



# Parents Plus Monthly



A joint publication of The Stony Brook School and *SBS PARENTS*

May 2010

## **Congratulations to the Class of 2010!**

The month of May marks an end of a significant chapter in the lives of our 62 SBS seniors. At the April 23 senior assembly, the School community recognized the 38 seniors who have been part of the SBS family for four or more years. These members include 17 six-year, 5 five-year, and 16 four-year students within the Class of 2010. The assembly was followed by an Alumni Office hosted luncheon, for the entire senior class at the Three Village Inn in Stony Brook Village. Guest Speaker **Chris Higgins '06** shared how The Stony Brook School prepared him well for the next stage in life.

### *End-of-Year Festivities*

*Thursday, May 27*

*Class Parties at Noon*

*Senior Promenade on Chapman Parkway 4:30 p.m.*

*Friday, May 28*

*Baccalaureate Service 4:00 p.m.*

*Class Night, Annual Awards Presentation 7:30 p.m.*

*Saturday, May 29*

*Commencement 11:00 a.m.*

Many of our soon-to-be graduates are part of an SBS family legacy. This class includes 7 alumni siblings, 16 current student siblings, 5 alumni children, and 4 alumni nieces/nephews ~ many of the seniors overlap in more than one of these categories. The Class of 2010 is characteristic of a typical SBS class representing 6 states within the USA as well as these countries: China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Jamaica, Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Taiwan.

The colleges listed here are a small glimpse of the fine schools our students have committed to attend: Boston College (MA), Boston University (MA), Carnegie Mellon University (PA), Cornell University (NY), New York University, Rhode Island School of Design, The King's College (NY), University of California, Los Angeles (CA), Washington University of St. Louis (MO), and Wheaton College (IL) Our thoughts and prayers are with all our seniors as they take this next step. We look forward to their frequent return to campus!

## **Parent Perspective**

**Roger and Susie Moley P'05,'11**

One of our favorite things about The Stony Brook School is that it is a nurturing place that prepares its students well. When **Nell '05** first arrived on campus as a late-admit eighth grade student, Jeff Adams (the Head of the Middle School at that time) was there to greet every middle-schooler each morning as they entered Memorial Hall, making them feel welcome and comfortable. The SBS environment offers the students a sense of being safe and cared for allowing them to take advantage of the academics and other activities. Each teacher knows their students and how to encourage them to reach their fullest potential. Participation in athletics and extracurricular activities teaches them to get along with others and works as a team. Declamations are helpful in training for college, work, and adult society (public speaking we all have to do at some point!) Amidst all this, the School manages to foster a student body of kind, caring, young people where it is easy for girls and boys to be just friends. It is rare to find a group who are as kind as the Stony Brook students, which further encourages the students to make the most of their own potential. We look forward to next year (somewhat sadly as well) when our youngest **Emma '11** will be a senior and well-prepared to take the next step in her life.

### *Exam Information Online*

All exam dates and times are available by logging into the SBS Daily Bulletin at <http://start.stonybrookschool.org> and clicking the Exams link. You can review a calendar for the remaining school year as well as access links for detailed information. Also, the Class of 2011 as a fundraiser is offering Exam Care Packages for purchase to encourage your student through the upcoming exams. Packages include healthy snacks and useful study items and can be ordered at [http://start.stonybrookschool.org/exams/exam\\_care.php](http://start.stonybrookschool.org/exams/exam_care.php) through **May 7**.

## College Counseling

The college admissions process for the Class of 2010 is coming to a close as the seniors make their final decisions for next fall. It has been both a rewarding and challenging year with many wonderful options for our students and few disappointments. The majority of students were admitted to their first choice schools. Fortunately seniors who will attend their second choice options planned carefully and the alternatives are excellent! Selectivity at the top tier colleges was more intense than ever. For example, Harvard admitted 7.19% of its applicants in 2009 and only 6.9% for 2010 and Duke University admitted 17% of their applicants last year and less than 15% for this year. Most schools reported increases in applications and the international interest in American universities continues to rise. We will take these factors into consideration as the Class of 2011 prepares for their applications in the fall. I am confident that our students will continue to succeed in gaining admission to the schools that are the best fit for them.

