwin knew it, too. He was aware that the theory of evolution would upset people terribly. One biographer suggests he delayed writing his book because he had to figure out how to say it in such a way that it wouldn't get him into trouble with Victorian understanding of the way the world worked.

Richard Leakey Try lack of understanding about the way the world worked.

The Brook Yes, the Victorians were following the biblical teaching. Actually, you were getting to the answer of my question before I could ask it! My question is: what can you tell folks who basically say that, "It says it in the Bible and so it must be true and so I believe." What do you say to these people?

Richard Leakey Well, what I say to them is two things: First, if you wish to set your life on parables, for which there is no actual evidence but which is simply wisdom passed from generation to generation for several thousand years, and for which you ask no critical questions as to how or how do we know it is true, but you prefer to take it as blind faith, then there's very little that we can talk about in any argument—because the basis of your position is quite diametrically opposed to the basis of my position, which is based on things that I can hold, I can measure, I can see, I can feel, and I can find more of. So there is no discussion.

The second thing I would say is that there are far more people in the world than there are fundamentalist Americans. And there are far more people in the world than there are fundamentalists. And there are far more Christians than there are evangelicals. And basically the vast majority of people of faith have no difficulty with the teaching of science including biological sciences that require evolution as an explanation for transformation from one condition of life to another. Now if you've got a closed vision that has been drummed into you from an early stage, I don't think we can change you. You should be perfectly entitled to live according to your

preference. What I think is wrong and misguided is to, first, try to force your view onto other people and, second, try to proscribe the other view from being taught. And third, trying to make up a new view and quote scientific explanation, which is equally humbug, as creationism, to a scientist.

The Brook And intelligent design as well?

Richard Leakey Yes! Yes! As you might have sensed, I feel quite strongly about it.

The Brook Well, it's your whole life.

Richard Leakey It's more than that. I've said to some of these evangelicals: Look, there are fossils. You can pick them up and hold them and we have a lot of them and they span a long period of time. And you get the ages by the same scientific knowledge that we have used to make bombs. Exactly the same knowledge—of isotopes—enables us to date these fossils. And you can't say we don't accept the dates but we do accept nuclear fusion. Those fossils are not a theory. Nor are the dates. And you can lay these fossils out in a long line, and you can ask anyone to look at these fossils, and, depending at which end you start, if you look at all of them, you are left with the conclusion that if you are moving from left to right, having put at the left the oldest and the right the youngest, as you look along the line and get closer to the right, you see more and more of ourselves in the fossils. If you start at the right and look to the left, you see less and less of ourselves as you go into older and older deposits. Now, that anyone can see. The fossils are real. The dates are real. How can you explain it?

The Brook It just is.

Richard Leakey The only explanation we have is what Darwin called evolution. That by genetic selection under natural circumstances through a long period of time this is what can happen. Now if you don't like the E-word, fine, don't use it. But you can't get rid of the fossils. And you can't get rid of the ages. It's as simple as that. And if your holy books don't explain that, and you're worried that they don't deal with that, do they deal with television? Do they deal with flight? Do they deal with all the other scientific discoveries that make our lives what they are? There's no theory of thermodynamics; there's no theory of hydrology; there's no theory of gravity in the Holy Book.

The Brook And yet they exist.

Richard Leakey And there's nothing in the Holy Book that says the world spins. But it does. And for many years the church rejected that. So what's wrong with these people?

The Brook Well, I believe the Bible says he who is blind cannot see.

Richard Leakey That is the thrust of my frustration.

The Brook If you will permit a personal question, do you believe in God?

Richard Leakey Certainly not! No way at all. Not in any form.

The Brook What is it about your discoveries [about man's origins] that makes you feel that way? Do you feel that man came about by chance?

Richard Leakey Chance? Do I think it's chance? Yes, I do. I'm perfectly happy with that.

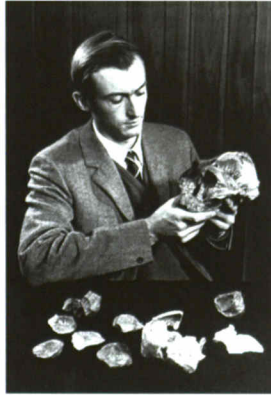
The Brook It appears now from your work and that of others that the cradle of mankind, the place where humans arose, is Africa. What is it about that location that may have caused the evolution of man to occur there?

Is it possible that Olduvai Gorge and the Turkana Basin are just the places where the oldest fossils were findable and people were there looking for them?

Richard Leakey Well, the latter is the case in the local sense. One could not say that Olduvai, Lake Turkana, and some of the other sites, are where it happened. These sites are where fossils were preserved and secondly, where fossils can be found—because it's dry and there has been erosion and things are on the surface and not covered by vegetation. Why Africa? Well,



Dr. Leakey convened *The World Environmental Forum* at Stony Brook.



Leakey holding Paranthropus boisei, East African robust hominin.

How can you explain it?

There's no theory of thermodynamics; there's no theory of hydrology; there's no theory of gravity in the Holy Book.

the chances are that the genetic stock from which all apes, oranges, gorillas, chimpanzees, and bonobos are evolved, was isolated in Africa many many millions of years ago. And probably about six million years ago, that stock gave rise to an ape that adapted to a more open habitat. There was possibly a shrinking of forest in Africa due to climate change. And into these open areas moved adaptive various species—grass-eating antelopes, grass-eating hippo, and grass-eating primates—and one of the apes, about six million years ago, appears to have been the original stock from which we later went through a series of steps to become what we are. And it just happened that way around.

The Brook Humans just ...?

Richard Leakey There was no design to it.

The Brook They just sprang up?

Richard Leakey Yes. When you spill a cup of tea, does it go on the carpet or on the table? It could go either way, couldn't it? [laughs]

The Brook So, basically, we are all Africans?

Richard Leakey Yes. But later, 1.8 million years ago, humans—the human ape—got out of Africa. This time he got out because he had a bigger brain and presumably could develop the technology to enable him...

The Brook Was he walking by then?

Richard Leakey Yes, but also presumably [he could] carry water and carry food and things that would enable him to cross areas that otherwise would have been inhospitable to him.

The Brook Is there any possibility of making use of DNA technology with your findings in Africa? I know fossils are stone, but not long ago there was news that DNA had been extracted from the stomach of a dinosaur or some ancient creature. Is it possible that you might find DNA, and if it were possible, what might it tell us?

Richard Leakey The DNA that was recovered was recovered from the stomach of a mammoth, and it died about 10,000 years ago.

The Brook Which makes it a pretty young critter compared with your million-plus-year-old fossils.

Richard Leakey There are DNA samples from early humans that go back 40,000 or 50,000 years, in the case of Neanderthals. But no DNA has been found in mammals, primates, humans, that is older than 60,000 to 70,000 years. In the fossils that we're dealing with, that are millions of years old, the organic component has been completely replaced by inorganic crystals and minerals, and they are stones, as you aptly put it. The difficulty we have is that we don't have sites where these animals were preserved in peat bogs, or the LaBrea Tar Pits-type of place. They died on the open plains, they were chewed by carnivores, they got buried in sedimentary condition in alkaline lakes. And I think the chances of finding ancient DNA that would resolve this question are, you would never say impossible, but as close to being impossible as one would wish to speculate.

