



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Senate  
**FROM:** Maurie McInnis, President  
**DATE:** February 5, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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### **University News and Accolades**

#### **Panel Discussion Explores the Future of Stony Brook Southampton**

On January 11, members of the Stony Brook University leadership team took part in a panel discussion to discuss the future of Stony Brook Southampton, the vision for the campus, and partnerships with the local community. At the sold-out event, organized by the Express News Group and moderated by Joseph P. Shaw, executive editor of Express News Group, the panel addressed the campus infrastructure and improvements, healthcare access on the East End, and community partnerships.

Panel members included Jed Shivers, senior vice president for finance and administration, Stony Brook University; William Wertheim, MD, interim executive vice president, [Stony Brook Medicine](#); Wendy Pearson, vice president for strategic initiatives, Stony Brook University; Christopher Gobler, distinguished professor, [School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences \(SoMAS\)](#) at Stony Brook University; Tim Bishop, the former Southampton College provost and former U.S. Representative; New York State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr. and New York State Senator Anthony Palumbo.

#### **Stony Brook Ranks Among 50 Best Graduate Programs for Entrepreneurs**

*Princeton Review/Entrepreneur* magazine recently recognized Stony Brook in its rankings for the [Top 50 Best Graduate Programs for Entrepreneurs in 2024](#). For more than 20 years, the College of Business has offered graduate courses in entrepreneurship that are unique due to their interdisciplinary nature and experiential learning approach, mentorship experiences, and competitions. MBAs and other graduate students find support and opportunities in the [Small Business Development Center](#), [Center for Entrepreneurial Finance](#) and [Innovation Center](#).

#### **OVPR Awards \$1M in Seed Grants to 21 Research Projects**

The [Office of the Vice President of Research \(OVPR\)](#) has awarded seed grants for 21 projects encompassing research from a wide range of disciplines such as biomedical engineering, pharmacology, computer science, microbiology, astronomy and linguistics. This funding cycle from Fall 2023 totals \$1 million to faculty leading these projects.

The OVPR Seed Grant Program gives Stony Brook University faculty a competitive edge in securing external research funds by offering support for preliminary work that will lead to larger and more impactful research projects. A team of faculty reviewers assess project proposals from faculty to determine a proposals' likelihood of success in acquiring extramural funding. Typical

proposals include projects as proof of concept, feasibility studies or the development of interdisciplinary collaborative research.

### **New Executive Director for the Long Island High Tech Incubator**

Andrew Wooten has been named the new Executive Director for LIHTI. Andrew's prior role was the Founder and Managing Director of the City Innovations Collaborative at the City College of New York, where he acquired grant awards and commercial commitments of over \$35 million to build a new life science incubator and associated programs.

### **Stony Brook Only Hospital on Long Island to be Named Among America's 50 Best Hospitals**

For the second year in a row, Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) has been named one of America's 50 Best Hospitals by Healthgrades, a leading resource that evaluates approximately 4,500 hospitals nationwide. This achievement places SBUH among the top 1 percent of hospitals nationwide, reflecting its commitment to exceptional patient care. SBUH is the only hospital on Long Island to be ranked among the 50 Best Hospitals. As part of this ranking, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital also shares in this recognition.

### **Stony Brook Hosts First Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit**

On November 16, the Renaissance School of Medicine in collaboration with Stony Brook's Black Men in White Coats chapter — the first on Long Island — hosted more than 500 third through twelfth grade students, educators, parents, college students, healthcare professionals and community leaders from across Suffolk, Nassau and New York City for Stony Brook's inaugural Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit. The Summit, funded by the Renaissance School of Medicine and the University and Hospital Community Relations Office, was free to attend and was staffed by more than 100 faculty, staff and student volunteers.

### **SBUH Recognized by United Nations for Climate Change Commitment**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has recognized Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) for its public commitments to decarbonizing its operations and improving resilience in the face of climate change. As part of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), HHS announced December 3 that SBUH was one of more than 130 organizations to join the White House-HHS Health Sector climate pledge, committing to align with the Biden administration's goal of reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

### **Individual Accolades**

#### **Prerana Shrestha Receives \$2.2 Million from the National Institute of Mental Health**

Dr. Prerana Shrestha, from the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, has received a \$2.2 million grant from the NIMH to research psychological trauma. Her team will explore why certain subjects persist in the brain over time.

