WATER!
FROM THE CREATURES THAT INHABIT THE SEA,
TO THE STUFF HUMANS DUMP INTO IT,
STONY BROOK SCIENTISTS PLUMB THE DEPTHS.

WHAT’S
IN IT?
n the final months of my Presidency of Stony Brook University, I turned back to my Inaugural Address for a broadened perspective on the almost 15 years that have spun by so rapidly. I have often talked about how Stony Brook has come “so far, so fast,” and that is true—a mere 51 years from the initial class of 148 freshmen to today’s 24,000 students and 14,500 employees. Three tenths of that time has been on my watch, and yet amazingly I have presided over the awarding of 46 percent of our total number of degrees. And so I began to wonder how far we have come in that decade and a half since my inaugural vision and promises.

Some things have not changed at all, at least to my mind. I spoke then of loving the boldness of Stony Brook’s ambitions; I feel the same way now. Think about it: We have achieved national and international eminence—we have our winners of the Nobel Prize, the Fields Medal, the MacArthur Genius Award, the Grammy, members of the National Academies, and the Royal Society. We have been elected to the Association of American Universities (AAU), an indication that we are one of the top research universities in North America. We co-manage Brookhaven National Lab, putting us in an elite group of only ten such university managers in the country. But we have not become complacent. We still see ourselves as a work in progress. I like that.

In the Address I spoke of the need to “reconceptualize the research university,” to “create new relationships and symbioses between research and teaching agendas,” and we have done that, too. Our students are engaged in research and practice of their disciplines before they even complete their bachelor’s degrees; our undergraduate research opportunities are remarkable. And, most recently, the founding of the Southampton campus allows the study and practice of ecological sustainability in both land and marine environments to become a way of living for a new generation of students—and a model for other universities to follow.

I gave a list of 13 goals—specific targets for increases in research funding, external fundraising, maintenance and improvement of facilities, improved computer systems, etc. We have so far surpassed those aspirations that I do not even need to address them. For example, instead of doubling external fundraising, we have by now increased our Stony Brook Foundation endowment more than fivefold and the net assets by 724 percent. Deferred maintenance had crippled the campus’ abilities to serve its students and faculty; we have not only moved light years ahead on campus maintenance, we have added 73 new buildings including 15 residence halls, and two new campuses.

I used as a theme that day E.M. Forster’s words in Howard’s End: Only connect. My version was: “Only connect the arts and the sciences, the teachers and the students, the University and the community, the research and the applications, the work and the pleasure, the individual ambition and the University’s aspirations. Intellectually, only connect curiosity with imagination, the curiosity to understand how the world works and the imagination to make it work better.”

I pledged a journey worth the taking: “There will be hard work, frustration and aggravations, and triumphs ahead. It will not be easy, but I guarantee you, it will be fun, and it will certainly be worthwhile.” Well, there have been hard work, frustration and aggravations—and triumphs beyond expectations. The journey has not been easy, but it has certainly been fun. And deeply worthwhile.

Our students are incredibly smart, committed, diverse, and delightful. We have created many student activities and traditions—Division I athletic teams, the Spirit of Stony Brook Marching Band, the Student Arts Festival. And we have held on to the most traditional of Stony Brook traditions—the redoubtable Roth Regatta.

I will miss the students terribly. And there are many other people that I will also miss beyond words. Colleagues have become the closest of friends—work welds friendships. It has definitely been a journey worth the taking. And the future of Stony Brook promises to be even brighter and more exciting than the 15 years that I have had the privilege of sharing with you.

Thank you for loving Stony Brook. Together with you, I toast the future of this magnificent institution.

FROM PRESIDENT SHIRLEY STRUM KENNY
Water. What’s In It?

Shark Wise  4
From feeding the sharks at the aquarium to developing national policy to save them from shark finning, Ellen Pikitch plunges into forage fisheries management as head of Stony Brook’s Institute for Ocean Conservation Science. By Robert F. Keeler

What’s in the Water?  8
Bruce Brownawell and colleagues are immersing themselves in the study of what’s in our water and how it affects us. By Carol Richards

Living and Breathing Sustainability: Mary Pearl’s Vision for Stony Brook Southampton  11
The new dean of Stony Brook Southampton sees it as a haven for green thinking—and green action. By Toby Speed

Then vs. Now: The Kenny Factor  12
During her 15 years as President of Stony Brook University, Shirley Strum Kenny was the catalyst for tremendous growth and change—and the numbers say it all.

What’s New On Campus  14
Stony Brook University welcomes Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D., as its fifth president. Stony Brook surpasses its $300 million goal in its first-ever capital campaign. Marsha and Henry Laufer’s $10 million gift will be used to establish new interdisciplinary research center. Introducing Ray C. Williams, D.M.D., new dean of SB’s Dental School.

Research Roundup  16
Plucky penguins inspire Howardena Pindell’s art. Student Michelle Pizer’s research in Tanzania focuses on how far villagers must travel for clean water. Applied mathematician Xiaolin Li develops software code to study underground flow of contaminated water.

Class Notes  18

Remembering W. Burghardt Turner  21

Brookmarks  22

Events Calendar  23

Flashback  24
The world is still their Oyster.

Degrees by the Numbers  OF THE 154,932 DEGREES GRANTED BY STONY BROOK, 46 PERCENT—OR A TOTAL OF 70,562 DEGREES—WERE AWARDED DURING SHIRLEY STRUM KENNY’S 15 YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY.
A lifelong love of sharks, coupled with a razor-sharp mind for math, put Ellen Pikitch, executive director of the Institute for Ocean Conservation Science, at the forefront of ocean fishery management.

By Robert F. Keeler

Shark Wise

On the sand and in the surf of Coney Island, the great working-class summer playground for generations of New Yorkers, a decades-long dedication to the teeming life of the ocean began for Ellen Pikitch. It was there that a beached Portuguese man-of-war, as alien to her young eyes as a creature from another planet, fired her imagination. There she developed a deft barehanded technique for snatching swiftly darting killifish from the surf. A few blocks north of the beach, at John Dewey High School, her unusual dual mastery of math and marine biology first flourished. And just off the boardwalk, at the New York Aquarium, she grew to love sharks—a love that matured three decades later into national legislation to protect them.

Now the great swooping circle of life has brought Pikitch from catching killifish on one small stretch of shore to saving its cousins around the world. As the executive director of the renamed and relocated Institute for Ocean Conservation Science, a proud new addition to Stony Brook’s School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS), Pikitch is leading a globally important study of forage fish. These small creatures—such as sardines, herring, and even the tiny killifish—are the stuff of life for the larger marine species. They fatten the farmed salmon and even the chicken that we eat. But we haven’t yet figured out how many of these forage fish we can afford to take from the sea and how many we must leave behind to preserve the abundance of the oceans, now and into the future. That is one of the vital projects that Pikitch, 52, and her colleagues are undertaking.

As important as her work is to the health of our oceans, Pikitch’s arrival at Stony Brook is hugely significant to the University’s development as a premier center for marine science. Pikitch founded the Pew Institute for Ocean Science at the University of Miami in 2003. When the time for renewal of that funding rolled around last year, the funders signed off on Stony Brook as the new venue for the Institute.

“I think it’s enormously important,” says President Shirley Strum Kenny. “Ellen Pikitch is a great scholar and a great star. So I think it truly was a coup to get the Institute to come to Stony Brook.”

Pikitch’s office in Discovery Hall is just a few steps away from the Endeavour Hall office of her colleague and boss, David Conover, the dean of SoMAS. Both are widely respected experts in the complex science of fisheries management, and both are pivotal to the rising influence of SoMAS and the growth of the Stony Brook Southampton campus, the place where SUNY touches the Atlantic Ocean.

Together they are a formidable force not only for science, but for friend-making and fundraising for the Institute and SoMAS. “She’s really good at articulating the mission of her organization and getting other people excited about it, and that’s part of what I do for the school,” Conover says. “I think we make a compelling partnership when we talk to people about supporting the school.”