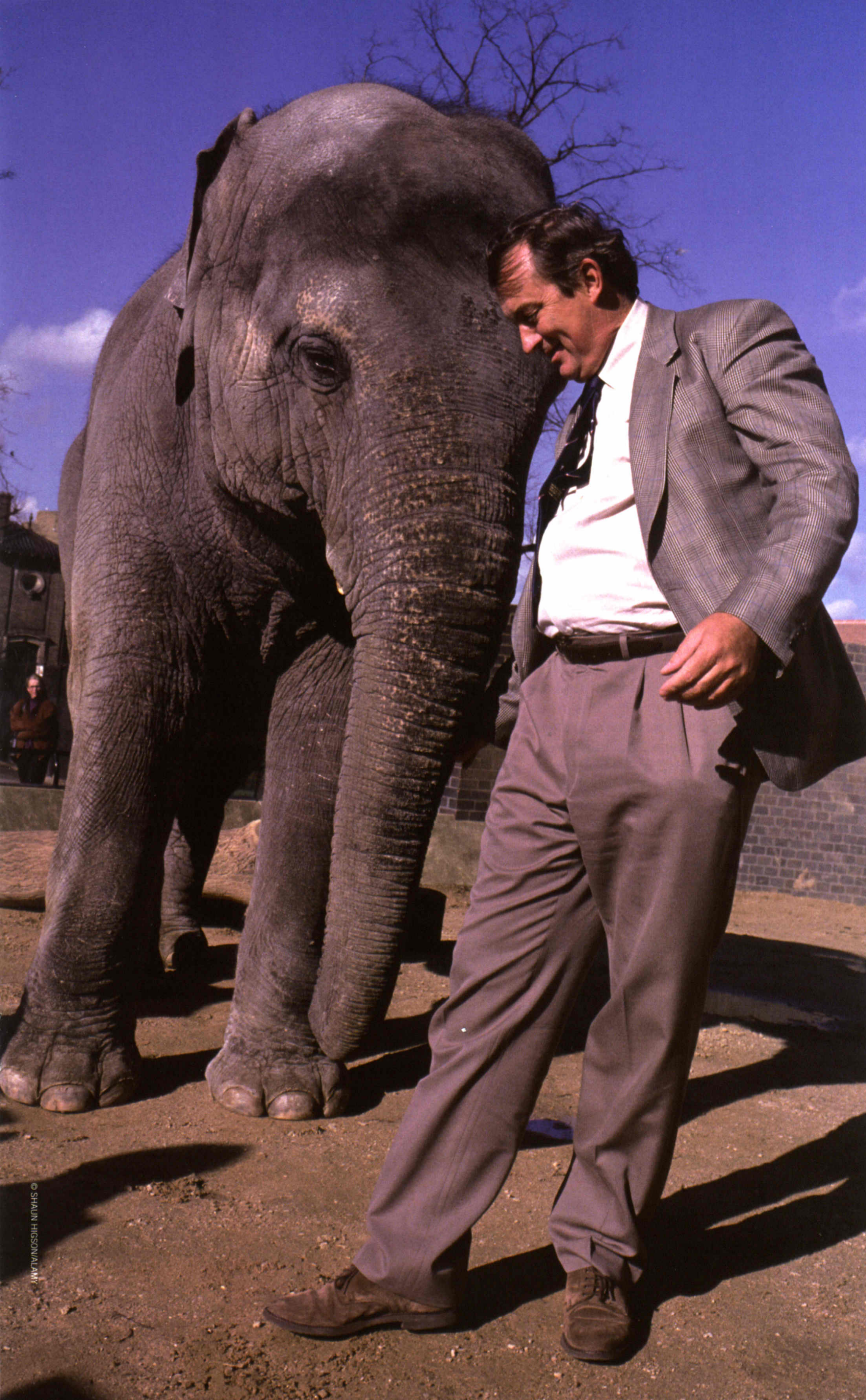
The Brook Would you imagine that if we did find ancient DNA that we would find ourselves as closely related to one of your skeletal fossils as we are to, say, modern chimpanzees, where we share more than 90 percent of the genes?

Richard Leakey It's a lot more than 90. It's 98.8. There's about a 1.2 percent or 1.3 percent difference between us and chimpanzees. And so, yes, I would expect you would find remarkable similarity in the broader DNA. But remember that 1.3 percent difference amounts to a hell of a lot, because manifestly, chimps aren't humans and humans aren't chimps.

The Brook Whatever moved you to commute between Africa and Stony Brook?

Richard Leakey Well, I've been commuting between Kenya and the United States for many years. I have been coming over for a variety of reasons, giving lectures, attending conferences and seminars, and I came to Stony Brook for the first time about eight or nine years ago to give a public lecture for the Provost's Lecture Series. And then about three or four years later the University saw fit to offer me an honorary doctorate, for work that I've done, which I accepted. So I came back again, and reconnected with some of the people I had met before, including the University president, Dr. [Shirley Strum] Kenny, who impressed me as a person of my kind of approach. I liked her. Good chemistry between us. And she said, "Why on earth don't you get yourself a position at some American university, so that you'd have some anchor in your life...[to support] what you're doing in Kenya?" So I said any university would reasonably expect me to spend half the year at least here—and I said frankly I would much prefer to try and develop something with an American university that would enable me to spend much of my time at home, in Africa, but doing things that are beneficial to the university. So we continued the discussion and she said, "Would you be interested in a position in our anthropology department? And you, no doubt, will be able to come up with some ideas of what you could do that would help [the Department of Anthropology] and satisfy your need not to spend too much time here."

So I went away and thought about it and she then wrote to me and said, "I'm serious. Would you like this position?... And we can work it out from here." And I said I would take a sort of temporary slot as a visiting professor for a short term, two or three years. Then it was in the context of that that I developed this idea of both running a series of conferences here, which we'll talk about, and secondly developing the Turkana Basin Institute through here, both of which seemed to appeal to the University. And so we made a deal. Most of my time is now spent in Kenya working on the development of the Turkana Basin Institute, but I come back here two, three times a year for two or three weeks at a time.



As director of the Kenyan Wildlife Department from 1989 to 1994, and from 1998 to 1999, Richard Leakey ended the slaughter of elephants for their tusks by beefing up security in the country's national parks, while lobbying the world to make the sale and trade of ivory illegal.

© SHAUN HISSON/ALAMY

"Turkana Boy" Homo erectus skeleton



The Brook Do you teach?

Richard Leakey I teach a few—well, not courses—but I do teach a few classes for faculty, colleagues. And I do a certain amount with the University, introducing them to people who may be helpful to the University.

The Brook What do you think of the American students that you're teaching? I assume you're teaching advanced anthropology students?

Richard Leakey The graduate students are very good. This is an extremely good graduate program. And I am increasingly impressed with some of the undergraduates in the bigger classes that I go to. And in the short time I've been here, about six years, part-time, not full-time, the University has changed a lot. Dr. Kenny has really made some interesting changes that I think are very good.

The Brook Are you talking about the physical plant, the improvement in the looks of the campus?

Richard Leakey Yes. Particularly. And she is really trying to reach out to other people and to accomplish many other things. We remain very good friends; that's why I know a lot about her thinking. I think it is very exciting to be part of her team.

The Brook Let's talk about the Turkana Basin Institute. I understand what you are hoping to do is raise enough money to set up permanent structures in the field where research can be done safely year-round in fully equipped labs looking toward a long-term future.

Richard Leakey That's almost certainly a correct summary. But the context of this is that many years ago when I started work at Lake Turkana, I recognized that we needed a research institute and, in those days, the idea of operating an institute in the field was not easily acceptable.

The Brook Were you working before from tents?

Richard Leakey Tents, yes. And we took all our specimens that we collected back to Nairobi, the capital city, and in Nairobi we built a big institute, a four-floor institute, with some of the best facilities for housing collections that had ever been built anywhere.

The Brook So why do you need the TBI?

Richard Leakey Well, let me continue my story. That was under the National Museum and it was anticipated that it would be a going and growing institute. When I left the directorship of the museum about 15 years ago, successive directors have shown decreasing levels of interest in paleoanthropology for various reasons. The building that I built with four floors and adequate capacity for growth was largely, well, the additional space is going to other disciplines and the paleoanthropology and paleontology and archeology is now very fixed in a limited space and can't grow. People are not encouraged to make new collections.... Secondly, we've discovered that the areas where we collected these fos-

sils, the local people, have never been given opportunities for employment by the national museum since I left. They were left out. And so I believe we made a mistake in 1969 when we started the other one [in Nairobi]. And rather than say, 'Well, we made a mistake—wasn't that a bad show,' I'm one of those people who, when I make a mistake, want to correct it. So I decided what we should do is now build a new institute, based at Lake Turkana, where local people could be engaged in training, preparation, and territorial duties, where local people could become guides and attend to the visitors around the tourist center, and where there could be an opportunity

for visiting scientists and students to stay in accommodations under TBI, who'd actually pay a modest accommodations fee, which you'd do if you were in a hotel, but that we would set aside a little bit of that money to go to the community bursary fund for education and a health fund, so the community actually sees some direct benefits...

The Brook Two years ago you brought a World Environmental Forum to Stony Brook—you drew together a fabulous bunch of scientists to consider climate change, and you actually expressed the hope that maybe you could change the world. Will there be another? And did you change the world?

Richard Leakey We'll most certainly have another one, probably next year. It's hard to say what form it will take but it looks as though it will be a discussion of the steps that need to be taken to safeguard the wild species against climate change. And did it change the world? Well, I think one would have to say obviously not, but I also think that it was a significant contribution to the generation of more interest and more concern about climate change. I know that Al Gore got the proceedings and was aware of the people who took part in it. And these things grow like aggregates: One event can't possibly do it, but one event can light a fire, and a fire can become a conflagration. And I think it did so. Unfortunately, last year I wasn't able to pull one together because I was unwell. I had a kidney transplant last year and was indisposed for six, seven months of the year. So many of my plans were postponed for a year while I sorted out my health.

The Brook So now your kidney is functioning?

