

STONY BROOK, NY, November 3, 2008—The **Stony Brook University Ballroom Dance Team** will be hosting an intercollegiate ballroom dance competition at Stony Brook University on **Sunday November 9, 2008**. Admission to this event is free for all spectators and will be held in the Students Activities Center in Ballroom A starting at 9 a.m. The Stony Brook Ballroom Dance Team has been an active and successful student-run organization for many years and the team will be hosting their very own competition for the second time.

The competition will involve the participation of a highly esteemed judging panel including Bill Davies, who is currently the Eastern Vice President of the Professional Dancers Federation and holds many titles such as nine time “North American Champion” and two time “United States Champion”; Yang Chen has served on the Board of the NY Chapter of USA DANCE since 1994, and as the President since 2004; James West and Safwat Gerges manage and own franchises of Arthur Murray dance studios in the New York area, and as far as Cairo and Lebanon.

Part of the day’s events will include a professional showcase by world-renowned British Open Professional Latin Finalists, the undefeated 11-time U.S. National Champions, and part of the top three finalists of all the major championships in the world: **Eugene Katsevman and Maria Manusova**. The professional showcase is scheduled at 12:30 p.m.

On Saturday night, November 8, the team is hosting a fun social dance event open to all dancers, which will be held in the **Student Activities Center (SAC) Ballroom A at 7 pm**. This will be an event where team competitors will have the opportunity to socialize and enjoy themselves among dancers from other colleges by participating in fun dances such as “Three person Salsa or Reverse Lead American Tango.” Light refreshments will be served. The team has currently registered 60 couples in attendance from Hartwick, NYU, and RPI. Registration is still open and the team anticipates promising success with continued growth in the coming years in hopes of becoming one of the well-known and well-attended competitions in the Northeast.

The SBU Ballroom Dance Team has continued to grow and expand on campus with every coming semester. The organization hosted the popular “**Dancing with the SBU Stars**” back in April, which was a big hit on campus. The event paired faculty and staff with dance members who taught them a routine to perform and execute. The two teams competed against one another and the student body along with faculty attendees placed their ballots for their favorite team. Last year, the team established “**Winter in the City**” a winter formal. This year’s event is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, December 12th** in Tabler Arts Center located on campus. The event raises money for the campus-wide charity fundraiser, “Tis’ the Season.”

The team is expecting a substantial amount of spectators consisting of students, family and friends to attend the competition on Sunday. The team has put in a lot of work and creativity required for both planning and hosting such a major event. The Stony Brook Ballroom Dance Team is hoping to put Stony Brook on the map in the world of competitive ballroom dancing. They invite you to come and enjoy the event.

For more information please visit <http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/ballroom/Home.html>