I hope everyone had a fun and productive fall semester. The term flew by and it was another exciting one for University Scholars. It was great to see so many of you at the events that you will read about in the pages to come. I would like to thank the academic, social, and outreach student committees for doing much of the hard work to plan and execute these events, and the Scholars Council, which now includes the freshman class, for their feedback in planning. These events would not have been possible without these student efforts as well as dedication of the other Scholars advisors (Jeremy Marchese and Dr. David Maynard). Next semester should be equally exciting with numerous activities, including a trip to NYC and the end-of-the-year banquet, as well as more outreach activities.

Congratulations to those students who were selected as new Scholars Fellows! We had 66 extremely qualified applicants (more than ever before) for a very limited number of slots, and everyone did a great job during interviews.

I would also like to thank SCH101 Instructors for their hard work this semester and the Residence Hall Directors in the Scholars Buildings for their continued help and support.

I hope everyone has great holiday season and a Happy New Year!! I hope to see many of you at the events next semester or during advising.

**Dr. Brian Colle**
**University Scholars Faculty Director**

---

It’s been another great semester for the Scholars Program and a big thank you has to go out to all the students who have worked so hard to make the Committees so successful. The number and quality of programs that were put on this semester is truly a testament to their commitment and dedication to the Scholars community.

Special mention must also be made of Bryan Szeglin, one of our Scholars Fellows, who single-handedly ran review sessions for the new CHE 152 course. The Molecular Science sequence is a new Chemistry option here at Stony Brook and being that it is new, no tutoring or extra help was available through the usual channels on campus. Bryan gave up his free time to help ensure students in that course did the best they could and were as well-prepared for their exams as possible. We cannot thank him enough.

Lastly, we are bidding a fond farewell to one of our most active students in the Scholars Program. Katherine Woodford, chair of the Scholars Outreach Committee, will be graduating this month, and I know that I speak for the entire Scholars Team when I say that we owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude for everything she has done. She is an example of what we hope all Scholars in this Program will be...active and engaged members of the Program throughout their entire time at Stony Brook. We wish her the very best of luck and know that she is destined for great things.

Good luck on your finals and we’ll see you in January!

**Jeremy Marchese**
**University Scholars Senior Staff Assistant and Advisor**
On Thursday, November 14th, the Stony Brook StandUp Charter presented its third annual “National StandUp Against Bullying Day” event, featuring the renowned awareness group “Everyone is Gay.” With a capacity crowd in the SAC Auditorium, the group, represented by founders Dannielle Owens-Reid and Kristin Russo, presented a humorous, interactive dialogue (inter-cut with moments of dancing and lip-syncing to various pop hits) highlighting the issues surrounding bullying and the detrimental and, too-often life-threatening, repercussions that can result. They began by sharing the history of how their advice website first started and how it has grown in the years since.

Founded in 2010, the mission of “Everyone is Gay” is to improve the lives of the LGBT community by providing advice on issues of concern. Their website, www.everyoneisgay.com, allows people to anonymously post questions seeking help with personal issues they are currently encountering in their lives. Several examples were put up on screen, including one where a young boy was recently kicked out of his home when he came out to his family and did not know where to turn to for assistance. Dannielle and Kristin illustrated how alone people who are bullied can feel, and how their website seeks to show them that there are literally thousands of people who care and want to help.

The evening, hosted by Stony Brook’s StandUp Charter, and co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, University Scholars Program, and the Undergraduate College of Leadership and Service, proved both educational and entertaining for all those in attendance. The main conclusion the group wanted to leave the audience with was the notion of being kind to one another, and not looking the other way when someone is being bullied or harassed. Stressing the point that bullying and harassment are not simply issues facing the LGBT community, but anyone who is perceived as being different in any way, we all have an obligation to help each other and stand up for those who are put down.

For more information on how you can get involved with the Stony Brook StandUp Charter, please e-mail SBUStandsUp@gmail.com.

~ Jeremy Marchese
The Beyond the Classroom Workshop hosted by the University Scholars program on October 15th was unanimously rated a huge success by all who were involved and in attendance. The event sought to help Scholars interested in becoming involved with one or more of the seven featured programs and to be able to ask questions of program directors and members on a panel. The representatives gave short, informative presentations on their respective organizations as well.