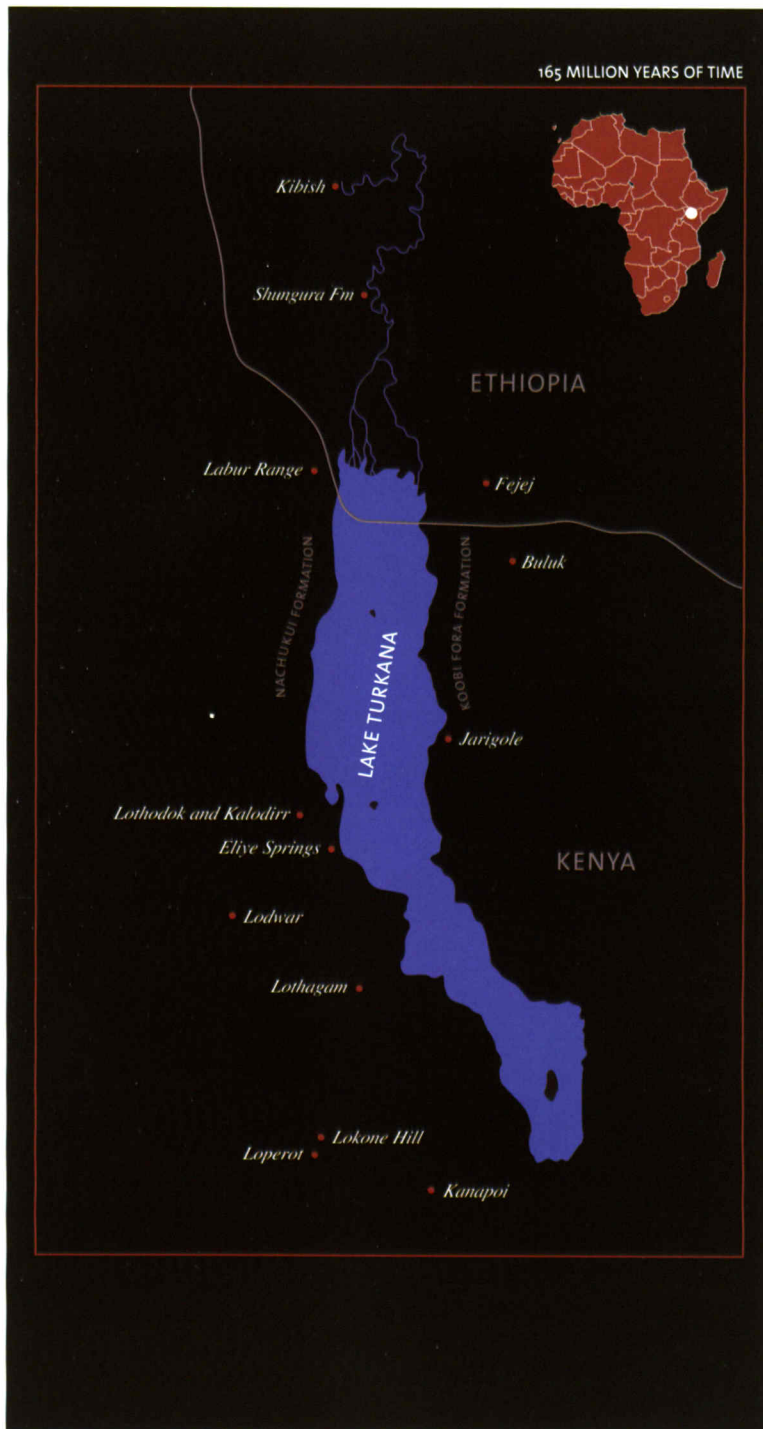
Richard Leakey I'm fine.

The Brook Is it true that the plane crash in 1983 which caused you to lose your legs was caused by poachers shooting the plane down?

Richard Leakey We don't know what caused the plane crash. The engine stopped. I was piloting it. A very comprehensive investigation never established the cause of the crash. It wasn't pilot error, we know. I have flown that sort of plane for 5,000 hours. It was a routine flight, the weather was good. Passengers who were with me said I did not at any

Humans just sprang up?

Yes. When you spill a cup of tea, does it go on the carpet or on the table? It could go either way, couldn't it?



time pass out or appear to. My conversation continued up to the last few minutes, when I said, "OK, guys, this is going to hurt. Good luck."

The Brook I've heard that the pilot's usual last words are, "Oh shit."

Richard Leakey I'm more practical, I guess. We did hit the ground hard and I banged my head rather hard and got a cracked skull—a concussion. And I remember very little about the accident itself. None of the other passengers had head injuries. And none of them died, and they've all talked to me since and said I seemed entirely rational and cheerful and wished them well.

The Brook And the engine just stopped?

Richard Leakey Yes.

The Brook I've been a journalist for 39 years and I look with dismay at my fellow journalists and the way we cover things like evolution and creationism. I think we in the press are to blame for a lot of public misunderstanding. It isn't just the evangelical church... So I'm asking you, if you had your druthers, how would the press cover what has been presented as the evolution-creationism dichotomy?

Richard Leakey Exactly the same applies to the question of climate change. The treatment in the national press until recently has been very poor. It was very superficial, giving the people encouragement to opt out. They can't do that. And I said recently at a press conference where journalists asked me almost an identical question to yours, about climate change, that if I had my druthers, and I don't...I would require anyone who intends to be a journalist and write, speak, or produce for large audiences to have professional certification that would require them to undergo exposure to science. I think if journalists were better informed, they would probably be more balanced. If you don't have the information, then when you are presented with this conflict, then you go for the human interest, go for the familiar, and that is the cheap, shoddy confrontational context that we've read about for so long with the creationist obsession.

Contributing Editor Carol Richards, former deputy editor of the editorial page at Newsday, has interviewed many scientists over the years, but never one so engrossing.

Lake Turkana, in the Omo-Turkana basin of Northern Kenya and Southern Ethiopia, has been the site of some of the most significant contributions to the story of human evolution and is the site of the Turkana Basin Institute. For more information about the Turkana Basin Institute, visit www.stonybrook.edu/tbi

Public Opinion & Evolution

Scientists are so used to accepting evolution as the explanation for the development of life on earth that

they often are amazed to hear poll results showing that many Americans don't share their scientific conclusions. Indeed, my analysis of years of survey data shows that anywhere from a third to a half of Americans can be classified as "evolution doubters." A good deal of this objection to evolution is based on religious grounds—in ways reliving the battle of the Scopes Trial of 1925 and echoing religious objections to evolution that surfaced even as Darwin's *Origin of Species* was first published in 1859.

A revealing Gallup Poll question from last spring asked those who didn't believe in evolution to explain why not. The top categories of justifications for doubting evolution were for the most part religious in nature: "I believe in the almighty God, creator of Heaven and Earth", "Due to my religion and faith", "I believe in what I read in the Bible", "I'm a Christian", "I believe in Jesus Christ".

For decades, Gallup data have shown that when Americans are given a choice, they are more likely to agree with the theory of creationism than the theory of evolution. Yet when asked this year about the two theories separately, a surprising quarter of Americans said that both evolution and creationism are true explanations for the origin and development of life on earth.

I think many Americans are tugged in two directions. The rational brain may want to agree with science and evolution, while the religious side of the brain strains towards a belief in the specialness of humans as outlined in the Bible.

Scientists interested in increasing public acceptance of evolution—particularly when such acceptance is related to policies restricting the teaching of evolution in public schools—often expect the sheer rationality of the scientific evidence to win the day. But for religious Americans, more is needed. Science may need to explore ways in which the principles of evolution can be made compatible with a view that humans are special and unique. One evangelical leader said recently: "Most of us don't think that we're just apes with trousers." Scientists might profitably open a dialogue with Americans holding these types of sentiments, perhaps putting a more public emphasis on research exploring the remarkable distinctiveness that allows humans to create trousers—rather than just emphasizing the ways in which humans are similar to the apes.

Frank Newport has been studying Americans' religious attitudes and behaviors since 1990 as Editor in Chief of The Gallup Poll, headquartered in Princeton, New Jersey. He is co-author of The Evangelical Voter.

Thinking about how human beings came to exist on Earth, do you, personally, believe in evolution, or not?*

Frequency of Church Attendance

	Weekly	Nearly weekly/ Monthly	Seldom/ Never
Believe	24%	52%	71%
Do Not Believe	74	45	26
Don't Know	2	3	3

*Source: Gallup Poll May 21–24, 2007

Surprising results from a recent Gallup Poll reveal that, when it comes to believing in evolution vs. creationism, Americans are tugged in two directions.

Which of these comes closest to your views on the origin and development of human beings?*

	Jan 1982	May 2007
God created humans pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years	44	43
Humans developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided the process	38	38
Humans developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, and God had no part in the process	9	14
Don't Know	9	4

*Source: Gallup Poll May 21–24, 2007

Misreading Darwin & Genesis

The Bible does not describe the mechanisms of how we got here, but many Christians, particularly many

Protestants, are offended or threatened by Darwin's attempt to describe how species evolve over time. The first chapter of Genesis simply affirms that God looked upon each stage of Creation and pronounced it good; Genesis 2 gives an entirely different account of the creation of the first humans. Insisting that the Earth is only a few thousand years old and species being fixed for eternity is not "taking the Bible literally," as some claim to do; it is reading into Holy Writ something that was never there. Having misinterpreted Scripture, these Christians reject science for contradicting their preconceived notions. And too many science teachers likewise misread the Bible or Darwin—or both.