#### **Ward Appointed Director of the Pollock-Krasner House**

Matthew K. Ward has been appointed the Eugene V. and Clare E. Thaw Director of the Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center. He succeeds Helen A. Harrison, who retired from the position on January 18.

Ward, an art historian and curator from Long Island, New York, received his Master's degree in Art History and Criticism from Stony Brook University and is currently a PhD candidate here. His academic work has focused on early American modernism, specifically the nascent American

career of Willem de Kooning. He has served on the Brooklyn Museum's ASK App team developing educational content, as instructor of record at Stony Brook University, Hofstra University and St. Joseph's College, and as a researcher at the Willem de Kooning Foundation. His most recent position was senior director of Curatorial Affairs at the Museum of the Southwest in Midland, Texas, where his exhibitions included "Frida Kahlo: Her Photos" and "Warhol x Scholder: Cowboys & Indians." For the museum's contemporary series, Ward organized first solo exhibitions of work by living Asian, Hispanic, and Black artists.

### **Faculty and Staff Honored at Service Awards Ceremony**

Stony Brook University employees who marked milestones of 25 years or more of service in 2023 were honored January 24 with a Service Recognition Luncheon at the Bauman Center for Leadership and Service. Each awardee received a certificate and a pin, while honorees celebrating 40, 45, 50 and 55 years of service were called to the stage to be recognized.

### **Klaus Mueller Named a 2024 IEEE Fellow**

Professor Klaus Mueller, from the Department of Computer Science at Stony Brook University, has been recognized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Board of Directors as a 2024 IEEE Fellow for contributions in image reconstruction and visualization. IEEE is a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of technology for the benefit of humanity.

### **Journalism Students Win Hearst Awards for Video Storytelling and Feature Writing**

Two students from Stony Brook's School of Communication and Journalism (SoCJ) won Hearst Journalism Awards for video storytelling and feature writing. Rafael Fonseca Cruvinel, a senior, placed 11th of the top 20 winners in the country for his feature story on pop culture's influence on Oheka Castle. Recent graduate Justin Mitselmakher also placed 11th out of 20 in the multimedia narrative storytelling category for his video on the history of HIV/AIDS in the U.S., as told through the eyes of a New Yorker.

### **Wei Zhao Named a 2023 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors**

Wei Zhao, co-director of Radiology Research and professor of Radiology and Biomedical Engineering at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, is one of 162 people elected as a 2023 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) — the highest professional distinction accorded solely to academic inventors. The NAI Fellows Program was established to highlight academic inventors who have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development, and the welfare of society. Election to NAI Fellow status is the highest professional distinction accorded solely to academic inventors.

### **Three SBU Researchers Win 2023 Young Academic Inventor's Award**

The National Academy of Inventors, Stony Brook University Chapter (NAI-SBU) presented its 2023 Young Academic Inventors Award to Sima Mofakam, Jann Stavro and Yifan Zhou. **Sima Mofakam** won the award "for her inventions of an automated method to measure the level of consciousness, as well as on the neuromodulatory approaches to restore consciousness in brain injury patients." **Jann Stavro** won the award "for his inventions on the development of novel amorphous selenium sensors for medical imaging applications." **Yifan Zhou** won the award "for her inventions on the development of a series of quantum computing algorithms that can be successfully implemented on today's quantum computers to solve large scale power system problems."

### **Alexander Orlov Named New Chair of American Chemical Society's Environmental Division**

Alexander Orlov, professor of [Materials Science and Chemical Engineering](#) in the [College of Engineering and Applied Sciences](#), has been elected chair of the American Chemical Society's (ACS) Environmental Division. With a four-year term starting January 1, 2024, Orlov will lead the division's extensive community of scientists toward the goal of applying concepts in chemistry to address the world's leading environmental and sustainability issues.

