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SPECIAL  
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INTEREST:

- 5th Annual Community Service Awards Ceremony
- AmeriCorps
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Students Helping Honduras  
**A CALL FOR CAUSE!**

*by William Young*

In January 2011, a cohort of 33 American students stepped off the plane in Honduras. They were first brought to INHFA, a former girl's prison converted into an orphanage. There, they witnessed unbelievable sights. With only one caretaker per every hundred children, IN-



"The boy in the middle, his name is Juan. He was adopted from INFAH the week that we were in Honduras and without any doubt out of all the children we met he had the greatest heart. When he came up to us on the work site he asked what we were building. When we explained it was a children's home to get kids like himself out of INFAH and into families his response was, "Well, you better work faster because the situation there is hopeless". Juan absolutely stole our hearts and every day I go out and raise money I think of Juan and all the children still left at INFAH."

Bill Quinn  
Stony Brook Helping Honduras

## A CALL FOR A CUASE! Continued...

Unite the humanitarian efforts of Stony Brook to help the children at INHFA and all across Honduras  
*Students Helping Honduras*

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HFA workers locked children in their rooms for days at a time for lack of a better way to watch the children and keep them safe. Ironically, the students noticed that in the event of a disaster, a quick, massive evacuation would be nearly impossible. The children lived in very grim conditions and rarely got the attention they needed. These students who witnessed these sights were members of the non-for-profit organization *Students Helping Honduras* (SHH). Among them was Stony Brook's own Bill Quinn, a Spanish major and aspiring educator. Bill remembers one twelve year old boy at INHFA that had been locked in a room for the first six years of his life. Deprived of the necessary love and care, the boy had developed developmental disorders, and was both lame and mute. Put in a room with dozens of other babies, the child had little hope of leading a normal life. After witnessing what he considers "human rights violations," Bill was determined more than ever to help out. His mission: unite the humanitarian efforts of Stony Brook to help the children at INHFA and all across Honduras *Students Helping Honduras* was founded a number of years ago in 2006 by Japanese-American philanthropist, Shin Fujiyama. (Honduras is the second poorest nation in Central America, second only to Nicaragua.) Shin travelled to Honduras for the first time with the *Campus Christian Community of the University of Mary Washington* in 2004. As a volunteer, he was there to help the victims of poverty and domestic abuse, but what he took away led to an even greater mission. Shin grew close to the people of a small encampment named Siete de Abril (literally, the seventh of April), which was named after the day the inhabitants built the settlement after Hurricane Mitch destroyed their homes in 1998. Moved by the spirit of the people of Siete de Abril, even in the face of harsh living conditions, Shin vowed to return. The following semester, Shin founded the student organization *Students Helping Honduras* in his university. His sister, who attended the College of William and Mary, followed suit. What first began as a handful of students who wanted to help the siblings achieve their goals is now a registered 501(c)(3) non-for-profit organization with several projects scattered all over Honduras. The organization sends University students to Honduras to build schools, homes and bring education to the country. Since the

organization's inception in 2007, *Students Helping Honduras* had initiated over a dozen community improvement projects across the country with more to come. Each town that is touched by the organization adds another story of hope to the organization. Villa Soleada is one of those stories.

After visiting INHFA, Bill and other students were brought to a town named Villa Soleada. A number of years ago, during one of his visits to Honduras, Shin Fujiyama asked his guides to bring him to the poorest area they knew of. They brought him to Villa Soleada. Now it was Bill's turn. Led by Bill and his girlfriend, Amanda Fennell, the president of the SHH chapter at Towson university, the delegation set out to work building children's homes. After the homes were built, SHH would arrange for the children at INHFA to be adopted, brought into the children's homes and cared for by volunteer foster parents. SHH has already helped bring Villa Soleada from the brink of extreme poverty to a town of hope. In Villa Soleada alone, SHH has helped build forty-four 22' x 28' homes, each with three bedrooms, a central room, a bathroom and a shower, a community center used for church gatherings or town meetings, land for farming and sustainable business, a well, a library, electricity, a soccer field and an eco-friendly waste management system that takes methane gas from compost and turns it into usable power. For Bill, this was only the beginning.