Some science buffs claim Darwin disproves the existence of a supernatural being or renders God unnecessary, but he never said anything of the sort. Darwin, an ordained clergyman, drifted away from some beliefs of the Church of England and entertained many doubts, as have all the saints, but biology does not disprove theology—it deals with entirely different questions. As geologists sometimes tell clerics, "You get the Rock of Ages. We get the age of rocks."

The Rev. Charles Kingsley, Darwin's staunch defender in Victorian England, described science and faith as Madame How and Lady Why. In his famous geology text, he argued that we need to ask not only how the Earth was formed but also why we are here. God is the source of both the universe and the science we use to explore it, Kingsley insisted, calling his 1871 hymn "From Thee all Skill and Science Flow."

You may think preachers generally oppose Darwinism, but many churches celebrated Darwin Day last February, and more than 10,000 Christian clergy signed a letter that supported teaching evolution and declared, "The timeless truths of the Bible and the discoveries of modern science may comfortably coexist." This year, February 8 to 10 is Darwin Weekend and includes synagogues and other houses of worship.

Science and religion deal with different questions and deal with reality in distinct ways, but that does not mean they have nothing to say to each other. Piety can motivate scientists to probe the unknown and take necessary risks. Mary Anning, the 19th-century British fossil hunter whose discoveries unsettled the convictions of millions of Christians, was only able to continue the difficult, dirty, dangerous work of climbing crumbling cliffs because she had profound trust in God. It was precisely because two friends of hers, the early geologists

William Buckland and William Conybeare (who were also Anglican clergymen), believed their Creator had guided evolution—which is what the Vatican teaches, by the way—that they searched the fossil record for signs of adaptation to environment, providing raw material for Darwin. Scientific critique of Darwin by scientist/creationist Louis Agassiz ultimately strengthened evolutionary theory.

The current intelligent design (ID) movement, however, is different from the faith-based research of Anning, Buckland, Conybeare, and Agassiz. Those who want public schools to teach intelligent design in biology class often dismiss evolution as "just a theory," but intelligent design is not even that. Science requires a theory to generate testable hypotheses that can be disproved, and theory must be revised or rejected on the basis of new evidence. The idea that the universe has been shaped by a benevolent Creator is appealing, and I believe this myself, but this notion has not yet been formulated as a scientific theory. And how could a disprovable Designer be omnipotent, anyway? As National Medal of Science winner Francisco Ayala observed in *Darwin and Intelligent Design*, evolutionary theory explains why childbirth is difficult: our brains have gotten larger over vast stretches of time. Intelligent design requires us to blame God for every design defect in the human body, whether a superfluous inflamed appendix or a dangerously narrow birth canal.

When it comes to teaching biology, public schools should teach what a scientific theory is and is not, why the life sciences are all based on evolutionary theory, why evolution was and remains a shocking concept to many people, current controversies such as incremental change vs. punctuated equilibrium, and current critiques of evolutionary theory, including any scientific challenges that proponents of ID can develop.

This is good science and good teaching. Equating intelligent design with Darwinism is not. My friend Faroque Khan says that when science seems to contradict the Qu'ran, Muslims are supposed to keep studying the Qu'ran and keep pursuing science until they discover whether it was Scripture or science that they have misunderstood. Christians should do no less.

The Rev. Thomas W. Goodhue, a United Methodist clergyman, is Executive Director of the Long Island Council of Churches. He is the author of Curious Bones: Mary Anning and the Birth of Paleontology and Fossil Hunter: The Life and Times of Mary Anning, 1799-1847.

WOLFSTOCK 2007



Homecoming Celebrates University's 50th Anniversary

On October 20, Stony Brook's largest Homecoming crowd ever was treated to a day they'll never forget. The highlight was an edge-of-your-seat football thriller with the Seawolves kicking a last-second field goal to send the game into overtime, topped off by a nine-yard TD run by sophomore Conte Cuttino to seal the double-overtime victory over the University of Maine in front of a record 7,300 screaming fans at LaValle Stadium. Halftime featured a rousing performance by the Red Hot Marching Band in a tribute to Billy Joel, followed by the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen, Navneet Singh and Patricia Ng. Pre-game festivities featured special alumni reunions, and wine and microbrew tastings in the Alumni Food Pavilion. The Expo Tent was buzzing with Stony Brook's cutting-edge research, technology, and programs, and also featured dozens of activities for children. Stony Brook students showed off their creativity at the pre-game Homecoming Parade, "Rockin' and Rollin: Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence," with colorful costumes, banners, and floats. By any measure, Wolfstock 2007 was a howling success!

Events Calendar

February 2008

Saturday, February 2, 8:00 pm

Bernadette Peters

The 2008 Staller Center Gala

Staller Center for the Arts Main Stage

Accompanied by an orchestra, Tony Award-winning actress Bernadette Peters will present an evening of Broadway tunes and popular songs. Tickets: \$75. To order tickets, call (631) 632-ARTS or visit www.stallercenter.com



Friday, February 8, 8:00 pm

Joyce Yang, Piano

Staller Center for the Arts Recital Hall

In 2005, at 19 years of age, Joyce Yang was awarded the silver medal at the Twelfth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. She made her New York Philharmonic debut with Lorin Maazel in November. Yang's program will include Bach Chromatic Fantasy, Schumann Carnaval Op. 9, Brahms Klavierstücke Op. 119, and Brahms Paganini Variations Book 1 and 2. Tickets: \$32. To order, call (631) 632-ARTS or visit www.stallercenter.com

Saturday, February 9, 8:00 pm

The Flying Karamazov Brothers
"LIFE: A Guide for the Perplexed"

Staller Center for the Arts Main Stage

The Flying Karamazov Brothers, masters of juggling and comedy, bring their newest creation to Stony Brook. In a romp through the stages of life, with a complete disregard for seriousness, The Flying Karamazov Brothers play more than 20 characters, from an Indian seer to a Babylonian emperor to the infamous "Man in Black." Tickets: \$32. To order, call (631) 632-ARTS or visit www.stallercenter.com

Saturday, February 16, 8:00 pm

Pilobolus

Staller Center for the Arts Main Stage

This innovative major American dance company has formed a new kind of modern dance at its most imaginative, whimsical, astonishingly athletic, and most accessible. Pilobolus includes acrobatics, body contortions, and a mix of humor and invention. You may have seen them perform in silhouette at the 2007 Academy Awards show. Tickets: \$37. To order, call (631) 632-ARTS or visit www.stallercenter.com

Sunday, February 24, 7:00 pm

4-ISH

Dutch Hip Hop and Extreme Sport

Staller Center for the Arts Main Stage

Come see champion inline skaters fly up skateboard half-pipes on stage! 4-ISH is a show that combines acrobatic stunts with break dancing, in-line skating, and bungee jumping to a live DJ mix accompanied by video art, film, and cartoons. Tickets: \$37. To order, call (631) 632-ARTS or visit www.stallercenter.com

March 2008

Saturday, March 1, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Stony Brook Alumni Reception
New York Islanders Game

Nassau Coliseum, Hempstead, New York

Catch up on old times with fellow alums while watching great hockey.

Tuesday, March 4

SB Day in Albany

Meet us at the State Capitol as students and faculty travel to Albany to let legislators know the latest Stony Brook happenings. For more information, visit www.stonybrook.edu/albany

Thursday, March 6

SB Alumni Reception, Boca Raton, Florida

An informal and fun gathering of our alums in the sunshine state. Visit the alumni Web site for updates on where and when this gathering will take place.

Monday, March 10, 4:30 pm

12th Annual Mind/Brain Lecture

Staller Center for the Arts

Join us as Patricia Churchland, Professor of Philosophy, University of California at San Diego, discusses *Decisions, Responsibility, and the Brain*.

Seawolves Home Games

All games are held in the Sports Complex at Stony Brook University



Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Women's Basketball vs. UMBC, 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 14

Men's Basketball vs. Hartford, 7:00 pm

Sunday, February 17

Men's Basketball vs. Vermont, 2:00 pm

Saturday, February 23

Women's Basketball vs. Albany, 2:00 pm

Wednesday, February 27

Women's Basketball vs. Binghamton, 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 1

Men's Basketball vs. Binghamton, 2:00 pm

Women's Basketball vs. Boston University, 4:30 pm

Saturday, March 8

Women's Basketball vs. New Hampshire, 2:00 pm

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit www.goseawolves.org or call (631) 632-WOLF.

