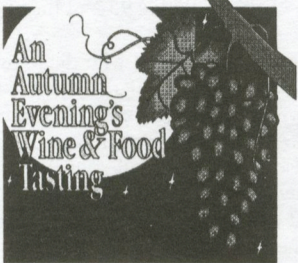


HAPPENINGS

News for and about the University at Stony Brook

Vol. 3 No. 6 • November 12, 1996

Don't Miss "Wine and Food Tasting," Nov. 21



Wild mushroom stew, Long Island corn chowder, poached salmon, and Vermont maple creme brulee topped off with

exceptional wine. Sound like your kind of fare? Then don't miss 'An Autumn Evening's Wine and Food Tasting' on Thursday, November 21 in the Indoor Sports Complex. From 5:30 to 8 p.m. the Campus and Community Committee for Undergraduate Scholarships will host this festive event, which grows more popular with each passing year. Local restaurants such as Mirabelle, Cafe Rustica, Panama Hattie's, Coyote Grill, Pentimento, the Polo Grill at the Garden City Hotel and many others offer seasonal fare with an emphasis on fall vegetables and Suffolk County seafood. Many of the dishes defy the imagination and taste buds: Thai black sesame turkey pasta salad, free range Long Island duckling, salmon and dill cheese-cake with red caviar, quince and lavender ice cream. There's even tomato stuffed with rattlesnake from Panama Hattie's. Participating wineries, among the many, include Pindar, Duck Walk, Chalk Hill, Pellegrini, RH Phillips, Mondavi.

"The event is held in the Sports Complex, but you'd never know you're in a gym", says co-chair Joan Kenny, School of Engineering. "Every year we create a decorating theme around the logo. This year's colors are midnight blue, grape and burgundy. It's very fall-elegant." There's a cafe area with tables so you can sit down, but most people saunter around tasting, sipping, mingling. "People are literally waiting for us to open the doors at 5:30," says Kenny. "People who started coming five or six years ago look forward to it and bring friends."

Highlights of the event are a live and silent



"Tasting, sipping, mingling": These pleasures can be found at the annual Wine and Food event.

auction of over 200 bottles of exceptional vintages. In conjunction with the event, a series of wine seminars will be offered at 4 p.m., including an introductory wine course, Rhone Varieties 101, and a Robert Mondavi Appellation Seminar on 1993 Cabernet

Sauvignon. Guests receive a wine glass at the door. Donation is \$50 per person for the tasting (\$60 at the door) and \$20 for each seminar. Proceeds benefit high-achieving Stony Brook students. For more information call 516-632-6873.

Homecoming '96: It was a Blast!

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that...Homecoming definitely was here! The excitement was palpable, from the booms of the fireworks, to the rolling and rollicking of the Mardi Gras floats on parade. Crowds cheered the creativity and ingenuity of the clubs and organizations who masterminded float and banner designs like the award-winning Louisiana Paddleboat by Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity and Theta Phi Alpha Sorority or the fabulous dragon costumes by the Chinese Student Association at Stony Brook.

Blessed with gorgeous Fall weather, the five days of Homecoming events start-

ed with a spirited kickoff, sponsored by the Student Activities Board. The campus was humming with activity and music from a swinging, foot-stomping, Dixieland Band, to the hip-hop rap of the Busta Rhymes concert. Roars of laughter could be heard all over campus, from the raucous and often hilarious music videos coming to life in the Fireside Lounge, to the antics of the stilt walkers. Fantasmagorical masks were created in the Student Union, and the Fine Arts Plaza was literally jumping and bouncing with fun.