That’s partly how Mary Pearl, a distinguished conservationist and the new dean of the Stony Brook Southampton campus, sees Pikitch. Together they’ve taught environmental journalists and worked on a United Nations task force. And Pearl has witnessed Pikitch’s ability to take complex science and convey it accessibly to those who can help. “I think she’s brilliant,” Pearl says. Now Conover, Pikitch, and Pearl make a powerful triumvirate for doing first-rate scientific work today and training tomorrow’s environmental pioneers.

Bob Keeler writes editorials for Newsday on local government and the environment, including ocean policy.
The unusual road that Pikitch traveled to that position began in the New York City public schools and led her to a scholastic eminence that no one else in her immediate Eastern European family had been privileged to attain. “My father and mother are both children of immigrants, and their parents could barely speak English,” Pikitch says. “Both my parents had high school educations, no further than that.”

Pikitch chose to attend John Dewey, a new experimental public high school, largely because it had a three-year marine occupational program. She didn’t know exactly what she wanted to do, but her summer days at Coney Island had given her at least one certainty. “I knew I loved the ocean and I wanted to learn more,” she says, “and the chance to do that in the public school system was fantastic.”

In addition to the ocean, Pikitch’s other great passion was math. “I liked thinking about things and logic, and I loved the ocean,” she says. “So I was put in the accelerated math program and in the marine occupational program, and within a year and a half I’d finished all of high school math.” That led her to a program at City College of New York that offered weekend and summer courses for high school students. So she began taking advanced math at the college while pursuing her marine courses at John Dewey High.

She got hands-on experience by doing fieldwork in the waters right off Coney Island and by working at the New York Aquarium there. She fed the fish, gave talks to the visitors, and worked in a marine pharmacology lab that studied medicines from the ocean. She also fed the denizens of the shark tank, dangling a dead fish on the end of a pole and waiting, while the sharks acted cool and uninterested. Finally, they’d jump at the morsel with a suddenness that sometimes made her feel she was going to fall into the tank. But those momentary scares didn’t prevent her from developing a lifelong love of sharks.

After high school she entered a special program at City College that would let her earn both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in math in just four years. At the same time, she took enough marine biology electives to earn the equivalent of a bachelor’s degree in that discipline.

Those dual competencies were just what she needed for the emerging focus of her career—fisheries. “Every question about fish seems to come back to something involving numbers,” Pikitch says. “How many fish are in the sea? It’s not an easy question to answer.” Counting trees, she likes to say, is a lot easier. They stand still. Fish don’t. “It’s much more difficult to know how many there are, how fast do they grow, how many can we catch, what size should we catch them at, what would be a sustainable yield.”

In her final year at City College, Pikitch was tutoring math. One of her students noticed a stack of her résumés on her desk, took one, and showed it to his boss, who later offered her a job. The environmental consulting firm, then studying the impact of power plants on fish in the Hudson River, had a problem: Its mathematicians didn’t understand biology, and its biologists were fuzzy on math. So she became the firm’s first-ever mathematical biologist.

Pikitch loved that job but knew that to be able to pick the issues she wanted to explore, she’d need a doctorate. She chose Indiana University. That middle-of-the-continent institution might sound like an odd choice for a marine scientist, but Indiana is a Great Lakes state. It was on the travails of the walleye in western Lake Erie that she focused her 1983 dissertation. With funding from her old firm and from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Pikitch showed that it wasn’t a decline of food or the impact of power plants that had been hurting the walleye, but overfishing. Happily, the states had begun to control that problem. “I documented the comeback of the walleye in Lake Erie,” Pikitch says. “The fishermen around me somehow attributed it to me.”

In the years that followed, Pikitch published prolifically on a variety of marine species and the impact of fisheries regulations and techniques on those ecosystems, and helped shape national policy on one fishery issue that’s actually familiar to everyday folks: protecting porpoises from becoming bycatch—unintended casualties of tuna fishing.

Then, in 1996, Pikitch moved back to New York, became senior research scientist at the Wildlife Conservation Society, and founded and ran its marine conservation and ocean strategy programs. That was an exquisite bit of biographical circle-closing. In high school, she had worked at the New York Aquarium, which the society ran, and now she was back with the organization as a top scientist, working in the same labs at the aquarium where she had started.
“My focus shifted from counting fish to saving fish,” she says. An unusual career move for an academic star.

“Not that many successful scientists who become tenured and have a funded program and are producing students and publishing papers will leave academia to enter the world of the NGOs [nongovernmental organizations],” Conover says. “Some people...because they like the publicity, will promote themselves as one of the saviors of the ocean, but maybe without the substance. Ellen has the substance.”

A perfect example of Pikitch’s dedication was her effort to curb the detestable fishing practice of shark finning—removing the fins of shark for use in shark fin soup and throwing the less valuable remainder of the shark back into the ocean. Helpless without their fins, they sink slowly to the bottom and are eaten alive by other fish. Her work helped lead to President Bill Clinton’s signing of the Shark Finning Prohibition Act of 2000.

So it hardly could be considered a surprise that Pikitch’s next major career distinction was a prestigious Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation in 2000. Only five people per year receive this honor. “It takes a small number of the world’s leading marine scientists who are in the middle of their careers and gives them a fellowship enabling them to take their research to a higher level with funding that has very few strings attached,” Conover says.

Pikitch used the fellowship to develop a “seascape” approach to fisheries management: a more sustainable way of preserving the ocean’s health, by understanding the interaction of many species, rather than trying to manage one at a time. Her work to preserve sharks reflects that spirit. She sees them not the way “Jaws” portrayed them, as horrific killing machines, but as an exquisitely adapted and indispensable element of the complex chain of marine life.

This ecosystem-based management is at the heart of her work, and it’s an increasingly influential scientific approach. In the fall of 2003, it was the subject of a small gathering of scientists in the boardroom of the Wildlife Conservation Society’s offices in Central Park, called by Pikitch. That convocation produced an influential policy paper on ecosystem-based fishery management published in the journal Science in 2004.

“That gave me a chance to really get to know Ellen,” Conover recalls. In a casual conversation, she told him she was leaving the society to create a new Pew Institute for Ocean Science at the University of Miami. “And I said to her, ‘Gee, Ellen, why didn’t you call me up out at Stony Brook?’ ”

Back then, despite the strength of its faculty and the excellence of its research, Stony Brook had not yet reached the high public visibility in marine sciences that it has since achieved. But Conover’s question did plant a seed in Pikitch’s thinking, and she kept an eye on what was happening at Stony Brook. In 2005 she and her husband Allen S.
Zwickler bought a vacation home in East Quogue. In 2006 Stony Brook bought the Southampton College campus of Long Island University, a few miles from that house. The idea was to create a college of environmental sustainability and give Stony Brook access to the ocean, plus a solid undergraduate program to complement its existing marine science graduate studies. At the same time, Stony Brook put a greater emphasis on applying its basic science to important ocean policy issues. The Marine Sciences Research Center blossomed into the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. And in 2007, Conover recruited her to teach at Stony Brook as an adjunct. The combination of Pikitch’s deep New York roots, the rise of Stony Brook’s marine science stature, and Pew’s continuing support made possible the move of her Institute to Stony Brook.

Conover and Pikitch had also solidified their collaboration. In a 2002 study in Science, he had shown how quickly overfishing, combined with the conventional wisdom of keep-the-big-ones-and-throw-back-the-little-ones, could change the genetic character of fish. “Are there evolutionary effects of fishing?” Pikitch says. “He showed that there were. That paper was published in a prestigious journal and sent shock waves through the scientific community.”

Then her Pew Institute funded Conover’s next step: exploring the reverse. “What would happen if, through heavy fishing, you would cause genetic changes in stocks that would drive the sizes of fish down, and then you put in a moratorium and said, ‘OK, let’s stop,’ ” Conover says. “The big question is: Would those changes reverse on their own, or would those populations now retain those characteristics for many generations to come?”

