



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate
FROM: Maurie McInnis, President
DATE: December 4, 2023
SUBJECT: President's Report

University News and Accolades

Inaugural Stony Brook Stony Awards

Stony Brook University hosted its first-ever Stony Awards on November 29. This event was an opportunity to formally recognize and honor outstanding staff, faculty, and healthcare workers. Finalists were selected by campus nominations. The 2023 Stony Awards winners are: **Omar Badessi** – President's Award for Nurturing a Welcoming, Inclusive Campus Culture; **Sujatha Palat** – President's Award for Excellence in Patient Service; **Heather A. Montague** – Excellence in Leadership Award; **Ursula Zalewski** – Community Award; **Srinivas Pentyala** – SB YOU Award (Wolfie's Positive Paw Award); **Srinivas Pentyala** – President's Stony Brook Champion Award.

Stony Brook Celebrates Upgraded \$1.6M Seawulf Computational Cluster

Stony Brook's SeaWulf computational cluster has been upgraded with a new high-performance computing system that introduces a significant improvement in memory bandwidth, resulting in applications running 2-4x faster. Stony Brook is the first academic institution in the United States to set up this new HPC solution that uses the Intel Xeon CPU Max series with high bandwidth memory. The upgrade to Seawulf was celebrated with a reception in the Institute for Advanced Computational Science building on November 7th.

Stony Brook University Recognized for Strides in Diversity and Inclusion

Stony Brook University received recognition from *Insight into Diversity's 2023 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award*. One of the key focuses of this award was the fact that Stony Brook was able to raise four-year graduation rates by 18% in the last decade, while closing equity gaps. Other important factors included the Simons STEM Scholars Program; Project REACH; and the IDEA Fellows Program in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Stony Brook in Groundbreaking Partnership Addressing Healthcare Disparities

Stony Brook University and four other universities received a \$3.8M NIH grant focusing on Latinx and migrant low-income communities. The research program is supported by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and will address healthcare disparities in Latinx and migrant low-income communities and the social and legal hurdles that these populations face when receiving primary care medical services. Professor **Miguel Muñoz-Laboy** is the co-principal investigator.

Individual Accolades

Adam Gonzalez Selected as SUNY Hispanic Leadership Institute Fellow

Adam Gonzalez, associate professor and vice chair of Behavioral Health, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at the Renaissance School of Medicine (RSOM) at Stony Brook University, is among eleven Hispanic/Latinx leaders and allies to be selected as fellows for State University of New York's (SUNY) 2024 Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI) class.

Stephen A. Koch Receives American Chemical Society Award

Stephen A. Koch, Stony Brook University professor emeritus in the Department of Chemistry, was recently named the recipient of the 2023 American Chemical Society (ACS) Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Inorganic Chemistry "for pioneering contributions to bioinorganic chemistry and fundamental synthetic coordination chemistry, and for exceptional service to the ACS Division of Inorganic Chemistry."

Rick Gatteau Elected President of SUNY Chief Student Affairs Officers

Vice President for Student Affairs Rick Gatteau has been elected to serve as President of the SUNY Chief Student Affairs Officers (CCSAO) for a two-year term. The CCSAO includes the highest-ranking student affairs official of each state college, technical college and university. The organization meets quarterly to review current issues, policies and procedures related to the management and administration of student affairs programs and services in SUNY.

Fourteen Stony Brook Endowed Faculty Formally Installed

Fourteen Stony Brook University endowed faculty members were formally installed on November 6th at the Charles B. Wang Center Theater. The faculty members who were invested include:

Olga Aroniadis, MD, MSc, FACG - Svetlana Koroleva Endowed Professor in Gastroenterology; **Karena Chapman**, PhD – Endowed Chair of Materials Chemistry; **Thomas Diacovo**, MD – Knapp Chair in Pediatrics; **Eden Figueroa**, PhD – Presidential Innovation Endowed Professor; **Thomas Manuel**, DMA – Department of Music Endowed Artist in Residence Fellow; **Kathleen McGarry**, PhD – Thomas Muench Endowed Distinguished Chair of Economics; **Lilianne Mujica-Parodi**, PhD – Baszucki Endowed Chair in Metabolic Neuroscience; **Ellen K. Pikitch**, PhD – Endowed Professor of Ocean Conservation Science; **Loredana Polezzi**, PhD – Alfonse M. D'Amato Endowed Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies; **Leonardo Rastelli**, PhD – Renaissance Endowed Chair of Theoretical Physics; **Sandhya Sundaresan**, PhD – Anandavalli and Dr. G. Swaminathan Endowed Research Professor in Tamil; **Styliani-Anna E. Tsirka**, PhD – Miriam and David Donoho Distinguished Professor; **James A. Vosswinkel**, MD, FACS – Lillian and Leonard Schneider Endowed Chair in Trauma Surgery; **William A. Wertheim**, MD, MBA – Endowed Chair in Graduate Medical Education.