### Featured Student Leader

STEVEN LICARDI

*By William Young*

"Love, beauty and positivity." These are the eyes with which Stony Brook student Steven Licardi views the world. It is said that beauty lies in the eyes of those who behold it, but they can also be found through the eyes of Steven the painter, the artist, the philosopher and writer. After three years at Suffolk Community College, Steven decided to continue his education at Stony Brook as a double major in philosophy and psychology. "I've always loved the sciences, but I could never find my niche; and the one thing that I really enjoyed was the conceptual aspect rather than the physical aspect [of philosophy]," he recounts. "Then I took in my final semester at Suffolk, an abnormal psych course and I was able to draw a lot of parallels between myself and the material."

As a child, Steven suffered from what the medical community deemed a "pervasive

## Featured Student Leader Continued...

developmental disorder.” In his particular case, Steven’s metal ability was developing faster than his emotional capacity. This meant he was able to understand concepts that he could not emotionally handle. As a result of his condition, Steven was placed in a special education program

Early Girl (1st Prize Winner)  
By Steven T. Licardi

The car was just a heap of scrap lying in a fetal pose,  
An abstract morsel of coiled metal at the side of the road.  
Baptized in broken glass and spilled antifreeze,  
A gaping hole where the Jaws of Life had pried her free.  
From one look at the wreckage, one wonders how the occupant had  
faired;  
One look at the girl in the hospital bed and the wondering stops  
there.  
The somber hum of the machinery, plastic boxes and vinyl bags,  
An animatronic symphony, blinking lights and tax dollar price tags.  
A single snarky tone - B flat - the EKG monitor;  
Umbilical conduits connect her to the bleating ventilator.  
These trundle apparatuses keep the girl alive,  
But to most of us, the girl we knew before has died.  
This visage, filled with holes and hotwired to regulators,  
Is no more akin to the original than its resemblance - a doppelganger!  
Where is the healthy twenty-three year old fiancé,  
Whose wedding day was a mere two months away?  
Where had the radiant smile gone that used to adorn her face?  
All her attributes appear to have been recklessly erased.  
The girl we loved is gone, taken by a wasteful whim,  
A leisurely drive into the bosom of the seraphim.  
All the fMRI scans show up blank and monochrome,  
Neither a shutter nor a blip of thought is within her tarnished dome.  
The doctors sat us down and told us there was nothing they could  
do,  
But when we finally decided to pull the plug, we lost the baby too.

for a number of years and grew up among students with other learning disabilities. Eventually, his mental state reconciled with his emotions and he grew out of the disorder. However, he never forgot those he had left behind. With his new-found talents, Steven decided he had to give back.

Today, Steven continues to serve the Stony Brook community in many ways. He is currently a part of

several community service initiatives and organizations on campus including the *Community Service Club*, *OXFAM*, *Circle K*, *The Blood Drive Committee*, *Psi Chi* national honors society in psychology, *The Alternative Spring Break Outreach Program (ABSOP)* and *The Philosophy Society*. He is also a writer for the *Stony Brook Press*, and Stony Brook’s new literary publication *Spoke the Thunder* for which he is currently in



**Steven Licardi**

philosophy and writing. He is a former member of *Art Without Walls*, a non-for profit New York State art organization. He is also affiliated with the Long Island Poetry Collective, which holds poetry readings and promotes poetry across Nassau and Suffolk County. Steven's poetry has been featured in several publications including *The Colors of Life*, *Campus News*, *The Examination Anthology* and *Cassandra* for which he placed first in a poetry contest. (Steven's winning poem featured in *Cassandra* is also featured here.) In addition to his work in poetry, Steven also enjoys researching, exploring and developing his own philosophical ideas. At the *2011 Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at Dowling College*, Steven presented an interesting philosophical concept that explores the possibility that "the universe as a whole is a component of the mind of God and that intelligence as a functional attribute of the universe is a consequence of the unconscious intelligence of God."

the running for an e-board position. Recently, Steven was accepted as a commuter assistant for 2011 – 2012 academic year. Steven also works closely with the Career Center on community service initiatives including the *Martin Luther King Day of Service* at Coler-Goldwater Memorial Hospital. He also participated in the 2010 heart walk sponsored by the *American Heart Association*.

Steven also continues to pursue his interests in art,

*Featured*

*Student*

*Leader of*

*the*

*Month!*



## ***5<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Service Awards Ceremony*** ***April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011***

*At this event, Stony Brook students, faculty, and staff who are highly engaged in the community were honored for their commitment to others. Meet some of Stony Brook's most distinguished community members who answer the call to serve all year long.*

**CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners and nominees:**

### **2011 Excellence in Community Service Award Winners**

*Awarded to individuals and groups who have demonstrated high quality community service through passion, innovation, and commitment to make a difference and improve lives of others in our community*

Nancy Franklin, Ph.D.

