Did You Catch The FISH?

Mario Rapetti
Residence Hall Director
O’Neill College

Working as a Student Affairs practitioner is a fun and rewarding profession. To make our jobs even more enjoyable, the Division of Campus Residences has adopted the FISH! philosophy to ensure that our department staff is truly an effective team and enthusiastic about their jobs. The FISH! philosophy applies some simple lessons learned from Pike Place fishmongers in Seattle and is included in a book entitled FISH! written by Stephen Lundin, Harry Paul and John Christensen. During summer training, staff members in Residential Programs read FISH! and discussed how to employ these four lessons in our daily work. We learned that if we can Choose Our Attitude, Play, Make Their Day and Be Present, we can create a rewarding and energizing workplace. Through these four easy lessons, many staff members have transformed their working environments into a more positive and energetic places, where work is getting done with a SMILE.

Throughout the semester, our department is reminded of the FISH! philosophies with many staff members utilizing the four concepts in most of our daily encounters with each other. Within Campus Residences you are bound to find someone with a positive attitude, or someone just having some fun with their job. In addition, we recognize colleagues for their outstanding work and their attention to FISH! philosophies. We have learned the value and the importance of truly enjoying our jobs and working in a department and environment where morale has been boosted as a result of FISH!

In the beginning of April, three Residence Hall Directors (Mario Rapetti, Samantha Clement and Aja Holmes) presented a session at the American College Personnel Association Conference in Philadelphia to talk about how Residential Programs at Stony Brook University incorporates FISH! into our daily work.
Our Stony Brook University logo challenges our imagination to create our own individual interpretation. It conveys a sense of vision, paths to success/knowledge and reaching for the stars. The student I have chosen to spotlight epitomizes for me one who, in his journey through SBU, grasps the concepts embodied in the logo.

Mansoor Khan is that student. Mansoor, a junior and double major in Biology (with a pre-med emphasis) and Anthropology, is an excellent student academically and very well rounded and balanced in his approach to our Stony Brook University education. He reaches for the stars and endeavors to benefit from all the many opportunities Stony Brook offers both in and beyond the classroom. He states enthusiastically: “I am extremely impressed by the way Stony Brook has improved in just the short time I have been a student here. The University gets better and has more to offer each year, and I just want to be a part of that.”

Academically he demonstrates that he follows the paths (rays) to success/knowledge. Mansoor is a member of the Honors College and currently has a 3.94 GPA. He is a Dean’s List student all semesters and was inducted into Sigma Beta Honour Society and invited to join the Golden Key International Honour Society. He is a member and Vice President of Alpha Epsilon Delta Pre-Medical Honor Society. Currently, Mansoor is conducting biological research in the Department of Medicine’s Division of Hematology. This he does as a result of being awarded the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Research Fellowship for the 2003 – 2004 academic year. He also has been a TA for CHE 130.

While maintaining this high level of academic achievement, Mansoor demonstrates outstanding leadership, commitment to the University and outreach and service to others. Dean of Students Jerry Stein thinks very highly of him and stated: “Mansoor is a principled leader who is not swayed by pressure to do what is popular. He does what is ethical, right and good for community. He has already made a significant contribution on our campus, and I am sure that he will make a difference in our society.”

Because of his leadership qualities and ability, Dean Stein chose Mansoor and Sandy Curtis, President of the Undergraduate Student Government, to attend the National Student Leadership Forum on Faith and Values in Washington, D.C. (September 26 – 28, 2003). This leadership forum was attended by over one hundred students nationwide and provided opportunities to learn not only what a leader is, but what a leader does. Of this experience he said: “…I learned that compassion and service are two of the most important qualities that any person can possess.” Mansoor has already demonstrated (and continues to demonstrate) these qualities in many ways. In the Spring 2003 semester, he organized a Tutor/Mentoring Program at JFK Middle School in Comsewogue recruiting his peers in the Honors College to work with 6th graders. It is a very successful program which he continues to be engaged in. For this initiative and his commitment to outreach and service to others, he received the Undergraduate Recognition Award for Community Service (April 2003) and also a Brookhaven Youth Bureau Volunteer Award.

