Greetings Scholars!!

Thanks to everyone for a fantastic year! This newsletter highlights many of the exciting activities and Scholars accomplishments from this past semester. Numerous Scholars were awarded Undergraduate Recognition Awards, Chancellor's Award, Provost's Award for Academic Excellence, induction into Phi Beta Kappa, and JFEW-SUNY Levin Global Scholar Fellows. A record number of Scholars also participated in the URECA Celebration for Undergraduate Research. The Scholar of the Year was awarded to Ms. Denise DeGenarro for her extensive academic and service accomplishments. Congratulations to all graduating Scholars! We wish you all success in your future endeavors. Please keep in touch with us!

I would also like to thank the Scholars 101 instructors and teaching assistants, Scholars Student Council, Faculty/Staff Advisory Board, the Career Center, Jeffrey Barnett, Toni Galluccio, Karen Haigh, Jessica Klare, Dr. Charlie Robbins, and Dr. Matthew Whelan for all their support of University Scholars this past year.

On behalf of all the University Scholars staff (David Maynard, Allison Aldrich, and myself), we hope everyone has an enjoyable summer!!

Best wishes,
Brian Colle
PAST EVENTS RECAP

There have been numerous events to recap from this past semester! Pictures for them can be found throughout this issue. Also, many Scholars have received various accolades for their academic achievements. The University Scholars community extends a sincere congratulations to all recent award recipients, whose names can also be found throughout this issue.

NYC Museum Trips

February 24, 2012

The Bodies Exhibition

It may have been a dreary, rainy day in late February, but the Scholars still managed to have a good time.

April 13, 2012

Sony Wonder Technology Lab

The Scholars lucked out on this “unlucky” day in April. Beautiful weather made this afternoon trip to the Sony Wonder Technology Lab even more delightful.
Pi Day Talent Show

Delayed a day because of an orgo exam, the Pi Day Talent Show took place on March 15th and was a huge success! Talented acts from the Honors College, University Scholars and WISE were present. We also had some rather impressive Pi recitation challengers. Check out some of the highlights below to see the winners from the University Scholars! Thank you to all the participants who entertained us with their amazing talents!

Cathy Rico gave Demi Lovato a run for her money when she belted out her version of “Every Time You Lie”

Anna Flores charmed us with her rendition of Mandy Moores “Only Hope”


Perri Lembo impressed us with her multi-tasking talent of juggling while teaching us the history of juggling

2nd place went to Nickolas Mellace with a moving performance of Ludo’s “Love Me Dead”. (pictured left)

Ethan Beihl (left) and Chris Dillon (right) took a stab at reciting Pi.

*Not pictured: 3rd place winner, Frederick Ikpatt, Honors College Kevin Sackel, Honors College, Pi Recitation champ. (Reciting more than 300 digits of Pi)
Congratulations to the following Scholars inducted into Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society!

Kyle Buescher (Academic Excellence)
Shiou Mei Huang (Academic Excellence)
Jennifer Jung (Academic Excellence)
Olesya Levsh (Academic Excellence)
Kiran Lorick (Academic Excellence)
Jaime Poynter (Academic Excellence)
Alexandra Santiago (Outstanding Achievement—Leadership)
Sasha Seroy (Academic Excellence)
Alin Tomescu (Academic Excellence)
Christopher Weber (Outstanding Achievement—Leadership)
Jinzhu Yu (Academic Excellence)

Vito Arena Mason Maggio
Bilal Asif Ashwin Malhotra
Vincent Cassata Rajeev Masson
Matthew Charrest Jacob Mathai
Samira Chowdhury Jon McGinn
Wei Xin Deng David Meltzer
Lawrence Diblasi Alyssa Mierjeski
Frank Fanizza Domantas Mikonis
John Fieger Carol Moran
William Foreman Kyle O’Connor
Lauren Haugli James Pastore
Simon Hoang Jaime Poynter
Jingfeng Hu Brittany Rubin
Michael Hung Sihana Rugova
Jennifer Jung Sasha Seroy
Narindra Phillip Son
Khalikaprasad James Sun
Aniket Kiri Julia Wang
Jonathan Leong Jie Zou
Robert Levine Cassandra Zurawski
Olesya Levsh
Kiran Lorick

Every April Stony Brook students can be found scavenging for cardboard boxes and duct tape in preparation for the Roth Regatta Boat Races! As it is a tradition, the University Scholars have been making an appearance in the races for years. This year, the boat’s theme was “The Titanic.” Many thanks to the Scholars that labored to make the boat. While the boat won their first heat (winning shot pictured left) it lost in the second. Fortunate for them, unlike their namesake, this boat never sank!
Brittany Barnett was awarded the prestigious 2012 Jeffrey Eng Memorial Scholarship in environmental sciences presented by the Ecology and Evolution department at SBU.

