

# HAPPENINGS

FACULTY / STAFF / FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

STONY  
BROOK

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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## STONY BROOK CARES

### A Message from Gail S. Habicht

Vice President of Research  
and Executive Chair of  
the 1999 Charitable Drive

The holiday season is in full gear! For most of us, it is a time of celebration with family and friends. It is also a time to remember those less fortunate than ourselves. A contribution to "Stony Brook Cares" is the perfect way to do this. Your donation to this year's SEFA/United Way campaign can help those in need of support and services have something to celebrate, as well.

To those of you who have already made your contribution to Stony Brook Cares, a sincere "Thank you!" Your support has contributed to the more than \$137,000 collected to date. If you have not yet submitted your participation form, please consider supporting Stony Brook Cares with what you can afford. You may designate the agency in our local community that provides the services that resonate with what you and your family want to support. That agency will receive the full value of your pledge. Three of our own agencies are asking for your support — the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Foundation, the University Hospital Auxiliary and the Stony Brook Child Care Center. You would be able to watch your dollars at work if you were to choose one of these causes.

You may make your donation by check or use the convenient payroll deduction method. On your Stony Brook Cares participation form, indicate the amount and method of contribution and the agencies you'd like to contribute to. If you did not receive or have misplaced your participation packet, please see the Stony Brook Cares captain for your area, or contact Kristin Hilbert at 632-9347.

As we head into the new millennium, please help us to reinforce that the University is committed to supporting community programs throughout Long Island.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy Holiday Season to you and your family.



## Professor Develops Test for Lyme Disease

A researcher at the School of Medicine is part of a team that has developed a new test for detecting Lyme Disease. Dr. Patricia Coyle, a professor of neurology, played a prominent role in the study, whose findings were reported in the November issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The test helps to distinguish between old and new cases of Lyme disease and makes it easier to determine the presence of the disease as early as a week after a tick bite. Results of the conventional test for Lyme disease, called an ELISA test, can take from 4 to 6 weeks.

"This test, which can be used both on blood and spinal fluid, is not only going to aid in diagnosis of Lyme disease, but may provide a test for active infection," said Dr. Coyle.

The newest test measures only the level of antibodies that are specifically bound to the disease bacterium, and not the free-floating antibodies that may linger after an infection has subsided or that exist as a result of a vaccination for the disease. According to researchers, the new test will aid in the treatment of 20 to 40 percent of cases in which the trademark bulls-eye rash goes undetected.

In the study, led by Dr. Steven Schutzer of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the researchers examined 168 blood samples of people known to have Lyme disease, including 156 of whom had active Lyme. The new test detected 149 cases of Lyme disease and produced negative results for the 12 who had recovered from Lyme disease but still tested positive on the ELISA test.

"The extraordinary work done by Dr. Coyle and all of the members of the research team is important to the process of minimizing the impact of Lyme disease," said President Shirley Strum Kenny. "It is indicative of the outstanding work being performed in a variety of research areas here, and is just one more reason why Stony Brook is considered one of the leading research institutions in the nation."

Stony Brook is continuing its research into Lyme disease and is seeking participants for new studies. Those who have newly diagnosed Lyme disease or have been previously diagnosed with ongoing health problems related to the disease may contact Pat Melville, study coordinator, at 1-800-816-1933 or Donna Giovanni, assistant to the director, at 444-7832.

The complete findings of the research may be obtained through the *Journal of the American Medical Association* Web site at <http://jama.ama-assn.org>.



Dr. Patricia Coyle.

## New Scholarships Established

Four major financial institutions are supporting the establishment of scholarships at Stony Brook with contributions totaling more than \$80,000.

According to Lois Mazer, Director for Scholarships and Special Programs, North Fork Bank has donated \$25,000 to support unrestricted recruitment and retention scholarships and an additional \$15,000 to fund athletic scholarships. Fleet Bank is establishing a \$20,000 endowment to support recruitment and retention scholarships for high-achieving high school students with financial need, and the Roslyn Savings Foundation is supporting two \$3,500 full tuition, need-based scholarships for community-minded students.

In addition, the Teachers Federal Credit Union (TFCU) in Farmingville has endowed a four-year, \$4,000 full tuition recruitment and retention scholarship to support an entering freshman residing in Suffolk County. The TFCU scholarship will be based on merit and financial need.

## Winners Announced

The North Fork Bank scholarship winners are: Ali Khan, Chateen Carbonara, Brooke Ackerman, Wajiha Basit, Claudia Cebadamora, and Diana David.

Javanshir Javidfa is the winner of the Fleet Bank endowment, while John Pagliarulo received the TFCU award. Nazy Modri and Karen Russler received the Roslyn Savings Foundation's support.

For more information on the scholarships or on how you can help start one, please contact Lois Mazer at 632-8625.

## SAVE THE DATE!

The Center for Biotechnology  
will celebrate the official  
opening of its new facilities on  
January 20, 2000.

