Greeting Scholars!! Welcome back for another fun and exciting semester. We have several activities planned, including two trips to New York City, a Talent Show, and our Spring Banquet/Awards dinner. We are also organizing various outreach activities and spring intramural sports early in the semester (Feb 8th meeting). We look forward to seeing you at these events this semester. Congratulations to Jessica Klare on the arrival of a baby girl, Morgan Ainsley, on 14 January 2012!! Jessica will be on maternity leave these next few months, so if you need any advising, please see myself or Dr. David Maynard. (see page 7 for details)
Leadership Panel

Wednesday February 15
12:50–2:00 PM
SAC 302

The following University Scholars from various leadership positions across campus will be present to discuss the organizations they work for and how to get involved in these positions:

Meaghan Broderick—Resident Assistant, UGC Fellow
Rachel Hoelzer—Orientation Leader
Mark Maloof—USG President
Ken Myers—Orientation Leader, Commuter Assistant
Jaime Poynter—Student Ambassador
Joanna Sroga—Commuter Assistant
Chris Weber—Student Ambassador, UGC Fellow

Scholars After the Freshman Year Workshop

Wednesday March 14
12:50–2:00 PM
Room: SSO Classroom (Roth Quad)

Freshman Scholars are invited to join us in a presentation on academic planning. Sandra Trapani and Joanie Maniaci from the Academic and Pre-Professional Advising Center will be present.

Career Experiences Panel

Combined event with WISE, Honors College and University Scholars

April 16
Time: TBA
Location: GLS Center

Two groups of panelist will be present during this event to discuss their career experiences. One group will be compromised of medical doctors with a background in engineering, while the other panelists will be engineers working in different fields. The event will be held in two separate rooms in the GLS center, so students will have their pick of who they would like to hear!
Save the Date!

Scholars End of Year Celebration!

April 17, 2012
6 PM
LDS Center

The Honors College invites the University Scholars to join them for their Faculty Roundtable Series. Space is limited.

Date: Feb. 15
Featuring:
Dr. Charles Robbins
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Dean of Undergraduate Colleges

Time: 1:00 PM—2:00 PM
Place: Honors College Lounge (Melville Library 3502)

Please RSVP to David.Maynard@stonybrook.edu

Date: March 21
Featuring:
Dr. April Masten
Associate Professor American History

First Annual Collaborative Talent Show!

University Scholars, Honors College & WISE
Thursday March 15, 8 PM
Tabler Black Box Theatre

Come showcase your talent and compete in the first annual combined Talent Show! Mixed with a healthy bit of competition, students from these honors programs will perform for prizes. You have seen American’s Got Talent and the X factor but you have never seen anything quite like this before! Don’t miss out!

*Light refreshments will be served*

The details: Acts (solo or groups) are welcome to perform. *ACTS MUST SIGN UP IN ADVANCE.* Interested parties should send an email to Allison (Allison.aldrich@stonybrook.edu) by March 8th!

*Each group will have an approximate 10 minute time slot.*
Philip Moussazadeh is one of the outstanding University Scholars who started at Stony Brook in the Fall of 2008. These Scholars are now graduating—many of them a semester early—and are heading off to graduate school, medical school, exciting jobs, or in Philip’s case the Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine this coming Fall. We recently sat down with Philip and asked him about his undergraduate career at Stony Brook. Here’s a transcript of our conversation:

The Torch: What accomplishments are you most proud of at Stony Brook?

Philip Moussazadeh: For me, I think “success” can be defined in two ways: it is either something you can read on a resume or transcript, or it is something you feel that has changed you or helped you grow as an individual. I graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in Biology, was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa and Golden Key Honor Societies, and was admitted and will attend the Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine, a top dental school. More important than these tangible achievements, however, are the meaningful and lasting relationships I formed with my professors, the group of friends I made, and the self-understanding that I can be successful if I have the support of my professors, my family, and my faith.

How did you get involved in research, and what personal or career rewards and benefits came out of your research experiences?