Peter Giatinni has won the 2011 Sei Sujishi Award which is given to the best student in General Chemistry.

A record number of University Scholars participated at this year’s URECA Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creativity on April 25. The scope and quality of their research is amazing!

Wait...but aren’t these pictures of current University Scholars?!? Correct. Many thanks to the Scholars (listed below) who participated in the student panel portion of Admitted Student Day.

Meaghan Broderick, Alex Calabro, Christopher Dillon, Raniah El-Gendi, Martyna Kaznowski, Garry Lachhar, Rebecca Leung, Alyssa Mathews, Mallory Rothstein, April Slamowitz, Timothy Shub, Christopher Weber, Katherine Woodford

James Ging, Junior

Sasha Seroy, Senior

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Freshman Scholar Award Recipients:
Ethan Beihl (left), Garry Lachhar (below left) and Timothy Shub (below right). Not pictured: April Slamowitz

Senior Scholar Award Recipients: (left to right) Sasha Seroy, Bilal Asif, Christopher Dillon. Not pictured: Samira Chowdhury, Jon Gottfried, Jennifer Jung

Scholar of the Year
Denise DeGenarro

Rookie of the Year:
Brian Colle

Research Achievement Award Recipients: Bilal Asif, Brittany Barnett, Anna Caselli, James Ging, Olesya Levsh, Sixin Li, Polina Malamud, Ashwin Malhotra, Rajeev Masson, Jon McGinn, Ryan Overdahl, James Pastore, Deanna Schneider, Sasha Seroy, Shephali Sharma, Amy Tanzillo, Daryl Vulis, Daniel Weinstein, Zhifan Yang, Jin Zhu Yu, Weida Zhang
Sasha Seroy is one of our outstanding graduating seniors. Throughout her time at Stony Brook, she has excelled academically, participated actively in research and international study, and made an enormous contribution to the Scholars community. As a first year student, she was named as a winner of both the SCH 101 competitions—Creative Expressions and the Sustainability Challenge—by our judging committees of students, staff, and faculty. She later became a SCH 101 TA and peer mentor to incoming Scholars for multiple years.

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

Sasha Seroy: I am proud of my involvement with the International Academic Programs office. My participation as an intern and a study abroad student has truly shaped my experience at Stony Brook University. Studying in Spain and Tanzania helped me grow as an individual all while experiencing cultures very different from my own and giving me a global perspective. These were life changing experiences that helped me realize some future personal and career goals. Working as an intern at International Academic Programs helped develop my confidence and communication skills especially when giving presentations and leading information sessions. International Academic Programs has given me a new passion and pride especially when encouraging other students to consider international opportunities.

I am also proud of the research that I do in the Department of Ecology and Evolution. I am currently conducting my own experiment which has taught me a lot about experimental design, implementation and the research process. I have put a lot of hard work into my research and I am excited to see the results of my study.

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

I first started doing research in the Department of Ecology and Evolution in my junior year. I explored research opportunities by visiting the websites of professors doing research in Ecology and Evolution. I spoke with Dr. Dianna Padilla after looking into her research involving invasive species, phenotypic plasticity and other field studies in marine ecology. Her work interested me and I was accepted into her lab for the fall of 2010. After assisting her with a field study last year, I was able to conduct my own study on phenotypic plasticity in bivalves this year. I have gained problem solving skills and the ability to think critically while devising my own study and implementing the experiment. Research has walked me through the scientific method, allowing me to see a project through from its inception to results, analysis and implications of the findings. Dr. Padilla has been an inspiring mentor supporting me through the successes and setbacks that my research has presented.