Kiran Lorick

Michael Rossano

Rx Rhapsody

### **2011 Outstanding Community Service Project Winners**

*Awarded to individuals and community service projects that have helped others in our community as well as educated through active service and service-learning*

Daniel Callahan

Minorities in Psychology – Arts for Everyone Program

Oxfam America – Hunger Banquet

Physician Assistant Class of 2012 Student Society

Rita Ferretti and Tara Uhrin

### **2010 U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award Recipients – Gold**

*Awarded to individual students who have completed 500+ hours of community service and groups who have completed 1000+ hours of community service*

Alejandro Alvarez

Alternative Spring Break Outreach (ASBO)

Stony Brook Campus Community Emergency Response Team (C-CERT)

Community Service Club (CSC)

Pre-Med Society

Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps (SBVAC)

Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC)

Steven Wong

**2010 U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award Recipients – Silver**

*Awarded to individual student who have completed 250-499 hours of community service*

Elizabeth Milano  
Jonathan Leong  
Michelle Nesi  
Suzanne Konsechusky  
Takwai Chan  
Zuby Syed

**2011 Distinguished Recognition Awards**

*Presented to all who make a difference and improve the lives of others in our community with a passion for community service, hard-work, and determination*

AHA Start! Heart Walk  
Alpha Epsilon Delta, NY Lambda  
Angelo Mannino  
Anna Lubitz  
Carolyn Peabody, Ph.D.  
David Song  
David Yacoub  
Gerald Shephard, Ph.D.  
Gino Veneroso  
Hafou Toure  
Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha  
Joseph Caputo  
Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority  
Komal Mistry  
MALIK Fraternity  
Masood Rustemi  
Mohammed Nagi  
Muslim Students Association (MSA)  
National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH)  
National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS)  
Raghib Siddiqui  
Sara Atiyat  
Sigma Beta Honor Society  
Sigma Beta Rho  
Sigma Lambda Upsilon/Senoritas Latians Unidas Sorority  
Srinivas Pentyala, Ph.D.  
Stony Brook Stitchers  
Tomasine Oliphant  
Yogeeta Mangal  
Yousra Yusuf

## Striving to Make a Difference

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### *Alpha Epsilon Delta*

*Written by Delna John & Edited by: William Young*

What does the typical Stony Brook pre-med student look like? Is he a tired student, spending hours at the library for a biology exam? Or someone who is solely focused on his science grades to get into professional school? It is not difficult to find some examples that would corroborate these claims. So when one thinks of a pre-health honor society, it might be natural to think that these students fit this bill. However, the students of Stony Brook's New York Lambda Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) Pre-Health Honor Society certainly seem to be a sharp contrast to the stereotype. While excellent academics are a pre-med student's primary concern, the members and leaders of AED have contributed such a great deal to both the campus and surrounding the community, that it is difficult to ignore their contribution.

While all forms of community service are welcomed by AED, one of the organizations that has directly benefited from their hard work and dedication is the *Make a Wish Foundation*. The *Make a Wish Foundation* is a nonprofit organization that works to grant the wishes of children with life threatening illnesses. AED's Make a Wish Committee has worked in close conjunction with the organization for the past several years and have as a result, been able to help grant the wishes of three children. This year, the little girl they have been given to help is named Lizbeth, an 11 year old who wishes to go to Italy this summer. The cause for Lizbeth's wish has driven the efforts of both the Make a Wish Committee and AED's members throughout the semester, and they are continuing to see the funds that will make Lizbeth's dream come true raised.

Over the course of the year, AED has spent countless hours tabling in both the Student Activities Center and the Stony Brook Union, overseeing bake sales in the Health Science Center, and organizing other great fundraising events that have not only raised over \$2,100 dollars in funds, but have also raised awareness about the Make a Wish Foundation, and the wishes of little children like Lizbeth. At last semesters *Dance to Make a Difference*, both the Suffolk County Make a Wish Chapter, and Lizbeth herself, came to watch. Through AED's leadership in this event, students from multiple universities were able to come together for the sake of this one little girl's cause. Not only did the event promote her wish, but it also promoted a unified and collective effort within the campus community. In

fact, Alpha Epsilon Delta has been chosen as the winners of the Newman's Own



Foundation Grant at the America East Basketball Conference this semester. They were awarded \$7,500, which ultimately helped raise the original goal of \$6000, to almost \$10,000 for Lizbeth's wish. Rather than sit back and enjoy their success, however, AED members will continue to hold bake sales, brainstorm, and partner up with Applebees for *Dine to Donate* on May 17th, in which ten percent of all proceeds will go to Lizbeth's dream to go to Italy.