SAVE THE DATES



Wednesday, April 9

Stars of Stony Brook Gala

Pier 60 at Chelsea Piers in Manhattan

Cocktails, 6:30 pm

Dinner, 7:30 pm. For more info, call (631) 632-4197.

April 16 to 23

Shirley Strum Kenny Arts Festival

Join us for this annual Celebration of Student Expression, which showcases the diversity of our students through their creative endeavors. For a list of events and exhibit locations on campus, visit the Web site: www.stonybrook.edu/artsfest.

Friday, April 25

21st Annual Roth Pond Regatta and Alumni Get-Together

Visit www.stonybrook.edu/alumni for updates.

Wednesday, April 30

URECA Celebration

Showcasing Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities

Sponsored by the Center for Science and Math Education and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. For more information, visit www.stonybrook.edu/ureca

Monday, May 12

Alumni Golf Classic

St. Georges Golf and Country Club, Stony Brook

Sponsored by Expedite VCS, this event includes a 10:00 am breakfast, a 12:30 pm shotgun start for golf, and dinner at 6:30 pm.

Saturday, May 24

Bob Dylan's 67th Birthday Celebration

7:20 pm, University Caf 

For updates, visit www.universitycafe.org

Thursday, June 5

Alumni Terrace Event

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

For more information, unless otherwise specified, call the Office of Alumni Relations at (631) 632-6330 or visit www.stonybrook.edu/alumni

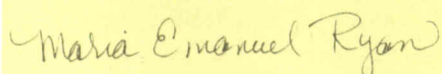
A Message From Our Alumni Association President

What an exciting time for Stony Brook University and its alumni as we celebrate 50 years of excellence. Our campus has been transformed since its humble beginnings in Oyster Bay to a vibrant campus with modern, state-of-the-art facilities such as the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium, where we enjoyed a win against the Maine Black Bears and the singing of our national anthem by an extremely accomplished alum Christine Goerke, '94, at our best Homecoming event to date. The expansion of Stony Brook to the east and west with Stony Brook Southampton and Stony Brook Manhattan means we have an even greater reach and expanded opportunities for students and alumni alike.

Our 125,000 alumni are one of the greatest strengths and assets of SB. Sixty percent of these individuals have received an undergraduate degree from Stony Brook and forty percent have earned a graduate or professional degree. Our alumni range from ambassadors to distinguished scientists, from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists to CEOs, from financial analysts to university presidents, and the list goes on. In such a short period of time the accomplishments of our graduates, along with the great quality and prestige of the University's teaching, research, and health care, have added significant value to our Stony Brook degrees. As you can see from the description of our Distinguished Alumni Event on the facing page, we continue to celebrate the accomplishments of our alums and the University year after year.

The Stony Brook Alumni Association is working hard to serve our alumni and the University, but we need your help. As we continue to develop programs to further engage alumni, we are reaching out to establish regional Stony Brook alumni chapters and affinity groups throughout the country. If you are interested in volunteering to help out with an existing chapter or start a new one, please contact us at (631) 632-6330. In addition, we are developing programs with admissions and student career services to ensure that we recruit the best and the brightest students, mentor them, and then assist them in launching successful careers. As an alum, there are many ways you can become involved and serve as an "ambassador" for Stony Brook.

I look forward to working with you to make our next 50 years even more successful!



Maria Emanuel Ryan, D.D.S. '89, Ph.D. '98



Jean Ho-Ming Wang '73 (M.S.) owns a fee-only financial planning practice in Mountain View, California.

Stephen D. Rappaport '74 (B.A.) has authored *The Online Advertising Playbook*, published by John Wiley and Sons earlier this year. Written for executives interested in online advertising, the book answers the question: What do we know about how online advertising works and what makes it effective?

Susan R. Wessler '74 (B.S.), Regents Professor of Plant Biology at the University of Georgia's Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, has been named a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Wessler began her career at the University of Georgia in 1983 as an assistant professor of botany, rising through the ranks to full professor of botany in 1992. She has held the title of Distinguished Research Professor since 1994. Her latest honors include being named a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor in 2006. She is co-author of *The Mutants of Maize* (Cold Spring Harbor Press) and of more than 100 research articles.

Barbara A. Finamore '76 (B.A.), Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) Senior Attorney, is the founder and director of NRDC's China Clean Energy Program. Finamore has more than two decades of experience in environmental law and policy in China, Russia, Taiwan, and the United States. She began working for NRDC in 1981 as a staff attorney in NRDC's Nuclear Program, and in 1983 won a landmark case against the U.S. Department of Energy requiring all U.S. nuclear weapons facilities to comply with federal and state environmental laws, which led to the largest environmental cleanup program in U.S. history. Finamore is chairman and past president of the Professional Association for China's Environment (PACE).

Eugene Allan Schlanger '76 (B.A.) has published a poetry book in a bilingual French-English edition in Paris, called *September 11 Wall Street Sonnets and Other New York City Poems*. The French translation by Sabrina Kherbiche is now available at www.september11wallstreetsonnets.com

Eileen M. Levinson (Greenberg) '78 (B.S.) has been named critical care director at Pennsylvania Hospital.

Rhona Sherwin '78 (D.D.S.) completed her residency at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City in 1981. She was awarded a Certificate of Specialization in Pediatric Dentistry.

Richard A. Kaye '79 (B.A.), an attorney from Smith Moore LLP, has been named chair of the Atlanta Bar Association International Law Section. As a leader within the international law practice at Smith Moore and the Atlanta Bar Association, Kaye has been instrumental in international outreach to China. Kaye is a 1983 graduate of the

Class Notes

1960s

Kristin Sekora '68 (B.A.) is a self-employed portrait painter and writer.

1970s

Nancy S. Hall '72 (M.A.) retired from Suffolk County Community College as an associate professor.

Joshua P. Prager '72 (M.D.) was re-elected as president of the North American Neuromodulation Society. He gave the "Decade of Pain" plenary lecture at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pain Medicine. In June, he received an award from the California Society of Anesthesiologists for Service in Pain Medicine.

Lisa E. Jacobs '73 (B.A.) has joined Ceres as an executive assistant with more than 20 years of experience in a variety of business sectors, including health care, financial services, and high technology. As executive assistant, Jacob's primary responsibilities include providing administrative support for Ceres' executive director as well as being staff liaison to the board.

Ronald M. Shapiro '73 (B.A.) is a part-time adjunct real estate professor at Monmouth University.

Craig A. Tracy '73 (Ph.D.) was awarded the 2007 AMS-SIAM Norbert Wiener Prize in Applied Mathematics. The prize recognizes outstanding contributions to mathematics. Tracy received the prize for his work on Random Matrix Theory.

Stony Brook's Distinguished Alumni Honored



On the evening of November 15, 2007, the University community came together to honor an exceptional group of alumni. President Shirley Strum Kenny joined more than 250 attendees to recognize these talented individuals for their achievements in science, technology, business, and scholarship.

Along with pride in their considerable accomplishments, we're also grateful for their continued commitment to their alma mater—now and in the years to come. This year's distinguished alumni, pictured here are (left to right): Hava Tirosh-Samuels, Ph.D., B.A. '74, Professor of History, Arizona State University; Willard S. Moore, Ph.D. '69, Research Professor and Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of South Carolina; Frank W. Otto, B.A. '72, M.A. '74, Senior Vice President, EDO Corporation; Michael R. Anastasio, M.A. '73, Ph.D. '76, Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory; Wai T. Lam, B.A. '82, Vice President, Engineering, FalconStor Software Inc.

For information (as it becomes available) on the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Awards, visit www.stonybrook.edu/alumni

Emory University School of Law, a member of the American Society of International Law and NASD Board of Arbitrators, and is a board member for the Georgia Construction Finance Managers Association.

1980s

Lawrence F. Britt '80 (M.S.), a longtime engineer with the Long Island Lighting Company, has been named the construction manager of the planned Caithness power

plant in Yaphank, New York. His job is to make sure the project stays on budget and on schedule. Britt will work with Siemens Power Generation, which won the \$450 million contract, on engineering, procurement, and construction. The plant should be up and running by summer of 2009. Britt lives in Port Jefferson, where he served as a village trustee from 1995 to 2006 and deputy mayor from 2000 to 2001.

Mark Deluca '82 (B.S.), a respected patent and intellectual property attorney, recently joined Pepper Hamilton as a partner in their Berwyn, Pennsylvania, office.

John Risickella '82 (B.E.) is a quality engineer at Northrop Grumman Corporation. He travels extensively. His interests are hiking, kayaking, skiing, and snow boarding.

Kurt Fox '85 (B.E.) is a senior electrical designer responsible for power distribution, lighting, grounding, fire alarm, and telecommunications systems. He has served as lead designer on large projects such as 1000 Cell Maximum Security Prison prototypes and the Raleigh Convention Center.