The answer, published this year in The Proceedings of the Royal Society, is that the fish do bounce back and regain size, but slowly. “[Research] does show that the populations may correct the errors that we make, and if our management practices caused fish sizes to decline, then there is hope for a rebound,” Conover says, “but on the time scale of 12 generations.”

All the more reason for scientifically sound fishery management. And that’s exactly what Pikitch’s institute will help provide. Her big project now is chairing the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force, to figure out how to manage the small fish that play such a big role in the ocean.

As chair of the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force, Pikitch now must figure out how to manage the small fish that play such a big role in the ocean.

Sharks need to keep water moving over their gills, above, to receive necessary oxygen. Shark finning—removing the fin for use in shark fin soup and throwing the remainder of the shark back into the ocean—renders the shark immobile.

As chair of the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force, Pikitch now must figure out how to manage the small fish that play such a big role in the ocean.

PHOTO: COMSTOCK IMAGES
If you were to visit the laboratory of Dr. Bruce J. Brownawell at Stony Brook University’s School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS), you would be well warned about opening the mail: It will probably contain samples of sewage sludge.

And you might pause before opening the fridge, too. Dr. Brownawell’s four freezers are full of samples of sediment from gag-inducing locales such as the 106-Mile Site, where New York City, Nassau County, and New Jersey dumped 8 million tons of sewage sludge annually for years, as well as sediments from some of the nastier parts of New York Harbor.

Brownawell, an associate professor at SoMAS, is deeply engaged in answering the question: What’s in the water? His lab is capable of detecting minute amounts—not just parts per million, but parts per billion, even parts per quadrillion—of contaminants that get into the oceans, coastal waters, river bottoms, and groundwater. As such it is one of the labs that is relied upon by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for accurate analysis of contaminants. Remember those packets of sludge that arrive in the mail? They come from the USGS.

A few years ago, the USGS shocked the nonscientific world when it published the “National Reconnaissance of Pharmaceuticals, Hormones and other Organic Wastewater Contaminants in Streams” study. It was a study that found that a broad range of contaminants—from prescription drugs and veterinary medicines to cleaning supplies and hair-care products—are found in low concentrations in America’s streams and waterways. One or more of the chemicals measured were found in 80 percent of the streams the USGS sampled nationwide.

What was found? Traces of antibiotics, detergents, disinfectants, fire retardants, hormones, insecticides, and plasticizers. Yuck.

That’s not all. Mark J. Benotti, a Ph.D. student in Brownawell’s lab, has measured traces of prescription drugs, acetaminophen, caffeine, and nicotine residues leaching from septic systems in groundwaters in Cape Cod, on Long Island, and in Wyoming. Yuck again.

These are not chemicals commonly thought to be in water, and so they have not traditionally been tracked. Now that we know they are there, the obvious question is: Do they harm humans at these low concentrations? That answer is unknown. But we do know that sewage contaminants have the potential to affect sea life.

Eighteen years ago Brownawell went down in a submersible to the ocean bottom at the notorious sludge-dumping site 106 miles off the coast of New Jersey. There, below 2,600 meters of water, he saw not the dead zone that armchair environmentalists might have expected but teeming sea life. “It wasn’t devastated at all,” he says. Compared with other deep sites, “there were a lot more opportunistic sea urchins and sea cucumbers,” he recalls. “If you put sewage sludge in the coastal waters, it’s hardly the most delicious meal for most organisms, but on the bottom of the ocean, it’s prime rib!”

Stony Book scientists returned to the 106-Mile Site three more times over the years, and the samples they scooped up on those trips are among the goodies in Brownawell’s freezers.

It’s a good thing they saved the stuff. The latest mass spectrometers now have the capacity to measure...
Recent and stored sludge samples help Bruce Brownawell, above, and his team pinpoint what's in our water.
extremely low concentrations of contaminants. Brownawell and his team are able to reanalyze those samples with the new equipment and see how things have changed.

One surprise has been a rapid increase in concentrations of a chemical that has two seemingly contradictory commercial uses: It is found in hair-care products, such as conditioners, and it is sold as an algaecide, a chemical that can be used to prevent slime from growing in swimming pools or ponds. It is called behentrimonium, a word you may not find on the back of your shampoo bottle because it goes by seven or eight other names. Brownawell says, “Its concentrations have doubled every five years for the last 30 years.”

Public concern has driven research dollars for the study of pharmaceuticals and hormones in the water, but Brownawell says the trace levels of these chemicals in drinking water don’t worry him much because they “are at very low concentrations—parts per trillion, practically quadrillion in some cases,” and their biological effects have been studied.

He explains that the maximum human exposure from water is just way too small compared with other exposures to humans. Natural and synthetic estrogen entering surface waters from sewage treatment plants has been linked to endocrine disruption in fish, but the ecological risks associated with parts-per-trillion levels of pharmaceuticals are presently tenuous. The risk perception problems with ultratrace detection of chemicals in the environment are only going to get worse. “Every year new mass spectrometers come out that can measure ever-lower concentrations of chemicals, and every sample we test contains chemicals we use in everyday life.”

One chemical that has never been reported before is behentrimonium, which may be as concentrated as five parts per million in urban harbor sediments, he says. “When something is found at as high a concentration as some of these chemicals, it will raise concerns about possible ecological effects,” he says. “These are the same compounds we put all over our bodies and in our bodies, so we know that people aren’t falling over dead” from their effects. “But [the compounds] might be harmful in the environment. We don’t know. From my perspective, we haven’t done enough study.”

Another Stony Brook researcher, Anne McElroy, has found feminized fish—male flounders with female characteristics—in Jamaica Bay, a result, she suspects, of the leaching of estrogenic chemicals into the waterways. Brownawell points out that the antimicrobial chemicals in mouthwash and other structurally related disinfectants detected in sewage sludge kill bacteria, but not people. “It’s a matter of dose.” So the more immediate concern is what might common products, those that find their way into the nation’s waterways, do to the denizens of streams, rivers, and harbors? If a hair-care product also kills algae, what does it do to marine plant life?

As far as humans are concerned, Brownawell frets less about what is in the water than what is in the sewage-based fertilizer that farmers spread on their fields nowadays. Once ocean dumping was banned in 1991, municipal water treatment plants had to find a way to get rid of the sludge produced by the sewage treatment process. Burning it in incinerators is politically unpopular, so they turned to composting the sludge, a win-win for them (it got rid of sludge) and for farmers (the biosolid compost makes good fertilizer). “We kill most of the pathogens in the composting,” Brownawell says, “but there are…certainly persistent contaminants, some of which we are actually discovering in my lab right now, that get put down in high concentrations every time we apply the compost. And they don’t seem to disappear. They keep building up.”

The good news is that researchers now can discover contaminants that were once immeasurable and thus unknown. And scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey to the labs of Stony Brook are busily seeking them out and quantifying them. Having freezers full of old samples gives Stony Brook a chance to measure how the man-made compounds dumped into, leached into, or excreted into the living waters around us have changed over the course of recent history. It’s a subject most of us would rather not think about, so we are fortunate that scientists such as Dr. Brownawell and his Stony Brook colleagues are literally immersing themselves in the search for answers.
Under the leadership of famed conservationist Mary C. Pearl, Ph.D., Stony Brook Southampton’s students continue the work of addressing the world’s urgent environmental challenges in the greenhouse, on the water, and in the Shinnecock Hills—“our own green laboratory,” in the words of Pearl.

“Here sustainability is not merely an abstract concept taught from textbooks. It’s lived and breathed on our campus, from our new LEED-certified library heated with geothermal energy, to our popular greenhouse and organic garden, where students grow some of the food we serve in our café.”

Pearl touts the opportunities students have at a college focused on sustainability that is also part of a great research university. “Students here have the wonderful opportunity literally to get their feet wet and their hands dirty in the water and on the land,” explains the new dean and vice president. “We are located in an area that is under environmental threat from issues of inappropriate development, and we also experience the more global issue of climate change and its impact on a delicate region. Not only will our students equip themselves for a career by acquiring expertise in environmental science and social science and humanities, but they will make a difference—even through their studies as undergraduates.”