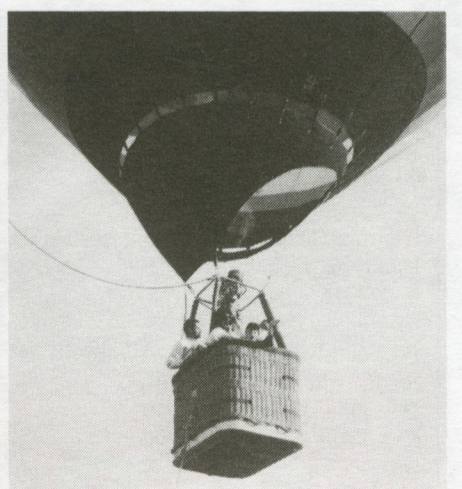
Students and staff had all bases covered for fans of the Bronx Bombers. Not wanting to miss a minute of Homecoming fun, everyone could watch

the World Series on a large projection TV, set up outside, so that they could see and hear that wonderful sound of ball connecting with bat and celebrate a New York victory.

"Unbelievably wonderful!" was how Scott Law described Homecoming. Law, who works as Assistant Director of Residence Programs, also served as the Mardi Gras parade coordinator. He feels that this year's parade, which was one of the biggest and best, was made extra special because it was held at night. The vibrant graphics and special effects, like the fire-breathing dragon sponsored by Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority and Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, just seemed to

explode onto the scene, filling the campus canvas with broad strokes of color and animation.

From fireworks to football and from Mardi Gras to magic, Homecoming '96 infused the campus with spirit, fun and warm memories. By sunset on Sunday, as Homecoming was coming to a close, some alumni families gathered up their children, and swapped stories with current students about remembered football games and old friends from Stony Brook. They all seemed to cherish the recollections and traditions of Homecomings, whether those memories were from years ago or just hours. After all, there was just so much to think about and tomorrow is just a day away.



Stony Brook Writers Honored

Two Stony Brook writers have received prestigious literary honors. Alumnus David Abram has won the Lannan Literary Award, a \$50,000 prize, for his non-fiction book *The Spell of the Sensuous: Perception and Language in a More than Human World*. Graduate student Marlais Olmstead's short story "Mrs. Sarah Quash" (written in a Stony Brook creative writing workshop) was selected for publication in *Scribner's Best of the Fiction Workshops 1997*. Though they write with different "voices," Abram and Olmstead bring honor to the craft of writing and Stony Brook as well.



Eco-magician David Abram

A Shaman's Spell

David Abram '93, isn't an easy man to reach. We wanted to talk to him about winning the prestigious Lannan Award, but he's somewhere between Santa Fe and Seattle and nowhere near a phone. Where's his cell phone? Abram isn't that kind of man. A philosopher, ecologist, and sleight-of-hand magician, he is part John Muir and part sorcerer.

Abram has sat out a monsoon in an Indonesian cliff cave, lived in a hut in the rice paddies of eastern Bali, traveled with monkeys in rural Java, traded magic with American Natives, studied with the sherpa people of the Himalayas, and written a major work of ecological philosophy.

The Spell of the Sensuous is a powerful and poetic piece of scholarship. It was published earlier this year to impressive reviews from noted authors, ecologists, environmentalists, philosophers and poets. "David Abram has written the best instruction manual yet for becoming fully human. I walked outside when I was done and the world was a different place," wrote Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature*.

The idea for the book came to Abram when he traveled to Nepal, Java and Bali on a research grant to study the relationship between magic and medicine. Living among sorcerers and shamans, he was invited into their homes, asked to share secrets with them and encouraged to participate in rituals and ceremonies. In time Abram began to see and hear in a manner he never had before.

"My ears began to attend in a new way to the songs of birds the way the intensity of the sun's heat expresses itself in the precise rhythm of the crickets. I learned to slow my pace in order to feel the difference between one nearby hill and the next or to taste the presence of a particular field at a certain time of day." This awakening led him to explore the impact language and writing has had on our relationship with nature.

"Abram argues that the advent of a phonetic alphabet has played a central role in our estrangement from and disregard for nature," writes Christopher Manes, in *Wild Earth*, fall 1996. "Truth

for us resides in books, not in our sensuous participation in the world. He shows, as no scholar has before, how intimately human thinking, even the more refined abstract reasoning, depends on the more than human world of birdsong, waterfalls, the very air that embodies our words."

