

A person in silhouette is rowing a boat on a river. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm glow. The background features trees and a large, dark sculpture. The text 'ASIAN' is overlaid in white.

ASIAN

AMERICAN

JOURNAL

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CLOSE UP : GUMMI LOVE BY YAN FANG CHEN

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AAJ: Asian American Journal, is an outlet for Asian and Asian American voices to disseminate information in order to promote activism in the community and awareness of Asian American issues.

We meet Fridays at 3:30 in Union 071. Stop by!

You all got a classic Freshmen Guide when you arrived from SBU or the mainstream campus media. AAJ decided to look at some of the things the other guides don't - tips about where to get Asian food, locations for the many quiet study areas you may never have heard of, getting a NYS driver's license - this issue has info not just for new students but for everyone.

AAJ's other theme is studying abroad. Two staff writers and an MSA Minaret columnist studied or taught overseas and all found it to be an enriching experience. AAJ expanded its travelogue to take you on a global journey through the countries they studied and worked in - Japan, Norway, and Turkey. But study abroad is not just leaving the US to go somewhere. For international students, it's coming here. So AAJ also included how to get a host family at Stony Brook, tying in to the article on staying with a host family in Japan.

The reason I get to write the Editor's Note this issue is because I am Co-Chair of ASC, the Asian Student Coalition. This issue contains our letter to President Stanley, signed by many of the President's of Asian and Asian American clubs on campus, asking for a meeting regarding the lies being spread by the SBU Administration about the height of the proposed dorms behind the Wang Center. Please read it and add your voice to our struggle to keep the Wang Center's pagoda as the University's iconic symbol and its garden an oasis of beauty and peace.

AAJ is always looking for more contributors. There's a wide range of topics that can be written about so if you think you have something the campus should know, join them.

- Wilson Jiang, ASC Co-Chair,
SBU AA E-Zine Editor

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SBU Alumnus, CIO, Agricultural Bank of China, Shandong, China
Rear Cover: Design by Ming Yen of passport photos on
SB letters to show the global reach of SBU Study Abroad

AAJ welcomes electronic submissions from SBU campus community to aajsbu@gmail.com

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Japan

Studying Abroad: An Essential College Experience

by Melani Tiongson with photos by Melani, Jessica Cruz,
John Fagen, Adam Newshan, and Kaori Otomi



Kinkaku-ji, Temple of the Golden Pavilion, Kyoto, Japan. Photo by Jessica Cruz

This past summer, I studied abroad for one month in Mishima, Japan's Nihon University. And while I did admittedly see my summer abroad as a well-deserved vacation before I buckle down for my senior year, I also learned a lot about myself that I would not have known had I remained in my comfortable recesses of Stony Brook and home.

Why study abroad? Studying abroad does more than just improve a language you've been studying or reward you with some time to relax – it demonstrates your ability to adapt to changes in the settings around you, and in the working world, such a trait is invaluable. For me, the thought of not living with my family (aka not seeing my cat... oh, and my parents, too) petrified me. The notion of cohabitating with complete strangers,

and more importantly, entrusting them with my life, made me quiver in anxiety. But I knew that I needed to leave. When my mother was 20, she left her home country with nothing more than \$50 and a college diploma, so I figured that at 21, I should be at least capable of leaving home (albeit temporarily).

Studying abroad has the capability to really showcase your versatility – but you have to make the most of the situation you're given. You can have a good time, you can make a lot of friends, but you have to be willing to depart from your comfort zone, persevere through trying times, and adapt to unfamiliar settings and situations. Some people in my program didn't feel as fulfilled as others because they couldn't overcome the language barrier, while others could not adhere to social

customs (and by the way, Japan is the land of politeness – a virtue sometimes absent from my New Yorker temperament).

Luckily, I found myself quickly adapting to life in Japan – and because of that, I can confidently say that not only did I leave Japan with newfound, life-long friends, but also a plethora of memories and character-building experiences that have carved me into an more malleable, adaptable person.

The Mishima, Japan summer exchange program, sponsored by the IAP office of SBU, enables American

students to study language and culture first hand by living with a host family, and attending a Japanese university. While there are many obvious benefits to this program – expedited acquisition of the Japanese language, an opportunity to meet people from around the world, and so on – there are other, more subtle (but equally as lucrative) benefits of studying abroad.

If you do choose to study abroad, there are a variety of programs out there: summer / winter exchange programs, semester exchange programs, and yearly



SBU and Nihon University students, farewell party. Photo by Kaori Otomi.

exchange programs. In addition to that, many of the programs allow students to either stay in college dormitories, nearby apartments, or with host families. The longer programs tend to require students to stay in housing arranged by their university; however, many summer programs offer students the rare experience of living in an “authentic” home of their exchange country.

Since my exchange program was during the summer, I was arranged to live with a host family, pictured on the left, who were very welcoming from the first time I met them to the last time I Skyped them since I returned to America. I personally found living with a host family to be advantageous over staying in a dormitory because it forced me into a situation that was clearly out of my element: I spoke Japanese every waking minute, acquired a taste for exotic foods such as *nattou* (fermented soy beans) and *sashimi* (thinly-sliced raw fish), and was exposed to people and experiences I would have otherwise never had known if I were given the ability to hole up in a private, one-room apartment.

The AAJ centerfold contains a photo of a dish enjoyed with my host family. Host families are required to provide breakfast and dinner for their students – either by cooking for them or taking them out to eat.

Every day, I would do morning Buddhist prayers with my host family to ensure that I had a productive day at school, would meet my host sister’s friends and acquaintances, and had quick access to people who could answer any and all my culture-based questions (such as: “Why are there two different flushing options on the toilets in Japan?” and “Why is it so hard to find a trash can in Japan?”)

But above all, staying with a host family provided for me the very thing I was afraid to leave – a family. The biggest advantage of having a host family is, in my opinion, having an established support system upon your arrival to a foreign country. Some students who have opted for one-semester or one-year exchange programs report initial feelings of loneliness, alienation, and disillusionment prior to finding friends within their universities; but those who live with host families rarely experience being ostracized, simply because they have a “family” whose goal it is to make incoming students feel relaxed and welcomed.

Classes While I was in Japan, I took a class in Advanced Japanese. Although the class was lengthy (we met daily for three or more hours), I personally cannot remember a single minute where I was not fully engaged. The class is split into two sections: lecture and conversation practice. In other words, half the class time was dedicated to going over material in the assigned textbook as a class, and the other half was specifically for one-on-one tutoring with a native/fluent Japanese-speaking Teaching Assistant.

The Teaching Assistants aided me greatly throughout my stay in Japan because they served as peers with whom I could relate to. They were not only there to help me improve my language-speaking, but they were also my friends who I would have lunch with, hang out with after school, and chat with via text and online when I had the time. Like my host family, the Teaching Assistants at Nihon University were very welcoming and supportive of me and other students in the program.

Mishima, Japan



Prof. Nagase with David Chen, a SUNY Binghamton student, on a river walk. Photo by Melani Tiongson

Mishima is located in the Shizuoka prefecture. It is very close to the famous Mt. Fuji, above, which visitors are welcome to climb throughout the year. It is also home to a plethora of shrines, aesthetic rivers, and other nature-based attractions. Since it is only two hours to Tokyo by train, Mishima is the perfect median between a urban and rural city. I refer to it as the “Stony Brook” of Japan, because like Stony Brook, both desolate wildernesses and bustling cities are easily accessible.

Mishima is especially known for *unagi*, or eel, and even has a sweet confectionary called *unagi pie*; a cookie made from butter, sugar, and ground eel powder (however surprisingly, the taste of eel is so subtle, to many connoisseurs, the flavor sometimes goes undetected). The centerfold photo is an eel and sushi dish.

Although we spent most of our time in Mishima, however, we also got to visit other cities in Japan to get a feel for how diverse and culturally-rich the country truly is:

Nara, Japan

Nara is famous for being a city inhabited by deer. Although the deer are still technically wild animals, they are very docile and quite accustomed to being around people. Tourists can purchase *senbei*, or crackers, to feed the deer for only 100 yen. In ancient times, deer were seen as deities and were allowed to live peacefully among people in Nara.

Photo by John Fagan





Kyoto, Japan

Kyoto is known for its traditional architecture; while many ancient Japanese buildings were destroyed by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II, Kyoto remained primarily untouched. To this day, it retains its prestige as one of the original capitals of feudal era Japan.