Richard J. Kuhn '86 (Ph.D.) has been elected to the American Academy of Microbiology, Washington, D.C. He is head of the Department of Biological Sciences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Kuhn's research has combined molecular virology with

Donor Spotlight: Nasti Academic Hall Dedication

THOMAS & NICOLINA NASTI ACADEMIC HALL



The Thomas and Nicolina Nasti Academic Hall, a 100-seat study hall/multi-purpose room, was officially dedicated to the University in August. The Hall is a gift from Maura and Richard Nasti '78, and it is named in honor of Nasti's parents, Thomas and Nicolina. The Hall is part of the Goldstein Family Student-Athlete Development Center, a 6,000-square-foot facility that student-athletes use to help with their academic pursuits.

"Stony Brook has given my family a tremendous opportunity for which I will be eternally grateful," said Nasti. "My donation was a small way of saying thank you while recognizing two amazing people."

The chair of the Stony Brook Council, Nasti graduated summa cum laude from Stony Brook with a double major in economics and political science. Nasti is Senior Vice President of H.J. Kalikow & Company, one of New York City's most respected real estate development and management firms.

Left to right: Rick Nasti's wife Maura Nasti; his son Brian Nasti; his father Thomas Nasti; his daughter Julia Nasti; Rick Nasti; and his father's wife Lora Nasti.

Travel in Style for Less in 2008

As a Stony Brook Alumni Association member, you and a guest can enjoy substantial discounts on once-in-a-lifetime luxury trips in 2008 through the new Stony Brook Alumni Travel Program. The program teams with Alumni Holidays, a leader in the creation and operation of exclusive and unique travel programs for sophisticated alumni travelers for the past 45 years.



Florence, Italy

Explore Chianti from Your Tuscan Villa

June 8 to 15, 2008

(8 days from \$2,190 per person—save up to \$200 a couple)

Experience the treasures of Tuscany and breathtaking views of the Chianti region. Visit San Gimignano and the ancient walled city of Lucca, take in the ambience of Florence, enjoy a private cooking demonstration from the chef of the Villa Borgo di Cortefreda, and more.



St. Petersburg, Russia

Cruise the Passage of Peter the Great

July 29 to August 10, 2008

(12 days from \$2,650 per person—save up to \$400 a couple; airfare not included)

Voyage into the heart of Russia on this cruise between St. Petersburg and Moscow. You'll visit the State Hermitage Museum, the Kremlin, Red Square, and more, and participate in exciting seminars led by local experts on "Mother Russia".

For more details and full itineraries, please visit <http://stonybrook.ahitravel.com/> or call (800) 323-7373.

Learn about more Stony Brook Alumni travel deals on hotels, car rentals, and exclusive executive clubs under "membership" at the Stony Brook Alumni Association Web site.

Marc J. Pensabene '91 (B.E.), a partner in the intellectual property law firm Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper, and Scinto, was named a recipient of the 2007 Burton Award for Legal Achievement for an article he wrote with an associate entitled "How to Address Trade Secret Damages." The award is given by The Burton Foundation in association with the Library of Congress.

Douglas F. Cioffero '92 (B.A.) has recently been relocated to Jensen Beach, Florida. He works for a CPA firm Hill, Barth and King LLC.

Stacy E. Kantor '92 (B.A.) and Dr. Daniel Russell Lefton were recently married at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. The bride and bridegroom work at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center in Manhattan; she is a registered nurse in the neurosurgical intensive care unit, and he is a neuroradiologist.

Noreen F. McDonald '92 (M.A.L.) was recently honored as a biographer in *Feminists Who Changed America (1963-1975)*. McDonald teaches ESL at Suffolk County Community College.

David S. Joachim '93 (B.A.) has been named weekend editor for business at *The New York Times*. He had been a staff editor and writer for the paper.

Brian D. Greenwald '95 (M.D.) received the Jerry Weissman 2006-07 Teacher of the Year award from the residents in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the Mount Sinai Medical Center.

John H. Delaney '96 (B.A.) has begun working in public relations for Zapwater, Chicago.

Micah D. Gottlieb '96 (B.S.) married Megan Elayne Dunphy at the Performing Arts Center of the Little Red School House and Elisabeth Irwin High School in New York City. Gottlieb is the dean of students at the school and a teacher of mathematics and music in the high school division. A musician and singer/songwriter, he co-owns an independent recording and music production studio in Brooklyn.

Steven A. Tornello '96 (B.A.), a writer, recently won both a Silver and Bronze Pencil at the "One Show," the premiere international advertising awards show, for his work on Microsoft's *projectgothamracing3.com* Web site. He also was a finalist for a Gold Lion at the Cannes International Advertising Festival. He's freelancing at Goodby, Silverstein, and Partners in San Francisco, where he's writing for both print and interactive on the "The Computer is Personal Again" campaign for Hewlett-Packard.

Jeffrey B. Gillow '97 (M.S.) recently joined ARCADIS in their Denver office as principal scientist.

Michele A. Molfetta '97 (B.A.) and Carolyn Wolpert affirmed their partnership earlier this year at Martha Clara Vineyards in Riverhead, New York. Molfetta and Wolpert work at the New York City Law Department, Office of the

structural biology to provide new insights into the interaction with cellular receptors, replication and assembly of picornaviruses, flaviviruses, and alphaviruses.

Vicki D. Nolan Marnin '86 (B.S.) assumed ownership of an independent, private midwifery practice, Birth and Beyond, in Connecticut. Three certified nurse midwives—including Deb Billings, a graduate of Stony Brook's M.S.N./-Midwifery program—provide comprehensive women's health care and are the only CNM practice providing both home birth and hospital birth services. They care for their clients at Hartford Hospital.

Christopher J. Kutner '87 (B.E.) has joined the firm of Farrell Fritz as a partner in the health-care practice group. After graduation, Kutner earned an M.B.A. from Hofstra University in 2003 and his Juris Doctor from St. John's University School of Law in 1990.

Debra Ann Scala '87 (B.A.) has been the director of marketing at the law firm of Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP for nine years and is now an adjunct lecturer in business at Dowling College.

R. Stephanie Good '88 (B.A.) has told her story in the new book, *Exposed: The Harrowing Story of a Mother's Undercover Work with the FBI to Save Children from Internet Sex Predators*. Inspired by her own child's near-tragic encounter with a predator, Good—a lawyer and author—was compelled to take

action. In 2003 she began a collaboration with the FBI to track down sexual predators on the Internet—a journey that has resulted in the arrest and federal conviction of dozens of sexual offenders.

Jorge Quintana '89 (B.A.) has opened the Quintana Law Office in Helena, Montana. The law firm specializes in consumer protection, criminal law, and civil litigation. Quintana had previously been with the Montana Attorney General's Office.

1990s

Shaireen Rasheed '90 (B.A.), associate professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the School of Education at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, recently published a new book, *The Existentialist Curriculum of Action: Creating a Language of Freedom and Possibility* (University Press of America).

Stacie Elyse Schein '90 (B.A.) had her first book, *Identical Strangers*, co-written with her long-lost identical twin sister, Paula Bernstein, published by Random House in October. After graduation from Stony Brook, Schein studied film in Prague and spent several years as a freelancer in Paris. She resides in Brooklyn, New York. For more information on her story, visit www.identicalstrangersbook.com

Gregory McCartney '91 (M.A.) is now a solar system ambassador with NASA and its Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Corporation Counsel, in Manhattan, where they met. Molfetta is a senior counsel in the labor and employment law division. Molfetta received her law degree from the Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center.

Stella P. Mellas '99 (D.D.S.) and Scott William Hadfield were recently married in Paget, Bermuda. Mellas is an orthodontist in New Jersey with offices in Basking Ridge, Berkeley Heights, and Hackettstown.

Gregory Rodriguez '99 (B.A.) married his fiancée Yanira on the sunny shores of Puerto Rico last year. Many Stony Brook alumni were present and a great time was had by all.

2000s

Jolene B. Witkin '01 (M.S.) is executive assistant for R&B Development, a real estate development firm in SoHo, New York. Witkin is working on two new development projects in Harlem as well as one new development in Tribeca. She also recently married Anthony Gilyard in a courthouse civil ceremony. A full wedding ceremony is planned in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, this year.

Julia Kaye Charos '02 (M.S.W.) married David L. Distenfeld this past October. Both graduated from Southampton High School, but met years later through mutual friends. The couple live in Hampton Bays, New York.

Tanisha J. Miles '02 (B.A.) works with The Catholic Big Sisters and Big Brothers. Their mission is to strengthen low-income families with children to help them recognize, reach for, and achieve their full potential. The group is looking for volunteers, who should be at least 21 years of age and be able to spend time twice a month with a child, and call them once a week. If interested, please contact Miles at tanisha@cbsbb.org

Patricia C. Protano '02 (B.A.) and Scott Russell were married at East Wind Caterers in Wading River with a reception following. She is a program coordinator for the Epilepsy Foundation of Long Island in Garden City. They live in Lindenhurst.

