



# **2022-2023 Scholarship Report**

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# A Word from the Dean

I am pleased to share with you the 2022-2023 scholarship report for the School of Communication and Journalism.

These scholarships recognize some of the School's best students and help them to continue pursuing their degrees. They are the result of generous support from friends of the School, including several current and former faculty.

The 2022-2023 academic year was another year of exciting achievements and growth for the School.

We continue to expand our degree offerings, including a new Bachelor of Science in Mass Communication and a redesigned Master of Science in Journalism. As the School grows, we are redoubling our commitment to hands-on, experiential education.

I am profoundly grateful for the support and dedication to helping our students achieve their dreams. I invite you to get to know some of them in this report.



**Laura Lindenfeld**  
**Dean, SOCJ**  
**Executive Director, Alda Center**





## About the School of Communication & Journalism

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At the School of Communication and Journalism, we believe that accurate, engaging communication can help to create a fairer, more just, more rational world.

The School offers a variety of graduate and undergraduate programs in communication, science communication and journalism that emphasize ethical, engaging and inclusive research and storytelling across media platforms.

Students graduate with a strong foundation of communication theory and

research, and gain practical skills in digital media through hands-on courses and professional experiences.

*Accurate, engaging communication can create a fairer, more just, more rational world.*

The School's undergraduate journalism program is accredited by the ACEJMC. The School is also home to the Colvin Center for International Reporting and the Center for News Literacy, and works in close collaboration with the internationally known Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science.

Learn more at [stonybrook.edu/journalism](http://stonybrook.edu/journalism).



# Robert & Rhoda Amon Memorial Scholarship

## Christine Kelley

Christine Kelley is a graduating senior. She is dedicated to journalism for its power to illustrate different ways of life, the contributions people can make to society, and how people are affected by the biggest issues of our time - climate change, war, and human rights issues.

Her senior capstone project investigated the legacy of HIV and AIDS, one of the world's deadliest epidemics. The interviews she conducted with survivors left a deep impact on her work.

Christine explores many roles in journalism: writer, producer, videographer, editor and storyteller. Her work has been honed as a reporter and editor at The Statesman and a reporter at Hawaii News Now, where

she highlighted in print, video and podcast the stories of local restaurateurs affected by an island-wide plastic ban.

Christine is learning Czech, traveling a lot and conducting hundreds of hours of research in aid of her latest project - a book about her second great-grandmother. She aspires to be a writer who uplifts the world by enthusiastically participating in the community.

At Stony Brook, she has demonstrated significant growth in her ability to write, research and report. Throughout her work, she approaches journalism with humility, empathy and a desire to make an impact on the world.



# Catherine Ayscue Memorial Scholarship

## Lauren Canavan

Lauren Canavan is a graduating senior.

Her roles on campus include music and news editor; podcast host at The Stony Brook Press; reporter and engineer at The Stony Brook Media Group; news director, social media manager and event coordinator at WUSB; and secretary for Stony Brook's Society of Professional Journalists.

She has found that much of her growth as a journalist has occurred while combining the foundational elements from the Stony Brook journalism curriculum with a wide range of industry experience.

As a news intern with WSHU Public Radio, Lauren learned to conduct multidisciplinary research and built her

interview skills to get to the heart of each story.

Lauren participated in Reporting RISE, a between Stony Brook journalism students and NASA scientists. She worked with scientists and reported on scientific tests at New Mexico's Potrillo Volcanic Fields.

Lauren combined her love of music with media and reporting: she organized several music festivals, interviewed artists, created media assets for broadcast, and continues to engage with New York City-based creators.

Having such a diverse experience in media, Lauren is well prepared to enter the journalism field with confidence.



# Aronson & Virag Scholarship for Narrative Journalism

## Maria Lynders

Maria Lynders is a graduating senior.

An avid reader and writer, Maria's work combines her passion for creative writing and reporting about real people and events.

She won a Hearst Award for personality/profile writing for her ability to bring her characters to life on the page. Maria finds journalism can result in action, spread awareness, and uplift voices that often go unheard.

Much of her growth as a journalist has occurred while combining the foundational elements from the Stony Brook journalism curriculum with a wide range of industry experience.

Maria is eager to pursue a rewarding and challenging career in journalism.

## Keating Zelenke

Keating Zelenke is a graduating senior.

She won a Hearst Award for her long-form reporting and aspires to start her own publication. Keating garnered awards from The Press Club of Long Island: Best Student Narrative and Best Historical Narrative.

Acknowledging that journalism requires a wide range of skills, Keating immersed herself in activities including graphic design, video and audio editing, website development, copy editing and photography.

She was elected to serve as the Executive Director of The Stony Brook Press. In this role, Keating excelled at guiding fellow journalists to create the most compelling stories.



# Carol Chernow Memorial Scholarship

## Sonya Gugliara

Sonya Gugliara is a rising junior.

She is a news writer for The Statesman and reports on-air for WUSB radio's news on campus.

In the fall of 2023, Sonya will serve as the assistant news editor of The Statesman and will complete an internship at The Staten Island Advance.

She is drawn to the power of words for their capability to go far beyond storytelling and serve as a catalyst for change to improve lives and report the truth.

Sonya is committed to the field of journalism as it allows her to continually gain knowledge and remain adaptable to an ever-changing world.





# Daniel Conway Memorial Scholarship

## Xenia Gonikberg

Xenia Gonikberg is a graduating senior.

She served as an assistant opinions editor for The Statesman and a news contributor for WUSB 90.1FM.

Through her work, she aims to craft narratives that highlight an individual or a story, as a way of shedding light on important and sometimes overlooked issues.

Xenia created an audio story about hospitals in Connecticut facing financial difficulties in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The story informed residents about the rising cost of healthcare in the state due to staff shortages and higher labor costs.