Native Japanese and foreign tourists alike frequent temples (Buddhist) and shrines (Shinto) in order to pay respects to Japanese

deities. Fortunes can be purchased at almost any temple or shrine; there are many types of fortunes available such as those that bring luck to one's studies, physical health, and love life.

Photo by Melani Tionsong

Tokyo, Japan

Each city has its own charm, differing neighborhoods, and of course, tourist attractions, and Tokyo is no different. It has its own Eiffel Tower, simply called Tokyo Tower, and it is actually taller than the one in Paris. Standing guard near Tokyo Bay is a giant, life-sized, *Gundam*, from the Japanese anime/video game franchise of the same name. This is a very popular tourist attraction and many people come to see and take pictures of this menacing machine.

Many more photos are at www.aasquared.org/gallery/melanis-japan-2012



Tokyo Tower. Photo by Jessica Cruz.



Gundam, Tokyo, Japan. Photo by John Fagan.



Islam in Turkey: Remnants and Revival

Teaching Abroad Part 1: A Country in Transition

by Azim Mulla, Muslim Student Association, Minaret Columnist

Turkey. It's the crossroads of civilizations. It's a buzz word among scholars and academicians including archeologists, anthropologists, historians and even economists. It's located between Europe and Asia with some of the oldest cities in the world.

Turkey welcomes thousands of tourists every year who delve into the artifacts of its history. Cities like Istanbul (Constantinople), Antakya (Antioch), Tarsus and Izmir hold access to age-old trade routes and host incredible cultural sites and historic works of architecture.

As American Muslim students living busy lives, we forget that the roots of many of the words we use, the foods we eat and the styles of clothing we don, were forged in this region since it served as the world's cross-cultural melting pot.

Many people today look back and marvel at the contributions from Ottoman Turkey since it served as a cosmopolitan cultural hub, just like America today.

American Muslims often miss the significance of Turkey. The Turkish population is around 75 million – just 5% of the total 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide.





The photo on the upper left is Eyup Sultan Mosque in central Istanbul on the European side. It was built in the 15th century. On the lower left is the 16th century spice bazaar in central Istanbul, updated for the modern Turkish consumer. Above is Akansu, the elementary school where I taught English for two months. They are perfect examples of the contrasts that are modern Turkey. Below are my thoroughly modern Polo clad students for the birthday celebration of

Today it's widely regarded as a secular country with little connection to the Islamic tradition. But just 200 years ago the Ottoman Empire was the seat of the Khilafah - the Arabs and the Mughals both gave their allegiance to this global superpower.

The Ottomans established institutions of Islamic learning, wore the Hijab and strived to keep peace and justice in a society with dozens of cultures. The Ottomans held high-level relations with European states, the United States, China, Safavid Persia, Mughal India and numerous other imperial civilizations.

Towards the end of May 2011, some good friends of mine from MSA, the Muslim Student Association, found us an opportunity. The cultural organizations iSAY (The Alliance of Foundations Inspiring South Asian Youth) and FEBA (Federation of Balkan American Associations) were giving us an unbelievable deal – an all expenses paid trip to Turkey to teach English and travel the country. Yes. We got paid to do it!

It was something I just couldn't miss out on. So I paid \$350 online for the tax for the airline ticket even though I was a little skeptical - after all, this could be just another online scam. But sure enough, I received my E-ticket, paid for by iSAY and boarded my flight to Istanbul in early June.

We saw the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sofia in Istanbul, traveled to the seat of the Ottoman Kalifate in Bursa, and met people from all over the world in Ankara. I taught English to some of the brightest elementary school students in a developing city with an amazing crew of teachers and school administrators.



Turkey was an amazing place for many reasons, but to me, the most important was learning about the development of the country and its political dimensions. There were certain things I noticed right away. I was constantly comparing the development of the Turkish cities to my experiences living in America. Obviously Turkey is not as developed as France, Germany, Japan or the United States but its economy is growing at 8.5% - neck in neck with China.

It's understood that industrialized nations like those of the European Union and the United States are beacons of prosperity and technology, which have raised the standard of living to all time highs. Economists and politicians have given a unique phrase to our current period calling it, "The rise of the rest." It signals the notable growth in countries like Brazil, India, Russia, China and regions all over the world that are coming much closer to achieving higher levels of prosperity and development..

The city I was flown out to teach in, Kayseri was incredible. We saw 15-story apartment complexes



The main city square of Kayseri. The statue in the background is the founder of the republic, Kemal Attaturk.

popping up everywhere on the skyline, with tramlines interconnecting the residential and commercial areas. Telecommunication infrastructure, medical parks, industrial zones and shopping complexes were being built rapidly. Although it was particularly disappointing to see no traces of any public libraries, it was definitely amazing to see a society in transition.

Turkey used to be a traditional agricultural nation based on commodity goods limited to textiles, rugs and porcelain. But within the last 10 years, Turkey has seen the emergence of a potentially vast consumerist society, exporting some of the world's best furniture to European markets, and flying a modern fleet of aircraft in service of one of the best airlines in the world. Turkey is noticeably striving to become a home to the newest products, the best human resources available and the best services the world has to offer.

This is Part 1 of an eight-part series in *The Minaret*, the journal of MSA, the Stony Brook Muslim Students Association. The series will be found throughout the rest of 2012-2013 on the *Minaret* website.

Photo on left is friends chillin' in Istanbul.



The Minaret

www.stonybrookmsa.org/minaret

Norway

Study Abroad Off the Beaten Track

by
'Ken'
Diyuan Hu

I arrived in Oslo on January the 5th, 2012, for what would be one of the warmest winters on record. Temperatures hovered around 15 degrees F (-9 C), when normally it never rose above 0 degrees F. I went expecting lots of snow but it was rare when any storm produced more than a foot.

But why Norway you may wonder. I really wanted to go to Scandinavia. It had been a dream that began in high school. I was born and grew up in Guangzhou in southern China. We never had snow and the coldest in winter was never below freezing.

I wanted to experience something totally different. While Stony Brook has snow, it's definitely not the same. We have flowers blooming in April while in Norway it's still snowing!

Of the three traditional Scandinavian countries, only Norway offered what I wanted. As an Applied Math major, Copenhagen in Denmark only had a business school. The University in Sweden was not in Stockholm but out in the countryside. Only in Norway's capital of Oslo did I get a full university program in a major metro area (approximate population 1,500,000).



Classes were in English and 95% of the students were Norwegian and they spoke English well. I only took 3 classes but they were each worth 5 credits so it was 15 credits for classes that were only 4 hours per week. No midterms, just finals. No homework but three serious projects. Much more participation in class was expected than here because classes were relatively small.

In the photo above we were taking a break from studying for a quiz, munching on Norway's favorite chocolate, Freia's Melkesjokolade. Freia is to Norway what Hershey is to the US, the home grown favorite.

I had my own room at the University of Oslo and shared a bathroom with one other student and seven of us shared a kitchen. While cooking meals we all

conversed but the interesting thing was that international students hung out with each other more than they did with Norwegians.

And that doesn't mean all my friends were Chinese. For the first three months they were who I met in the Buddy Group at the beginning of the year - from all different countries in Europe and South America. In the last three months I became involved with students in the Chinese Christian Fellowship. I never joined their church but it was fun hanging out with them every Friday night.

The photo below was the lake behind my dorm, taken late at night, even though there was still light. Norway in so far north it is one of the countries that it is known as a "land of the midnight sun."



Students at Stony Brook can't complain about cafeteria food. In Norway we had seven dishes in the dining hall and they never changed all semester. If you want to know what it was like, go to any IKEA cafeteria.

Before I left Stony Brook, friends made Svinestek, a Norwegian meal of roast pork, pickled sweet cabbage, and potatoes, and when I got to school, it was on the menu. Luckily for me, because Norway is surrounded by water, seafood is very popular, just like in Guangzhou.



Today no one thinks of the three traditional Scandinavian countries, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, as fierce countries who attacked and often occupied their neighbors, but historically they were the Norse Vikings and from the 8th to the mid-11th centuries, that is exactly what they did, from what is now Russia through the Mediterranean to the Mid-East. William the Conqueror was the descendent of Vikings.

As Christianity became the dominant force within the royalty of each country, however, this stopped as they concentrated on the Crusades instead. That created a vacuum in protective trading which was

replaced by the Hanseatic League. Although only glanced over in history books, for over three hundred years the League stretched from Russia to London with its own navy.

