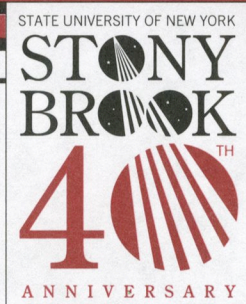


HAPPENINGS

FACULTY/STAFF/FRIENDS NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 5 NO.4 MARCH 4, 1998

Campus Debates, Cultural Conflict

Should diversity programs exist on college campuses? Is the university a site of cultural exchange? The 1998 Student-Community Wellness Leadership Symposium explored these questions. The event, held last month and organized by the School of Social Welfare's Student-Community Development Program and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, was titled "Cross Cultural Conflict in the Education Community." Invited speakers were Graham B. Spanier, President of Penn State University (and a former Stony Brook administrator); Frank G. Pogue, President of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania; and Bruce Hare of Syracuse University (formerly of Stony Brook's Department of Sociology).

Penn State has a full-time vice
Continued on reverse

SB Invited to Sit at the Round Table

The idea of the residential college—a building where students sleep, eat, and learn—started at England's Oxford University centuries ago. Now Stony Brook is showing them how we do it.

Jerry Stein, director of residential education and programs, and Jim Mackin, academic director of the Living Learning Center program, were invited to join a group called the "Oxford Round Table." The group met in England to explore combining academic programs with college residential living. Stein and Mackin gave a presentation on what Mackin calls "the big issue: the divide between student affairs, which focuses on development of the person, versus the academic side." While most residential education programs concentrate on one approach and give short shrift to the other, says Mackin, Stony Brook integrates both *and* encourages students to develop leadership abilities. Living Learning Center students have planned and run events like the Roth Regatta and Earth Day festivals.

Living Learning Centers are designated residence halls where students live, take interdisciplinary classes, and earn an academic minor. Each of these seven centers is based on a theme. An eighth center, slated to begin in the fall, will concentrate on "community-based action research." Students will work with local neighborhoods to help

Continued on reverse



Campus Protestant chaplain Noelle Damico (center) discusses matters of faith with students (seated) Laura Cummings and Michael Racelis, and (standing) John Leita and Jimmy Ford.

Not Your Father's Minister The Reverend Damico, Ever Reforming

by Murray Lamond

If the word "clergy" means elderly men (with conservative views) to you, Reverend Noelle Damico, the campus Protestant chaplain, will shatter the stereotype. Young and endlessly energetic, she represents the "protesting" tradition of Christianity in a fiercely contemporary mold.

She swings in her seat and uses her hands expansively as she talks. "There has been an amazing upsurge in spiritual searching for a more meaningful lifestyle," Damico says, "something for those torn apart by a brutal workplace, family tensions, and the demands of new technologies. It is a great opportunity to make a difference, and replace the shrinking institutional church with a vibrant and committed faith community."

Baptized Roman Catholic, Damico was brought up in her mother's Methodist tradition. "My mom had thirty kids in the garage on Saturdays singing Christian lyrics to Beatles melodies!" Damico recalls. She studied theology and divinity at Princeton. After quitting seminary twice, Damico was ordained in 1991 as a Methodist minister, but later switched allegiance to the United Church of Christ (their motto is "reformed and ever reforming"). Before exercising her vocation, Damico worked in the high-pressure world of software and information systems. "They couldn't believe it when I quit," she recalls. "They kept offering me more money, but I told them it just wasn't about money."

Importance of Role Models

"The other day before church," she continues, "one of the little girls was playing and she got up in the pulpit and said 'Look at me, I'm Noelle! I'm going to be a minister!' And I thought how important it was to have role models for young women." Among her own models is Ann Marbury Hutchinson (1590-1643), who was excommunicated from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for her religious beliefs, and Norman Thomas, the Presbyterian socialist and author of the New Deal.

The Campus Protestant Ministry, founded in 1963, is supported by a confederation of local churches. The Ministry runs prayer services every Monday evening at 8 p.m. in Room 157 in the Humanities Building. It also publishes *Catalyst*, a "zine of faith and action," every semester. Students involved in the Ministry devote time to causes that include efforts to ban landmines, end nuclear testing, close the U.S. Army School of the Americas, and combat domestic violence.