### **Professor Christian Schnell Named a 2024 AMS Fellow**

**Christian Schnell**, professor in the [College of Arts and Sciences Department of Mathematics](#), is among 40 mathematical scientists from around the world recently named [Fellows of the American Mathematical Society \(AMS\)](#) for 2024.

### **Kevin Reed Joins National Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate**

Stony Brook University Associate Provost for Climate and Sustainability Programming **Kevin Reed** has been appointed to the [National Academies' Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate \(BASC\)](#). Reed was recently named interim director of Academic, Research and Commercialization Programs for [The New York Climate Exchange](#) and is a professor at the [School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences \(SoMAS\)](#). In addition to providing strategic guidance for The Exchange, Reed leads the Climate Extremes Modeling (CEM) Group at Stony Brook, which he founded.

### **Barry Barish Awarded National Medal of Science**

**Barry Barish**, the President's Distinguished Endowed Chair in Physics at Stony Brook University, [was one of nine people](#) awarded the prestigious National Medal of Science by President Joe Biden. Barish, a world-renowned experimental physicist and Nobel Laureate [who joined](#) Stony Brook's [Department of Physics and Astronomy](#) earlier this year, received the award October 24 from President Biden at the White House. The prestigious award is among the highest honors in the scientific community.

### **Stony Brook University Professor Elected 2023 APS Fellow**

The [American Physical Society \(APS\)](#) announced that **Derek Teaney**, professor in Stony Brook University's [Department of Physics and Astronomy](#), is among the organization's 2023 Fellows. This distinction recognizes Teaney as a leading physicist whose research and service as an educator have helped advance the frontiers of science and technology.

### **Enrollment Update**

A total of 24,537 students were registered at the beginning of Day 5 in spring 2024, 273 more than last year at the same point in the term. Compared to spring 2023, the following changes were observed by area:

- +14 West Campus undergraduates
- +246 Graduate School (West, HSC, Southampton)
  - 5 School of Professional Development
- +23 East Campus/HSC
- 36 Southampton location

The final enrollment snapshot is scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Student Affairs Update**

- New students (first years and transfers) participated in New Seawolf Welcome, a series of events that aim to get students acclimated to Stony Brook and to introduce them to faculty, staff, and fellow students. Each student had a unique schedule of assigned workshops and "Choose Your Own Workshops" as well as robust evening programming.
- Many educational and cultural events are planned throughout the month of February to celebrate Black History Month and recognize the culture and historical contributions of the Pan-African community: [stonybrook.edu/bhm](http://stonybrook.edu/bhm).
- Student Affairs sent out a message to all faculty and staff at the beginning of the semester reminding them of student support resources such as the Red Book. The Red Book is a comprehensive website with important and helpful information to guide faculty and staff on how to best help students in need including how to respond to student situations such as emotional distress, disruptive behavior, medical emergency, or other concern that requires support or intervention, as well as contact information for campus resources.
- Student Affairs hosted Winterfest, from January 8-12, 2024. This was a new initiative that featured workshops and lectures on various topics such as arts and crafts, meditation, cooking lessons, fitness classes, etc. offered by more than 30 faculty, staff, students, and OLLI members for the entire campus community.
- Stony Brook Esports won another national championship in the Super Smash gaming category. The Valorant team has been invited to participate in a national competition and recruitment event in Hawaii.
- Student Affairs partnered with Athletics to encourage student attendance at the men's basketball game on January 22. The student turnout was strong.
- During February and March, the Career Center will be hosting 4 Job and Internship Fairs this semester. Over 100 companies and organizations will be participating. In addition, the Center for Service Learning and Community Service will be hosting a Volunteer Fair on March 27 for students to find opportunities to give back to the community.
- Student Life hosted two Involvement Fairs this January to connect students with our 350+ student clubs and organizations.

## **Advancement Update**

Since the start of the 2024 fiscal year, \$595.3 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 5,067 donors. Their investments in our students, research, healthcare, and campus programs provide critical support, helping to elevate the University.