I visited what is now the sleepy town of Bergen, pictured above, which was once one of those bustling cities, and the picturesque trading houses along its waterfront, now a museum, date to the early 1700's when they were rebuilt after a fire destroyed the area. Hansa Beer, based in Bergen and Norway's 2nd largest brewery, takes its name from that Hanseatic history. More globally known, so does Germany's Lufthansa (Air Hansa) Airlines.



monarchies, this was seen as extremely radical.

Unfortunately, wanting independence led to war with Sweden. Norway lost but the Swedish king allowed it to rule itself. The monarchy became a “personal union” and he was king of both. This ended in 1905 and by national referendum, the Norwegians chose to have a personal union with the Danish king.

At the left is King Harald V, his wife Queen Sonja, Crown Prince Haakon and his wife, and the king’s grandchildren.



But most interesting of all was Constitution Day when over 100,000 Norwegians descended on Oslo for the annual celebration, simply known as syttende mai, or May 17th.

It was one big massive people parade through the city of children’s schools, bands, dancers and citizens welcome to join in at any point. It all ended at the Royal Palace where the King and his family greeted the throngs.

When it was created in 1814, the Norwegian constitution was considered one of the most liberal democratic constitutions in the world. It is the oldest in Europe and second oldest in the world still in continuous force,

Although inspired by the US and French, the Norwegians kept their monarchy but limited the powers of the crown. He was chosen by the Council and was a king by the will of the people, not ‘by the grace of God’. In Europe, where almost all countries had absolute



The best thing about going to a European Union country is that the Schengen visa you get covers all of them. I would get on a train or hop a flight on Ryan Air - it’s even cheaper than Jet Blue - and got to visit Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and Sweden.

Sometimes I went with my friends, sometimes alone, and it was always a great experience. Hostels were cheap, clean, and you made new friends. Each country has its own flavor. Besides Norway, my favorites were Denmark, the Netherlands (Holland), and Sweden.



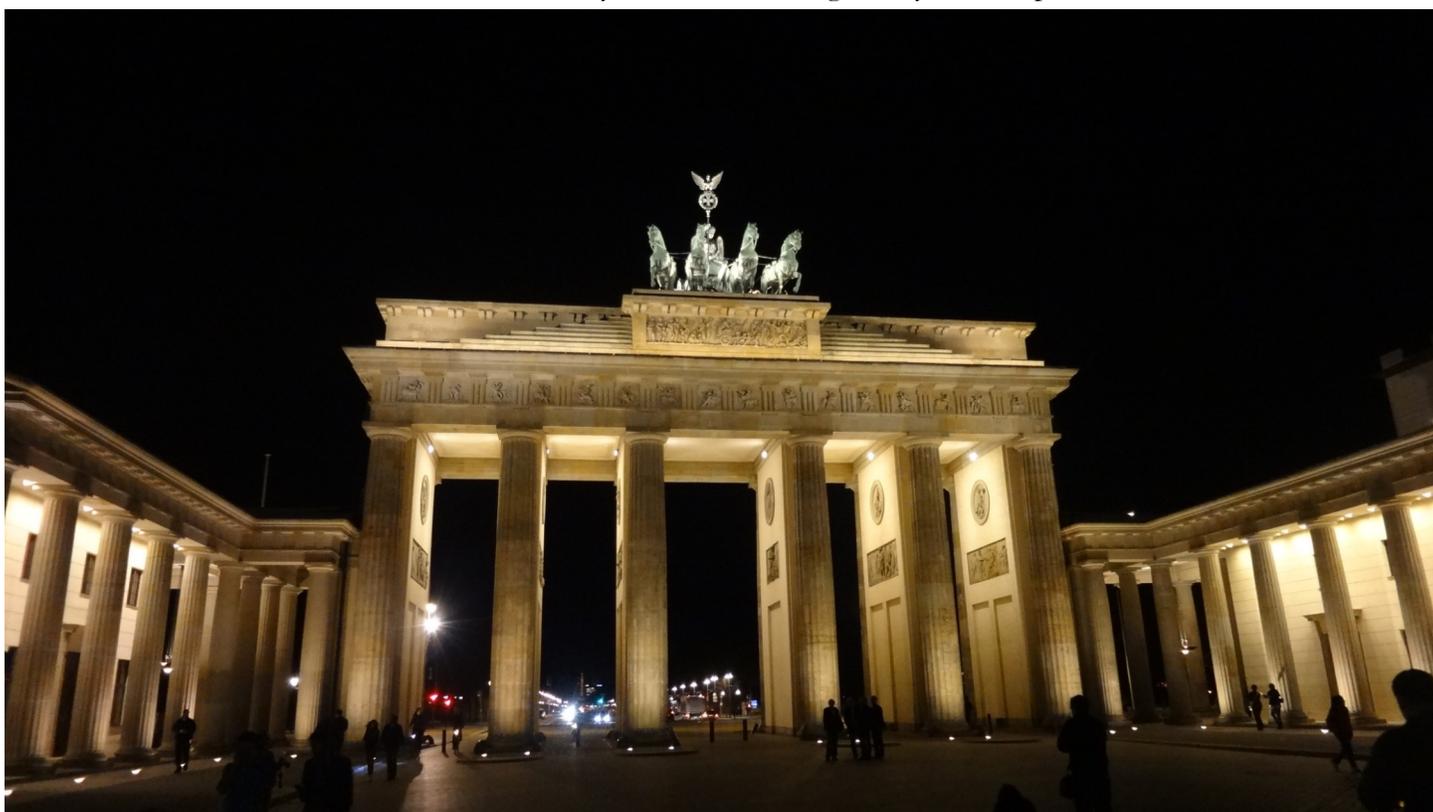
The Hungarian Parliament Building on the Danube River in Budapest.

It was inaugurated on the 1000th anniversary of Hungary in 1896.

More photos of my travels through Europe and my study abroad stay in Norway can be found at
www.aasquared.org/gallery/diyuans-europe-2012

The Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany.

It was built In 1791 by the Prussian King as a symbol of peace.





CLOSE UP : JAPANESE FISH BY MELANI TIONGSON



CLOSE UP : NORWEGIAN FISH BY "KEN" DIYUAN HU

The Best Thing for International Students A Host Family



By Noah Kim

For international students, the culture shock of adapting to a new country can be challenging. Especially for students like Lu Jian Sun, who had lived in China since birth. That was until a few years ago when he decided to broaden his horizons by enrolling at Stony Brook.

“It was one of the most difficult things I ever had to go through,” said the senior. “I suffered from depression for months.”

But for students like Sun, programs like Host Family aim at making the transition easier. According to the program website, Host Family “provides a new international student with continuing friendship and involvement with a family in the United States”.

While students do not live with the family, they feel right at home when involved with the program. Host families, some of whom are faculty and staff members, often spend loads of time with their international student, whether it’s inviting them for dinner or introducing them to the Stony Brook community. A mutual agreement between the student and family determines the amount of time spent together.

The simplicity of the process makes it easy for students to apply. There are no costs to participate and

virtually no requirements. A host family can be as small as a single individual or as large as an extended family. A one page application and a commitment to be part of a new culture are the only requirements.

One student, who asked to be anonymous, didn’t regret participating. “[The Host Family Program] is one of the most rocking ideas I have witnessed in my life and [I’m] dead happy because of it.”

Host families benefit from the experience as well. Other than offering gratitude and welcoming a student lost in a new country, the families have the opportunity to learn about a new culture, something they might previously have never had a chance to do. Families should not be hesitant about looking into participating. The website states that the international students in the program are “bright, talented young men and women from different countries who will generally be in positions of leadership upon return to their home country.”

Currently, students are willing to take part in the program but there is a shortage of host families. Program Director Rhona Goldman emphasized the importance of this problem. “We always need more families,” she said. “Not all students are placed since there are simply more students than there are placements.”

For more families to be interested, people have to realize that the program isn’t just to help the student; it’s a win-win situation for both sides. Goldman says it is definitely worth a try. “I have lots and lots of testimonials,” she said. “Lifelong friendships have developed from [host family-international student] connections.” Students and hosts can contact Rhona at sbuhostfamilies@gmail.com.

There is a peer to peer host program too. Here is Frank’ Chenjun Feng with one of his hosts, Celia Cleland, wife of the late historian, Prof. Hugh Cleland. The head of a pilot program to team ESL speakers with native ones in DEC courses found him Celia to live with, a blessing for them both.

Frank also has a student host from ISO’s English Pal program. She is a mother with young children. Like the Host Family Program, ISO has more applicants than hosts.

