



# Stony Brook Serves

a Career Center publication

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## Alpha Epsilon Delta, National Health Pre-Professional Honor Society

by Olga Tchoumak

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) is one of the largest pre-professional societies in the country, with over 150 chapters nationwide. Stony Brook's chapter was re-established in the spring of 2008 after being absent from campus life for some time, and is slowly but surely beginning to organize its efforts to serve the community. The chapter's president, Amna Vahidy, is enthusiastic about the community service events the chapter has planned for the near future. It kicked off this year's activities on November 15 when one third of the entire organization participated in Habitat for Humanity. Vahidy is hopeful, stating that "this the largest event we've ever had...I was



AED members working with Habitat for Humanity. Photo courtesy of AED.

fortunate enough to reserve this special Saturday only for our honor society and the feedback and enthusiasm we got back from our members was just remarkable." AED is looking forward to coordinating several other community service events with organizations like the SB Child Daycare Center, the Long Island State Veteran's Home, where they currently volunteer weekly, the Family Service League, and Better World Books.

Amna Vahidy, a pre-med student majoring in psychology and minoring in biology, is striving, along with her executive board, to create a network of students who are passionate about health care. She also wants to provide them with opportunities for community service, and in doing so, instill in them the will to help others. Like many students in their first years of college who wish to become involved with their community and learn important leadership and people skills, Vahidy was not sure where to turn for volunteer opportunities.

Joining an honor society like AED is a perfect way to give back to your community while gaining valuable skills towards your future. Applications for AED are available once every semester. Those who wish to join are encouraged to visit their website at <http://aed-sbu.webs.com> and review the admission requirements.

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## Volunteer Spotlight – Jahnissi Ardila

by Olga Tchoumak

Jahnissi Ardila is one of many Stony Brook students committed to serving the community by volunteering her time for several community service organizations. A senior double majoring in psychology and hispanic literature and minoring in international studies, she aspires to work for a non-profit organization, such as Oxfam, before pursuing a graduate degree in political science or international relations. Until then, her time is spent interning with Options for Community Living, Inc., which provides resources for people living with HIV/AIDS on Long Island, and volunteering for Camp H.O.P.E., an organization that focuses on grief counseling. Ardila also works for the New York State Division of Human Rights during the summer.



Ardila is passionate about HIV/AIDS research and is grateful for the chance to work with Options for Community Living Inc. “I’m a huge supporter of [AIDS] research...and having the opportunity to help their community has been a great experience,” says Ardila, adding that, “[Community service] has taught me to be more understanding of other people’s situations.” Ardila divides her time among school, interning, and working as a recreational aide for the Patchogue-Medford School District. Currently a member of the AmeriCorps Education Award program, she became more involved with the community during her junior and senior years at Stony Brook.

## From Those Who Serve... Community Service Testimonials

This past summer I volunteered to serve meals to the homeless in New York. This experience not only gave me the opportunity to help those in need, but it taught me a lot about the mysterious characters that homeless people are believed to be. This led me to understand that these people share the qualities most common to all of us, and this mustn't be forgotten simply because of their unfortunate lifestyles.

**Ruddy Melendez, Senior, Salvation Army volunteer**

When I was a child, I did not have the advantage to get help in the English literacy that I was struggling with in school. I also never got a chance to improve my basketball skills, a sport that I love so much but was never good at playing. When I was introduced to this program by my friends, I decided that I want to help these kids, and give them the opportunities that I didn't get when I was younger. I've volunteered for the program in the past two summers, and it was an indescribable feeling as I watch these kids grow from one year to the next.

**Chavanon Apinorasethkul, Senior, United East Athletics Association volunteer**

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers does a lot for our community. One of the recent things we did was set up pre-college day for high school students. Buses transported the students to Stony Brook University, where we introduced them to the medical and engineering fields in person. We also set up events that gave them the ability to ‘think outside the box,’ so to speak, to resemble what a typical engineer does in everyday life.

**Miguel Bernadin, Society of Hispanic Engineers (SHPE)**

By the end of the summer, I had a new appreciation for the people who worked there. They were understaffed and underfunded but in the end, it was worth it because it was about something more than papers, grades and college. It was about helping people deal with a hardship that I can't fathom and knowing how much just being there for someone was really all they needed.

**Victoria Ma, 2008 Alumna, Children’s Brain Tumor Foundation volunteer**

Engage in Experiential Learning! See Page Three for more details.