-Director of College Counseling Kathy Griffin ext. 541

### *Congratulations to the 2010-11 Prefects*

*Head: Forrest Hull*

*Academic: Kara Lee*

*Activities: Kjerran Petersen*

*Admissions: Devin De Frisco*

*Alexander: Ashley Cho*

*Barnhouse: Christine Boss*

*Chaplain: Brannon Burke*

*Cleveland: Emily Andersen*

*Comm. Service: Matthew Rooney*

*Culinary: Si Yi Li*

*Hegeman: Jon Wentling*

*Johnston: Khoren Lawson*

*Monro: Anuraag Sahi*

*Simons: Natalie Istrati*

## Outstanding Achievements

**Laurence Caradonna '14** and Conor R., a student at Gelinas Middle School, Setauket, NY, submitted the winning New York State entry in the 2009-2010 Siemens "*We Can Change the World*" Middle School Challenge." Placing among the top 25 teams in the country, Laurence and Conor are now competing for a spot as national finalists. Their project, "Trash Effect," identified the main reasons that small businesses do not recycle and proposed a program to make recycling more achievable. The Siemens competition requires that participants "identify, research, recommend and share environmental solutions for their community."

**Ben Cotten '11** serves as a member of Congressman Tim Bishop's Advisory Council. The council, comprised of 24 Long Island High School students nominated to serve based on leadership, academics, and government/political interest, discuss key national and international issues with the Congressman throughout the year.

After attending the SBS Student Support Services weekly writing center for assistance in editing and arranging his creative portfolio, **Andrew Domini '10** won second place in a creative writing competition, awarding him a substantial scholarship to his chosen school, Wabash College (IN).

Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) filmed **Devon Leondis '12** on campus highlighting her significant donation to the CBN Living Waters Well Program in Ghana. Devon's gift will provide three to four fresh water wells in Ghana.

**Rebekah Sides '10** has been awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award, the organization's highest honor, following the completion of her research-based project, "Waste Audit and Research: An Inside Look at Gaebelin Hall's Waste." After performing a month-long audit of Gaebelin Hall's trash and analyzing the costs and benefits associated with implementing a recycling program, Rebekah prepared and presented a proposal for recycling. Her research, results, and recommendation have been compiled into a binder given to several SBS administrators, faculty advisors, and student leaders, with the hope that a sustainable recycling program will be implemented in the near future. Rebekah will attend Wheaton College (IL) in the fall to study biology.

SBS faculty member **Michael Hickey** was recently selected as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by The National Society of High School Scholars. A role model to pupils, Michael was nominated by **Alex Reiner '09** for outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in the classroom.

SBS faculty member **Jeremy Meserole '96** was accepted to a National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminar on poetry at Harvard University. He will study with esteemed scholar Helen Vendler.

## HEART-felt Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated and supported in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine and the recent campus Blood Drive. Through the 30-hour fast, the Stony Brook community raised \$3,688 for hunger relief. The Blood Drive had 50 participants, with 33 units of blood donated to the Long Island Blood Services. Recent HEART community service opportunities included a clothing drive, a 'Dinner in the Dark' fundraiser for an educational foundation for the blind, and service at the St. James Soup Kitchen and the John J. Foley Ault Day Care Center.

-Student Chaplain Amy Helm

## Parent Fund Home-Stretch!

We have raised over \$75,000 with only \$25,000 remaining to meet our Parent Fund wireless project goal! The new networking switches in Monro Hall are installed and the UTP cables in the School buildings and dorms are almost complete. Once the access points are connected, the internet will be accessible anywhere on campus, but we are not there yet. Your gifts are needed to help completion of this project. Even if you have already given, would you consider a second gift to help the *SBS PARENTS* reach their goal of \$100,000? Please give your gift today.

Thank you again for all your prayers and help this past year. Good luck to graduating Class of 2010!