Awarded the Newman's Own Foundation Grant for \$7500 to go to Make-A-Wish Foundation Suffolk County Chapter

It is not only the *Make a Wish Foundation*, but all forms of community service that are encouraged by AED. In fact, all members are encouraged to complete at least

twenty Alpha Epsilon Delta hours of community service each semester, helping individual students get directly involved in their campus and society. Annual outreach events like participating in and raising money for the American Heart Association "HeartWalk", and the March of Dimes "March for Babies" walk, making baskets for the Pediatric Cancer Center, collecting for the Better World Book Drive, or annual group volunteering at the Long Island Veteran's Home are just a few of the ways in which members come together to give back to their community. The motivation of these students pushes them to not only excel in their academics, but to become civic leaders, students who bring change to their community, and train them to become future health professionals who truly work with a humanitarian mindset. As current president Joseph Caputo said after receiving the Newman Award, "Effectively reaching out and helping the community is very rewarding . . . it's something you can't get from just going to class".



## ST. BALDRICK'S 2011

by Rutvik Patel

Volunteers bald-ly stand in solidarity with the 160,000 kids diagnosed with cancer each year while raising money to fund pediatric cancer research

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Over 40 shaved heads, over 38 hair donations and over \$7300 donated.

### Men, Women and Kids SOUGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN HEAD-SHAVING EVENTS NATIONWIDE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER RESEARCH

The St. Baldrick's Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising money to fund the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives, has issued a lofty challenge to everyone who wants to help raise money for pediatric cancer research.

Participants find that shaving their head in solidarity with the approximately 160,000 children who are diagnosed with cancer each year and frequently lose their hair as a result of treatment, is a small sacrifice in comparison to what these children endure.

On Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 40 people shaved their heads to help *Conquer Kids' Cancer!* The event was held at Stony Brook University in the Tabler Center for the Arts in coordination with the Undergraduate College



of Arts, Culture, and Humanities. An estimated 100+ people attended the event throughout the day, which started at 9am and ended at 5pm. Barbers from Rockabilly's and stylists from Symmetry Salon and T-Carlton Spalon graciously volunteered their time to help this great cause. Along with shaving heads, hair was also collected at the event. Men and women donated over 38 ponytails for three different organizations, National Alopecia Areata Foundation, Locks of Love, and Pantene Beautiful Lengths. The event brought in over **\$7,300** to help fund childhood cancer research.

**About the St. Baldrick's Foundation**

The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-driven charity committed to funding the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives. The Foundation funds more in childhood cancer research grants than any organization except the U.S. government. St. Baldrick's funds are granted to some of the most brilliant childhood cancer research experts in the world and to younger professionals who will be the experts of tomorrow. Funds awarded also enable hundreds of local institutions to participate in national pediatric cancer clinical trials, a child's best hope for a cure. Since the Foundation's first grants as an independent charity in 2005; it has funded over \$57 million in childhood cancer research. For more information about St. Baldrick's, call 1.888.899.BALD or visit [www.StBaldricks.org](http://www.StBaldricks.org).

**About The National Alopecia Areata Foundation (NAAF)**

The National Alopecia Areata Foundation (NAAF), headquartered in San Rafael, CA, supports research to find a cure or acceptable treatment for alopecia areata, supports those with the disease, and educates the public about alopecia areata. NAAF is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and a prestigious Scientific Advisory Council. Founded in 1981, NAAF is widely regarded as the largest, most influential and most representative foundation associated with alopecia areata. For more information about NAAF, call 1.415.472.3780 or visit [www.naaf.org](http://www.naaf.org).

**About Locks of Love**

Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. We meet a unique need for children by using donated hair to create the highest quality hair prosthetics. Most of the children helped by Locks of Love have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. The prostheses we provide help to restore their self-esteem and their confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers. For more information about Locks of Love, call 1.516.833.7332 or visit [www.locksoflove.org](http://www.locksoflove.org).