Abram holds a doctorate in philosophy from Stony Brook and has been the recipient of fellowships from the Watson and Rockefeller Foundations. The annual Lannan Literary Award honors ten established and emerging writers. Candidates for the award are recommended to the foundation by a network of writers, literary scholars, publishers and editors. "This award came as a surprise to David," says his mother Blanche Abram of Baldwin. He didn't know he had been nominated. The recognition is delicious."

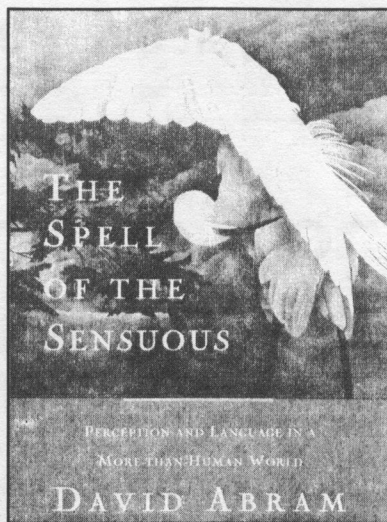
Here's a passage from the book. Abram is sitting out a monsoon rain in a cave in Bali watching spiders weave webs over the cave opening:

I sat stunned and mesmerized before the ever-complexifying expanse of living patterns upon patterns, my gaze drawn like a breath out into open space, then drawn down into another convergence. The curtain of water had become utterly silent—I tried at one point to hear it, but could not. My senses were entranced...I had the distinct impression that I was watching the universe being born, galaxy upon galaxy.

Getting a Leg Up

"Mrs. Sarah Quash," a spell-binding tale by Marlais Olmstead, is one of 22 short stories selected for publication in *Scribner's Best of the Fiction Workshops 1997*. Every year hundreds of short stories by students in creative writing programs throughout the country are submitted to Scribner for this coveted honor. "The general quality of the nominations was very high," says John Kulka, a Scribner editor. "This year's guest editor, Alice Hoffman, had some tough choices to make."

Olmstead also received a letter



from Simon & Schuster Senior Editor Penny Kaganoff, praising her writing and asking to be her editor on future projects. "The opportunity to establish a relationship with an editor at a major publishing house is very, very exciting," says Olmstead, who will graduate this spring with a Master's degree in English Literature.

Olmstead wrote "Mrs. Sarah Quash," in a creative writing workshop taught by visiting professor Richard Elman. "I wrote the story in about a week, then worked on revising it with Richard Elman," she says. "He was wonderful to work with, a true inspiration." The feeling is mutual.

"In the 35 years I've been teaching creative writing I've come across maybe four or five gifted writers, and Marlais is one of them," says Elman. "She's been a very attentive student, and it's wonderful for her that she's getting a leg up."

Olmstead writes in a pure and powerful voice. What follows is a paragraph from "Mrs. Sarah Quash," a stunning story about a young woman's transformation:

Her hand juts into the crumpled bag and a fistful of salty, oily crumbs reappears and she crams it to her lips. Shards of stale chips fall all over her shirt front. Salt finds a spot where a splinter pierces her flesh, between the first and second fingers, but she does not care. She is all mouth. Next an apple core, surprisingly sweet and giving. The relic of a chop. Rusty has appeared, fairly dancing; he nuzzles into a smear of spaghetti noodles. Then, beneath a crumple of paper napkin, she can smell it, Sarah finds a morsel of fat and gristle trimmed from the chops before she fried them. her heart surges. She flicks away a cucumber shaving and seizes her find. The smell is sweet, sweet and heady; the fat melds to a sinuous bit of meat which still retains some blood. Without question, this is irresistible. Rusty snaps at it as Sarah pops it in her mouth. Her saliva runs thick in her mouth, working to dissolve the piece as she masticates and swallows.