ISO, the International Student Organization, can be reached on stonyiso2011@gmail.com or on Facebook.



NOT IN THE USUAL FRESHMEN GUIDES: KNOW-HOW FOR ALL ASIAN STUDENTS

Every student on campus has been through it; the confusion of adapting to a 1300 acre school. All students have the same confusion, but Asian and Asian American students have additional needs - like where to get food without going to the city, what are some of the best Asian-interest events on campus, what classes to take and where to study, will make life a lot easier, especially for non-native speakers. This school has a large Asian community and with each issue, we hope to help make new Asian students feel more at home here, and even give some new info to older students.

Alternate Places To Study Besides the Main Library

by Yun Seob Kim

Have you ever walked out of the main library because you couldn't find an available seat? Or waited endless amounts of time looking for a free computer at the SINC site? If so, then there are plenty of other places besides the main library where you don't have to wait a single minute for a computer or desk.

For example, the Math/Physics Library, located on the fourth floor of the math tower, can be a perfect place to study for upcoming exams.

"There is hardly anyone there," said Mike, a biochemistry major. "It is the quietest place I can study in." Students can also borrow math and physics textbooks for a few hours but only inside the library.

Other places include but are not limited to the SBS SINC site, located on the sixth floor of the SBS building, the Chemistry zlibrary, which is located in, of course, the Chemistry Building, and the Health Sciences Library on the other campus across Nichol's Rd.

"Not a lot of people know about this SBS SINC site and there are computers available all the time," said

Sandi Kim, a science major.

The HSC Library has a great area for groups to work where talking is allowed. And their cafeteria food is much better than on main campus.

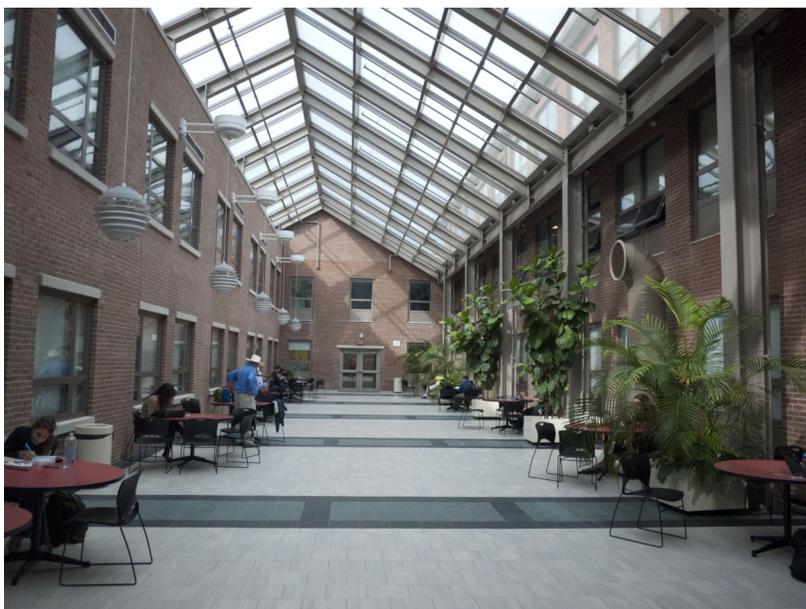
If you want a beautifully decorated, garden-like

atmosphere to study in, then you might want to try out the atrium inside the Humanities Building, although it can get pretty filled-up sometimes.

Other SINC sites include the music SINC site, the Union basement SINC site, and even the residential ones. These SINC sites don't get packed as much as the main SINC site does everyday.

Although the Wang Center was originally supposed to have a computer room to help ESL students, that never happened, and at lunchtime there is rarely room, but other times it's also quiet and beautiful.

If you look more around you, there are plenty of other study areas where you can peacefully study without being disturbed. You don't have to wait desperately for a computer because you forgot to do your homework on time. If you want to achieve good grades, it is important to find your own comfortable place to study in.



Driving in New York State

How a Foreign National Can Get a Driver's License

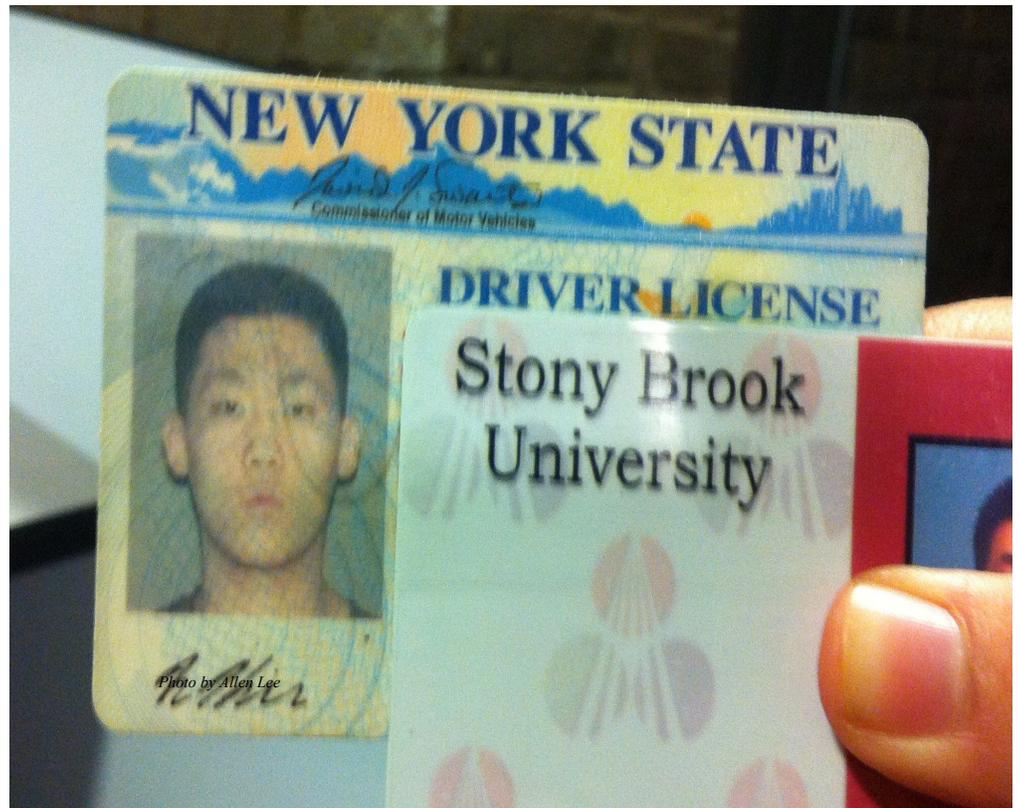
by Raymond Lee '15

Stony Brook University is located in Stony Brook, NY, tangent to St. James and East Setauket. It's about ten minutes away from Port Jefferson and there's also a beach nearby. And while the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) allows students to travel back and forth between several destinations fairly easily, it costs money and having your plans limited by a inflexible train schedule probably isn't the most efficient way to go somewhere. Stony Brook might be best enjoyed if you have a car, and the only way to drive a car in this state without breaking the law is to acquire a New York State driver's license.

According to the official website of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in New York State, if you hold a driver's license from another country, that's the only qualification you need to drive in New York. You don't need to apply for a New York state driver's license unless you become a legal resident of the state of New York.

However, if you really want a NYS driver's license, you must fulfill some very basic pre-requisites: you must pass a written exam and a road test. You also have to complete a 5-hour course approved by the state, offered at most credible driving schools, local libraries, and high school continuing ed programs. Other requirements include the completion of the SSA-L676 form from the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) if you don't have a Social Security Card. You must then submit the form to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for approval.

Students with Green Cards are allowed to bypass this step; according to the DMV, if you have a Green



Card, you may apply for a license just like any other legal resident or citizen of the state. You must still fulfill all the other requirements; you just don't need to fill out for SSA-L676.

Additional general requirements for all drivers (foreign or not) include passing an eye exam, providing official documentation proving your name, official documentation proving your date of birth, and a form called MV-44. Like everybody else in the state, you must provide proofs of identity in accordance with a point system detailed in document ID-44, which can be found at www.dmv.ny.gov/forms/id44.pdf.

Upon receipt of your NYS driver's license, you must give up your foreign driver's license (if you have one), which will be destroyed by the DMV after 60 days unless you tell them otherwise. If you need to retrieve your foreign license, you must go to the same DMV that you left it at.

On a final note, an International Driving Permit is not equivalent to a driver's license, though it does let authorities know that you own a foreign driver's license.