The seven featured programs included the University Scholars Fellows, a group of students crucial to the growth of the scholars program who form a tight knit community amongst themselves and have leadership opportunities in being Teaching Assistants in Scholars 101 classes. The Student Ambassadors spoke on the panel as well, revealing their presence as a general body assistance organization which represents the University at events on campus and during orientation and other programs. The National Student Exchange, which helps students to travel to other universities within the United States to study for either a semester or a full academic year, was also represented. Students were informed that the exchange can help them to earn credits, make new friends, and see other parts of the country as well.

The Study Abroad Program also spoke at the event, informing students that studying around the world while still earning credits and paying Stony Brook tuition is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Many audience members had a lot of questions concerning this program, and more information can be found in the Study Abroad offices on the first floor of the Frank Melville Library. The Career Center was represented on the panel and provided information on finding internships on and off campus as well as part and full time work through resume building and career aptitude testing. CHILL and CHOICE, two peer mentor programs run through the Center for Prevention and Outreach, were represented on the panel as well. Both programs provide resources for students who are looking to help others maintain both their mental and physical well-being through counseling, one-on-one mentor programs and other valuable resources.

Finally, URECA, the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity program, was represented and informed eager Scholars of research and lab work opportunities held over the summer for those who wish to conduct independent research. Students were full of questions and the night was effective in conveying the benefits of each of these programs through both the directors perspectives as well as the students.

~ Daniel McCaffrey

Click on the links below to view more information about each program and to contact the advisors.

**Student Ambassadors**
Ellen Driscoll
[website](http://example.com)
[e-mail](mailto:ellen.driscoll@stonybrook.edu)

**National Student Exchange**
Erika Benhardt
[website](http://example.com)
[e-mail](mailto:erika.benhardt@stonybrook.edu)

**Study Abroad**
Jennifer Green
[website](http://example.com)
[e-mail](mailto:jennifer.green@stonybrook.edu)

**CHILL**
Kathleen Valerio
[website](http://example.com)
[e-mail](mailto:kathleen.valerio@stonybrook.edu)

**URECA**
Karen Kernan
[website](http://example.com)
[e-mail](mailto:karen.kernan@stonybrook.edu)
On October 25th, a group of dedicated scholars went to Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck to lend a hand for a night of spooks and scares. The Spooky Walk, held around Halloween every year for the past 25 years, is a fund-raiser hosted by the Moriches Paquatuck Squaws. The proceeds from this fundraiser directly benefit Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck, a camp for children and adults with special needs. Although Christmas is yet to come, the spirit of charity and giving back could be felt all around. In near freezing temperatures, the scholars helped out wherever they were needed. They served food, maintained order as security, and even stopped a few hearts momentarily through scaring! After a good dose of fright, everyone gathered for a dance party, in a successful attempt to stay warm. The night ended with one last round of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.” A night that started out in screams of terror, ended with laughter and a sense of contentment at having given back to the community.

“I was completely blown away, the walk itself exceeded my expectations, and I would absolutely go back next year as both a patron and a volunteer. I love the whole vibe of the camp itself, I think what they are doing is really great, and seeing how involved the community is, was really nice. Overall I thought it was an amazing experience, and I hope Outreach continues to go back each year and help out!”

~ Katherine Woodford

Throwback 90’s night was a blast! The event consisted of nostalgic 90’s cartoons that were sure to bring back childhood memories. Some of the cartoons played included: Rocket Power, Fairly Odd Parents, Tom & Jerry, as well as the crowd favorite first episode of Pokémon. Popcorn and old school Caprisun juice packs were served to complete the experience. This event, put on as a joint effort between the Social and Outreach committees, garnered enough interest to attract 83 attendees. Attendees could donate one non-perishable food item to receive event credit and cumulatively, scholars raised 200+ food items to be donated! 90’s night was a great stress reliever and the service component really made the event worthwhile. Special thanks to everyone who attended and helped with setup at the event.

~ Varun Sayal
After attending SB Stand Up Charter’s event “Everyone is Gay,” I decided to take advantage of my faculty interview article assignment and extend the subject to my home country and the “hot spot” for gay rights issues today – Russia. What is really behind the Russian stance on homosexuality? To answer this and many other questions I went to the Russia expert - Associate Professor of Linguistics, John Frederick Bailyn, Director of Stony Brook’s Study Abroad and Exchanges in St. Petersburg Russia.