Honors College Ignites Intellectual Spark

Last spring's rigorous recruitment and enrollment efforts for the Honors College met with rousing success. More than 600 students applied to the program, which has room for 40. Four valedictorians, two salutatorians and three students who ranked third in their high school classes were enrolled. Nine other students ranked in the top ten in their classes. The mean grade point average of the class of 2000 is 95 and the average SAT score is 1358.

"This cohort is comprised of students who distinguished themselves in many high school cocurricular and extracurricular activities," says Ernest McNealey, Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs. "I am confident that, with our collective support, these individuals will contribute greatly to the undergraduate environment." Of the 600 applicants, 39 students were enrolled in the College, 20 in the Honors Program, and 55 in the general freshman population.

"Last May three students who graduated from the College were admitted to Harvard," says Donna DiDonato, Director of the Honors College. "That kind of information is becoming more widely known and it has created a special aura around the Honors College. Hence, every year the number of applicants increases by 100."

"I like the small size of the college and that we all live together," says Todd Wagner, who graduated from Miller Place High School. "We get to study together and see each other a lot. You meet a good core of people who are all academically oriented. I like the diversity too; there are people from everywhere with many different backgrounds."

"What we try to do is offer the students nurturing and personal attention," says DiDonato. "We want the students to wrap their minds around ideas and research opportunities early on. We offer them four years full of intellectual excitement."

Excitement is an understatement. Talk to any of these students, and they bubble over with enthusiasm for their courses, professors and life in general. "Progress and its Discontents," which is taught by Professors Netter and Schwartz, is so incredible, I can't say enough about it," says Nidhi Tewari who graduated from Connetquot High School. "We read the works of the great thinkers. We just finished reading the Communist Manifesto. I used to think, communism, so what, but I couldn't believe how much it had to do with me personally. We discuss what we read and it really opens your mind. We learn how change is good and how to embrace challenges."

"The classes are challenging and useful in your everyday life," adds Wagner. "We discuss life philosophies and apply them to current themes like politics, or our own lives and futures."



First Lady Hillary Rodman Clinton, after speaking on campus, with Carman Vasquez, Dean of Students; (left to right) Ceil Cleveland, Vice President for University Affairs; and Provost Rollin Richmond.

1996/97 Call for Nominations and Applications

Nominations are currently being solicited for the following University awards. For more information about who is eligible for these awards, who can nominate a candidate, or the selection process, please call the number listed.

Awards

Distinguished Teaching Professor
Deadline: December 2, 1996
632-7016

Distinguished Service Professor
Deadline: December 2, 1996
632-7016

President's/Chancellor's Awards
for Excellence in Teaching
Deadline: December 2, 1996
632-7790

President's/Chancellor's Awards
for Excellence in Professional Service
Deadline: December 2, 1996
632-7000

President's/Chancellor's Awards
for Excellence in Librarianship
Deadline: December 2, 1996
632-7000

President's Awards
for Excellence in Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action
Deadline: January 17, 1997
632-6161

President's Award
for Excellence in Classified Service
Deadline: December 2, 1996
632-6161

As part of President Kenny's commitment to improving student classroom experience and furthering diversity at Stony Brook, the President's Office is pleased to announce two Presidential Mini-Grant programs.

Presidential Mini-Grants

Innovative Teaching Projects Mini-Grant

Departmental Diversity Initiatives Mini-Grant

The deadline for submissions for these Mini-Grants is January 17, 1997.

For more information, call the Office of the President, 632-7272.

CLASSIFIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Faculty and Staff. Is there someone you would like to see receive information about applying to Stony Brook as an undergraduate? The admissions staff is available to assist your family and friends through the college selection and admissions process. If we can be of assistance to you, please call the admissions office at 2-0505 or stop by our office on the first floor of the Administration Building.