Marc A. Quinlan '03 (B.A.) has been named head coach of the West Hempstead Boy's Varsity Lacrosse Team.

Dawn M. Sosnick '03 (D.D.S.) completed her pediatric residency in July 2005 at Schneider Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park, New York. She is working in two private pediatric dental offices: Huntington Dentists for Kids in Greenlawn and The Smile Station in Jericho. She also teaches part-time at Stony Brook's School of Dental Medicine in the Children's Department.

Michael Montgomery Atkinson '04 (B.S.) married **Amanda Marie Dooley '05 (M.S.)** this past June in Lyons, New York. Dooley works as a pediatric occupational therapist for the Rochester City School District. Atkinson is working as a physician assistant in internal medicine at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester.

Matthew Gerard McAvoy '04 (M.S.) married Susanne Robinson Smith in Springfield Center, New York. McAvoy works in New York City as a financial analyst in the management services unit of Grubb & Ellis, a real estate company with headquarters in Chicago.

Joseph Luigi Ianni '05 (B.S.) and Joanne Calia were married last year at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in West Hempstead, New York. The reception was at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville. Ianni is a medical dosimetrist for Nassau Radiologic Group in Garden City. They live in Old Westbury.

Michael J. Wisniewski '05 (Certificate) is a teacher at the Deer Park School (New York). He has been a volunteer firefighter and treasurer at Wyandanch Volunteer Fire Inc. for ten years. He is also a graduate student of Suffolk Edge Teacher Center.

Erin N. Garti '06 (M.S.W.) and Jeffrey Mikal Lohne were married last year at Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia, with a reception following the ceremony.

Evelyn Hsieh '06 (M.D.) married Dr. Joseph Anthony Donroe this past May at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. In June, the couple began medical residencies at Yale-New Haven Hospital, she in internal medicine and he in internal medicine and pediatrics.

Todd Marshall '06 (B.S.) is engaged to Hope Elizabeth Papworth. Marshall is a physician assistant at Syracuse Orthopedic Surgeons. An August 2008 wedding is planned in Syracuse.

Andrea Jade Ott '06 (B.S.) works at Northwestern Mutual as a financial representative assistant.

Emily Roccaro '06 (B.S.) and Brian Murray Jr. were recently married at St. Patrick's Church in Bay Shore, New York. She is a registered nurse for Reproductive Specialists of New York in Mineola. They live in Williston Park.

In Memoriam

Melvyn J. Rodriguez '71 (B.E.)

Robert R. Salvi '72 (M.A.L.)

Michael A. Barrett '74 (M.A.)

Theresa A. Bohlinger '74 (M.A.L.)

Thomas Toscano '75 (M.A.L.)

Arlene Deborah Wysong '75 (M.S.W.)

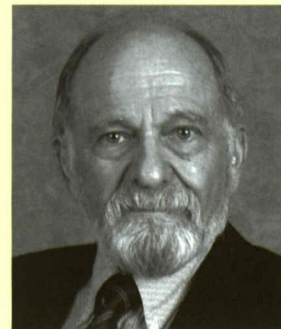
Philip A Dundie '76 (M.A.)

Gail R. Schweid '76 (B.A.)

Got News?

Let us and your fellow classmates know what's new in your life. Send your Class Notes to alumni@stonybrook.edu or visit www.stonybrook.edu/alumni to submit your notes online.

Remembering Egon Neuberger



By Susan Risoli

Leading professor emeritus Egon Neuberger, a pioneer in the field of comparative economic systems, died in October at the age of 82.

Born in 1925 in Yugoslavia, Neuberger moved to the United States at age 15 with his family. He enlisted in the Army during World War II. After the war, he earned a bachelor's degree in economics at Cornell University, and went on to attend Harvard University where he earned a master's degree in international affairs and a doctorate in economics. He was listed in "Who's Who in Economics: A Biographical Dictionary of Major Economists, 1700-1980."

Neuberger began teaching economics at Stony Brook in 1967. Colleague Michael Zweig remembered him as "a good friend and a remarkable figure on the campus. He contributed to our understanding of economics as a social whole," Zweig said. "As a leader in the field of comparative economic systems, he studied and taught the differences between socialist societies and capitalist systems in eastern Europe, and how we understand those differences regarding what an economy is."

From 1982 to 1988, Neuberger served as dean for social and behavioral sciences. He retired in 1999 and was an active member of the Round Table, Stony Brook's lifelong learning community. Paul Edelson, dean of the School of Professional Development, recalled Neuberger's sense of humor and irony. "At a deans' meeting that took place during a particularly horrendous budget year (back in the 1980s), Egon quipped that this year was 'only average', and that there was no need to gripe," Edelson said. "We were all stunned, since no one present could remember a more depressing fiscal period. Ever the economist, Egon went on to calmly explain that this year was 'worse than last year, but better than next year, and hence average.' We all shared a laugh during what was an otherwise bleak time. I will miss him."

Neuberger is survived by his wife Florence, daughter Leah Gillon, son Marc, and a granddaughter.

Brookmarks compiled by Susan Scheck

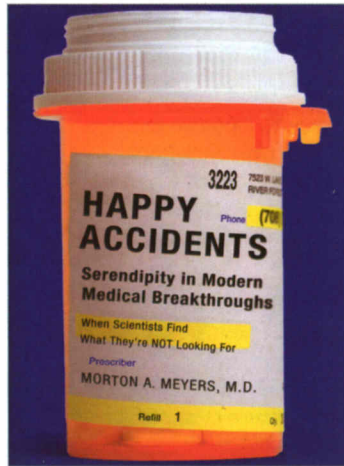


The Philosophy of Expertise

Edited by **Evan Selinger** and **Robert P. Crease**, Chair, Department of Philosophy

2006, Columbia University Press

This volume, edited by Crease and Selinger, an assistant professor of philosophy at Rochester Institute of Technology, is the first to examine the extent to which experts can be trusted and discusses the theoretical dimensions of expertise in the decision-making process. The contributors examine the nature of expertise, explore the philosophical issues surrounding expertise, and define the problems of trust and deference. Columbia University Press chose this book in September 2006 as a featured selection.

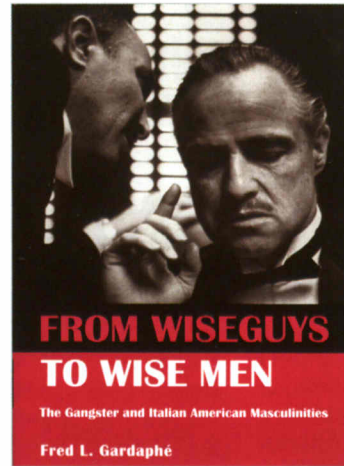


Happy Accidents: Serendipity in Modern Medical Breakthroughs

by **Morton A. Meyers, M.D.**, Professor Emeritus, Radiology/Internal Medicine, School of Medicine

2007, Arcade Publishing

In this lively and entertaining book, Dr. Morton Meyers uncovers the role happenstance played in some of the most important medical discoveries of the 20th century: penicillin, X-rays, Viagra, certain chemotherapy drugs, the Pap smear, and the angioplasty process were all discovered while searching for something else. Noting these "happy accidents," Dr. Meyers exposes factors that stifle innovation and proposes specific steps to foster creativity in medicine.

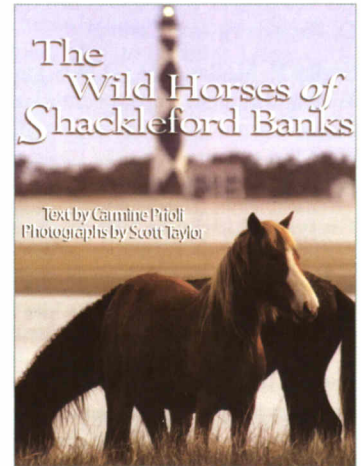


From Wiseguys to Wise Men: The Gangster and Italian American Masculinities

by **Fred L. Gardaphé**, Director, Italian American Studies

2006, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, LLC

For more than 100 years, the gangster has been an American cultural icon that reflects both the experience of a particular immigrant group and the fantasies of the people of its adopted land. Gardaphé explores this image, as portrayed by Italian American writers and filmmakers, and its relationship to the image of Italian American masculinity in the United States. The book sheds new light on the interplay between the "wiseguy" image and the reality of the Italian American male experience.