Executive Searches and Leadership Updates

- **Suzanne Shane** has been appointed Chief Campus Counsel effective October 27, 2023. She reports to both President McInnis and Kapil Longani, Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel for SUNY.
- **Jennifer Donnelly** has been appointed Interim Vice President for Human Resource Services effective January 15, 2024. Ms. Donnelly recently served as Senior Vice President at The Segal Group in New York City and has been working with SBU over the last three years on numerous HR initiatives.

Student Affairs Update

- The Office of Military and Veteran Student Services hosted their annual Veterans Day ceremony on November 8.
- The Undergraduate Student Government, in collaboration with the Faculty Student Association, Student Affairs, and the President's Office hosted the 6th Annual Light the Brook event on the Academic Mall on November 8. This year's event drew over 1,000 participants, the largest crowd since its inception.
- Several campus offices collaborated to host a First-Generation Week on campus, which included a brunch, panel, mixer, game night, and financial aid workshop.
- Student Affairs hosted its 43rd Annual Divisional Convocation on November 17. This event celebrates the achievements of the division and recognizes the service of team members.
- The LGBTQ* Center hosted a Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil and its annual Rainbow Fall Feast on November 17.
- Student Affairs is hosting a new event, Winterfest, from January 8-12, 2024. During this week, more than 30 faculty, staff, students, and OLLI members are offering various free workshops, events, and activities for the campus community. More details and sign-up information will be shared in a campus-wide email this week.

Advancement Update

Since the start of the 2024 fiscal year, \$82.1 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 2,798 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:

- \$300,000 gift to the EOP and Student Emergency Fund
- \$110,000 pledge to the Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology
- \$100,000 pledge to establish the Dr. Ellinor Peerschke Memorial Fund in the Department of Medicine
- \$100,000 pledge to further excellence in the Department of Physics and Astronomy
- \$100,000 pledge towards research in the Stony Brook Cancer Center
- \$84,000 gift to the Presidential Innovation and Excellence Fund
- \$60,000 gift to the Award for Inclusion Research Program in the Department of Computer Science
- \$51,000 gift to the School of Professional Development
- \$50,000 gift to support Centre ValBio Rainforest Conservation Fund

Recent Events

- **Native American Heritage Month:** Stony Brook celebrated Native American Heritage Month throughout the month of November, acknowledging the rich contributions of native and indigenous peoples with a series of events across campus.

Upcoming Events

- **A Winter's Gathering at Stony Brook Southampton** - [Stony Brook Southampton](#) will host its annual holiday reception, "A Winter's Gathering," on Friday, December 8, from 5 to

7 pm at Chancellors Hall. The festive evening will include refreshments, an alumni-sponsored photo booth, children's crafts, family activities and more. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Athletics Update¹

- Football redshirt freshman Anthony Johnson was named FCS Freshman All-American and was named as a finalist for the Jerry Rice Award, which goes to the nation's top freshman. He becomes the first Stony Brook wide receiver since 2012 to be named All-American.
- Football head coach Chuck Priore will not return after 18 seasons leading the Seawolves. A national search for the school's third head coach in Division I history is underway.
- Stony Brook reached the Coastal Athletic Association tournament in volleyball, men's soccer and women's soccer this fall, the only school in the conference to qualify for all three.
- Volleyball senior Torri Henry was named CAA Setter of the Year and captured conference First Team honors after leading the CAA in assists per set (10.67), becoming the first Seawolf student-athlete to earn the award. Fellow senior Leoni Kunz was recognized on the Second Team while freshman Ava Jackson was named to the All-Rookie team.
- Women's Basketball is currently 5-1 and ranked No. 20 in the College Insider Mid Major Top 25 poll.
- Men's Basketball is 2-0 at home and will play five of the next seven games on campus at Island Federal Arena in the month of December. The team plays on the road at Army on Dec. 17 and Big Ten foe Michigan State on Dec. 21.
- The Stony Brook Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and News 12 partnered for a food drive throughout the month of November to benefit the Stony Brook University food pantry. More than 700 items were collected.

¹ As of November 30, 2023