Dr. Bailyn is also the founder of the New York Institute of Linguistics, Cognition and Culture in St. Petersburg, and was recently appointed as Director of the SUNY-wide Russian Programs Network (RPN). It is both through passion and through interest that he has been enthralled in Russian language and history. He recalled traveling for the first time to the Soviet Union in 1983 via an exchange program and realizing the cynicism of the Russian public towards their government. It is this history of negativity that hinders any modern political ideas, such as active support for gay rights. According to Dr. Bailyn, it is the U.S. media that makes the situation so difficult for Americans to understand. We receive information about Russia in a prepackaged perspective. That is, the media gives us a black and white transmission of an issue that is, well, rainbow.

In fact, Russia is very complicated. The Moscow City administration has recently and abruptly passed a law stating that there are to be no gay pride parades for the next one hundred years. Yes, one hundred arbitrary years. Even more arbitrary is the fact that the national document outlawing “gay propaganda” also outlaws pedophilia. So it’s hard to object to it when an aspect of human rights is combined with a terrible crime. The unrepresentative socially conservative Duma (parliament) is unable to separate the two and election of independently-minded new officials does not happen due to Russians’ historical distrust in their government. The gay propaganda law itself is written in a way that allows officials to apply it to any homosexual related activity. However, they do not. In fact, gay bars and clubs are still in operation and Dr. Bailyn’s institute, which has featured queer studies courses, is also unaffected. The main goal of the law is not to oppress a homosexual culture, but to prevent children from being exposed to it publicly. Americans have this image of Russia as being this hugely and violently oppressive bad guy, but in reality it is far more complicated than that. We hear horror stories in our media, and some violence has happened, but in Dr. Bailyn’s words, “just because violence sometimes happens, doesn’t mean people are inherently violent.”

It all comes down to a matter of perspective which Dr. Bailyn was able to establish by switching the point of view. Imagine being a citizen of Russia and seeing America and its recent gun violence. In a Russian’s eyes, it is almost unbelievable that we have not yet outlawed gun possession. Just imagine the negative light that their media shines on a country who has consecutive school shootings. Yet, it is not that simple in this country for guns are a part of our livelihood and our history. Dr. Bailyn states that this is “not the same type of complexity but it’s just as complicated. There are many layers.”

So what next? According to Putin, homosexual athletes attending the upcoming Winter Olympics in Sochi will not be oppressed or questioned. Many athletes plan to boycott the Olympics while others look to sport their gay pride in spite. Dr. Bailyn predicts that regardless of the activity, the Olympics will be functional; Russia won’t blow it. At the conclusion of our conversation Dr. Bailyn left me with some wise words: “Russia is over-simplified by our media. We need to accept the possibility that Russia is complicated.” By accepting this fact, we can better understand the roots of its nature and avoid simply attributing it to malice or evil.

~ Alisa Rybkin
It is easy to ascertain that Peter Giattini is a bright, motivated and humble young man after sharing only a few words with him. Born and raised in New Hyde Park, Peter came to Stony Brook as an eager student on a full scholarship. Attracted to the institution’s reputable work in the fields of math and science, Peter knew this would be a school in which he could immerse himself in what he loved. His four years at this university have not only been spent learning, but researching and teaching others as well.

A double major in Chemistry and Mathematics, Peter has taken on an immense workload yet wholeheartedly invests himself in other areas of the university. The tireless effort he puts into the organic chemistry course has gone above and beyond. He has organized the course’s undergraduate T.A.’s so efficiently, ensuring they will always work at their best. Peter has used his knowledge not only to teach but also to teach others how to teach, one of the most productive tasks he could do with his time in and out of college.

Aside from being a mentor to other students in the field of science, Peter has pursued his own research under the guidance of Professor Nancy Goroff, in what she calls “funky molecule chemistry.” Focusing primarily on synthesis and materials, Peter is working on preparing highly unsaturated compounds for solar cells. Currently the only undergraduate in the Goroff lab, from doing research Peter has gained experience that differs very much from the learning that takes place in the classroom. The lab environment has given him a better understanding of the world of science. Here, going to class and getting A’s will not always suffice, but rather passion and a desire to learn are key.

When asked about the greatest lesson he learned as a student, Peter said that it came during a chemistry class but had nothing to do with chemistry at all. “It’s hard to meet success without a good team,” Giattini stated with conviction. This is something Giattini has not only learned but has experienced here at Stony Brook. Peter has been surrounded by a strong group of mentors, including Nancy Goroff, Zachary Katamanis, Joseph Lauher and Frank Fowler. “The faculty’s concern for the students has inspired me as a scientist, researcher and teacher,” said Peter. As these professors have done for him, Peter is finding ways to use his accomplishments for others.