Study Tips For Incoming Freshmen

by Paul Hyunh

Adjusting to college can be very difficult for many freshmen. Unlike high school, which provides you with a set structure for both classes and extracurricular activities, you are given more options to plan your schedule in college. You are now expected to juggle the time you spend on social events, parties, and studies. And at times, it can be overwhelming.

For those who have taken numerous AP courses and have attained a score of 4-5 on the exams, the knowledge you gained will be invaluable in your first two years at Stony Brook. But for those who did not have this exposure, your life can be a little rough the first years. There are some tips that a fellow upperclassman can give to those who need advice to make study time more efficient.



have trouble with. Also being acquainted with the same problems helps you to master the material faster.

1. Study in 20-30 minute intervals.

Studies have shown that studying for hours at a time is not an efficient way to study at all. Sometimes, students face the problem of recalling what they have studied in all that time. This is why cramming for that next biology exam can work for that exam, but it won't gel in your head. In fact, the way to optimize retention of the material is to do 20-30 minute study intervals punctuated by breaks of 10-20 minutes.

2. Writing and teaching what you learned helps you to retain the material best.

Studies have also shown that the more actively you are involved in your learning, the better you retain it. Makes sense, right? Well, we retain approximately 30% of what we read, 50% of what we write, and about 70% of the material that we teach. So, when you have that next biology class, make sure to bring a notebook and copy the slides instead of glancing them over on your laptop. Get to become a TA for a class, or teach someone else if you have a chance. It exposes you to your learning process and helps you identify what you

3. Exercise before you study.

Go take a 20-30 minute walk or a jog. Don't pursue too strenuous an activity before you study. You don't want to be so fatigued that you fall asleep. Oxygenated blood that reaches your brain before you study acts as a little warm-up. You will be able to concentrate for longer periods of time and retain material much faster. A healthy body is key to a healthy mind.

5. Eat healthy foods.

Forgo oily foods and snacks because they will clog the arteries and veins that carry blood to your brain. Eat more vegetables because they have many nutrients that are necessary to power your brain. Some fruits, like pumpkin and squash, have traditionally been known to assist memory retention. Other fruits, like bananas, have lots of carbohydrates that will give you a small energy boost when you need them. Going on a diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables will prevent you from getting sick and enhance brainpower. Always eat a snack right before an exam, too.

Remember, you are what you eat.

Jasmine

by *Chenjun Feng*

Jasmine is the largest Asian restaurant on campus, located on the second floor of the Wang Center. This upscale food court is composed of four sections - Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and desserts/beverages. Daily food specials include other Asian cuisines.

The Indian section has many traditional dishes. Vegetable/Chicken Samosas are customers' favorite appetizers. For entrees, one can order a small or large (combo) box. Both come with a serving of Basmati rice. A small box contains one dish while a combo box has two. Chicken Tikka Masala is one of the highly recommended dishes. People also often order regular or garlic Naan bread too.

A Naan sandwich is a very convenient choice for students with busy class schedule who don't have time. They can just grab an Indian sandwich and eat it on their way. Indian soup is also good.

The Chinese section is larger than any other section, which means customers have a wider range of choices. One can choose a small or combo box first, and then pick one staple food from five choices: white, brown or fried rice, rice noodles, or Lo Mein. Again, a small box is one entrée, the combo is two.

Generally, the dishes include vegetables, chicken,



beef, pork, and seafood. Many of them are worth recommending, including General Tsao's Chicken, Ma Po Tofu (spicy), Teriyaki Chicken, Shrimp with Vegetables, Kung Pao Chicken, and Hunan Beef (very spicy), just to name a few. The Chinese section changes its dishes every day so one always can find something new to taste.

Chinese dim sum includes vegetable spring rolls, pork buns, dumplings (chicken, pork, or vegetable), and soup (egg or hot and sour). Other Asian foods include Pad Thai and Vietnamese pho noodles. Korean Chicken Wings deserve to be mentioned. They are a customer favorite.

The Japanese section is two parts separated by the Chinese. One side is the Japanese Grill making Chicken Teriyaki, Beef Tepanyaki, Tilapia Filet, and Pork Bulgogi. The other side is Sushi. There are various kinds of delicious sushi, all made fresh daily.

The last section, desserts, is opposite the Chinese section and also contains salads and beverages. It has bars, cookies, cupcakes, and fruit bowls. There are two salads: Kimchi (spicy) and traditional Garden Salad.

One of the most popular drinks is the Mango Lassi. Bubble Tea, with various flavor choices, is also highly recommended. This section is launching new smoothie products this semester.

Traditional Asian themes and icons are used in the design including suspended wood ceiling grids, glowing lanterns, river rock pads, and bamboo flooring. All of these Asian elements of Jasmine create a modern Asian-inspired dining environment.

Jasmine also has the best view on campus for dining. One whole side is floor to ceiling windows overlooking the outdoor koi and lotus pool and garden. In warm weather, there are tables and chairs set up for poolside dining.



An Asian Market For Asian Students

Oriental Grocery



2460 Nesconset Hwy
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Phone: (631) 689-8787
Parking: Yes

Price Range: Moderate
Accepts Credit and Debit Cards: Yes

by May Hao Wang

I believe most older Asian students know there is an awesome Asian market near Stony Brook but if you are a new student who doesn't, here is where it is and what they have to offer.

Oriental Grocery is the only store that sells all kinds of Asian goods near the University. Although most of their food is Chinese (Hong Kong, mainland, and Taiwan), they do also have a selection of Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Thai, and Vietnamese.



It is located in the shopping center behind the Burger King on Rte 347. They have been operating for at least 20 years here. Most of their goods are from Chinatown and Flushing so it's a good temporary replacement for traveling into the city. However, the price is a little bit more expensive because they have to make back the delivery costs of picking up fresh food from the city three times a week. And pick-up days are also the best days to shop for fresh items, around noon on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.

Even though their prices are higher than the city, their products are worth the cost. They have a wide variety of sauces, spices, instant packets, fresh vegetables, dessert, snacks, drinks, and frozen goods. Whatever you want to cook, you could find all you need.

In addition, they have tasty pre-cooked food. My favorites are braised marinated chicken feet, duck wings, steamed buns with different stuffings, seaweed, Zongzi (I like the Taiwan pork), dumplings, meat balls and fake crab meat (for hot pot).

For those from northern China who love food made of flour, Oriental has all kinds of noodles - dry,

fresh, instant, Mantou, wontons, dumpling wrappers, and spring roll skins! They have a variety of white, brown and black rice, like Jasmine, Japanese, and Thai. I recommend Thai rice because I like it non-sticky. If you like sushi rice or sticky rice, Japanese rice is a good choice.

All the vegetables and seafood are fresh. Even though they don't have as many vegetables as other local markets, they have a lot that local markets don't carry like tiger lily buds, lotus root, bean sprouts, and white gourds. They also have a lot of seafood and freshwater fish including shrimps, catfish, flounder, silvery pomfret, crucian, sea bass, trout, and clams.

Their dim sum and snacks are also impressive. The cute desserts put on the front counter taste so good! My friend loves their Hong Kong egg custard tarts but I think they're too sweet. I like their baked buns with stuffing like pork, coconut or red bean, and even the plain buns are good. The first time being there I felt like I was at home. I even found the White Rabbit brand of candies, and they have been around longer than me.

Besides food, Oriental also sells bowls, dishes, chopsticks, pans, rice cookers, soaps, and other household supplies. The couple who owns the store is stern but helpful, and even more helpful if you speak Mandarin. So, if you have just gotten here and need to buy everything to fill your kitchen, Oriental is a great local place!

How to get there by bus?

Schedule: www.sct-bus.org/links/schedules/s69.pdf

There is no longer a campus bus there on Saturdays. The only bus is the Suffolk County bus, S69, going to SmithHaven Mall. You can catch the bus at the Union, railroad, and other stops. Get off at Coventry Mall and walk across Stony Brook Road. You will pass a gas station your right. Walk through the strip mall passing Lan Wo, the Chinese restaurant, on your left. Oriental Grocery is at the end of the strip mall.



Out of Classroom Learning: My Experience Shadowing Anesthesiologists

By Paul Huynh

Ask people to describe the job of an anesthesiologist and the first thing that pops into their heads is, “to put patients to sleep and inject drugs”. But that paints an incomplete picture of the profession.