Postal Services, Boxes On Campus: A full-service branch of the U.S. Post Office is located in the Melville Library adjacent to the bookstore. It offers a wide array of postal services including money orders, sales of stamps and envelopes as well as all foreign and domestic Express Mail services. Post Office boxes are also available. The branch is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The phone number is 2-9645. For more information about the services provided or if you would be interested in renting a post office box, call Mail Services manager, Tom LaRusso at 2-6231, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WANTED

HELP WANTED

Psychology, Sociology and/or Health Related students interested in professional experience working with autistic child in a one-to-one behavioral home program (Lovaas), call 751-3810. Must be highly motivated and dependable. Pay commensurate with experience. Will train. Internships also available for Stony Brook credit. Two references.

Student Bus Drivers Needed. Want a part-time job that not only gives you money for school but also gives you a valuable resource that will last a lifetime? A job with hours that are tailored to your schedule with a starting salary of \$8 per hour? Qualifying students can take advantage of free training to obtain a class B Commercial Driver's License with a passenger endorsement and become a professional USB bus driver. The license you receive could cost thousands of dollars at a private commercial driving school, but here the training is free with on-campus convenience. Interested applicants can contact Eileen Saylor at (516) 632-6491 or pick-up an application at the bus trailer located in South-P-Lot.

The Department of Environmental Health & Safety has a group of positions open for qualified work-study students including fire safety assistant, safety services assistant, data management assistant, occupational health services assistant and health physics lab assistant. No prior experience is necessary. For information, call Renee Nelson at 632-9671.

VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS

Actors (dialects & impressions), writers, directors, musicians, and engineers wanted for The Montage Radio Theatre Troupe which will be performing radio plays in the studio on WUSB-FM and elsewhere and before live audiences. On tap is a remake of "War of the Worlds" and a live performance for the I-CON science fiction convention in April, 1997. For information, call Bradley Arrington at 632-6800.

Donations of new and used clothing and decorative household items are needed for the University Medical Center thrift shop, the Nearly New Boutique, 116 East Main Street in Port Jefferson. For information, call the Auxiliary office at 444-2699.

Donors Wanted. University Medical Center at Stony Brook needs volunteers to donate blood or a component of blood called "platelets." The Center is one of the largest users of platelets on Long Island. If you would like to become a Platelet Donor or make a regular donation, call 444-2634, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free refreshments are provided after the donation.

Union Art Gallery needs volunteers to help with Gallery programs and settings, Noon to 4 p.m. Contact Marcia Wiener at 2-6822 or stop by the Student Union & Activities Office, Room 266, Stony Brook Union.

University Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary needs volunteers to staff its thrift shop, the Nearly New Boutique, at 116 East Main Street in Port Jefferson. For information, please call the Auxiliary office at 444-2699.

VOLUNTEERS FOR STUDIES, PAID & UNPAID

Mothers of Young Infants. Mothers of babies under a year old can earn \$25 for a two hour study on "Cognitive and Perceptual Changes in Motherhood" conducted by the Department of Psychology. Call Dr. Mezzacappa at 632-9508 or 632-7178.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Harp. Amateur but serious self-taught musician seeking harp with pedals on which to learn and at reasonable cost. Call 632-9195 with specifics, asking price.

FOR RENT

HOUSES, APARTMENTS, CONDOS

Smithtown. One bedroom apartment, upstairs, suitable for single occupant. Seven miles from campus. \$600 per month includes utilities (except cable and phone). Call 360-3270.

Miller Place. Furnished house with three small bedrooms, at the beach. Scenic Long Island Sound view. Private, quiet community, 15 minutes from campus. Available after Labor Day through the end of May. \$1,050 per month plus electricity. Call 473-1938.

FOR SALE

AUTOS, TRUCKS, OTHER VEHICLES

1990 Hyundai Sonata. 72k miles. Great shape. 4 door, automatic. Asking \$4000 negotiable. 689-8250 Evenings and weekends.

Bicycle. Men's three-speed, 19" frame. Excellent condition. \$65. Call L. Paldy, 632-7075.