She is passionate about crafting relevant stories that illustrate how communities are impacted by global events like the pandemic.

By producing her own radio show at WUSB and crafting her senior capstone project on strategies to combat drug overdoses in our communities, Xenia focused her career path in the audio and digital fields.

She also is passionate about social justice, accessibility and promoting news literacy for younger generations.



# Matthew T. Crosson Memorial Scholarship

## Sonia Gugliara

Sonya Gugliara is a rising junior.

She is a news writer for The Statesman and reports on-air for WUSB radio's news on campus. In the fall of 2023, Sonya will serve as the assistant news editor of The Statesman and will complete an internship at The Staten Island Advance.

She is drawn to the power of words for their capability to go far beyond storytelling and serve as a catalyst for change to improve lives and report the truth. Sonya is committed to the field of journalism as it allows her to continually gain knowledge and remain adaptable to an ever-changing world.

## Justin Mitselmakher

Justin Mitselmakher is a graduating senior. He has worked as a student ambassador with the Stony Brook University marketing department; Dow Jones News Fund; and with the Stony Brook Media Group.

Justin is dedicated to people-driven journalism that illustrates a way of life and tells powerful stories about societal issues.

Justin is also interested in foreign reporting. A first-generation American with parents born in present-day Ukraine, he joined a reporting trip sponsored by the Colvin Center for to Moldova. What matters most to Justin is upholding journalistic practices and delivering news that moves people.



# George I. DeWan Memorial Scholarship

## Rafael Fonseca Cruvinel

Rafael Fonseca Cruvinel is a rising senior.

Rafael publishes articles relevant to the Latino community on Long Island at Tu Prensa Local. Using his language skills in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, he can connect with various sources and audiences.

Most recently, he published an article in Spanish on New York's housing crisis featuring interviews with immigrants, lawmakers and community organization leaders.

Rafael is a staff writer, music editor and business manager at Stony Brook Press, where he writes about economic conditions on Long Island, conservation and music.

Rafael is passionate about creative writing and in 2019 he completed a creative writing and literature gap year program at Oxford Royale Academy in the United Kingdom. His ultimate objective is to publish a book and continue to write narrative feature pieces that have an impact on people's lives.



# Herman Klurfeld Memorial Scholarship

## Viola Flowers

Viola Flowers is a rising senior.

In 2023, she completed an internship at NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt that included producing stories for the show's Kids Edition.

Viola was appointed the editor-in-chief of The Statesman and has reported on Stony Brook's Title IX issues and at-risk youth on Long Island.

In the spring of 2023, she became the first Stony Brook University student to win a Hearst Award for International Reporting and an Overseas Press Club Foundation Award. Viola has written for the Times Review Newsgroup, The Suffolk Times, Riverhead News-Review and the Northforker magazine.

Viola shows remarkable talent as a journalist, editor and team leader at The Statesman.

Her goal as a leader is to inspire the writers and editors to take what they've learned in class, apply it to their work for The Statesman, and use the experience to secure real-world jobs. At the Times Review Media Group, Viola researched and reported on the negligent care at a youth ranch on Long Island that resulted in death, missing minors and recurring violence among residents.

She aims to continue shedding light on tragedies like this, helping those who are suffering and may not have the voice to expose it.



# Marcy McGinnis Scholarship for Broadcast Journalism

## Jane Montalto

Jane Montalto is a rising senior.

She serves as the executive director of the Stony Brook Press. Jane gained significant editing experience at the magazine as a copyeditor, multimedia editor, managing editor and executive editor.

She also creates engaging multimedia assets for the magazine and won a Press Club of Long Island Media Award for her illustrations.

Jane interns at WSHU Public Radio, where she reports on a variety of topics including healthcare, environmental issues and local events.

Jane prides herself on finding ways to support her team of journalists by building an inclusive community in the newsroom. She plans to continue her efforts in journalism and to be a voice for those who may not be heard.



# Paul A. Schreiber Scholarship

## Skylar Sena

Skylar Sena is a rising senior.

As a journalist whose passions lie between writing and editing, she serves as the copy chief and a contributing arts and culture writer at The Statesman. In these roles, she explores a diverse range of styles and forms of writing. As the copy chief, Skylar developed vital leadership skills by streamlining a system for editing and publication, delegating tasks to her team, and learning how best to communicate to all stakeholders in the publication process.

Skylar is actively pursuing a career in magazine and book publishing.

In 2023, she is interning with Harvey Klinger Literary Agency. In this role, she reviews book queries and publication proposals sent in by aspiring writers. Skylar is also a contributing writer for Spoon University, where she is able to connect with fellow journalists, learn from industry leaders, and contribute in both writing and editing capacities.

Skylar enjoys being immersed in the production process, including writing, layout, multimedia and editing. She plans to pursue graduate studies in journalism.



# The Martin Buskin Award for Campus Journalism

## Melanie Formosa

In her four years at Stony Brook's School of Communication and Journalism, Melanie did just about everything.

Melanie was the program director and president of Long Island's largest non-commercial, free-form radio station, WUSB Stony Brook 90.1 FM and 107.3 FM. Melanie freelanced with WSHU Public Radio and was the lead copy editor for The Stony Brook Press.

She played a key role in the launch of the Stony Brook Media Group, an initiative that gives students more time in the production studio.

Her efforts have been rewarded with any number of awards, prizes and scholarships. After graduation, she moved to London for the Marie Colvin Fellowship, a summer internship with Times Radio, a new venture from the London Times.



**The SoCJ's students, faculty and staff are profoundly grateful for the support of our generous donors and friends.**

**To learn more and support the SoCJ, visit [stonybrook.edu/alumni-giving/giving](https://stonybrook.edu/alumni-giving/giving).**