Preparation for the many green careers on the horizon is a large component of Pearl’s vision for the Stony Brook Southampton program, which combines a broad, interdisciplinary academic curriculum and undergraduate internships. One such example: an environmental bachelor’s degree that accompanies a master’s of business administration in a five-year program.

“I believe our students will readily find application for what they’ve learned, because so many businesses and organizations are looking for employees who will help them grapple with the effects of new environmental regulations, and with the impact of environmental change on their business practice. Because we are a new school, we’re going to work very hard to place all our graduates.”

In her dual academic and administrative role, Pearl hopes to integrate the college’s bountiful natural elements with the artistic and intellectual offerings that have made the campus famous, such as the MFA Writing and Literature program and Avram Theater and Gallery. “The Stony Brook Southampton community is a haven for green thinking—and green action,” Pearl explains.

Pearl’s credentials include 15 years as president of Wildlife Trust, a global organization dedicated to innovative conservation science, and co-founder of both the Center for Conservation Medicine and the Center for Environmental Research and Conservation at Columbia University. She is also editor and writer of numerous scientific publications. Newsweek has credited Pearl with spearheading the development of “conservation medicine,” a scientific exploration of the links among the health of humans, wildlife, and ecosystems.

“I think we have a marvelous opportunity to be the best post-secondary school educational program presented as an integrated curriculum with a unified interdisciplinary faculty,” Pearl says. “This is a revolution in undergraduate education, in that everything about our world is changing. The way that information flows, the way we recognize that problems can be systemic, all speak to the need for a new kind of undergraduate education, and Southampton is at the forefront of delivering it.”

For more information about Stony Brook Southampton visit www.stonybrook.edu/southampton
In her 15 years at Stony Brook, Shirley Strum Kenny was the catalyst for tremendous growth and change. The numbers say it all.

**Endowment**
- $67,981,501
- $10,795,000
- 530%

**Freshman Applications**
- 13,398 → (up 105%) → 27,417

**Enrollment**
- 23,994
- 17,621
- 36%

**Number of Marching Bands**
- 0 → 1

**Out-of-State Freshmen**
- 117 → 424
- 262%

**Number of NCAA Athletes**
- 384 → 451
- 17%

**Faculty and Staff**
- 11,332 → 14,520
- 28%
Samuel L. Stanley Jr. M.D.
Fifth President of Stony Brook University

After a national search, Dr. Samuel L. Stanley Jr. M.D., vice chancellor for research at Washington University, St. Louis, has been appointed as the next president of Stony Brook University.

Stanley received his B.A. in 1976 from the University of Chicago, and his M.D. in 1980 from Harvard Medical School. After his internship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Stanley became a Fellow in Infectious Diseases at Washington University School of Medicine, one of the most prestigious and research-intensive schools of medicine. Indeed, in 2008, Washington University’s School of Medicine was ranked third best in the nation. Stanley has served as a professor in medicine and molecular microbiology at the medical school, and as vice chancellor for research for the entire university. In further recognition of his national reputation in medical research, and of his outstanding leadership abilities, in 2003 Stanley was appointed as the director of the Midwest Regional Center for Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research, an NIH-funded, multidisciplinary research center.

As vice chancellor for research, Stanley is credited with substantially advancing the research enterprise at Washington University. In this role, he oversaw a research portfolio of $548 million, including $391 million in NIH funding. His responsibilities encompassed a broad array of activities associated with the management of these extramural research funds, including, but not limited to, the full range of matters related to undergraduate, graduate, and faculty research, and technology transfer.

“We are extremely pleased and excited that Dr. Stanley will serve as Stony Brook’s next president. His outstanding amalgam of skills and credentials, as well as his creative energies will serve him well. In fact, his depth of experience in attracting research funding will benefit Stony Brook tremendously as we climb in the ranks of AAU universities.”

—Richard Nasti

Rich Gelfond, vice chair of the Search Committee and chair of the Stony Brook Foundation, states, “We are excited that Dr. Stanley has agreed to accept this challenge. Dr. Stanley is an outstanding academic and leader in higher education who I am confident will swiftly and effectively propel Stony Brook in its climb to greatness. We welcome Dr. Stanley and his wife, Dr. Ellen Li, to the Stony Brook family.”

Commenting on the Council’s decision, Stanley responded, “I am honored to have been selected as Stony Brook’s next president. In its short life, Stony Brook has accomplished some remarkable things. I look forward to working with my new colleagues on the faculty and staff, and students in a collective and strategic way to continue Stony Brook’s remarkable trajectory of increased excellence, and to position the University to take its place among the truly great research universities of the nation.”

State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor Nancy Zimpher says, “I am delighted that Dr. Stanley will be the first presidential appointment of my SUNY tenure. Sam Stanley is an accomplished leader, administrator, educator, medical researcher, and physician. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a commitment to excellence that will greatly enhance Stony Brook, SUNY, Long Island, and all of New York.”

Sam Aronson, Search Committee member and director of Brookhaven National Laboratory, commented, “Dr. Stanley has the scientific expertise, experience, and vision to promote and strengthen the partnership between Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Lab, as well as the alliance with Cold Spring Harbor Lab, along with other research initiatives that will benefit the region, state, and nation. Dr. Stanley has the ability to enable Stony Brook to be one of the nation’s pre-eminent centers of cutting-edge research in the physical and biological sciences.”

Rich Gelfond, vice chair of the Search Committee and chair of the Stony Brook Foundation, states, “We are excited that Dr. Stanley has agreed to accept this challenge. Dr. Stanley is an outstanding academic and leader in higher education who I am confident will swiftly and effectively propel Stony Brook in its climb to greatness. We welcome Dr. Stanley and his wife, Dr. Ellen Li, to the Stony Brook family.”

Commenting on the Council’s decision, Stanley responded, “I am honored to have been selected as Stony Brook’s next president. In its short life, Stony Brook has accomplished some remarkable things. I look forward to working with my new colleagues on the faculty and staff, and students in a collective and strategic way to continue Stony Brook’s remarkable trajectory of increased excellence, and to position the University to take its place among the truly great research universities of the nation.”

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Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D., begins his term as president of Stony Brook University on July 1, 2009.
Gary Marker, Search Committee member and professor of History at Stony Brook, states, “While Dr. Stanley clearly has outstanding medical and science credentials, it is important to underscore that the Committee was equally impressed with his understanding and vision for all of the disciplines represented, the combination of which is what makes a major research university great.”

Stanley is married to Dr. Ellen Li, a world-renowned gastroenterologist who is also a professor at Washington University in St. Louis’ School of Medicine. Stanley and Li have four children.

Campaign for Stony Brook Surpasses $300 Million Goal
Proclaiming the achievement “a sterling affirmation” of the importance of public higher education in America, Stony Brook University President Shirley Strum Kenny announced earlier this spring that the University had surpassed its goal of $300 million in its first-ever capital campaign, “The Emergence of Stony Brook.” As of early February, the seven-year campaign, the largest ever of any campus of the SUNY system, had achieved gifts and pledges totaling more than $312 million. The campaign continues until June 30, 2009, the end of the University’s fiscal year and also the effective date of President Kenny’s retirement, following 15 years as Stony Brook’s fourth president.

“This is a historic milestone, for Stony Brook University and for SUNY,” Dr. Kenny says. “And during these harsh economic times, which have led to severe cuts in government support, this achievement is a sterling affirmation of both the centrality of public higher education to the future of our state and nation, and to Stony Brook’s position as a world leader.”

To date, the campaign boasts more than 237,000 gifts from more than 54,000 donors. Approximately one out of five alumni has made a gift to the campaign. Most gifts have been designated by the donor for a particular purpose such as scholarships or research.