Mansoor continues to make a difference on our SBU campus. He received training to be a licensed Emergency Medical Technician and is a member of SBVAC (Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps) and is a Clinical Assistant in the Emergency Room at Stony Brook Hospital. He also is the Publisher for the Stony (Continue on page 7)
The experience of our campus is in the midst of changes. Each passing day, students find themselves with uncertainty which is bound to repeat. These agitating experiences bring daily pressure and concerns that apply to most, if not all, students, faculty and staff alike. According to Karen (Kayla) Mendelsohn, our one of a kind SHTM Assistant Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, the key is to remain active and vibrant. It is common today to believe that we should not settle for anything less than the best and doing what we love. The danger is if we let these uncertainties, pressures and concerns accumulate, we will only be slowing ourselves down from reaching our goals.

Kayla, like many of us, has experienced such crisis before, but she learns to enthusiastically seize moments like these and turn what seem to be difficult tasks into ones worth accomplishing. Until this day, she continues to accomplish and set new goals and show what it means to “go all the way!”

As the SHTM Assistant Dean of Academic and Student Affairs, Karen Mendelsohn has developed a rich history of experience and familiarity with the ins and outs of our campus community. Her two and a half decades of perception and leadership within the Student Affairs family has driven her to take advantage of her own opportunities and open brand new ones for her students, faculty and staff.

Karen grew up in the Bronx. As a young child, she quickly learned to be independent primarily due to the metropolitan culture. A few years later, during Kayla’s high school semester, her parents decided to move north of New York City at Rockland County. As a young high school student, she took on a lot of leadership roles and was very active in music. Her skills and talents were later carried throughout college and graduate school. Kayla believes success should never be delayed, thus she tries to offer as many opportunities like this to help get students more involved.

She attended SUNY Cortland College in upstate New York. There, she lived with and studied with people with diverse backgrounds from all over the state. Her best friend was from a very tiny town upstate New York. This was the first time she had encountered someone from a family on public assistance. This was a difficult obstacle for one to overcome, “but here she [Kayla’s best friend] was, going through college and today she is working in New York State Health Department, heading the department of bio-terrorism.” This shows and proves that you can come from any background with any set of

(Continue on page 8)
The Department of Campus Recreation hosted its first ever Bench Press Competition on Wednesday, April 14 at the Wang Center Theater. Prizes were awarded to the winner of each weight class and title of “Stony Brook Strongest” was given out to the overall strongest male and female of the competition.

Male and female bench press awards were given to the following participants in their respective weight classes:

**Women’s**

- Weight Category 123: Vanessa Zephirin
- Weight category 148: Frances McGiveron

**Men’s**

- Weight Category 123: No Competitors
- Weight Category 132: Jason Macagnone
- Weight Category 148: Nick Coronel
- Weight Category 165: Kelvin Montero
- Weight Category 181: Adam Suvanich
- Weight Category 198: Jenkins David
- Weight Category 220: Chris Watson
- Weight Category 242: Allan Martin, Jr.
- Weight Category 275: Tyrone Fowler
- Heavy Weight: No Competitors

The two big awards for the night, “Stony Brook Strongest Male & Stony Brook Strongest Female”, was determined based on a formula which incorporates the lifter’s heaviest successful lift and their body weight. The Stony Brook Strongest Male award went to Adam Suvanich, a senior majoring in Biology. Vanessa Zephirin, a graduate student majoring in MALS, was crowned Stony Brook Strongest female. The event was judged by Johnny Moya, Maurice Guida, and Mike Stockwell all from Fitness Plus located in Port Jefferson Station.
April Disability Awareness Events

Disability Support Services collaborated with several departments/student groups to co-sponsor two Disability Awareness events on campus in April 2004. On Wednesday, April 14, Miss New York State, Jessica Lynch, came to Stony Brook to initiate a campus-wide dialogue on the topics of depression, eating disorders and suicide. As she shared her personal experiences, the session was video and audio taped to be used for future airings by SBU. A question and answer period followed the program and campus resources such as the Counseling Center, CHILL and NOURISH were in attendance to conduct depression screenings and offer support for students who needed help dealing with such issues. This program was sponsored by S.T.A.C (Students Taking Aim at Challenges), U.S.G, Disability Support Services, the University Counseling Center, the Dean of Students Office and the Student Health Services CHOICE Center CHILL Peer Educators.