-Annual Fund Coordinator **Krista M. Miller P'14**

**SBS PARENTS**

## Teacher and Staff Appreciation - May 26

Each semester parent volunteers organize a brunch to thank our wonderful teachers and staff for their dedication to our children. Please consider preparing or ordering your favorite dish or dessert for the **Wednesday, May 26** brunch. If due to time constraints or distance it works best for you to make a small financial contribution to the Appreciation Brunch, please send a check payable to *The Stony Brook School* and signify *Teacher Appreciation Brunch* on the memo line. Mail checks to The Stony Brook School, 1 Chapman Parkway, Stony Brook, NY 11790 - Attn: *SBS PARENTS*. If you wish to contribute and/or have questions or suggestions, please contact **Jeanne De Frisco P'11** (631)277-7104 or at [defrisco13@gmail.com](mailto:defrisco13@gmail.com).

## A Note of Appreciation to our Class Parents!

As this year comes to an end, we would like to thank each of our class parents for their time and participation in making our class activities a success. We could not have done it without you!

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: **Marilyn Colasanto P'14'15, Lisa Pius P'14'15, Jackie Rubino P'15, Kathryn Squillaro P'15**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: **Jeanmarie Braat P'14, Dawn Clancy P'14, Margot Palermo P'14, Diane Palmer P'14**

9<sup>th</sup> Grade: **Diana Leutwyler-DeLucia P'13, Marcia Montoya P'13, Tammy Sutton P'13**

10<sup>th</sup> Grade: **Kim Haas P'12, Margarita Gonzalez P'12**

11<sup>th</sup> Grade: **Caroline Barker P'09'11'14, Cris Cunningham P'11'14, Sandy Lee P'09'11**

Special thanks and congratulations to Senior Class Parents **Jackie Aurigema P'10'13, Brooke Crowley P'09'10, and Kathy Sides P'07'10.**

-SBS Class Parent Coordinator *Cris Cunningham*

## 2011 Trip to Costa Rica with Travel Course Option

Middle School Director David Church and Director of School Marine & Environmental Programs Capt. George Linzee have planned a 2011 Spring Break trip to Campanario, Costa Rica. Open to all SBS students, this trip features a companion travel credit course for students in grades 10-12. Marine Science Honors students can use this trip as the basis for their independent research project while others can receive ILP credit. The course content focuses on tropical rainforest ecology with a scuba diving and pelagic ecology option. Students interested in the Ocean Science Bowl Team should consider this program.

## Mission Trip to Brazil

In June, SBS faculty members Stan and Marcia Winston and 18 SBS students will head to Sao Paulo, Brazil for two weeks of ministry. Students will share their own story or testimony to hundreds of teenagers, perform wordless gospel-centered skits, teach a chorus or two in Portuguese, and help the local churches, including manual labor. Raising the \$2,000 to cover their expenses is a challenge for some students. If you would like to contribute towards this trip, please send a check payable to *The Stony Brook School* signifying *Brazil Mission Trip* in the memo line, to The Stony Brook School, c/o Scott Pavao. Please pray for these young missionaries that God would work in and through them in incredible ways.

## Prayer Team: A Special Time of Prayer for the Class of 2010

*Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we ask or imagine to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20-21 NRSV

Please join as we pray for the Class of 2010 that they may accomplish much for His glory as they leave campus. We will also pray for God's blessing and guidance for all students, faculty, staff, and parents. Our last meeting of the academic year will be on Thursday, May 6, at 10:00 a.m. in the small conference room in Swanson. Come and be a blessing.

-Prayer Team Coordinator **Debbie Abrahamsen P'10,'13,'15** ext. 542

## Bear Paws Update

So we have come to the final stretch of the year, a year full of great effort and historic accomplishment, a year of pain and passion and purpose. I am so proud of our coaches, our team captains, and our student-athletes for making this one of the great years in the long and proud tradition of Stony Brook athletics.

Player of the Month: **Linda Devine '12** has made an immediate impact for the softball team, stepping in as the team's top pitcher and guiding them to a solid streak of wins as we enter May. Her mix of pitches and poise in the circle has left opposing hitters baffled – she even struck out four batters in one inning a few weeks ago, a feat you don't see every day!

Team of the Month: The boys' varsity tennis team is dominating the competition thus far. They are undefeated in league play and have a win in hand against every team in pursuit of the first league title for the program in over a decade. An undefeated league title wouldn't be bad either. Led by the physical skill of **Anuraag Sah '11**, the mental agility of **David Poss '11**, and the youthful exuberance of **Tyler Abrahamsen '13**, the team expects to write its chapter in the history books.