What no one says is that it also entails paralyzing patients, keeping them alive

during and after surgery, and waking them up properly. These responsibilities are just as difficult and stressful as they sound. Anesthesiologists are specialized doctors who become gatekeepers to the operating room and directly responsible for a person’s life before, during, and after surgery.

During my incredible time at a NYC hospital (which prefers anonymity so more students aren’t trying to do this), last summer I had the opportunity to shadow a number of anesthesiologists. I noticed how quickly they connected with patients just by talking to them. At first, I thought it was just good bedside manner. Instead, it was a clever tactic used to reduce the patient’s anxiety before the operation. Some were so lost in conversation they barely noticed an IV bag or being hooked up to an anesthesia machine that measures vital signs.

The funniest moments occurred when patients did not notice the drug being injected. Their words start to slur, their eyeballs fall to one side of their eyes, and they drift off to sleep quietly or begin their long period of incessant snoring. Sometimes, the anesthesiologist would tap or ask the patient if he is fine. Although it seems like a joke, this is actually done to verify whether the patient is in a deep sleep.

Music can also be used to calm patients instead of talking. There was one patient I remember who was so

nervous that he sang to the operating staff before he started slurring and drifting off to sleep. Research from Yale University suggests that music can be used to lessen anxiety, and allow for faster recovery. The best results occur when patients pick the music rather than play music that is perceived as soothing by someone else. Music even helps lessen the pressure and the anxiety felt by the operating staff before the surgery.

Just as there are different ways to relieve anxiety, there are different drugs used to put people to sleep. Anesthesiologists commonly use a white, milky liquid, propofol. It is a short-acting drug that causes amnesia and sedation. It should ring a bell because Michael Jackson injected himself with enough to put himself to sleep permanently.

However, in the hands of an anesthesiologist, it can be a tool used to induce one of the best naps you will ever have. Patients have told anesthesiologists after small procedures that “it was the best sleep I have gotten in so long” or “I didn’t feel like I wanted to wake up at all”. Other times, anesthesiologists may just use volatile gases that are very pungent. As a result, the experience with these gases is not as pleasant, and patients cough or feel nauseous after the surgery.

Some patients are afflicted with disorders that require other methods to put them asleep. There was one mentally challenged patient who needed a therapist to “hypnotize” him before administering anesthesia. She said that items such as lava lamps were used to keep the patient dazzled and dumbstruck while anesthesia was administered. This is often done for patients with Down syndrome or other mental disorders. Sometimes ketamine is used to tranquilize patients who still struggle.

Children are the most difficult patients. Their vital signs are much higher than that of an adult, and they are more responsive to certain types, dosages, and combination of medications. Since their body sizes vary, so do the size of their instruments. Their throats are much more sensitive, so pediatric anesthesiologists need to be deft and adroit in using the airway equipment.

Many children are scared of the sight of needles and are more sensitive to pain. The most common way to alleviate anxiety in children is for their parents to accompany them to the operating room. In fact, children bring toys, dolls, and teddy bears to comfort them before surgery. To keep children from struggling, pediatric anesthesiologists sometimes coat the breathing masks with a bubble gum or cherry flavor when administering volatile anesthetics. Because pain is difficult to distinguish from fear in children, a low dose of pain medication is also given before and after the surgery. Sometimes, nitrous oxide is administered with oxygen through a breathing mask to calm the child down.

During surgery, the anesthesiologist must record the intravenous drugs and their dosages into a computer. A strong background in pharmacology and anatomy is required to know which drugs are used at certain moments. A sudden drop or increase in vital signs may signal to the anesthesiologist that they need to use a certain drug without causing adverse effects to the patient.

Some drugs, such as pain medications, can be abused by health professionals, so opioids used for each surgery must be recorded. I can't count how often doctors jest that anesthesiologists take urine tests if they forget to record the drugs used.

At this point, anesthesiologists have time to teach or talk with their residents. They would explain the procedure and why they used certain drugs. They explain the whacky curves and peaks displayed on a monitor, the esoteric abbreviations in anesthesia, and a cloud of seemingly meaningless numbers and graphs that actually can translate into the life or death of the patient.

This time is also when I got to talk to some of the residents. One was an anesthesiologist who worked in Mexico with a plastic surgeon. We chatted about the different beaches to visit in Mexico, the popular tourist sites, and joked about the dangerous places to avoid being attacked, kidnapped, or taken hostage by Mexican gangs. I also met 3rd and 4th year medical students who gave tips on how to apply to medical school. The time spent in the operating room was educational and entertaining.

After the surgery, patients receive a visit from the anesthesiologist if they stay in the hospital. This is usually done to evaluate their condition right after surgery. For other patients that are discharged from the hospital within a few hours, they receive a phone call a few days later. It is not weird for patients to say "Who is this?" or "Oh... I think I remember you now [even though they don't]". Because of the amnesiac drugs used during surgery, the majority of patients cannot remember the anesthesiologist. These moments can turn awkward, and so superb communication skills are critical.

To become an anesthesiologist also requires perseverance and years of training. Residency can last for 60+ hours a week with sleepless nights, and notoriously difficult board exams. Anesthesiology residents say it helps to remain calm, cool, and collected during residency and any surgical operation. Some residents comment that a few of the surgeons they work with are control freaks.

Overall, the stress levels are very high in this specialty. Anesthesiologists need ways to relieve pressure and maintain a consistently high level of attention to detail for long periods of time. Certainly, it is not a profession for the faint of heart.



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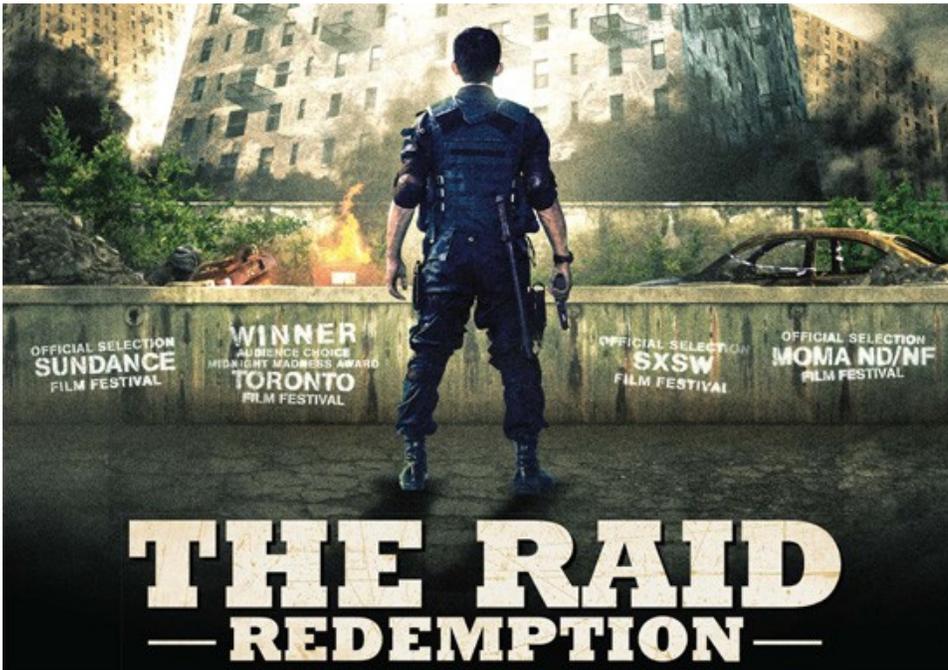
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'The Raid: Redemption' Delivers High-Octane, No-Nonsense Action



by *Nowshad Hussain*

Let's face it. Action movies these days can be either of two things.

We have the one with mindless punches and kicks being thrown everywhere without any sense of coherence whatsoever and you're basically paying thirteen dollars to see a movie with zero product value and flailing limbs. Then you have ones trying to be clever by adding a story that's been told a million times before, only it involves gunfights and car chases that seem a bit too farfetched.

Introduce *The Raid: Redemption*; An Indonesian action film that simply cannot be categorized as only falling into the action genre. Yes, you have countless scenes of fights, gunfights and bloody mutilation, but one minute you feel as if you're watching a cop movie (a soundtrack full of guitar riffs adds to the thrill throughout the movie), the next minute a martial arts movie and then a little ounce of drama mixed into it.

What results from this is a movie that doesn't hold back; a high-octane, adrenaline pumped joy ride of a film that gives you the thrills without being too cliché and the action without compromising the story.

Rama, introduced as our hero of the film, is a Special Forces rookie SWAT officer and soon-to-be-father tasked to an elite force of 20 officers to confront a viciously dangerous crime lord named Tama (which coincidentally rhymes with the protagonists' name...clever).