**About Pantene Beautiful Lengths**

As Pantene Beautiful Lengths wigs are created, they are distributed for free through select American Cancer Society wig banks across the country. Women facing cancer can find out about the availability of a Pantene Beautiful Lengths wig by calling the American Cancer Society at 1-877-227-1596. The Society can also help callers with a number of resources providing educational and emotional support. For more information about Pantene Beautiful Lengths, call 1.800.945.7768 or visit [www.pantene.com/en-US/beautiful-lengths-cause/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.pantene.com/en-US/beautiful-lengths-cause/Pages/default.aspx).



## **AmeriCorps: Students Earn Scholarships Through Community Engagement**

For the next year, 70 fortunate Stony Brook University students will be eligible to take advantage of the AmeriCorps Education Award enabling them to receive a \$1,132 scholarship. In return they must complete 300 hours of service work for local nonprofit organizations.

The Career Center offers the program, which is a federally funded three-year grant with support from the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Students may use the scholarship to pay for education costs at any college, university, or approved post-secondary institution or school-to-work program. A voucher may also be applied to pay back qualified student loans already incurred by the students.

In the process, AmeriCorps members learn new skills, acquire leadership experience, and gain a sense of satisfaction from positively impacting the lives of others.

“The application process this year was very competitive because of the high interest in community engagement programs among higher education institutions,” said Urszula Zalewski, Career and Volunteer Programs Coordinator at the Career Center. She said that Stony Brook University’s AmeriCorps Program has a long history of outstanding achievements and this helped Stony Brook receive the additional funding for the new three-year cycle. “We have 100 percent enrollment and retention rates since 2004, which is a huge accomplishment,” said Zalewski.

The Career Center reaches out to students through other departments, utilizing ZebraNet, the Community Service and Service-Learning Web site, to market available positions and provide extensive details about the application process.

Stony Brook students have served the following organizations: Response of Suffolk County, The Elsie Owens Health Center, CHILL/Center for Prevention & Outreach, Four Seasons Nursing Home, Montefiore Hospital NYC, Oxfam America, PAR FORE Mentoring Program, Stony Brook Ambulance Corps, Stony Brook University Medical Center/Ambulatory Surgery Center, Stony Brook University Medical Center/Blood Bank, Stony Brook University WISE Program, Suffolk County Perinatal Coalition, Sunshine Prevention Center, the City Bar Justice Center, the Town of Oyster Bay/G.A.P. Program, South Huntington School District and Adaptive Aquatics.

Participating students address community needs in health, education, public safety, homelessness, hunger and poverty, performing tasks such as leading community health campaigns, tutoring, and mentoring youth of all ages, conducting food collections, working on environmental projects, and responding to natural disasters by providing relief for victims.

For more information and application, visit

<http://www.career.sunysb.edu/content/vcs/ameri-corps>

# Career Center

Stony Brook University \* W-0550 Melville Library \* Stony Brook, NY 11794-3363  
Phone: (631) 632-6810 Fax: (631)(632-9146)

## Understanding Yourself:

- \* Individual Counseling
- \* Self-Assessments and Career Tests
- \* Career Resource Library
- \* Zebra Career Advising Network (ZebraCAN)

## Preparing Yourself:

- \* Resume and Cover Letter Review
- \* Mock (Practice) Interviews
  - \* Outreach Programs
  - \* Employer Involvement at the Career Center
  - \* Diversity Professional Leadership Network (DPLN)
- \* Testing Program for Graduate School Admissions

## Gaining Experience

- \* ZebraNet
- \* Job and Internship Fairs
- \* On-Campus Recruiting (OCR)
- \* Internships (Part-time/Full-Time)
- \* Volunteers for Community Service (VCS)
- \* AmeriCorps Education Award Program

*If you are looking for volunteer opportunities or want to get your student group involved in volunteering please come visit the Career Center, located at the end of the Zebra Path, next to the Book Store in the basement of the Melville Library.*

*Whether you are looking for opportunities on Long Island or in New York City, we can help you find them and connect you with various organizations!*

*Volunteer Opportunities include but not limited to:*

*Youth/Elderly  
Homelessness  
Education  
Medical*

*Learn about various grants and awards related to community service for your student group.*

Do you want to be featured in Stony Brook Serves for the next month? Want to showcase your student group and the great work you are doing? Want to be the featured student leader of the month? Contact us and send us your story. Please email your name (individual and/or student group), email, phone and a story describing your service accomplishments to Urszula Zalewski, Senior Career Associate, at [Urszula.Zalewski@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Urszula.Zalewski@stonybrook.edu).

We hold the rights to decline any story from publication.