Inspiring is something Peter does much of himself. He encourages young scholars to “not be afraid to find something to sink their teeth into.” His admirable work ethic and amazing accomplishments are testimony to his belief that you truly do get out of something what you put into it. He stresses to his fellow Seawolves to take advantage of honors courses and seminars, like the ones that inspired his love for chemistry. Reflecting on his time here, Peter stated that having David Maynard for SCH 101 was “one of the best things” that could have happened to him as a freshman. The course put him in an environment with like-minded people and gave him a sense of community, which fostered his ability to sink his own teeth into what he loved.

As a graduating senior Peter has taken his own belief that college is putting yourself into something into his own life. He looks forward to the creative freedom he will have teaching and doing research as a graduate student. Whether he finds himself spending a year in Cambridge, afforded by the prospect of winning the Churchill Scholarship, or in a Ph.D. program for Chemistry, Peter will undoubtedly land on his feet as his mother has always told him.

~ Casey Pinner
There are many Scholars at Stony Brook who have become dexterous in various genres. The following pieces are student submissions that showcase their literary talent.

**Keeping Secrets**  
*Ashley Paul*

Alexa came down the stairs, phone in hand with her friend’s latest message blinking across the screen: Come to the courtyard. She furrowed her brow as she found the courtyard of the hotel she and her friends were staying at and rounded the corner. It seemed like all her close friends were in attendance, assembled in a circle.

“What’s going on?” Alexa asked, confusion lines creasing her forehead. She made eye contact with her friends and looked down at her phone again: no new messages, no new hints.

“Ben has something to ask you,” said Father Bartholomew.

Ben broke away from the circle. His usual cockiness was missing, instead replaced with a nervous energy Alexa had never seen before. “Alexa,” he started, “I wanted to ask…what are you doing for the rest of your life?”

“I…” trailed Alexa, a sinking feeling starting in her stomach.

Ben dropped to one knee, producing a small red box, and presented the ring. “Alexa, will you marry me?” The air left her lungs. The room started spinning, and not in a pleasant way. “I…need a moment,” she managed. As quickly as her legs could take her, she ran from the courtyard, from her friends, and from the man she had hoped wouldn’t fall in love with her.

As soon as she found refuge in the hotel, she started pacing back and forth. Her rapidly beating heart refused to quiet its crazy rhythm. “Alexa?” called a soft voice.

“Sam,” she breathed before running into the open arms that awaited her.

“What happened back there?” Sam murmured soothingly to her, stroking her hair.

“I can’t do it,” she replied. “I’ll never compromise like that.”

“He loves you.”

“He only thinks he does. It’s a silly infatuation, nothing more.” She paused. “Your brother has a lot of growing up to do.”

“Do you love him?”

Alexa leaned away from the embrace to take in the sad eyes. She narrowed her eyes in turn. “You know the answer to that. You’ve always known.”

“I think that’s the problem,” replied Sam. “We’re the problem.”

“Since when were we ever a problem,” Alexa demanded, her sharp gaze boring into Sam’s. “I never want to hear you say that again.”

The pair was silent for a second. “I should go talk to him,” Alexa said, prying herself away from Sam. The two shared a last glance before she went off to the courtyard.

Sam smoothed down her dress and neutralized her features before following Alexa to the courtyard, ready to pick up the pieces as usual.
Twenty Six
Asha Samuel

Wake up too early.
Groggily go through the morning routine.
Get kissed on the head from a parent.
Spend the day learning with your friends.
Come home.
Watch TV and do homework.
Eat dinner and recount the highlights of the day.
Sleep.

Repeat.

That is what a six year old’s day should be.
That is what a parent should expect.
What world do we live in,
That parents have to hug their children a little tighter
And just hope
That they go to school and not war?

The thing about tragedy
Is that the act consumes us
But the people never do.

So here’s to the twenty six.
To twenty six people who were so much more than just victims.

To the kids who were more.
Who were just starting to learn about this world.
Who never got to have a first date.
Who had surprise Christmas gifts in their parents’ closets.
Who never tasted life.
Here’s to the kids that deserved more.

To the teachers who were more.
Who had Facebook accounts and movies they planned to watch.
Who had half read books on their desks.
Who forgot to make the bed or left an unwashed coffee mug in the sink.
Who blocked the path.
Here’s to the teachers who died heroically.

Here’s to them and that place
And here’s to us.
Because we are more than this.
And we will not let it stop us.