Tama is holed up in his "crime palace," a derelict and dank fifteen-story apartment complex that houses some of Jakarta's most dangerous and infamous criminals. Tama is immediately introduced as a brutal crime lord, sly and sleazy with absolute mercilessness. His two loyal right hand men, Mad Dog and

Andi, are opposite but complementary henchmen; one is the brute muscle with no moral conscience, the other one is the brains behind Tama's operations.

When the officers fail to keep their covert bust-in, well, covert, Tama orders the entire residence to hunt down and eliminate the officers in exchange for rent-free living in his complex.

Now begins an onslaught of cruel bloodshed, as residents come pouring out with knives, machetes and guns to confront the officers with sheer brutality. The action scenes have a wondrous dynamic to them that's a



sheer joy to watch (if you're all in for it, that is). We see the residents barrel down the corridors and spray the entire area with bullets from their semi-automatics while simultaneously swinging their machetes viciously in resulting deaths.

But we also get a taste of *pencak silat*, an Indonesian style of martial arts that flows seamlessly and viciously and works well with the movie, giving it that distinctive Indonesian flavor to it. There is absolutely so much going on throughout these scenes that if you stop to notice yourself, you just might see yourself tensing up to witness the sheer insanity this movie beholds.

If you're looking for some deep character development within the characters of the movie, you might want to skip out on it. You won't get much of



stop to cool down and have a breather.

Thrilling, fun and an absolute joy ride, *The Raid: Redemption* is a distinctive must-see for anyone looking to watch a great film.

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The Stony Brook University Presidency and Its Failures With the Asian Community

"I hate Stanley. He is the worst President that Stony Brook has ever had. I don't care that his wife is Chinese. He has done more to hurt Asians than any President. Each year we have a problem with him trying to hurt us."

That was said by 'Oliver' Li at his graduation dinner this past May. Oliver came to Stony Brook as an undergraduate international student five years ago. His fiancée still has two more years so he decided to stay and get his MBA here too.

Former President John Toll brought Nobel physicist CN Yang to campus and made Stony Brook more famous in China than Harvard. Each year for more than 45 years now, when the Nobel prizes are announced, everyone in China hears six words, "Yang Chen Ning SUNY Stony Brook."

Former President Shirley Kenny, reluctantly at first but smart enough to see the writing on the wall, agreed to the creation of the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies and the Charles B. Wang Asian American Center.

Three years ago Oliver dealt with the threatened closure of that department because President Stanley wanted budget cuts, even if it meant cutting departments and faculty.

Two years ago Oliver dealt with students and alumni trying to save the 15th annual Asian and Asian American Leadership Awards Ceremony at graduation because President Stanley wouldn't overrule the Office of Special Events.

Although never involved in it, they still didn't want it to happen.

This year Oliver

proudly gave a speech to his fellow student leaders, and to his parents who had flown in from China, when he got his leadership award at the 16th awards ceremony. Although the 15th was held 'illegally', some in Student Activities were smart enough to make sure the 16th was allowed. Alumni had written powerful letters of support about how that ceremony was their most rewarding one.

Four years ago Oliver won first prize in the Wang Center photo contest. This year he wrote about the planned aesthetic destruction of the Wang Center by dorms to be built behind it, the Toll Drive Residences. Even though an equivalent site on another side of the same Union parking lot was never considered, Stanley gave his blessing. UT Austin's stadium dorms are its most popular. We could have the same here - without destroying Wang. Why aren't we? A former FSA Board member said the planning committee was afraid of the "tree-huggers" who had opposed the hotel.

The result? Trees - 1, Asians - 0.

Oliver is an alumnus Stony Brook should have wanted to court. He invested a half million dollars in the US government's EB-5 program to buy his American citizenship. He purchased a half million dollar home, cash, and like Ward Melville during the Depression, plans to buy many more. Then if the economy is still bad when he graduates, he will have rental income from new students.

Given how Oliver feels, what is the probability he would make an alumni donation while Stanley is President? Why would any Asian alumni? When Stony Brook finally gets a new president, how long will it take to undo the damage?



KSQ Architects illustration, corrected by Ming Yen

Then there is the problem of presidential power and its negative effect on faculty and staff of Asian decent.

This is the 10th anniversary of the Wang Center. In 2002, Bin Tang, then President of GSO, the Graduate Student Organization, was on President Kenny's grand opening committee.

He came out of one meeting in amazement, excitedly saying, "Now I really understand power! I never fully did until today."

At that meeting everyone found the agenda packet at their seat when they came in. It included the new design of the Wang logo. The conversation was of how ugly it was. Not one single person liked it. Bin was the only student. Everyone else was an employee.

President Kenny walked in and in her Texan drawl her first words were - 'Did y'all see the new logo? Isn't it beautiful.' Although grammatically her last line was a question, it reality it was not.

Suddenly, the only person who was still willing to say the logo was ugly was Bin.

This summer the four faculty who had created the first Asian Faculty Association in the mid 1990's met to talk about resurrecting it.

Something was needed, they agreed, so that the Asian community, as one so aptly put it, "will not be ignored in the future" the way it had been with the Toll Drive Residences.

In 1996 they had invited Charles Wang for his first visit to campus. Charles was asked for a donation for the creation of an Asian American Center. He said yes - and the rest is history. Anyone who was here between 1996 when the announcement was in *The New York Times* and *Newsday*, and 2002 when the Governor cut the opening ribbon, can tell you the extreme pride and excitement the Asian community had.

At the time, Wang's initial donation of \$25 million was the largest in SUNY history, and that figure more

than doubled by the time it was built.

In the ten years since, there has been disappointment in the Asian community that the Wang Center never became what it was supposed to be. It was so beautiful the University used it for other purposes instead.

For the past two years everyone, not just the Asian community, has been disappointed. The koi and lotus pond was left dry and empty. Chairs to sit at to enjoy the classic Suzhou garden were removed. It was no longer the beautiful and serene mecca it had once been.

But there is still pride. It is still the most beautiful building on campus. Its towering pagoda, glistening in the sun, has become the University's icon. It graces publications and websites.

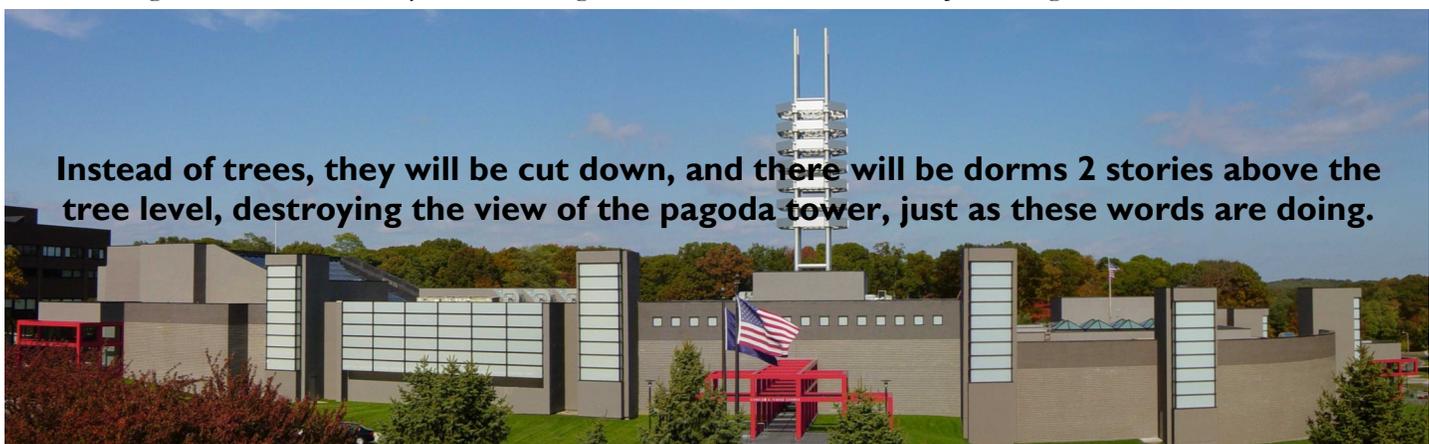
On a campus with more than 50% students of color, the planned dorms were decided on by a committee of nine white men and one white woman. They reported to a white Sr. Vice President who reported to President Stanley. The plans were finalized with no one on campus, Asian or not, having been told the dorms would destroy the Wang Center's aesthetics.