## Holiday Service Projects: The Pre- Physician Assistant Club and Minorities in Medicine

By Jenny Seto

The **Pre- Physician Assistant (PA) Club** offers interested students a place to learn more about the profession, as well as the requirements necessary to apply to most physician assistant programs across the nation. As a club, they engage in community service to promote humanitarianism as well as unity in their members.

In December, they celebrated the Christmas holiday with their annual toy drive for the Stony Brook University Hospital Child Life program. They also hosted a food drive on November 16, 2008 to support charities in our local community, which include the Hope House Ministries/Pax Christi Hospitality Center and Port Jefferson Food Pantry.

The Pre- PA Club holds bi-weekly meetings on Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. in the Student Activities Center, Room 304. Students looking to learn more about the profession, application process, clinical hours, and community service should join this club.



Residents from Whitman College in Roth Quad gather around a portion of their food collection for the Hope House Ministries/Pax Christi Hospitality Center. The building collected canned goods for the holiday season as part of their initiative to give back to the community. Photo courtesy of Patrick Fama, Whitman College RHD.



Pre-P.A. Club Members proudly display their affiliation. Photo courtesy of the Pre- PA Club.

**Minorities in Medicine (MIM)** is an organization founded in 1986 at Stony Brook University. The mission of MIM is to encourage and support the goals and interests of underrepresented groups in the field of medicine. The club hopes to accomplish this by hosting weekly meetings, activities, and events that provide more information about the different pathways in the health field as well as network with health professionals. Admissions committee directors of other health professions and medical students are invited to provide guidance to members whether by facts, advice, or success stories.

MIM is not just a club for minorities and people interested in medicine, but welcomes everyone to commit to helping the greater community. MIM also actively collects food items and toys for nonprofit organizations on Long Island.

To participate in MIM's club activities, come to their Wednesday meetings at 8:30 p.m. in the Student Activities Center, Room 306.

**THE CAREER CENTER PRESENTS:**  
**Experiential Learning:** EVENT CO-HOSTED BY THE PRE-DENTAL SOCIETY  
Internship, Research & Community Service Opportunities  
**February 18th, 2009 1pm-2pm**  
**Wang 101** Build your future with experience!  
Learn from recruiters about many positions open on/off campus!

## Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority, Inc.

by Carolina Hidalgo



*Lambda Theta Alpha sorority sisters united in their efforts! Photo courtesy of Lambda Theta Alpha.*

Even before gaining official recognition from the University in the spring of 2006, the Delta Zeta chapter of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. (LTA) was participating in various volunteer programs. “As an interest group, we did a lot,” said Natalie Munoz, one of the chapter’s founding sisters. The group has participated in the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF program, and has walked to support juvenile diabetes research. The chapter’s philanthropy is “Little Angels,” a theme that allows the sisters to contribute to various different causes in order to help children. “A lot of people become interested in sororities because of their philanthropy,” said Munoz, adding that the chapter likes to focus on promoting children’s rights and combating poverty.

The sorority is planning a banquet for the spring semester, with which it plans to raise money for CURE International, a charity that provides funding for physically disabled children to receive life-altering operations.

## The Community Service Club

by Carolina Hidalgo

With a name change and more efficient advertising, the Community Service Club has tripled in size this semester. The group, which previously went by the name Community Service & Learning, has been on campus for over 10 years as part of the Community Service Living Learning Center. “It’s kind of been a hidden jewel,” said Alisha D’Andrea, the club’s public relations officer. But this year, the club has branched out by promoting itself more. They’ve gotten a good response from students, and have also been very involved in volunteer work. In October, the members visited the Sunrise Assisted Living Center to treat the residents to a Halloween party. “To brighten up their night was a really beautiful thing,” said D’Andrea.

Join the Community Service Club every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at James College in H-Quad.



*Community Service club members at their Halloween party at the Sunrise Assisted Living Center. Photo courtesy of the Community Service Club.*

## Submit your Articles!

The AmeriCorps VISTA Program encourages students, faculty, and staff to get involved with community service activities. Our publication is the place to share your stories with the Stony Brook community! Submit articles and photos, share information about projects, and list upcoming events. Please send all submissions to **Taryn Kutujian, VISTA Coordinator, Career Center**, at [stonybrookseves@gmail.com](mailto:stonybrookseves@gmail.com). Be sure to include your name, phone number, and email address.