Then, on Wednesday, April 28, the second edition of a sister program to “Swallow This!” (the seven-year award-winning Prevention Through the Arts program) kicked off this year’s Diversity Day events. True stories were collected and SBU students created and performed skits focusing on the effects of having a disability on individuals and the people around them. Originally, the “Swallow Dis!” initiative was the brain-child of the President’s ADA (American’s with Disabilities Act) Committee’s Education and Employment Sub-Committee. This year’s offering manifested as a result of collaboration between The Student Health Services CHOICE Center, the Theatre Department and Disability Support Services.

Alternate Side Parking and the Career Center

What does Stony Brook have in common with alternate side parking in NYC? Plenty, thanks to Craig Chin, a MTD major who will enter his second term as an intern in the NYC Department of Transportation this summer. During his Spring 2004 internship, Craig organized the dates for the city’s alternate side parking calendar, worked with newspaper and media organizations covering transportation issues, and wrote press releases. He was one of 114 students enrolled in the Career Center’s internship course, EXT 488. Other EXT 488 students completed internships in a variety of organizations including the University Hospital Blood Bank, the Department of Emergency Medicine, the New York Rangers, Teen People Magazine, Montauk Financial Group, Sesame Workshop, and Undergraduate Admissions.

Other undergraduates chose to pursue internship opportunities far and away from Long Island. Milena Shtelmakher, Naajyia Blight, and Timothy Cole are wrapping up internships in Washington, DC. Milena interned in the Fraud and Public Corruption Section of the US Attorney’s Office, Naajyia was a legislative aide for California Congressman Pete Stark, and Timothy was a staff member in the White House National Economic Council. All three students will be returning to campus in the fall. We look forward to getting first-person accounts of intern life in the nation’s capital.

No less glamorous opportunities await students enrolled in the University’s BSHS degree in Spring 2005. In cooperation with Carol Russo, a clinical assistant professor in the School of Health Technology Management, students will have a choice of five new internships in public health and management.

Experiential learning also includes community service and the Career Center has expanded its contacts among agencies participating in Volunteers for Community Service (VCS). Recent additions to the VCS roster include the United Way’s Chief Ray Downey Summer Internship, the Suffolk County Job Corps, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). MADD has picked a Stony Brook student to assist in organizing events, attend court hearings, monitor DWI cases, and help victim support groups. The Career Center hopes that the position at the Suffolk County Job Corps will attract students not traditionally associated with volunteerism, the undergraduates in the College of Business.

Interns who complete a ten-week term of service with the Job Corps will receive a letters of reference for future employers and graduate schools. The Job Corps is a great opportunity for students seeking experience in human resources.

The Career Center will promote the Ray Downey internship by targeting students interested in health and human services. Applicants should have a B average and a letter of recommendation for this program. Undergraduates with majors in the health sciences, the social sciences including psychology may find this internship helpful in guiding future career choices.
Dean of Students Art Competition

The Second Annual Dean of Students Art Competition, held in collaboration with the art department, URECA Celebration and Shirley Strum Kenny Art Festival, was a huge success! Ten undergraduate student artist winners were announced on Thursday, April 15 as part of the URECA Art Reception in the SAC Art Gallery. Attended by hundreds of people, the reception spotlighted a wide variety of student work; oils, watercolors, prints, photographs, video submissions, etc. And the competition proved to be extremely keen. First, second, third place and seven honorary mentions were awarded.