The Wild Horses of Shackleford Banks

By **Carmine Prioli, Ph.D.**, 1975
2007, John F. Blair

The wild horses on the island of Shackleford Banks, North Carolina, are famous both for the mystery of their origins and the paradoxical way they survive. Some say they are descendants of horses brought to the New World by the Spanish; others say they are more recent arrivals. Scientists protect them from interference by curious humans, and at the same time protect the island from overgrazing by limiting the herd's size by genetic testing and immunocontraception. Part of the proceeds from this beautifully illustrated book will be contributed to the Foundation for Shackleford Horses Inc.

New & Noteworthy

Fourteen Stories: Doctors, Patients, and Other Strangers
by Jay Baruch, M.D., Class of 1990

Kiddie Cruise (novel)
by Ron Pettit, Class of 1973

A Culture of Refusal: The Lives and Literacies of Out-of-School Adolescents
by Brett Elizabeth Blake, Class of 1978

The Silence of Men (poetry)
by Richard Jeffrey Newman, Class of 1984

Where Human Rights Begin: Health, Sexuality, and Women in the New Millennium
by Wendy Chavkin, M.D., Class of 1978; Ellen Chesler

Paper Lovers (Novel)
by C.B. Knadle, Class of 1972

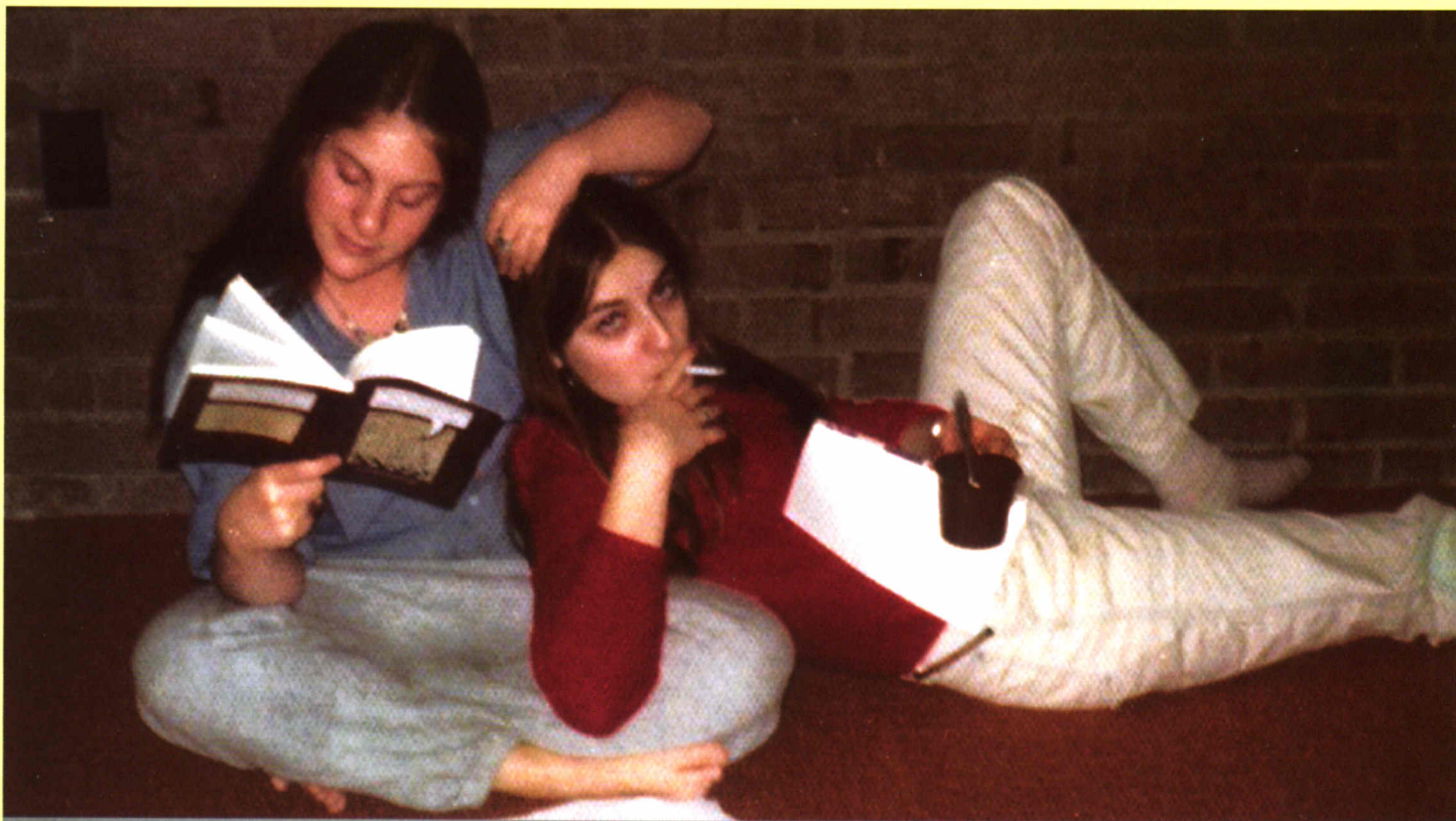
A Land Without Time: A Peace Corps Volunteer in Afghanistan
by John Sumser, Class of 1985
Haunted in the New World: Jewish American Culture from Cahan to The Goldbergs
by Donald Weber, Class of 1972

Seeking the Write Stuff

The Brook welcomes submissions of books recently written by alumni, faculty, and staff. **Send a review copy and relevant press materials to:** Susan Scheck, Editor, "Brookmarks," Office of Communications, Room 144 Administration, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-0605. E-mail: Susan.Scheck@stonybrook.edu

Please note: To purchase a copy of any of these featured titles, contact the University Bookstore at (631) 632-9747. Visit www.stonybrook.edu/bookstore for a calendar of events, including a series of faculty author readings sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the University Bookstore.

Flashback



Donna and I (right) cramming for a history exam in the hallway outside the Kelly C suite. It was so late our suitemates threw us out.

Charmed Friendships Began at SB

A few months before my 50th birthday, Rita called with a gift suggestion for me—and for her and our friends Shari and Lillian. “Let’s buy each other a key charm to signify that we all shared the same key to our dorm suite at Stony Brook.” I loved the idea of starting a charm bracelet to tell the story of our lives, and I loved that the first charm would represent lifelong friendships that began in college. Thirty years after we met as roommates, almost all of us still stay in touch. Shari and Lillian had known each other at the High School of Music and Art in Manhattan and came to Stony Brook as freshmen with a third friend from high school, Kaie. Lindsay and I had been best friends at our Long Island high school and when we arrived at Kelly C we found the three Manhattanites already settled into the ground-floor suite. Their friend Bennett was in the suite next door. Lindsay was dubious about the prospects for long-term friendships among us: “I’ll bet they’re city snobs,” she remembers thinking that first day. It was the last negative thought she had about them. The six of us took to each other within hours and spent much of our free time together. The sliding glass doors of our suite opened to a grassy area where we often hung out, on blankets and pillows, or on the suite’s couches that we dragged outside.



From left: Rita, me, Shari, and Lillian, 20 years after graduation.

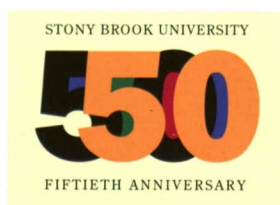
It was probably hard for new suitemates who entered to break into our tight circle. But Rita and Donna did. They joined our suite junior year and stayed through our senior year, when we finally left Kelly and moved to Roth Quad. (So much closer to classes, and a pond, too!) We did sometimes become close with people outside our suite and some of those friendships also survived. This past Fourth of July, Shari and Rita joined former Kelly residents Amy and Leslie for Amy’s 14th annual summer party. And Shari grew really close to John, someone we met in Roth: she married him! In June, Shari, Lillian, Rita, and I, and our husbands, met for dinner. As we looked through old Stony Brook photos Shari had brought, we shrieked at how young we looked. We watched the “kids” flirting and drinking at the bar and wondered if they’d be having dinner together, 30 years from now. “The friendships you make in college are different from friendships you make as adults,” Shari said. “We were evolving and discovering who we were, together. That’s what makes soulmates. It’s an intimate level of bonding.” I was wearing the charm bracelet. Rita put her key charm onto a necklace. Shari and Lillian had passed on the key, opting for different presents; they thought the charm idea was “hokey.” There you go. City snobs, after all. ■

Debra Morgenstern Katz, B.A. English, '77, is a freelance writer and former editor, whose essays and articles have appeared in The New York Times, Parents Magazine, Glamour, TV Guide, Bride's, Parenting, Working Mother, and Newsday.

The Emergence of Stony Brook

DAZZLING

Stony Brook didn't start out as a dream. Instead, from day one, we followed an ambitious plan, setting ourselves goal after distant goal. And we reached each of them by combining tough teaching with groundbreaking research. As we grew in size, we advanced in academic prowess until Stony Brook University now ranks in the top 2 percent of universities worldwide.



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