The new Applied Bioscience Laboratory marks a tremendous move forward in the Center's goal of identifying and developing commercially promising academic research. The official opening of the Center for Biotechnology in January aptly coincides with National Biotechnology Month, designated by the U.S. Senate. This resolution properly recognizes the vital role biotechnology plays in healthcare advances in the treatment of AIDS, cancer, neurodegenerative disorders, diabetes, and other life threatening illnesses.

The Center will celebrate its opening with a full day program, which includes a DNA workshop, ribbon cutting ceremony and reception. For more information about the Center and its activities, please call 632-8521.

## Physician Assistant Program Honored



During the New York State Society of Physician Assistants (NYSSPA) meeting this past fall, Stony Brook's Physician Assistant Program was recognized for its contribution to the physician assistant profession in the state. Pictured accepting the award from NYSSPA President Joseph Tommasino (right) are Rodney Richmond, Senior Class President, and Marian Eskaw, Clinical Assistant Professor (center).





## Boosting Women's Basketball

The PAWS Fast Break Club invites all faculty and staff to help them celebrate the 30th anniversary of women's basketball at Stony Brook by joining their "Boost-HER" group. Your membership in the PAWS Fast Break Club will assist Coach Trish Roberts and the women's basketball team in building the Seawolves program into a national contender.

You can help the team in many ways, including:

- Increasing the fan base for the women's basketball program;
- Organizing functions around home and away women's basketball games;
- Assisting in the sale of women's basketball season tickets;
- Assisting in building relationships within the University and Long Island communities; and
- Becoming role models and mentors for student-athletes.

In addition to supporting the students, members of the club will receive a PAWS Fast Break Club sweatshirt and an autographed Seawolves media guide for their \$40 membership fee.

For more information on the PAWS Fast Break Club, please contact Pat Wachter at 632-3291.

This is the last issue of *Happenings* for 1999. We will return with our first Year 2000 issue on January 19.

## \$1,500 Evan Liblit Scholarship Awarded

Michael Ahrens, a graduate student at the Marine Sciences research Center (MSRC) recently received the second annual Evan R. Liblit Scholarship. The \$1,500 award was presented to Ahrens by Acting Provost Robert McGrath at the Evan R. Liblit Memorial Fund Environmental Breakfast, held at the New York Institute of Technology's Culinary Arts Center in Central Islip on November 15.

The scholarship was established to support graduate students at the MSRC and its Waste Reduction and Management Institute (WRMI) who work on environmental management problems. Evan Liblit served on the WRMI faculty and played a pioneering role in developing recycling programs on Long Island.

As the keynote speaker, Long Island Power Authority Chairman Richard Kessel praised Evan Liblit's integrity and dedication, adding that LIPA's energy conservation program reflected Liblit's high environmental ideals.

Ahrens's research involves developing a method for determining the bioavailability of contaminants in Maine sediments — whether contaminants have the potential for being incorporated into the food chain. He hopes eventually to understand the molecular structure of the gut fluid detergents of marine worms so they can be synthesized for use as a quick screening tool to determine which sediments may be more biologically harmful than others. "This could help regulatory agencies decide where cleanup efforts should be made," he said.



At the breakfast were scholarship winner Michael Ahrens (second from right) with Memorial Fund Chairman Dennis J. Lynch, Acting Provost Robert McGrath, Long Island Power Authority Chairman Richard Kessel, and MSRC Dean and Director Marvin Geller.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

*How to Find the Best Doctors* — *New York Metro Area* cites a number of faculty members of the surgery department as "Doctors of Excellence" in its 1999 edition: **John J. Ricotta, M.D.**, professor and chairman of surgery; **Thomas Bilfinger, M.D., ScD**, clinical professor of surgery (cardiothoracic surgery division); **Fabio Giron, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor of surgery and chief of otolaryngology, head and neck surgery; **M. Margaret Kemeny, M.D.**, professor of surgery (interim) and chief of surgical oncology; **Arnold E. Katz, M.D.**, professor of surgery and chief of otolaryngology, head and neck surgery; **Jane T. Kugaczewski, M.D.**, assistant professor of surgery (pediatric surgery division); **Brian J. O'Hea, M.D.**, assistant professor of surgery (surgical oncology division) and medical director of the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Care Center; **Cedric J. Priebe, Jr., M.D.**, professor of clinical surgery and chief of pediatric surgery; and **Eric E. Smouha, M.D.**, associate professor of surgery, otolaryngology, head and neck surgery . . . **Jovanna Little, Director of Advancement Services**, has been elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Suffolk County CrimeStoppers. She will also assume the role of treasurer for the board and will assist with fundraising . . . **Juan Mestas, Ph.D.**, was recently selected as chancellor of the University of Michigan-Flint. Dr. Mestas is the former chairman of the Stony Brook Puerto Rican Studies Program and an alumnus . . . **Josephine Connolly, Clinical Assistant Professor** in the Department of Family Medicine, was recently awarded a \$300,000 New York State Department of Health grant. The grant will fund a five year project on decreasing risk factors for coronary artery disease at worksites in Suffolk County . . . **Dr. Fred Schiavone, Residency Director** for the Department of Emergency Medicine, was honored with the 1999 Teacher of the Year Award by the National Emergency Medicine Residency Association . . . **Ken Feldman, administrator, Department of Family Medicine**, has just received his Ph.D. in Health Services Management.