CLOTHING

Wedding gown. Excellent condition, size 5-6, pearl, lace and satin with long train also included pearl headpiece \$500. Call 289-0569 after 6 p.m. or leave message.

Hand-knitted slippers and boot socks from Ecuador, \$10; Also, jackets from small to large, llama wool, from Ecuador, \$50. Call 751-7371.

HOUSES/CONDOS

Nob Hill South. Condo for sale, located off exit 58, LIE. Large one bedroom lower unit with all new vinyl siding, kitchen, ceramic tiled bath and plush beige carpeting. Washer/dryer, 2AC and mirrored dining area. Must see. Owner asking \$69,500; willing to negotiate. Call 471-2780 evenings.

Stony Brook. Walk to campus! Buckingham ranch for sale. Three bedrooms, two baths, central air conditioning, new roof, burner. Fenced. Alarm system, carpeted, eat-in-kitchen, 1,500 square feet, excellent condition. Asking \$159,000, flexible arrangements. Call 751-4865.

Coram, Bretton Woods. Condo for sale. Two bedrooms, dining room, Upper Regency Gated Community, golf, tennis, indoor/outdoor pool, bowling, clubhouse, gym. Mint condition. \$76,500. Call 698-0877.

Setauket. Like new large three bedroom two bath ranch on cul-de-sac with garage, full basement and more. \$169,000 Call 331-4633.

JEWELRY

Silver and marcasite jewelry for sale. Call 928-2395 after 6 p.m.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, APPLIANCES

Americana GE electric stove, double oven, self-cleaning, \$100. Call 516-751-7371.

Lenox china and crystal, odd pieces, for sale. Call 928-2395 after 6 p.m.

Cherry Walnut oval dining table (Queen Ann), 2 leaves, table pads, beautiful condition. Asking \$350. Call 696-3853.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Electric portable typewriter, good condition \$40. Call E. Bennett 444-2468.

SERVICES

CHILD CARE

Stony Brook Child Care Services, the on campus child care center, has limited Fall openings for 3-5 year old children. SBCCSI has accreditation by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs (one of only 2% in the nation), full time staff with B.A. degrees, low child to staff ratios (1:6), child-centered program, a home-like setting, a sliding fee-scale, and tuition subsidies for SUNY affiliated, income eligible families. For information, call 632-6930.

Attorneys

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HAPPENINGS

November 12, 1996 Volume 3, Number 6

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Sparechange Debuts at Staller November 22

SpareChange, a dance-theater company in the Theater Arts Department, will have a gala opening performance on Friday, November 22 in Staller Center's Theater II. A special pre-show award ceremony for "Visionaries in the Arts", will honor choreographer and dancer, Bill T. Jones for his lifetime work and Sara Pearson and Patrik Widrig as emerging visionaries.

SpareChange Artistic Director and Choreographer, Amy Yopp Sullivan, will present five works that combine theater, dance, music and art. The works include Heartbreak Beats, Memories of a Woman About to Take a Rest, Victory: Already/But not yet, The Gossips and Emmigrant/Immigrant. In Theater I, large scale art installation works will be shown that reflect these themes.

The music for the Emigrant/Immigrant work is "Different Trains" by Steve Reich. In the 1940s Reich traveled via train between New York and Los Angeles to visit his parents. The music reflects his thoughts on how, as a Jew, he would have been treated if he'd been traveling by train in Europe then. The first half of the work is a duet by two women who are trying vainly to cross over the border. The second half is an ensemble about people who have escaped, not just Jews, but all immigrants.

The Gossips, a five-person performance, explores the dual nature of gossip. "Sometimes it unites a group against others, such as employees against a boss, then

there's vicious rumor-mongering that is malicious and hurtful," says dramaturg Adrienne Lamb. "This work examines what happens to relationships when gossip crosses that line." The Gossips features 1940s swing music by Hoagy Carmichael and Leslie Sturdy.