Because I knew I wanted to attend dental school, I decided I wanted to do research in the Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine. But, before I contacted a principal investigator, I needed to figure out what field of research I was most interested in. I immersed myself in the dental literature, spoke to research professors, and took courses like Cancer Biology and Microbiology so that I’d have the background necessary to succeed in the laboratory setting. I was most interested in the research linking diseases of the oral cavity to systemic diseases, I knew I wanted to join Dr. Christopher Cutler’s laboratory because he is the foremost expert in this field of research. In the spring semester of my junior year I joined his laboratory, and researched how the culprit of chronic periodontitis, P. gingivalis, invades and transforms dendritic cells so that it is difficult for the body to mount an immune response to them, which ultimately leads to systemic problems. The rewards of joining any lab is that it puts what you learn in textbooks into reality. This experience made me realize how amazing dentistry is, and that I would like to continue researching in the future.

What role did being in the University Scholars Program play in your experience at SBU?

The University Scholars events on campus and off-campus are frequent and amazing, the faculty support is unparalleled, and not to mention, the ability the sign up before anyone else for hard-to-get classes is a big plus! As I reflect on the past three and a half years, some of my fondest memories are of the moments I spent with the people I met on Day 1 of the University Scholars Program. To sum up, the University Scholars Program makes Stony Brook small and intimate, while still being at Stony Brook, which means having all the benefits of attending a world-class research institution.

What advice would you give to first year University Scholars students so they can make the most of their undergraduate experience at SBU?

The material in college will likely be much more difficult than anything you had learned in high school (take my word for it; I took 9 AP exams in high school!). So, when studying, honestly answer this question: “Do I get this?” If the answer is no, do not be ashamed to ask for help. Ask your professors, even if you think your question is really simple. In Biology especially, every class fits together and builds upon one another, although you may not realize this until your senior year. Second, study without distractions. Third, view the DEC requirements as an opportunity to take classes with your friends who are in other majors. Finally, have fun! This will be the most amazing time of your life. Form friendships, be spontaneous, and try everything you thought you wouldn’t enjoy doing.
**University Scholars Outreach Committee**

**First Meeting: February 8th**

**Outreach & Intramural Sports Planning**

12:50—2:00 PM

SBU 247

Come brainstorm community service ideas and sign up for a Scholars Intramural team!

The University Scholars Outreach Committee is a club devoted to expanding the Scholars community through service and involvement. Students looking to get involved with both the University Scholars community and the great community welcome! Need community service? Looking to meet more University Scholars? Please attend our meetings during the Spring Semester 2012.

Find us on Facebook at Stony Brook University Scholars and email: SBUSOC@gmail.com!

**Reminder!**

This is the students corner! It is currently looking a bit empty….if anyone would like to submit an announcement, or a reflection, or poetry etc please email Allison (Allison.aldrich@stonybrook.edu)

**Did You Know?**

The following forms can now be found online:

[www.stonybrook.edu/aadvising](http://www.stonybrook.edu/aadvising)
Advising Hours

Dr. Brian Colle
Tues, Thurs, & Fri
9:30 am—12:00pm
Or by appointment.
Brian.Colle@stonybrook.edu

Jessica Klare
On maternity leave.

Dr. David Maynard
Mon, Tues, & Thurs
12—4 PM
Or by appointment
David.Maynard@stonybrook.edu

Friday, Feb. 3—Last day to drop or withdraw from the University without a "W" recorded on student record. Last day to add classes and/or process a swap. Last day to change to or from full-time or part-time status. All changes must be processed by 4:00pm

Friday, Feb. 24—Last day to process a drop-down or move-up for selected PHY, MAT and MAP courses. All changes must be processed by 4:00pm

March 23—Last day to process a section change or credit change for an enrolled course. Last day to change a class to or from the Pass/No Credit option. Last day to drop a course. (“W” will be recorded). All changes must be processed by 4:00pm

April 2–8—Spring Recess

Monday, April 9—Advanced registration begins.

Seniors!

February 3rd is the LAST DAY to apply for Spring (May) or Summer (August) graduation. West Campus Undergraduate must apply online via Solar.