Coach of the Month: After a successful season as the girls' cross country coach in 2008, Coach **Matt Buchwalder** moves to the spring and the girls' track program. The girls are fighting hard this year, with **Brannon Burke '11** (shot and discus), **Kelsey Wentling '12** (100m and 400m), **Allie Damianos '13** (jumps and 400m), **Evie Ikouebe '11** (100m, 200m, and long jump) and **Kathy Kim '12** (3000m, 1500m, and high jump) leading the team in scoring. Mr. B is working hard to take this group - all of whom return next year – and get them competing for the league championship.

And so the finish line approaches, and I am confident that our spring teams will anchor this program well, will ignore the pain of challenges and revel in the excitement of overcoming, in pushing the body and mind and spirit toward the goal. *“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.”* Acts 20:24 (NIV)

*-Director of Athletics **Kevin M. Kunst '89***

## SBS Dinghy Team Dramatically Improves Regatta Performance

April was an exciting month for the Dinghy Varsity Sailing Team. On April 10, SBS hosted the SENY League's team racing qualifier at its improved sailing facility in Port Jefferson Harbor. Skippers **Austin Hulse '13**, **Cem Hayirli '13**, and **Anthony Garone '13** with their respective crews **Ben Cotten '11**, **Robert Hitzig '13**, and **Ray Maccio '13** took an outstanding second place and will compete at the district qualifier in Virginia. In the April 24 League Invitational Fleet Regatta that allows middle school students to compete with upper school students, the young SBS team was able to enter three teams. The Varsity I team comprised of Austin Hulse and Ben Cotten sailing division A and **Hunter Hulse '15** and **Hunter Skorobohaty '15** won both their divisions and took first place overall. The two seventh grade "Hunters" dominated their division by taking first place in every race. The Varsity II team of Anthony Garone, Ray Maccio, Bobby Hitzig, **Julia Acker '13**, and **Mario Montoya '13** took fourth place and the Varsity III team of **Andre Fernandez '15**, **Donny Pius '15**, **Will Lamb '13**, and **Shannon Kelly '15** placed ninth with Andre and Donny taking a surprise seventh in division A. Upcoming regattas are another league invitational on May 8 and the Spring league championship on May 15, both sailing at home.

*-Director of Marine Sciences Capt. George Linzee*

### *New Docks Donated to SBS Sailing Program*

Due to a generous gift from a local donor, the School has added six new dock sections to its Port Jefferson Harbor sailing facility. As a result of the new docks, the School has installed all of its sailing dinghies allowing more sailors to compete in regattas and has become the host site for the new SE New York Interscholastic Sailing League, requiring less travel for SBS and other local teams.



*Parents Plus Monthly*

**The Stony Brook School**

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Robert E. Gustafson, Jr.  
**Headmaster**

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**Director of Development**

Kim Haas P'12  
**Facilitator, SBS PARENTS**

Britta K. Holvik  
**Editors**

## Jane Taylor Appointed as Assistant Head

I am pleased to announce that Jane Taylor has been appointed to the position of Assistant Headmaster overseeing the daily internal and external operations of the School.

Jane has been at Stony Brook for 34 years. Her passion is seeing young people grow in all areas of their lives. She says, "Our students are wonderful people not only when they are here at SBS but I love what they grow up to be! I am so proud to be able to be a part of their lives."

She began her teaching career in western Pennsylvania before moving to Stony Brook in 1973. Working internally as a teacher, coach and residence hall head, Jane earned the trust and confidence of everyone who worked with her. More recently she was the director of admissions where she made valuable contributions in the admissions process updating and strengthening the use of technology for record keeping and tracking the admissions candidates. She also developed a solid data base yearly that enhanced the admissions and budget process.

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Her work as the assistant head over institutional relations has been a time for us to learn how to pay closer attention to our extended school community. Her love for people and her attention to detail are gifts not often found in the same person. Jane brings this vast amount of educational experience and expertise to her new position, and we are fortunate to have someone with her unique abilities to help us move forward in the years ahead.

Jane and her husband **Rob '67** live on campus and have two grown children, **Benjamin Taylor '99** and **Rebecca Taylor Canosa '01**.

Robert E. Gustafson, Jr.  
Headmaster