SpareChange establishes a laboratory atmosphere in which students develop original work involving people from many levels and disciplines, such as designers, dramaturgs, actors, dancers, non-trained performers, artists, scholars, community art council members, art curators, community organizers, composers, musicians, technical directors and the choreographer.

"We're breaking ground here," says Lamb. "Dance theater does have its history; this is a hybrid form between dance and theater. It's exciting to see what these students can do and where they have taken themselves. It's a fun, exciting, and thought-provoking evening."

SpareChange can also be seen November 23, December 5, 6, 7 at 8:00 pm and on November 24 and



The SpareChange "gossips" (clockwise from top left): Christine Giuffre, Bonnie-Marie Bracco, Diana DeJallacchia, Victoria Malvagno, Joanna Tobin.

December 8 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$8 for the general public and \$6 for students, staff and seniors. Gala opening tickets are \$35 and include a post-show champagne reception. For tickets contact the Staller Center box office, (516) 632-7230.

Alumni Association Receives Generous Gift for Undergraduate Programs



Jane and William Knapp '78

When William and Jane Knapp '78, attended 'An Evening of Stony Brook Fare,' a number of years ago, "we were so impressed by all the wonderful things going on here," says Jane, whose unbridled enthusiasm is both catching and heartfelt. "The Fare was like a progressive dinner party. You have each course in a different part of the campus and listen to a professor or dean, someone dynamic, talk about the department. We were just amazed by the very brilliant and approachable teachers here. That was the first thing that made us want to give back and get involved."

And get involved they did. On September 12, William and Jane Knapp of Swezey's (he's the president and she handles marketing) made a more-than-generous contribution to the Alumni Association to provide a variety of programs for undergraduates. In a more formal reception in the spring of 1997, the alumni office will be renamed The William and Jane Knapp Alumni Center.

"We feel there's not much of a donor base among

alumni," says Jane. "We want to be instrumental in changing that and helping to raise money to improve the quality of life for students on campus."

"Up until now all alumni program money came from the dues," explains Jovanna Little, acting director of Alumni Affairs. "Now we have funds for undergraduate programming. We hope this gift will inspire other alumni to give. The students here are our future alumni. Through programming we can increase school pride and a sense of connectedness, so they will give back to the University."

"You get a wonderful education at Stony Brook, but students also need a positive living environment," says Jane. "Happy undergrads become alumni who are more apt to get involved later in life. The physical environment at Stony Brook is pretty daunting; it needs to be more human—we have great hope for the new student center. We appreciate the emphasis Shirley Kenny is putting on the quality of life for undergraduates. And improving the status of the athletics program is a step in the right direction."

Briefs

Asian American Center Opens

Approximately 25% of Stony Brook's student body is of Asian descent. Now, the fastest growing minority in the country and on campus has its own center offering a multitude of social, practical and educational services. The Center, which opened November 6, maintains a casual atmosphere so it can become a home away from home for immigrant and foreign students and a place for Asian and non-Asian to meet. The Center offers computer facilities, internet access, space for Asian American clubs, counseling services and more. "We're also working on oral histories of the older generation of Asian immigrants," says Gary Mar, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, and a co-founder and director of the Center. "Their personal stories are an important part of American history."

The center is directed towards helping the campus become more aware of Asian American issues, and helping students and faculty to overcome culturally biased teaching curriculum. "We are creating a multimedia, interactive program to improve and help written and oral communication among Asian students," says Mar. "Many Asians graduate with high grade point average, but they can't communicate as well as native speakers. The pedagogy of requiring students to write personal narratives when they are often taught not to express their feelings, makes writing a frustrating and difficult task." One of the Center's primary goals is to help alleviate this problem.

Asian American Care Teams

Lana Mar, Adjunct Senior Counselor, (and Gary Mar's spouse), is the workshop leader of the Center's Asian American Care Teams—student support groups.

According to Mar, within the Asian culture, many people are reluctant to seek counseling because the family is supposed to meet ones' emotional needs. "Seeking outside help implies that the family is lacking and that brings shame upon the family," says Mar.