The abovementioned works will be on exhibition in the DOS Suite, 222 SAC, for one year and a special reception to honor these young artists is being held on Monday, May 3 when they will be presented with certificates and University Bookstore gift certificates.

The art work will be hung in the DOS Suite following graduation. Please stop by to see them.

Undergraduate Recognition Awards

The 22nd Annual Undergraduate Recognition Awards Ceremony and Reception were held on Monday, April 19 in the SAC Auditorium and Ballroom A. Attended by several hundred people including recipients, friends and families, faculty and staff; outstanding undergraduate students were recognized for their achievements in expanded learning, leadership, community service, athletics, and performing arts. In addition, special area awards were presented to individuals by the SB Alumni Association, Living Learning Centers, Writing Programs, and various academic areas.

A joint effort between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, the program involves specific criteria wherein students are nominated by faculty and staff members across the campus. A Selection Committee composed of faculty, staff, and a student representative review the approximately 200 files submitted. The accomplishments of these students is remarkable and the audience was highly impressed by the diversity, commitment, and sheer joy reflected in the winning students’ faces that evening…not to mention the pride of the many families in attendance. It was a warm and meaningful celebration, concluding in a sumptuous dessert buffet for the recipients and their guests.

The Office of the Dean of Students is proud to announce that Shahreen Laskar, a student receptionist in the DOS Suite, 222 SAC, was chosen as the first place undergraduate Student Employee of the Year at the Annual Student Staff Appreciation Luncheon on April 14th. This event, sponsored by Financial Aid Services, was filled to capacity in the SBU Ballroom and Shahreen was cheered on by us all!

The Advocate ◇ Page 6
Brook Statesman campus twice weekly newspaper and a writer since his freshman year. Very often, he writes editorials which are very thought provoking and challenging, yet always with a positive message. Even during the summer months, Mansoor makes a difference in the lives of others. For the past two summers, he has been a volunteer camp counselor at Birch Family Camp for families afflicted with HIV/AIDS. Because of his compassion and concern, Mansoor was one of the students chosen to read the names of the SBU related persons who were victims of 9/11 at our SBU Memorial Commemoration on 9/11/03.

Each year, Stony Brook University raises awareness of hunger and economic injustice throughout the world by working in conjunction with Oxfam America. Mansoor is on the Oxfam America Steering Committee which arranges for meal donations from students through Chartwell’s Dining Services, organizes a Bingo Night and also the Annual America Hunger Banquet. Mansoor has taken on the additional responsibility of being Co-Chair for the 4th Annual Oxfam America Hunger Banquet with other members of the newly established School of Thought organization (The Hunger Banquet is an educational experience bringing together many different groups from the Stony Brook University community to achieve a greater understanding of the problem of world hunger and poverty).

As mentioned above, Mansoor is both a Biology major and an Anthropology major. This past June, he reached for the stars and deepened his knowledge and understanding of anthropology by participating in SBU’s Study Abroad Program in Tanzania with fourteen other students, led by Professor William Arens of the Anthropology Department. Professor Arens said of him: “Mansoor was a pleasure to have on the Study Abroad Program to Tanzania. He got along well with his peers and was an excellent representative of this University. That combination of qualities over a month in a new environment is a rare commodity and to be admired.” Mansoor considers this one of the most enriching experiences of his life and bursts into an enthusiastic smile whenever he is given the opportunity to talk about his “Tanzanian experience”!!!!

Mansoor was selected to be an SBU Student Ambassador for the 2003-2004 academic year and is an excellent one. Student Ambassadors are specially selected students who represent the University in a variety of professional and social settings. They are selected because of their excellent academic record, strong leadership and communication skills, enthusiasm for SBU and a commitment to outreach and service to others. Mansoor possesses all of these qualities and is a Student Ambassador par excellence!

Mansoor demonstrates, in all areas of his life, a strong commitment to “quality” values and academic and personal excellence. He is an outstanding Stony Brook student who has a sense of vision, follows the paths to knowledge and success and definitely reaches for the stars!!!