“The campaign has certainly lived up to its name, ‘The Emergence of Stony Brook,’” comments Lance King, the University’s vice president for advancement and president of the Stony Brook Foundation. “Thanks to unprecedented levels of giving from our alumni and friends and under President Kenny’s leadership, the University has made tremendous strides in quality and reputation during the course of the campaign. Those improvements have garnered national and international attention. Stony Brook has indeed ‘emerged,’ and we have many people to thank for helping us to do so,” King adds.

The Laufers’ gift also will fund three endowed faculty positions as well as provide scholarship support.

Laufers Donate $10 Million to Foster Interdisciplinary Research
Henry and Marsha Laufer have again showed their generosity to Stony Brook University by announcing a $10 million gift, the majority of which will be used to establish a new interdisciplinary research center. In addition to endowing the Louis and Beatrice Laufer Center for Computational Biology and Genome Sciences, named for Henry Laufer’s parents, the gift will fund three endowed faculty positions as well as provide scholarship support for students in the School of Health Technology and Management, where Marsha Laufer served on the faculty as a speech pathologist. The gift also helped the University surpass its $300 million Capital Campaign Goal.

Laufer served as professor of mathematics at Stony Brook for more than two decades before going on to spearhead research at Renaissance Technologies. “My wife and I are delighted to make this gift. The University has played a pivotal role in our lives. And because of its international and well-deserved reputation as an institution that fosters collaboration among traditional academic disciplines, it is the ideal place for this new center.”

Dental School Welcomes New Dean
Ray C. Williams, D.M.D., an internationally known researcher and educator in dental medicine, has been named dean of the Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine. He joined the University on February 2.

Williams comes to Stony Brook from the University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Dentistry at Chapel Hill, where he was Straumann Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Periodontology. He was also a member of UNC’s Center for Oral and Systemic Diseases. His major research interests are clinical and translational research in pharmacological modification of the host response to treat periodontal disease and the oral health-systemic health relationship.
The Plight of the Penguins

Howardena Pindell, professor of art, loves penguins and admires their struggle to survive in a world where global climate change is disrupting their lives. She has documented the courage of these plucky penguins in her artwork, “Ocean Pollution/Global Warming: Penguins/Brazil,” shown last year in a show called “Migrate” and now residing in a private collection. The piece was inspired in part by a trip Pindell took to South Africa, where she encountered warm weather penguins.

“I stood near them on the beach,” she recalls. “They’re tiny little things, but so strong. They really impressed me.”

Years later Pindell began hearing about the forced migration of penguins as a result of overfishing. Fewer fish in their usual habitats means they have to swim much farther in search of food. “They’re tremendous swimmers, and fast,” Pindell says. “But they have to swim so far now for food that the babies are exhausted.”

Pindell also was moved by news reports of large numbers of penguins injured by industrial oil spills. The birds have been washing up on beaches in South America, particularly in Brazil. Some are successfully rehabilitated, but many do not survive.

Through Pindell’s efforts, the penguins’ plight became art. Last year she photographed warm weather penguins at the Bronx Zoo and cold weather penguins at the Central Park Zoo. She used excerpts of Internet news stories about polluted penguin habitats, transferring the text to photo panels. The photos plus text tell the story of the penguins’ increasingly challenging attempts to adapt to negative climate changes that show no signs of stopping.

For her future projects, Pindell is interested in the privatization and selling of water and the world’s shrinking water supplies. She says she may soon translate this interest into another piece. —Susan Risoli

The Search for Water

Stony Brook’s anthropologists have been unearthing finds in Tanzania for many years, but senior Michelle Pizer made a different discovery when she studied the challenges that Tanzanians in rural areas face when looking for safe drinking water.

Pizer, who is majoring in political science and environmental studies, traveled to Tanzania last summer with Professor Kamazima Lwiza from the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. Lwiza is the advisor to the Stony Brook Environmental Club, of which Pizer is president. Pizer surveyed water stations in the Mpwapwa region to learn how far people travel to get water. She said that it is the job of women and children to collect water in Tanzania, and they often travel up to six miles to retrieve it.

In each town Pizer visited, she reviewed five to six water stations that villagers must pay to use (the fees go toward repaying the World Bank, which loaned the money to fund the stations). However, the water at these stations is only minimally treated. Although the river water does go through a charcoal filter before going to the station, Pizer noted that “it’s not really purified.”

This trip is part of an ongoing effort by Stony Brook to examine the issues facing Tanzanians and the 1.2 billion people around the planet who do not have access to clean water. Lwiza co-organized “Tanzania Water, Health, and Environment Symposium,” which was held last year with leading experts who came together to discuss solutions for finding clean water. The University is continuing to foster projects to resolve this global issue.

Equations for Change

Professors in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics are using equations, formulas, and codes to study water.

In a project with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Professor Xiaolin Li is using the FronTier software code developed by Applied Math and Statistics faculty to study the underground flow of contaminated water. Soil contamination can be carried for long distances underground. Li is studying mineral deposits, enhanced by bacterial growth, which can partially block the rock pores and prevent underground flow and the transport of contam-
inants. Li has found that the FronTier can be coupled with other application programs to track and compute the position, geometry, topology, and physical state of a moving interface. It also can be used for studying groundwater modeling, deposition and etching, petroleum reservoir modeling, and gas dynamics.

Brent Lindquist in Applied Math and Statistics is also looking into fluid movement underground: specifically, the removal of contaminants introduced into our aquifer systems as a by-product of our oil-based economy; the removal of radioactive wastes stored underground resulting from weapons production; and the potential use of underground basins to store amounts of supercritical fluid carbon dioxide to mitigate global warming resulting from our singular dependence on fossil fuels. “Being able to predict and control the movement (or containment) of these various fluids, especially those that are reactive and/or biologically hazardous, is critical to the growing urgency to assume responsible stewardship of our planet,” Lindquist notes. Lindquist is using three-dimensional imaging software he developed to analyze fluid for these ongoing projects.

More Product, More Pollution
A nation’s debt, structural adjustment, and industrial exports increase its water pollution, a study by researchers in the Department of Sociology has found. Professor John M. Shandra and graduate student Eran Shor published their findings on “Debt, Structural Adjustment, and Organic Water Pollution” in Organization and Environment. Organic pollution occurs when an excess of organic matter, such as manure or sewage, enters the water. One surprising result was that democracy increases water pollution, a finding that could be related to elected leaders having to please a variety of interest groups to win their positions.

In a related study published in Human Ecology Review, Shandra and Shor examined samples from 56 developing nations to show how international environmental organizations—including intergovernmental and international nongovernmental groups—are helping to reduce each nation’s organic water pollution, in spite of increased pollution caused by more product exports.

On the Horizon

A $4 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health will allow Joseph C. Blader, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at Stony Brook University Medical Center (SBUMC), and colleagues to launch a five-year study to compare treatment options for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and severe behavioral problems. Physicians often treat these children with several medications at once. This is the first collaborative study nationwide to evaluate whether all these medicines are necessary and how much good they do when combined. The goal of the study is to evaluate the effectiveness of adding medications to treat explosive, aggressive, and volatile behavior among children with ADHD who continue to have these problems after treatment with standard stimulant medication.

T the American Cancer Society (ACS) has given Assistant Professor Valentina Schmidt of the Department of Medicine a $850,000, four-year Research Scholar Grant to conduct research in a study of a novel tumor suppressor gene (Iqgap2) in liver carcinogenesis. Schmidt’s research is an outgrowth of a previous investigation led by Wadie F. Bahou, M.D., professor of medicine and genetics, and fellow colleagues at SBUMC. “Our research with Bahou in mice clearly shows a link between lack of Iqgap2 protein in liver with the development of hepatocellular carcinoma,” reports Schmidt. “The ACS award will allow me to establish the relevance of our mouse model for human disease, the next crucial step in any research to discover novel therapies.”