Many first generation Asian American students are under a great deal of stress. "The children experience such a different life growing up in America than their parents who may be from China, Korea, India or other countries. Perhaps their parents are working two jobs and not around a lot." The support groups enable students to share common experiences and break through some of the isolation and loneliness they may be feeling.

"The tendency for many Asian American students is to drop out of counseling prematurely or to seek help only when they are at the breaking point. The care teams try to reach out before a crisis occurs.

"We talk a lot about practical issues such as time management and reducing stress for academic achievement. Sometimes this will open an avenue for other conversations that could allow a trusting relationship to develop."

November is Asian American Awareness Month. Events as of this publication date include: November 13, Asian American Identity Politics, speaker Gary Okihiro, Director of Cornell's Asian American Studies Program, 3 p.m., Student Union Bi-level. November 20, Not For Asian Women Only, speaker Nora Chang Wang, New York City Commissioner of Employment, 3 p.m., Student Union Bi-level. November 20, 'Who Killed Vincent Chin,' an Academy-award nominated film about a racially motivated murder. The

film's director, Christine Choy will be present, 7 p.m., Student Union Auditorium. For more information contact The Asian American Center, 191 Physics, 632-9530 or the Asian American Care Teams, 632-7582.

Upcoming Events at the Humanities Institute

"Memories of a Parent's Death: Bequest and Betrayal." A lecture by Nancy Miller (CUNY). This is the second in HISB's Interdisciplinary Feminist Colloquium series, co-sponsored by Women's Studies. Thursday, November 14, 4:30 p.m., Melville Library E4340. "Proust and Issues of Identity" a lecture by Visiting Fellow, Julia Kristeva. Tuesday, November 19, 5 p.m., Alliance Room. "Proust and the Dreyfus Affair" a faculty and graduate student seminar also by Kristeva. Wednesday, November 20, 10 a.m., Melville Library E4340.

What Does Feminism Mean to You?

Focus on Women, On Diversity, a SUNY SB feminist journal is sponsoring an essay contest, "What Feminism Means to Me." The contest is open to everyone on campus (students, staff, faculty). There is a cash prize and the essay will be published in the journal. Send submissions to: FOCUS c/o Kim Seto or Dorothy Hoffman, Women's Studies, Room 105, Old Chemistry, State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY 11794-3456. DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 25.

Art History and Criticism Lectures

"Landscape and the Power of Place." A lecture by Edward Casey, SB Philosophy Department, Wednesday, November 13, 5 p.m., Staller Fine Arts Center, Art Gallery.

"Corporate Support for the Fine Arts in Jacksonian America: The Example of the Steamboat Albany Collection. Lecture by Kenneth Myers, New Jersey Historical Society, Wednesday, November 20, 5 p.m., Humanities Institute, Melville Library E4340.

Music Department Concerts

The University Wind Ensemble, under director Bruce Engle, will perform Wednesday, November 13 at 8 p.m. on the Main Stage of Staller Center. The program includes a variety of works ranging from Rossini's *La Gazza Ladra* to Richard Rogers' *The King and I*. \$7, \$5 for students and seniors. For more information call Staller Center box office, 632-7230.

A Composers Concert by the greatly acclaimed contemporary Chamber Players will feature exciting new works written by Stony Brook composers. Thursday, November 14, 8 p.m., Staller Center Recital Hall. Free. For more information contact the Music Department 632-7330.

College Admissions Workshop

The Undergraduate Admissions Office is offering a comprehensive workshop on the college admissions process to parents and the guidance community in the high schools. "Undoubtedly there are a number of high school juniors and seniors among the families of the faculty and staff of the University," says Gigi Lamens, Dean of Admissions. The workshop includes specific information on what to do, where to go, financial aid procedures, what's available and how to get it. Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m., Alliance Room. Feel free to bring your son or daughter, family and friends. For more information contact: Mildred Greshin, 632-6867.