The CHILL peer educational class is a three-credit course given jointly by the University Counseling Center and Student Health Services. This new program began in September 2003. The first class completed the course in May 2004. The focus of this course is mental health topics that are relevant to Stony Brook University students. Students, in small groups, learn how to recognize signs of depression/suicide, mental illness, anger control problems, substance abuse, abusive relationships, grief / loss and help students better utilize services available. CHILL students are required to provide outreach on these topics to peers through direct interaction with students. This includes presentations in class, speaking in large and small groups, giving out pamphlets and information at college community events, and finding creative ways to reach out to peers. CHILL peer educators are committed to reaching out to new students, residential and commuter students, disenfranchised students, disabled, LGBT, loners, shy students and others. For more information, contact Peter Mastroianni in Room 213 Student Health Center 632-9338 or Lorrie Schroffel at the University Counseling Center 632- 6720.
resources and effectively utilize these opportunities to help shape your life and overcome any uncertainties.

During graduate school at Hand University in the Midwest, Kayla discovered a great way to put her skills, philosophy, and energy to use. As a graduate student, she was conducting a national job search and received three job offerings from Vermont, New York University, and Stony Brook University (which was a young, growing public institution at the time). The director, who was offering her a position, said there had been nobody in her job before. This gave Kayla the opportunity to reveal her leadership abilities and adopt her philosophy skills to help create a positive change for the University. She excitedly accepted the position at Stony Brook and was hired in 1979 as the Director of Student Activities. Throughout the following years, Kayla remained active and supportive with Student Affairs. In 1985, she moved to the Health Science Center. She expanded her responsibilities, and was hired to do more academic and general student affairs work for the School of Health Technology and Management.

One of Kayla’s initiatives is to work closely with Campus Residences. As a team leader, Kayla helps insure all the needs of our students are met in terms of housing. She also serves on the housing policy advisory committee for the President. During the development of the new West Apartment complexes, she participated and shared her perspectives on housing policies and determination of who should live there.

A second opportunity Kayla has taken on is to serve on the Stony Brook Child Care Services Board of Directors for the past 14 years. It is an exciting experience because Kayla is able to have some kind of influence on the care these children are receiving and work with their staff. Many of the child study students at Stony Brook are able to share this wonderful experience by participating as interns. Kayla also serves on the Middle States Accreditation Self Study, NCAA Academic Integrity Subgroup, Mental Health Advisory Group and is co-chair for the Year of Community: Mentoring for Success with Bill Collins.

One of the things Kayla takes a lot of pride for is the establishment of tradition. One of the traditions was the development of a student leadership course – Theory and Practice in Student Leadership. She continues to try to teach a course every year. She also taught communications and group dynamics. With her skills and talents, she was offered a chance to work on an interdisciplinary course, HSC 500, at the Health Science Center. It is a course setup for students in each of the five health profession schools. She works with faculty from all the professions. Kayla is the course director. As a team, they work with students that are trying to become medical doctors, dentists, social workers, nurses, and various health professionals. Every spring she teaches this course.

Kayla’s most important goal is to try to make sure our students and facility keep in mind that they need to remain active and vibrant. “That their job as student is not simply to sit in the classroom and learn, and to not simply go out into the clinical area to learn how to provide patient care, but also to be challenged to become the leaders in their profession.” This will let the students know that they are a Stony Brook graduate and they are that much more prepared and special.
The Division of Campus Residences hosted its 7th academic achievement banquet on February 27 in the Benedict Atrium. Residential students are invited to the banquet if they have achieved a 4.0 semester GPA and have a 3.8 overall cumulative GPA. Students are asked to invite two family members or friends who have helped them achieve their academic goals, as well as a faculty or staff member who has had a significant impact on their academic career at Stony Brook University to attend the banquet with them. We were honored to have President Kenny, Provost McGrath, Vice President Preston, Associate Provost Aronoff, Assistant Provost Di Donato and Dean Stein attend the banquet and support our students.