In addition to her campus responsibilities, Damico is associate minister at the nearby Mt. Sinai United Church of Christ. A gifted musician, she has written worship music, and her song *Till the World Is Fed* appears on the CD *Hunger Has a Cure—And We're Part of It*. The song was adopted by the Bread for the World Organization, and sung at all their gatherings last year.

Damico's husband is the Reverend Jeff Geary, a Presbyterian minister. They met at seminary, she says, "and we just fell in love." The couple shares the e-mail address of "the2revs."

Damico admits to being a fan of television's *The X Files* (one could call her an "X-Phile.") "I like the conflict between reason and intuition," she says, "and I love it that the woman is the reasonable one at last! The way an episode takes away all the answers and leaves us wondering about the nature of the world is really good."

Frogs Yield Clues On Human Cancer

by Susan Risoli

A grant from Eli Lilly and Company has arrived out of the blue for Gerald Thomsen. He hadn't applied for it, and was thrilled to learn "quite unexpectedly" that the company selected him to receive a \$15,000 award that supports his research on how genes regulate the early development of vertebrates. The unrestricted grant is part of Lilly's program to fund basic research in the molecular life sciences. Recipients are (like Thomsen) exceptional young tenure-track developmental biology scientists whose work could lead to drug development. Thomsen, 39, has been at Stony Brook for four years; he is an assistant professor of biochemistry and cell biology. Some of the same genes he studies in early frog embryos are present, but mutated, in human cancer cells. "One of the genes I study tells a frog where to grow its head," Thomsen explains. "That very same gene in humans, when it's mutated, is part of the mechanism for colon cancer." Yes, humans and frogs have genes in common. "Between humans, frogs, and other animals, there are more similarities at the genetic level than there are differences," says Thomsen.



Researcher Gerald Thomsen

April 3 Talent Show

The artistic and musical talents of our medical students will be showcased Friday, April 3 from 7-9 p.m. in the HSC Galleria. Proceeds will support the School for Language and Communication Development, a local organization that uses music and art therapy to teach communication to developmentally disabled children. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the School of Medicine Office of Student Affairs. Call 4-2341.

Cultural Conflict

Continued from front page

provost for educational equality, Spanier said, and convenes advisory bodies on women's issues, racial equality, lesbian and gay concerns, etc. A "campus environment team" meets regularly to deal proactively with conflict. The general education curriculum ensures academic exposure to other cultures.

Results of this multifaceted approach, Spanier said, are encouraging. Fifteen years ago there were 2,700 under-represented students on the campus—today there are 7,470. Rates of retention and graduation for under-represented students are up, and the gap between the performance of these students and others has narrowed.

The Edinboro "Hello"

Frank Pogue recounted efforts to create community and respect. His initiatives ranged from simple courtesy (the institution of a habitual greeting known as the "Edinboro Hello") to bridging the town-gown gap. "For me signs of conflict are evidence that a genuine encounter is taking place," Pogue said. "Fostering collegiality through these encounters leads to better learning."

Bruce Hare took the debate further, questioning the vocabulary in which our efforts at communication have been framed. Pointing out the alienating effect of terms like "minority student," he called for a deracialization of the on-campus debate. "We must get away from the implication that the normative student is male and white," Hare said. "The university is for everyone. That's what the word means."

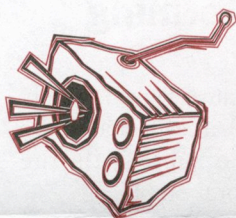


SB Hosts University Faculty Senate

Last month Stony Brook hosted close to 100 representatives from SUNY campuses for a meeting of the University Faculty Senate. The group (faculty members, professional staff, and campus governance leaders) meets periodically on campuses throughout the state. This was the first time in recent years that the group traveled to Stony Brook. Attendees included SUNY Chancellor John W. Ryan (pictured here with President Kenny, at an exhibit of works by Stony Brook M.F.A. students). The gathering was organized by our own Norman Goodman (distinguished teaching/distinguished service professor of sociology) and Janet Youngblood (staff associate, microbiology).