L ilianne R. Mujica-Parodi, professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, received a three-year grant of $1.2 million from the Office of Naval Research. The primary purpose of the application, titled “Computational Diagnostic Techniques for Assessing Neural Risk for Vulnerability Toward Acute and Chronic Stress,” is to assess the degree to which advanced computational methods of quantifying limbic dysregulation can accurately predict risk for vulnerability toward acute and chronic stress, as well as psychopathology associated with stress vulnerability. Mujica-Parodi’s laboratory will investigate, as a secondary project, the neurobiological basis for interactions between assessment of threat for ambiguous stimuli, behavior inhibition, and conscious regulation of emotion.
Class Notes

1970s
Joel Lieberman ’70 (B.S.) is the manager of market research for OnStar.
Andrew Bressler ’71 (B.A.) is in his 30th year working for Southern California Permanente Medical Group. He and his wife Stephanie will be celebrating their 25th anniversary this year.
Naomi Danis ’71 (B.A.), ’72 (M.A.) published her second children’s book, Splish-Splash, in 2008. Danis is also the managing editor of Lilith, the Jewish feminist quarterly magazine, where she has worked for 20 years.
Sheldon Feldman ’71 (B.S.) was appointed in July 2008 to chief of breast surgery in the Division of Surgical Oncology at New York Presbyterian Hospital, and is also an assistant professor of clinical surgery at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Neil Stein ’72 (B.S.) has taken partial retirement and has stepped down as president of Jobin Yvon Inc. He continues on as chairman of SPEX Certiprep Group.
Bonnie Astor ’73 (B.S.) earned her master’s in Community Health Nursing at Rutgers University in 1975. She retired early from East Stroudsburg University Nursing faculty and took a sabbatical leave in southern India to develop a rural hospital staff.
Phyllis Korecki ’74 (B.S.), ’84 (M.S.) retired and returned to Long Island. She attends many theater events, especially at the Staller Center, and continues her education as a member of OLLI (Opportunity for Life Long Learning), formerly known as the Round Table at SB.
Judith Walenta ’74 (B.S.) is practicing integrative family medicine as a nurse practitioner in Windsor, California.
Ellen Wallenstein ’74 (B.A.) was one of the recipients of the New York Foundation for the Arts Photography Fellowship.
Donnalynn Darling ’75 (B.A.) was honored by the Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center for her public service and pro bono efforts. Darling is the chair of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C.’s Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice groups, and chair of the firm’s Education Law practice.
John Hennessy ’75 (M.S.), ’77 (Ph.D.), president of Stanford University, has been elected to the American Philosophical Society.
Barbara Cannova ’76 (B.A.) became a board member of the Metro New York chapter of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America.
Alice Feiring ’76 (B.A.) published her book The Battle for Wine and Love or How I Saved the World from Parkerization. The book was recommended by The New York Times Book Review section.
Marianne Garvin ’76 (B.A.) was selected by the Long Island Business News as one of Long Island’s Top 50 Most Influential Women in Business.
Mary Dumas ’77 (M.S.) is the president (2008-2010) of NONPF and was recently awarded the Elizabeth Russell Belford International Award for excellence in education, Sigma Theta Tau International.
Dean Weber ’77 (B.A.) has written a novel titled Grandmaster, inspired by Stony Brook.
Elizabeth DiFelice ’78 (M.M.), ’96 (D.M.A.) performed with the New York Philharmonic in February 2008.
Peter Maggiore ’78 (B.S.) is senior vice president of North Wind Inc. and was honored by the ASME with the Dixy Lee Ray Award.
Jean Sheely ’78 (M.D.) has returned to private practice at Pediatric Associates of Greater Salem, Massachusetts.

1980s
Barbara Berkeley ’80 (M.D.) has published Refuse to Regain!: Twelve Tough Rules to Defend the Body You’ve Earned. She is an internist who specializes in obesity management.
Alan Kraus ’80 (B.A.) is proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Jason Adam.
Marilyn Mitchell ’80 (B.S.) is in graduate school at UCSD and the California Western School of Law studying health law. Her art was exhibited at the La Jolla Jewish Community Center.
Pasquale Bianculli ’81 (M.M.) and Kathleen McDonald ’80 (B.A.), after 24 years of marriage, have released their first CD together called Hill of Slane-Psalms, Sonatas, and Sojourns.
Adam Chen ’81 (B.S.), ’83 (M.D.) is working in the Department of Gastroenterology at Kaiser Riverside, California, and is a fellow in the American College of Physicians and American College of Gastroenterology. He also teaches as a clinical assistant professor at the University of California at Riverside.

A Message From Our Alumni Association President

Times like these tend to draw us all together. During the past few months, more and more Stony Brook alums have gathered together to socialize, network, and explore mutual interests and their common connections to Stony Brook. I urge you to join us!

Your time, talent, and resources have never been more vital to fellow and future alums. You’ll find alums at events and activities like Homecoming and Reunion weekend, Happy Hours, Career Workshops, and on Web sites like Facebook, Linked-In, Twitter, and the new e-Wolves Online Community.

My time on the Board and now as president of the Alumni Association has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my life. I have been able to reconnect with many of you, and have made so many great new friends because of our ties and dedication to Stony Brook. I also know I’m paying forward the incredible support I received at Stony Brook and want to ensure that our current students continue to receive the support they deserve.

Alums are playing important roles such as providing internships at their companies and in their organizations, mentoring students, volunteering on Alumni Association committees, attending networking events, and guest speaking in classes and at workshops. You are part of what makes this University so red hot, and we need you more than ever.

Learn more about how you can get involved at www.stonybrook.edu/alumni or call the alumni office at (877) SEAWOLVES. Hope to see you soon!

Christina Vargas Law ’90, ’93

18 THE BROOK
Marlaine Teahan '81 (B.A.) has been elected to the Council of the State Bar of Michigan Probate and Estate Planning Section. Teahan is an attorney with Foster Zack Little Pasteur & Manning, P.C.

David Badanes '82 (B.S.) has opened his law firm, Badanes Law Office, in Northport, New York. His practice concentrates on intellectual property, matrimonial, and real estate.

Sherry Schachter '82 (B.S.) is the director of bereavement services for Calvary Hospital and Hospice where she develops and facilitates educational services for staff and families. Schachter is also the recipient of the prestigious Lane Adams Award for Excellence in Cancer Nursing from the American Cancer Society.

Catherine Wang '82 (B.A.) hosted a summer send-off for incoming freshmen in the D.C. area this past August at her home in Arlington, Virginia. New freshmen and their families met with alumni, received Red Hot Stony Brook gear, and had an opportunity to meet each other before move-in day.

Mark Darrow '83 (M.D.) is president and CEO of Southeast Area Health Education Center in Wilmington, North Carolina.

David O'Brien '83 (B.S.) works at the Alaska Cancer Registry. He has lived in Anchorage since 1990 after receiving his Ph.D. at the University of Hawaii. In 2007 he was presented with the “Cross and Flame” medal by St. John United Methodist Church for recognition of his service to youth in cub scouts and boy scouts.

Daniel O'Neill '83 (M.D.) has published his book, *Knee Surgery: The Essential Step-by-Step Guide to Total Knee Recovery*. His practice group, the Alpine Clinic, has been named the team physicians for the U.S. Ski Jumping Team.

Karen Ketner '85 (M.S.) is president of the California Association for Nurse Practitioners.

Margaret Passmore '85 (B.S.) received the Regional Science Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s mid-Atlantic region during its annual Employee Recognition Ceremony last year.

Lee Fleisher '86 (M.D.) is Robert D. Dripps Professor and chair of anesthesiology and critical care at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He was elected last year into the Institute of Medicine.

Tracey Gillan '86 (B.S.) is an adjunct professor of nursing at Suffolk Community College and St. Joseph’s College.

Tara Roche '86 (B.S.) works as an urgent care nurse at Phillips Academy Andover-Isham Health Center in Massachusetts.

David Bernard '87 (B.A.), '88 (M.M.) conducted the Park Avenue Chamber Symphony in a performance of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3 (“Eroica”) at Carnegie Hall last November.