Our numbers grow from semester to semester with students who are invited and attend the banquet. This spring we had a total of 119 students who met the criteria to attend the banquet. Out of the 119 students 56 were in attendance. There were 40 faculty/staff members nominated by students, with 24 attending the banquet. 76 family member/friends were also in attendance. Each time a student attends the banquet the Division of Campus Residences gives them a token of recognition for their outstanding academic achievement. The gifts range from a Stony Brook briefcase bag to a diploma holder. All attendees also receive a certificate during the evening. This semester we had 87 first timers, 14 second timers, 14 third timers, 3 fourth timers, and 1 fifth timer who were eligible to attend the banquet.

The evening is always enjoyed by all who attend and is appreciated by those honored.

Alerie Tirsch
Assistant Director for College Housing, Eleanor Roosevelt Quad
631-632-6800
On May 5, 2004, Stony Brook’s student leaders, student clubs & organizations, and advisors to student groups were honored at the annual Campus Life Awards. For over 20 years, the Campus Life Awards has recognized students, faculty, and staff for their accomplishments and outstanding contributions to University life in the areas of leadership, campus programming, and advising. This year's event was an exciting collaboration between the Undergraduate Student Government, Health Sciences Center Student Association, Dean of Students Office, Commuter Student Services, Student Activities, SAC/SBU Facilities Operations, Campus Recreation, and the Interfaith Center. The award recipients were identified from a University-wide nomination process. An independent awards selection committee of students, faculty, and staff reviewed the 195 nominations received to determine this year’s honorees. Individual students were applauded for their leadership in promoting community service, education, advocacy, multiculturalism, and recreation, while others were recognized as emerging leaders. Ann Teng, Chief of Operations for the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps, received the Theresa Montenaro 200% Student Leadership Award for outstanding campus involvement through community service. In addition, various student organizations received awards, including Best New Organization and Most Outstanding Organization. Student groups were given an Outstanding Programming Awards for demonstrating excellence in multicultural, educational, community service, advocacy, and social programming. Faculty and Staff Advisors to student organizations received recognition for their commitment to student development and campus life. Dean Jerrold Stein surprised the audience announced that The Lifetime Achievement Advising Award, was renamed the Sister Margaret Ann Landry Lifetime Achievement Award, after its first recipient, Sister Margaret Ann Landry, RSHM, Chaplain of the Catholic Campus Ministry.

The Offices of Commuter Student Affairs, Student Activities, and SAC/SBU Facilities Operations presented Partnership Awards to the Office of Student Orientation and Family Programs, Marie Turchiano (Department of Campus Recreation), and the Undergraduate Student Government Ticket Office, respectively. This year, the Interfaith Center joined Campus Life Awards and presented their first Partnership Award to Cheryl Chambers (Office of the Dean of Students).

Over 400 people attended the Campus Life Awards, a culminating celebration of student life on our campus.

For more information and a complete list of the award recipients, please visit: http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dos/CampusLifeAwards

WUSB 90.1 FM, SBU's non-commercial, campus-community radio station, served as host station for the annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) National College Radio Convention held March 12-14 at New York City's Hotel Pennsylvania.

WUSB-FM has held the honor of serving as host station for the national conference for the past four years. As host, WUSB's volunteer staff members were responsible for many aspects of program planning and operations. WUSB student and alumni staff served as facilitators, moderators and panelists. Station staff served as registration assistants and logistics coordinators. In all, over 80 WUSB students and alumni participated in leadership roles at the conference.

The IBS conference highlighted all aspects of college radio programming, management, fundraising, training and engineering issues in workshop and panel settings. Professionals from the media and music industries interacted with the more than 800 students and station advisors attending the three day conference.

WUSB-FM has been invited to again serve as host station for the March 2005 conference. Stony Brook students, faculty, staff and alumni interested in participating can contact Norm Prusslin (norman.prusslin@stonybrook.edu) for more information and details.