### **Generous contributions since the last update include:**

- \$1,000,000 gift towards Stony Brook's strategic initiatives
- \$1,000,000 bequest supporting the Renaissance School of Medicine
- \$685,570 bequest supporting doctoral students at Stony Brook
- \$500,000 pledge for graduate fellowships in the Department of Mathematics
- \$500,000 pledge towards research in the Department of Chemistry
- \$450,000 bequest supporting the College of Arts and Sciences
- \$400,000 in gifts and pledges supporting undergraduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences in Biochemistry or Biology
- \$400,000 in gifts and pledges towards the Staller Center for the Arts
- \$350,000 in pledges towards cancer research in the Stony Brook Cancer Center

- \$300,000 in pledges supporting professorships in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
- \$266,670 in pledges supporting undergraduate student scholarships
- \$250,000 pledge supporting students in the Renaissance School of Medicine
- \$200,000 in pledges for the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Medicine at Stony Brook
- \$200,000 gift to the EOP/AIM program
- \$175,000 gift towards doctoral graduate students in the Department of Anthropology
- \$159,000 pledge to support research in ecosystem health and restoration
- \$150,202 gift towards the Pediatric Emergency Department, Stony Brook Children's Hospital
- \$150,000 pledge for the Pre-Law Program supporting students
- \$150,000 gift towards food education initiatives
- \$125,000 pledge supporting students in the College of Business
- \$100,000 gift supporting research for abstract expressionism
- \$100,000 gift towards programs supporting multivocal humanities for the department of Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies
- \$100,000 pledge towards Endowed Professor of Ocean Conservation Science
- \$100,000 pledge for scholarships in the Department of Computer Science
- \$100,000 pledge towards Emergency Department Endowed Fund
- \$100,000 gift towards the electron microscopy lab in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- \$100,000 pledge towards the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- \$100,000 pledge towards scholarships in the Department of Physics
- \$100,000 gift for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences supporting student outreach programs furthering science education

#### **Upcoming Advancement Events:**

Stony Brook Scholarship Celebration – March 19, 2024

Stars of Stony Brook Gala – April 29, 2024

Alumni Scholarship Golf Classic - June 11, 2024

#### **Recent Events**

- **A Winter's Gathering at Stony Brook Southampton** – Stony Brook Southampton hosted its annual holiday reception "A Winter's Gathering," on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The festivities included refreshments, an alumni sponsored photo booth, children's crafts, family activities and more.
- **Black History Month:** Black History Month kicked off on Thursday, February 1, with the "Student Union Takeover: A Celebration of Culture and Unity," presented by the Office of Diversity, Intercultural and Community Engagement (DICE), and the Black Student Union.

## **Athletics Update**<sup>1</sup>

- Billy Cosh, formerly the offensive coordinator at Western Michigan University, was named the new head football coach at Stony Brook on December 13. Prior to his one season at Western Michigan, Cosh served as the offensive coordinator at Richmond and VMI.
- Stony Brook student-athletes finished the Fall 2023 term with a 3.23 cumulative GPA. This is the second-highest mark in program history behind only the Spring 2023 GPA of 3.26.
- Stony Brook student-athletes Edmond Kaiser (Men's Soccer) and Grace Weigele (Women's Cross Country) were named SUNY Scholar-Athletes of the Year in recognition of their combined academic and athletic achievements.
- Women's Basketball entered the weekend with a record of 16-2 and leads the CAA with a 6-1 mark. The team is currently ranked No. 8 in the Collegiate Insider Mid-Major Top 25 poll. Ashley Langford was one of 10 head coaches named to the watch list for the 2024 Kathy Delaney-Smith Mid-Major Coach of the Year Award.
- Men's Basketball has made four national television appearances, the most recent being an 86-78 overtime victory on January 27 over UNC Wilmington at Island Federal Arena. The team hosted its annual Stony Brook Children's Hospital Night, in which each player wears the name of a patient on the back of their jersey, on February 3.
- Women's Lacrosse was selected as the preseason No. 10 team in the country by Inside Lacrosse. The team was also chosen as the CAA Preseason favorite while senior Ellie Masera was named CAA Preseason Player of the Year.
- Men's Lacrosse was chosen to finish second in the CAA Preseason poll and graduate Dylan Pallonetti was named CAA Preseason Co-Player of the Year.

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<sup>1</sup> As of January 31, 2024