Ihab Girgis '88 (M.D.) is a practicing cardiac electrophysiologist at Shore Heart Group in Neptune, New Jersey, and was appointed director of cardiac electrophysiology at the Jersey Shore University Medical Center.

Lorna Peters '89 (M.M., D.M.A.) earned her Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance from Lawrence University where she was a student of Theodore Rehl. At Stony Brook, she completed an M.M. in piano with Gilbert Kalish and a D.M.A. in harpsichord with Arthur Haas. In 1989 a Fulbright Scholarship took her to Salzburg, Austria. She is associate professor of piano, harpsichord, chamber music, and music theory at California State University, Sacramento.

Choose Your Favorite Visa Design

Now alumni and friends have a selection of two Stony Brook Alumni Association Visa card designs. Choose a card that features a photo of either the University campus or the Medical Center campus. Both cards offer an easy way for alumni, friends, faculty, and staff to support Stony Brook while earning travel and merchandise awards or 1 percent cash back on their purchases with the card.

For more information, visit www.stonybrook.edu/AlumniVisa
Donor Spotlight: Jack Macrae and Paula Cooper

Jack Macrae and Paula Cooper have donated a four-acre residential property on the banks of the Forge River to support the programs of the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS). Valued at $2.7 million, the waterfront peninsula represents the largest-ever gift to SoMAS. Macrae and Cooper also become the fifth-largest donors to the University's seven-year $300 million capital campaign, "The Emergence of Stony Brook." The property was gifted to the Stony Brook Foundation, which accepts and manages private gifts and grants for the University's benefit.

“Jack and Paula are deeply concerned about preservation and restoration of local marine waters and their generosity will help SoMAS continue to apply science to these and other marine conservation issues,” says Stony Brook University President Shirley Strum Kenny. “By supporting marine science education and research, this gift will support and strengthen SoMAS as a principal source of expertise in addressing New York's marine environmental problems.”

“This incredibly generous donation will help SoMAS extend our knowledge and thereby promote restoration of this vital estuary and other marine habitats like it throughout the region and around the world,” said SoMAS Dean David Conover.

Jack Macrae was born in New York City and graduated from Harvard University in 1954. In his long career in publishing, he has edited and published such award-winning authors as Ed Abbey, Jorge Luis Borges, David Levering Lewis, Hilary Mantel, and Calvin Tomkins. Today he manages the Henry Holt imprint, John Macrae Books. Jack and his wife, art gallery owner Paula Cooper, have been married more than 20 years and together they own and operate “192 Books,” an independent bookstore on 10th Avenue in Manhattan.

Ronald Lewis '93 (M.D.) is chief of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery at Winthrop-University Hospital in Mineola, New York.

Lynne Malone '93 (B.S.) is happily married with four children who keep her busy, and she also works part-time as a hemodialysis nurse in an acute hospital-based unit.


Mace Greenfield '94 (B.A.) received his J.D. in 1998, and was admitted to the Bar in 1999. He opened his own law office in 2002 in Jericho, New York, practicing matrimonial and family law. He is the former radio personality known as “Mace in your Face.”

Robert Levine '94 (B.S.), '03 (M.D.) is in his third year of his pediatric endocrinology fellowship at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. He and his wife had a baby boy, Tyler.

Kia (Williams) Thompson '95 (B.A.) and Douglas Arkee Thompson III are happy to announce their marriage on August 1, 2008.

Marian Webster '95 (B.S.), '98 (M.S.) has been a nurse practitioner for the Suffolk County, New York Department of Health for 10 years. She also works as an adjunct faculty member at Suffolk County Community College for the RN Associate Program. Webster has been married 23 years to Victor L. Webster and they have two sons.

Patricia Dobbins '96 (M.D.) stayed at Stony Brook for her internal medicine residency. She now lives in Blauvelt, New York, and works as a part-time internist and part-time faculty member at a local college.

Stephen Palmer '96 (M.A.), '99 (Ph.D.) was named administrator of chapters for the American Medical Writers Association.

Ramona Ramdeo '97 (B.A.), '99 (B.S.), '05 (M.S.) graduated from Hofstra University with an M.B.A., concentrating in Program-Health Services Management.

Paula Cerqueira Ryo '97 (B.S.) married fellow alumnus John Ryo ('97) in 2005. They welcomed their first child, Grace, in 2007. Paula received a Doctor of Osteopathy in Family Medicine from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. In 2007, she was appointed academic coordinator in the Department of Medical Education at Long Beach Medical Center and is an assistant clinical professor at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Nationalism and Ethnopolitics in Cyberspace, will soon be published by Berghahn Books.

Kevin Williams ’97 (B.S.) accepted a position as a night clinician at Tampa General Hospital.

Kellie Bryant ’98 (B.S.) is an associate professor at SUNY Downstate and has published five articles.

Pearl Louie-Lieberman ’98 (M.D.) and Eric Lieberman ’98 (M.D.) are the parents of two children. Louie-Lieberman is practicing psychiatry in Westfield, New Jersey. Lieberman is now in rheumatology practice in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey.

Jeffrey Mann ’98 (B.S.) and wife Jessica are proud to announce the birth of a baby boy, Maximo Benjamin.

Walter Baldi ’98 (M.A.T.), ’99 (B.A.) has been teaching Italian, French, and Latin in the Baldwin School District since 2001. In May 2008, he was honored at the district’s “In Recognition of Excellence in Teaching and Academics” Dinner Banquet and was twice honored at the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony as a teacher who has made an impact on the lives of his students.

2000s

Rebecca Kopprasch ’00 (B.S.) was appointed marketing coordinator at Somerset Mortgage Lenders Co., in Melville, New York.

William Ganis ’01 (Ph.D.) is director of the String Room Art Gallery at Wells College in Aurora, New York.

Katherine Holzmacher ’01 (M.S.) works at Stony Brook University Medical Center as the director of clinical informatics where she is responsible for the clinical development of the Hospital’s Electronic Patient Record.

Jennifer Tokash ’01 (B.S.) received her Master of Arts degree in Education from Brooklyn College in 2005 and teaches math at Abraham Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, New York.

Doris Duran ’02 (B.S.) and R. David Corporan ’02 (M.A.) were married on July 25, 2008, in Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Corona, New York.

Mary Beth Holz ’02 (M.S.) works as the administrative director at Long Island Jewish Medical Center while she earns her Ph.D. at New York University.

Mark Drakos ’03 (M.D.) is an orthopedic sports medicine fellow at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Drakos and his wife Kristen have two children twins, Kylie and Brett.

Jennifer Gofran ’03 (B.A.) graduated from St. John’s Law School in 2007 and will soon begin practicing law in Kentucky.

Remembering “Burg” Turner

W. Burghardt Turner

Stony Brook University mourns the loss of W. Burghardt Turner, a former associate professor of history and a champion of civil rights. He was 93. Turner was known for his dedication to enhancing opportunities for minority groups in higher education and the advancement of civil rights on Long Island. In 1988 the University’s Graduate Diversity Fellowship Program was named in his honor, and in 2007 Stony Brook awarded him a Doctorate of Humane Letters.

Turner’s distinguished career as an educator included teaching at all levels: elementary in Bay Shore, New York, where he was the first African American employed in the school district; junior high in New York City; and high school in Patchogue, where he was one of the first African American teachers in the district. During his tenure at Stony Brook, he introduced courses in African American History and Native American History in the Department of History. As one of the first African American faculty members on the campus, he was instrumental in bringing attention to the discrimination experienced by minorities in academia and society in general. A tireless worker on social issues affecting minorities, he helped to found and served as president of the Brookhaven NAACP. He also served as chair of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission and the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk County.