Remember that this is not the end.
That we will fight for them.
That they are not just a number.
They are more than the tragedy at Sandy Hook.
They are not a death toll.
They are people.
And we will honor them as such.
They are more.
Remember.
The Freshman Creative Expression project for the Class of 2017 was centered on the book The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman. The book “chronicles the trials of an epileptic Hmong child and her family living in Merced, California” and has received national recognition among various disciplines. Students and faculty alike have deeply connected with the literature and the sheer caliber of work that student’s have created is remarkable. Above is a winning piece created by Scholar Yiou Chen. The drawing depicts a Hmong girl in traditional dress in Times Square, New York. Yiou’s use of color and the lack of visible faces on bystanders is very symbolic of the disconnect between cultures at the enter of the novel.
The Scholars Program hosted its second annual Charity Ball, themed Winter Wonderland, on Tuesday, December 3rd. Under the guidance of Varun Sayal and Jessica Hundal (co-leaders), the event was planned by the entire Scholars Social Committee. The event is not held simply to release the stress of finals week, but to give back to the community; an important priority for the Scholars Program. The charity is chosen by the Scholar’s Outreach Committee, which deals primarily with community service and volunteer work. Building off of the success of last year’s Masquerade Ball, the program decided to sponsor the Toys for Tots Foundation once again.

The Toys for Tots Foundation is a Marine Corporation run charity founded by Major Bill Hendricks in 1947. The foundation collects unwrapped toys as Christmas gifts for unfortunate children in the community in which the campaign is being conducted. Toys for Tots has distributed nearly 16.8 million toys to more than 7 million children over its years, a statistic that the Scholar’s Program is proud to help grow. With each student that attended the ball, the toy stockpile grew impressive amounts, totaling a near 250 toys by the end of the three hour event. Collected by three marines in their Navy Blues, there was no better feeling than to donate during this holiday season.

The event was held in the SAC Ballroom A, a location that quickly turned into a Winter Wonderland with the abundance of snowflakes, balloons, tasty desserts and hot chocolate. Over 300 Scholars dressed in their best winter blues and whites to complete the feel of the room.

As the lights went down and the night began, the dance floor was always packed, glittered with glow stick bracelets and necklaces. Scholars may be smart, but we also know how to dance too. Familiar songs and bands such as the Cha Cha Slide, the Macarena, and even One Direction, got all of the attending Scholars out of their seats and onto the dance floor. As the night dwindled away, the dance floor remained packed and thriving, even with the thought of finals in everyone’s minds.

Overall, the event was an amazing success with lots of laughs, smiles, full stomachs, and charity. The event kicked off finals week with the last stress relief and began the holiday season with good spirits.

~ Casey Pinner and April Slamowitz
All University Scholars are encouraged to take advantage of their exceptional Advisors: Faculty Director Dr. Brian Colle, Advisor Dr. David Maynard, and Advisor and Senior Staff Assistant Jeremy Marchese. From academic planning to research to general advice, the University Scholars Advisors are an invaluable resource to students. Students can schedule an appointment with an advisor or visit during their posted office hours that can be found both below and at the University Scholars website.

Brian Colle
brian.colle@stonybrook.edu
Thu:  11:00am-1:00pm
Fri:  11:00am-1:00pm

David Maynard
david.maynard@stonybrook.edu
Mon:  2:00pm-4:00pm
Tue:  11:00am-2:00pm
Wed:  2:00pm-4:00pm
Thu:  2:00pm-4:00pm

Jeremy Marchese
jeremy.marchese@stonybrook.edu
Mon:  1:00pm-4:00pm
Tue:  10:00am-12:00pm
Thu:  2:00pm-4:00pm
Fri:  11:00am-2:00pm

We wish all University Scholars the best of luck on their final exams and look forward to seeing everyone in the Spring Semester! Enjoy your winter break!

Academic Deadlines:

Dec. 6  Last day to withdraw or take a leave of absence from the University
       Last day of Monday through Friday classes
Dec. 7  Last day of Saturday classes
Dec. 10-18  Final exams for courses, please see registrar Final Exam Schedule for details
Dec. 18  End of Term
Dec. 19  Commencement

Important Dates for the beginning of the Spring 2014 Semester
Jan. 24  Credit limit increases to 19 for the Spring 2014 semester
Jan. 27  First day of the Spring 2014 Semester
Jan. 29  Credit limit increases to 23 for the Spring 2014 semester
Jan. 31  Last day to enroll in a class on a wait-list
Feb. 2   Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the university without tuition liability
Feb. 7   Last day to add classes and/or process a swap
         Last day to drop or withdraw from the university without a “W"