The Toll Drive Residences are two stories higher than the Wang Center's highest walls, even given the slope of the land. Since the main entrance to the campus and the academic mall are on higher ground, looking down at the Wang Center, the pagoda icon will no longer stand alone on the horizon.

What pride will their be when the icon is destroyed? How will the Asian faculty and staff feel then? "Ignored"? While they may not say anything to his face because he is their 'boss', how will being "ignored" make the Asian faculty and staff feel about President Stanley?

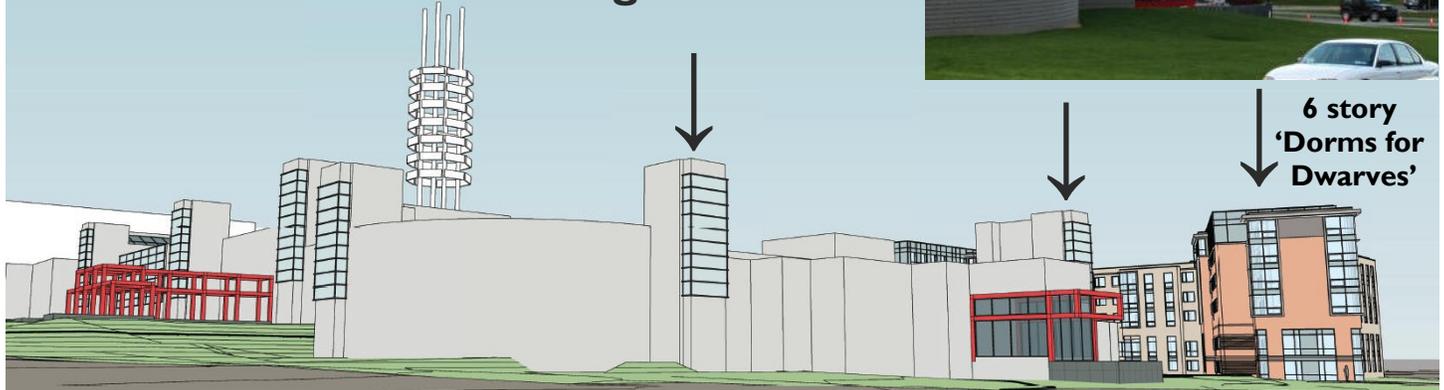
Power should be used wisely, judiciously and fairly. It is Stony Brook's loss that it has not been.

- Ja Young, Alumni Editor, AA E-Zine



Photos: Ja Young, Photoshop: Jeffrey Ng

Is President Stanley Lying About the Effect the New Dorms Will Have on the Wang Center? Or Does He Really Believe the Wang Center Light Towers Are 6 Stories High?



On September 28, members of the Asian Student Coalition delivered a letter to President Sam Stanley asking for a meeting to discuss the proposed Toll Drive Residence Halls, the negative effect they will have on the Wang Center, and why a nearby alternative space was never considered. The signatories included past and present Presidents of AA E-Zine, AAJ, ASA, CASB, China Blue, ISO, JSO, PUSO, and Taiko Tides. In response, they were given copies of KSQ Architects drawings, which they already had and which had provoked their letter. The drawings, one seen above, falsely show the Wang Center light towers as 6 stories high. Other drawings, using the same false height, show the 6 story dorms as not visible from the academic mall, implying they would not have a negative impact on the Wang Center pagoda tower. The original KSQ rendering on the next page more accurately shows the true height of the dorms towering over Wang.

Excerpts of letter given to the President

Dear President Stanley,

Last May, student(s) and alumni... wrote to you privately and publicly requesting that you stop the planned construction of the Toll Drive Residences. There has been no response from you. The plans are still listed on the KSG Architects website and the cafeteria portion on FSA's.

Even more distressing were the photo-illustration and drawings commissioned by the University after the request. These were given to faculty members who asked to meet with the head of the SBU/FSA planning committee.

These faculty were part of the group which had created the original Asian Faculty Association. They had invited Charles Wang for his first visit to campus in 1996 where he was asked to fund an Asian American Center.

The photo, even though taken from the best possible angle, at the best possible time of year, and poorly drawn to have the dorms seem lower than they

really will be, still showed just how horrendous the Wang Center garden would become. The six-story dorms, towering four stories over the garden, will overpower it, destroying the garden's beauty and serenity. While in the past two years its pond has often been left unfilled and barren, in earlier years it was a wonderful place to hang out.

Another special design of the Wang Center will be rendered unusable forever. The curtains covering the Noh style theatre windows, which allow the exterior to become part of the interior, will never be able to open again. Not only will the current natural landscape be replaced by bricks, with dorm lights going on and off, opening the curtains would have an impossible to control negative impact on any performance...

Worse, however, was the drawing that made it appear the 6-story dorms were the same height as the 3 to 4 story Wang Center light towers. Upon seeing the drawing, the first reaction is anger. Does the University think anyone is stupid enough to believe this?

The second reaction is fear. What if the University planners believe this?

Yes, we know that stories can be of different heights, and the front of the Wang Center is on higher ground, but the light towers are only as high as the four story Wang Center conference rooms by the Skylight Lobby, and the first floor of that is below ground even on the lower rear side.

The dorms as presented in that drawing by KSQ Architects would have to be dorms for dwarves with below normal ceiling height.

Because the main entrance and the academic mall are higher than the Wang Center, removing the tree barrier behind Wang and building dorms of any height would completely ruin the view of the Wang Center.

But six story dorms, higher than any portion of the Wang Center walls, will destroy the view of its pagoda tower sculpture as well. The pagoda has become the University's icon, pictured on countless brochures and websites, and even the Alumni Association credit card.



Original KSQ Architects rendering showing truer height of Toll Drive Residence Halls towering over Wang Center.

We fail to understand why you would choose to destroy the Wang Center's aesthetics when an easy alternative - dorms by the stadium / tennis courts - is available. It is less than a two-minute walk away on a different side of the Union lot.

This alternative space was initially offered to Charles Wang for the Wang Center. It has room for construction of more dorms now and the ability to expand in the future. New high temp pipes have already been installed. Like the popular University of Texas at Austin stadium dorms, dorms in this alternative space could be for athletes and supporters of our increasingly popular sports teams.

We fail to understand why a group of nine white males and one white female could make this decision for a campus that is not monochrome....

We fail to understand why no constituent group on the campus was ever informed about the effect of the Toll Drive Residences on the Wang Center. Actually, why were no constituent groups even told about the plans at all?

We would like you to meet with us to explain why you are disregarding the feelings of the Asian and Asian American community. And it is not just our community. The Wang Center is considered the most beautiful building on campus and one of the most popular non-student event venues. (Students groups have difficulty getting access.) Some departments reserve space a

semester in advance to guarantee they can get the dates they want.

Charles Wang's goal was for everyone to learn something about Asia just by being in the building. How does destroying its classic Suzhou garden teach anything but a classic lesson in white privilege?

As student Melani Tiongson said, the proposed dorms are "like a slap in the face to my culture" and reminiscent of the days when people of color like her were "shafted for the benefit of something allegedly 'greater.'"

Why do you not think that beneath their polite demeanor, Asian and Asian American faculty and staff do not feel that you have treated them just as disrespectfully?

Why you think this will endear Asian and Asian American students to become supportive alumni of Stony Brook? Or make current alumni become supportive?

Why is nearness to the academic mall more important than everyone on campus who appreciates the Wang Center's beauty?

We would like to meet with you so that you can tell us, in your own words and to our faces, why you believe we and the Asian and Asian American community at Stony Brook are less important to you than residence halls.

Sincerely,
 Kevin Diangkinay, ASC Co-Chair,
 PUSO Past-President
 Wilson Jiang, Save Wang Co-Chair, ASC Co-Chair,
 SBU AA E-Zine Editor
 Max Wei, Save Wang Co-Chair, SB Photo Club VP,
 SBU AA E-Zine Photo Editor
 Sam La Fleur, Taiko Tides President
 Christine Sicwaten, PUSO President
 Winnie Chan, CASB President
 Audrey See Tho, ISO President
 Derek Wu, China Blue President
 Christine Lee, ASA President
 Maro Kariya, JSO President
 Fariyah Sattar, Bengalis Unite President
 and AAJ, AA E-Zine, ASA,
 CASB, China Blue, ISO, JSO,
 PUSO, SBU AA E-Zine,
 Taiko Tides, and
 TSA Cabinet members.

www.aezine.org/savewang