Lawrence B. Martin, dean of the Graduate School at Stony Brook, said that Turner had a tremendous impact on him as a person and as a University administrator. He cited the “enormous extended family” of people connected to Turner through the several hundred fellows and alumni of the Turner Fellowship program, as well as the faculty and staff, who benefited during the 22 years since its inception. He pointed out that Stony Brook enjoys a great reputation nationally for its work in diversity programs that provide access and promote success, and said that all of these accomplishments have been built on foundations laid by Turner and his colleagues. Turner was “a giant of a man and a great champion for equality and for excellence,” Martin said. Former students remember him fondly as a responsive and kind teacher who “was a central pillar in conversion to being an open and tolerant person.”

For those interested in learning more about the legacy of W. Burghardt Turner, please visit www.grad.stonybrook.edu/turner.

Dorothy Goddiaz ’03 (B.A.) has joined the staff of the law office of Michael L. Pfeifer, P.C. as counsel.

Kristen Kavanagh ’03 (B.S.) has been working as a registered nurse at Schneider Children’s hospital in New Hyde Park for the past three years. She married her husband Steve in 2004, and they have a 1-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn.

Desiree Glover ’04 (B.A.) is an advanced placement Spanish teacher.

Tobielynn Smith ’05 (M.A.L.), a family physician from San Antonio, Texas, has been elected to the board of directors of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

Amber Lashway ’05 (M.S.) is employed as a nurse at the Clinton Correctional Facility.

Nicole Versacci ’05 (M.S.) works at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital as the clinical recruitment and retention coordinator. She married in 2003 and had a daughter, Giuliana, in 2007.

Judith Jones ’06 (M.S.) published a third book of poetry, Black is Beautiful and That’s the Truth.

Lara Pomi ’06 (M.A.) and James Urbat ’07 (B.A.) were married in 2007. She is an environmental analyst for Nelson, Pope, and Voorhis in Melville, New York.

Cynthia Zimmerli ’06 (B.A.) and Bill Forman were married in Summer 2008.

Got News?

Let us and your fellow classmates know what’s new in your life. Send your Class Notes to alumni@stonybrook.edu or visit www.stonybrook.edu/alumni to submit your notes online.
The Brook welcomes submissions of books recently written by alumni, faculty, and staff.

The Genius of America: How the Constitution Saved Our Country and Why It Can Again
by Eric Lane, Class of 1966, and Michael Oreskes
2007, Bloomsbury USA

Legal scholar Eric Lane and veteran journalist Michael Oreskes ask readers to reconnect with the document that has guided the longest-running democracy in the world. They look at the Constitution’s history relative to America’s current frustration with gridlock and partisan politics, affirming the document’s resilience through some of our toughest times. They remind us that the Constitution works best with a reminder to respect their institutional roles.

Neither Gods Nor Beasts: How Science Is Changing Who We Think We Are
by Elof Axel Carlson, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus
2008, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press

Ideas about what it is to be human originated thousands of years ago in religion and philosophy. With the advent last century of DNA, RNA, protein analysis, and the discovery of their roles in how cells and organs operate, new ideas rooted in molecular biology are taking hold. In this book, Carlson, a geneticist, explores historical beliefs about our behavior and then addresses how discoveries in biology are changing our understanding of how we act. He proposes that this scientific knowledge will help us live longer, healthier lives and allow us to make informed decisions about planetary, as well as personal, health.

SpaceShip One: An Illustrated History
by Dan Linehan, Class of 1992
2008, Zenith Press

This coffee-table book chronicles the development of the world’s first commercial manned space program, including an airborne launcher, a spaceship, rocket propulsion, avionics, a simulator, and full ground support. With more than 230 photographs, diagrams, flight logs, and interviews, SpaceShip One provides an overview of a highly secretive project from conception to design, one that promises to usher in a “sub-orbital personal spaceflight industry.”

Passport to Illness: Voyages In and Out of Medicine
by Shetal Shah, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
2008, Cold Tree Press

In 14 distinct narratives discussing his experiences caring for patients in different parts of the world, Shah, a pediatrician and neonatologist, outlines not just the medical cases that make one a physician, but the personal stories and relationships that each doctor brings to the bedside. From inner-city New York to the streets of Cuba to rural towns in Kenya, Shah guides the reader through his unique world, where the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro and the bedside of a fragile, premature infant in New York are not far apart.

New & Noteworthy

Championship Triathlon Training
by George M. Dallam, Ph.D., and Steven Jonas, M.D., Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine

Daydreams and Shadows (Poetry)
by Ani Rumaer, Class of 1995 and 1998

Hole’s Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology, 10th edition
by David Shier, Jackie Butler, and Ricki Lewis, Ph.D., Class of 1976

by Ricki Lewis, Ph.D., Class of 1976

The Latino/a Canon and the Emergence of Post-Sixties Literature
by Raphael Dalleo and Elena Machado Sáez, Class of 2003

Robert E. Sherwood,
The Playwright in Peace and War
by Harriet Hyman Alonso, Ph.D., Class of 1986

The Legend of Mickey Tussler (Novel)
by Frank Nappi, Class of 1992

Overcoming Back and Neck Pain
by Lisa Morrone, P.T., Class of 1989

Vanderbilt Cup Races of Long Island
by Howard Kroplick, Class of 1971

New & Noteworthy The Brook welcomes submissions of books recently written by alumni, faculty, and staff. Send a review copy and relevant press materials to: Susan Scheck, Editor, “Brookmarks,” Office of University Communications, Administration Building, Room 144, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-0605. Please note: To purchase a copy of any of these featured titles, contact the University Bookstore at (631) 632-9747. Visit www.stonybrook.edu/bookstore for a calendar of events, including a series of faculty author readings sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the University Bookstore.
New Zealanders Holly and Lucy Van Dale are burning up the Seawolves’ cross country and track and field teams. After two years at Stony Brook, the identical twins are thriving both academically and athletically. “Our focus is on the running,” says Lucy. “But we love what we’re learning as well. We want to get undergraduate degrees and hopefully our master’s before we go home.”

Lucy is majoring in sociology and minoring in child and family studies, and is heading toward a career in social work. Holly is double majoring in sociology and English and is thinking of teaching high school. They both praised athletics academic advisor Shannon Logan and a caring team that helps them achieve balance with their studies. “We’re surrounded by supportive people,” says Holly. “Of course it helps when you love the sport,” Lucy adds. “We love the sport, and we’ve loved it even more since we’ve been here.”

“Training here with Andy Ronan has been a steeper progression toward our goals,” says Holly. The Van Dalens have received many athletics honors since they’ve been at Stony Brook. Both were recently named to the Division I USTFCCCA Women’s Cross Country All-Academic Team, an honor bestowed on only 76 female student-athletes from 51 institutions. They have five America East titles, three appearances at the NCAA Nationals, and have set eight school records.

“We try to keep our goals in the present,” says Holly. “But we’d love to run someday in the Commonwealth Games for New Zealand.”
ven Stony Brook University’s rock ‘n’ roll legacy has a water connection…sort of. In 1967 the band Blue Oyster Cult first came together on the SB campus as Soft White Underbelly through the efforts of students (and later rock critics) Sandy Pearlman and Richard Meltzer. Rumor has it that the band had to keep changing its name because it played on campus so often. More likely the name changes—Stalk-Forrest Group, Oaxaca among them—were a response to changing record labels and band members. The band became Blue Oyster Cult in 1971. Supposedly producer Pearlman got the idea for the name while reading a recipe for Blue Point oysters. Blue Oyster Cult’s self-named debut album, released by Columbia Records in January 1972, made the charts. In his review of the album for the March 30, 1972, issue of Rolling Stone, Lester Bangs noted that while “New York has never been a spawning ground for very many good, enduring white rock ‘n’ roll bands … with the Blue Oyster Cult, New York has produced its first authentic boogie beast, and with any luck this one should be around for a while.”

Agents of Fortune, released in 1976, yielded the hit single “Don’t Fear The Reaper” and became the band’s first platinum album. Blue Oyster Cult was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame in 2007 and continues to tour and find new audiences for its classic sound.

**Flashback: The World Is Still Their Oyster**