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

University Scholars has had a huge impact on my college experience. Being part of Scholars as a first year student made me feel comfortable at Stony Brook as the program gave me a sense of belonging in such a large school. Through University Scholars I was able to meet great friends that have remained with me throughout my four years as an undergraduate. Participating in Scholars events as a first year student taught me a lot about opportunities at Stony Brook. After that, I reached out to first year Scholars the following year as an Undergraduate College Fellow and a T.A. for Scholars 101. Being a University Scholars peer mentor for three years and integrating new students into Stony Brook helped me give back to Scholars community. Also, Dave Maynard has been a wonderful advisor to me throughout my four years at Stony Brook and my experience would not have been so productive without him.
Why are beginnings so hard?
Every year the grass grows slowly, but eventually it does happen.
The circle is round. Sometimes I wish it wasn’t. Stuck in a cycle, life does move on.

The Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps is going to be recruiting new members in the Fall 2012 Semester! If you are interested, please go to www.sbvac.org or email president@sbvac.org if you have specific questions.

The Imperfectness of a Circle
By Qurat-ul-ain Gulamhussein

Why are beginnings so hard?
Every year the grass grows slowly, but eventually it does happen.
The circle is round. Sometimes I wish it wasn’t. Stuck in a cycle, life does move on.

What advice would you give to first year University Scholars students so they can make the most of their undergraduate experience at SBU?
The most important advice I can give to first year students is to get involved and find your niche on campus. It’s never too early to get involved. Whether it is clubs, sports or other extracurricular activities that interest you, it is important to actively seek those opportunities on campus. Stony Brook is a big school and without something to ground you it is easy to get lost and not make the most of your college experience. And of course, I have to add that no college career is complete without an international experience so I also encourage all first year students to consider studying abroad.

What are your future educational and career goals after graduation?
Environmental protection has always been strong interest of mine and after graduation I hope to be able to contribute to the cause in some way. Currently I am looking into opportunities in conservation and sustainability among other areas within the environmental field. Although I do not have finalized plans for my post-college years yet, I am confident that I will find a meaningful environmental opportunity whether it be graduate school, employment or another international experience that allows me to fulfill my goals. I am excited to see what the next chapter of my life has in store for me!
Advocacy Leadership Award
Honors a student who has demonstrated strong leadership in generating campus-wide awareness about existing social issues and advocated for change through community service work. 2012 Winner: Damian Moskal

Advocacy Program Award
Honors a student group for providing a unique program that makes the campus community aware of a major social issue, supports community service work, and implements an action-based response. 2012 Winner: Shanai Walker and the Community Service Club, "The Giving Tree Project"

Emerging Leadership Award
Honors a freshman and sophomore student who has taken on new leadership roles and has demonstrated significant progress toward achieving their leadership potential through campus and community involvement. 2012 Winner: Mallory Rothstein

The Elizabeth D. Couey Award
Honors a graduating student who has made outstanding contributions towards the growth of Student Affairs and student programs at Stony Brook. The award is named after the first Director of the Stony Brook Union. The award recipient must exemplify Elizabeth D. Couey’s unique qualities that include the ability to listen with understanding, guide without boundaries, give and take with love, and grow with each passing day. 2012 Winner: Mark Maloof

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**ADVISING HOURS & ACADEMIC DEADLINES**

**Advising Hours**

**Check back in the Fall!**

**Aug. 24** 1:00 PM, Credit limit will be raised to 19 credits for all students in good academic standing.

**Aug. 27** First day of classes.

**Aug. 29** 9:00 AM, Credit limit will be raised to 23 credits for all students with a C.G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher, and no "I", "R", "NR", "Q" or missing grades. ($20 fee will be automatically billed to students' accounts for students who enroll in more than 19 credits).

**Aug. 31** Last day students can place themselves on a waitlisted courses.

**Aug. 31** Last day for undergraduates in an Accelerated Bachelors/Masters Degree Program to submit a petition to the Graduate School to enroll in graduate courses.

**Sept 2** SUNDAY (Service offices CLOSED) Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the University without tuition liability. Service offices are closed on weekends. Dropping individual courses must be done via Solar System.

**Sept. 3** Labor Day (Observed) - No classes in-session

**Sept. 4** No classes in-session (Service offices OPEN)

**Sept. 11** 4 PM Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the University without a "W" recorded on student record. Last day to add classes and process a swap.