WUSB Radiothon

It's time to put your money where your ears are. WUSB 90.1 FM will hold its annual Spring Radiothon fundraising event Tuesday, March 10 through Sunday, April 5. If you make a pledge, you'll not only help the non-commercial station broadcast 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You'll also receive one of the premiums being offered at a variety of pledge levels.



These premiums (gift certificates, compact disks, tickets, books, and more) have been donated by local merchants. Pledges can be made by check, money order, or credit card, payable to WUSB/SBF and mailed to the station at the Stony Brook Union, University at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794-3263. For a schedule of special Radiothon programs, or to sign on as a "pledge phone" volunteer, leave a message on WUSB's Listener Line, 2-6498.

The Round Table

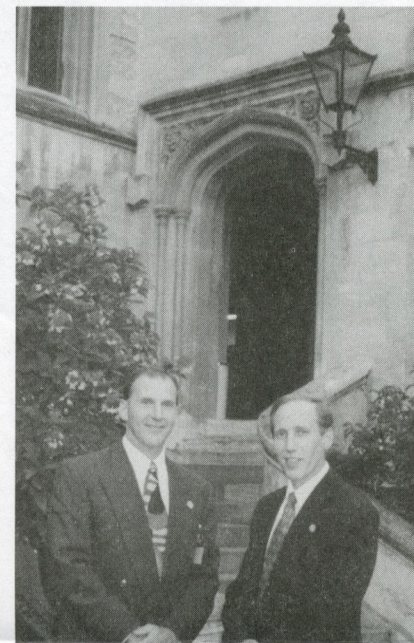
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solve the area's problems. A science student might research solutions to a pollution dilemma; a social science student could help solve a literacy problem.

The other Round Table participants "thought ours was a novel approach to residential learning," says Stein, who recalls that colleagues from schools with bigger budgets for residential education were impressed with what Stony Brook does on limited funds.

Future directions for the Living Learning Center program include efforts to figure out how commuter students can participate.

It wasn't all work and no play for these Stony Brook Yankees in Oxford's court. They saw buildings dating back to the 1200s and books produced before the printing press was even invented.



Stein (left) and Mackin brought a touch of Stony Brook to the U.K.

Calendar - March 4-17

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

For more info call the Women's Studies Program at 2-9176.

3/6, Friday. State Assemblywoman Debra Mazzarelli speaks on "Women in Politics: Taking a Stand for Children and Families." 11:30 a.m., Room S218, Social and Behavioral Sciences Building. Sponsored by Child and Family Studies and the Center for Excellence and Innovation in Education. Free.

3/9, Monday. Author Ann Ferrar. 5:30 p.m., Room 137 Harriman Hall. Ferrar, who penned *Hear Me Roar: Women, Motorcycles and the Rapture of the Road*, gives a slide presentation and discussion of the history of women on motorized wheels. A fun and fascinating look at the role of mobility in women's independence. Book signing follows.

3/10, Tuesday. Author Donna Woolfolk Cross. 4:30 p.m., Peace Center, first floor, Old Chemistry Building. Cross discusses her work. She wrote *Pope Joan*, a novel based on the life of a woman who, disguised as a man, ruled in the ninth century. Free.

3/11, Wednesday. "Women of Courage and Conviction." 12:40 p.m., Peace Center, first floor, Old Chemistry Building. Interfaith chaplains speak. Free.

DANCE

3/7, Saturday. Ballet Toulouse. 8 p.m. Main Stage, Staller Center. Ballet du Capitole de Toulouse performs a collage of one-acts featuring the "Prodigal Son," "Scotch Symphony," and "Rodeo." Tickets \$26-\$28. For info call Staller Box Office at 2-7230.

FILM

Join fellow film fans for the opening of the Staller Center for the Arts Academy Award Weekend that includes receptions, guest appearances, and more. Tickets are \$25 per person and cover six films and a reception with Academy Award-winning screenwriter Budd Schulberg. No individual tickets for movies will be sold for this series. For

reservations and/or info call the Box Office at 2-7230. All films held on the Staller Center Main Stage.

3/13, Friday. *The Godfather*, 9 p.m.

3/14, Saturday. *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, 3 p.m.