Jovanna Little.

## CALENDAR December 17 - January 29, 2000

### ART/MUSIC/THEATRE

**1/23, Sunday. Martha Graham Dance Company.** Martha Graham has influenced nearly every dancer and choreographer of the twentieth century. Of the current members of the Company, Anna Kisselgof, Dance Critic in Chief of *The New York Times* has said, "the Graham dancers today make up one of the great companies of the world." The current tour features ballets from the over 180 works choreographed by Martha Graham, including *Appalachian Spring*, *Errand Into the Maze* and *But Not for Me*. Gershwin Graham. Main Stage, Staller Center. Tickets: \$29. 3 p.m. Call 632-ARTS for more information. Sponsored in part by North Fork Bank

### Employee Assistance Program January Workshops

Monday, January 10, 2000, Use or Abuse, 11:30 a.m., HSC, Level 3, CR 171

Thursday, January 20, 2000, Use or Abuse, 12:15 p.m., SAC, Room 308

Concerned that someone you know may have a problem? Could a friend, co-worker, or family member possibly have an alcohol or other drug problem? What are some of the signs and symptoms? What, if anything, can you do? . . . Now you can learn how to help. Information regarding 12-Step programs and other community resources will be shared.

For reservations and/or further information please contact the Employee Assistance Program at 632-6085. Visit our Web site at [www.sunysb.edu/eap](http://www.sunysb.edu/eap).

**1/29, Saturday. Carnegie Hall Jazz Band** Jon Faddis, Music Director. A Renaissance Jazz presentation. Since it's debut in 1992, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band has earned a reputation for distinct programs that highlight new perspectives on the jazz band tradition through specially commissioned new arrangements and thematic programs that salute jazz greats or new trends, always showcasing both established artists and emerging talent. Music Director Jon Faddis and the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band continue the illustrious history of jazz at Carnegie Hall, as well as touring all over the world. Main Stage, Staller Center. Tickets: \$29. 8 p.m.

### FILMS

**1/28, Friday. West Beirut.** 7 p.m. Based on the true events of the Lebanese civil war. Tarek is a Muslim youth living in West Beirut after the city was split into two halves. The city becomes a war zone, but that doesn't stop Tarek and his friends from the normal mischief of school boys. **Fight Club.** 9:15 p.m. Ed Norton plays a confused young man with no family who is discontented with the world around him. He forms a fight club along with Tyler Durden (Brad Pitt) to give young men an outlet for their frustrations. Problems arise when fight clubs spread across the country and Durden becomes a cult hero. 135 minutes Rated R. Staller Center for the Arts. Tickets: \$4 adults, \$3 students and seniors. For information on the 2000 film schedule, call 632-ARTS or visit Staller on the Web at [www.stallercenter.com](http://www.stallercenter.com).

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**1/20, Thursday. Hidden Artists and Poets: In Celebration of our Year of Community.** President's Conference Room, 5 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., Stony Brook

Union Art Gallery, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. An art exhibition featuring the works of Stony Brook's faculty and staff. Includes paintings, sculptures, fine crafts, and poetry. The Opening Reception will start at the President's Conference Room, Administration Building, Room 310, and continue with dessert at the Stony Brook Union Art Gallery.

### SEMINARS/LECTURES

**1/4, Tuesday. Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology Lecture Series.** Dr. George Carman, Department of Food Science, Rutgers University, will speak on "Diacylglycerol Pyrophosphate Phosphatase and Lipid Signaling in Yeast." 4 p.m., Life Sciences Building, Room 038.

**1/13, Thursday. Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology Lecture Series.** Dr. Warren Kruger, Fox Chase Cancer Center, will discuss, "Yeast Systems for the Analysis of Human Genes Involved in Homocysteine Metabolism." 4 p.m., Life Sciences Building, Room 038.

**1/24, Monday. Gynecologic Cancer Screening and Risk Reduction.** Dr. Paul A. DiSilvestro, assistant professor, Obstetrics/Gynecology, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Medicine, will discuss how screening can reduce the risk of developing certain gynecologic cancers. 7 p.m. Community Room, Lower Level, Emma S. Clark Memorial Library, Setauket. To pre-register call 941-4080.

**1/27, Thursday. Neurobiology and Behavior Lecture Series.** Dr. James A. Bibb, Ph.D., The Rockefeller University, will discuss "Novel Regulatory Mechanisms in Dopamine Signaling." For more information, contact the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior at 632-8616.

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