3/14, Saturday. *A Streetcar Named Desire*, 8 p.m. Oscar-winning actress Kim Hunter will introduce this film.

3/15, Sunday. *The Sound of Music*, 1 p.m.

3/15, Sunday. *On the Waterfront*, 4:30 p.m.

3/15, Sunday. *Lawrence of Arabia*, 7:30 p.m.

HOSPITAL GRAND ROUNDS

3/4, Wednesday. "Screening for Colorectal Cancer." Peter Ells, M.D. HSC Level 2, Lecture Hall 3, 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

3/10, Tuesday. "Psychiatric Issues in Pediatric Epilepsy." Alan Ettinger, M.D. and Deborah Weisbrot, M.D. at HSC, Level 3, Lecture Hall 6, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

3/11, Wednesday. "Precocious Pregnancy." Wei Chu, M.D. HSC Level 2, Lecture Hall 3, 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

3/17, Tuesday. "Mania and ADHA: Comorbidity or Confusion?" Gabrielle Carlson, M.D. at HSC Level 3, Lecture Hall 6, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

ONGOING

Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds Program and Visiting Professor Lecture Series. This series is held the first Tuesday of each month through June, 8:30-10 a.m. in the HSC. Conducted by nationally renowned experts in emergency medicine. Of interest to emergency medicine physicians, family practitioners, internists, surgeons, and others who diagnose and treat emergencies. For info call 4-2829.

Marine Sciences Research Center, Oceans and Atmosphere Colloquium Series. Fridays, 12:30 p.m., Room 120

Endeavour Hall, South Campus. Refreshments served at 12:15 p.m. All are welcome. For info call 2-8700.

SEMINARS

3/4, Wednesday. "The HIT Protein Family: Elucidating Function through Structure and Genomics." Christopher D. Lima, M.D., Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Columbia University. Basic Health Science Tower, Level 5, Room 145, 4 p.m.

3/10, Tuesday. "Cyclic Nucleotide Phosphodiesterase Isozymes-A Family of Drug Targets." Samuel J. Strada, M.D. U. of South Alabama. Basic Health Science Tower, T-8, Room 140, 4 p.m.

3/16, Monday. "Study of Cellular Responses to DNA Adducts in Yeast." Robert Levine, graduate student. Basic Health Science Tower, T-8, Room 140, 12 noon.

SPECIAL EVENTS

3/5; Thursday, 3/6, Friday. First Okubo Lecture. Holger Jannasch, the marine microbiologist who did the seminal work on organisms living in deep-sea hydrothermal vents 8,000 feet below the ocean's surface, will give the first Okubo Lecture at the Marine Sciences Research Center (this event honors the memory of Akira Okubo, an MSRC professor from 1974 until his death in 1996.) Jannasch will give an informal presentation (followed by a reception) 3/5, 3:30 p.m., Room 120 Endeavour Hall. He will speak on "Microbial Processes at Deep-Sea Hydrothermal Vents" 3/6, 12:30 p.m., same location. Free. Call 2-8700 for info.

3/5 - 3/8, Thursday - Sunday. Terrains: Landscapes/Bodyscapes. Scholars from around the world present their work in Cultural Studies from a wide range of disciplines. For lecture topics and times contact Melissa Chinchillo at 2-7390.

3/6, Friday. Astronomy Open Night. 7:30 p.m., Earth and Space Sciences Lecture Room 001, ESS Building. Professor Chang Kee Jung on "We See Stars Underground."

Weather permitting, there will be an observing session on the roof of the ESS Building. Free. For info call 2-8100.

3/11 - 3/12, Wednesday-Thursday. Plant Sale, 10 am. - 3 p.m. SB Union Lobby.

3/14 - 3/15, Saturday-Sunday. Greenberg Train and Miniature Show. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Main Arena, Indoor Sports Complex. More than 200 vendors of model trains, toys, and hobby materials will display and sell their wares. Admission \$5. For info call 410-785-7842.

THEATRE

3/12 - 3/14, Thursday - Saturday. *As You Like It*. 8 p.m., Theater I, Staller Center. General admission \$10; students, senior citizens, and children \$8.

HAPPENINGS

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