



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Senate  
**FROM:** Richard L. McCormick, Interim President  
**DATE:** November 4, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** President's Report

---

### I. University News and Accolades

#### **Stony Brook University Named a Silver-Level Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists**

Stony Brook University is being honored with a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly University award by the League of American Bicyclists in recognition of its achievements in promoting and enabling safe, accessible bicycling on campus.

#### **Stony Brook University Receives *Insight Into Diversity* 2024 Higher Education Excellence In Diversity (HEED) Award**

Stony Brook University recently received the 2024 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *Insight Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

As a recipient of the annual HEED Award — a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion — Stony Brook University will be featured, along with 113 other recipients, in the November/December 2024 issue of *Insight Into Diversity* magazine.

#### **Stony Brook University Selected to Receive \$2,500,000 in Federal Funding for Technology to Enable Fusion Power Plants**

Stony Brook University has been selected to receive \$2,500,000 in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E).

The funding is part of the Creating Hardened And Durable fusion first Wall Incorporating Centralized Knowledge (CHADWICK) program. This program is focused on researching and developing new, advanced materials and manufacturing techniques to enhance the durability of the “first wall” in a fusion power plant (where energy is derived from a process called fusion). That first wall is the critical armor that surrounds the fusion reactor’s core plasma.

#### **Stony Brook Only Hospital Named Among America's 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care by Healthgrades® for a Decade**

Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) has again been named one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care by Healthgrades®, making it the only hospital in New York State to be recognized for Stroke Care for 10 years in a row (2016-2025).

### **We Can Do It Together: Interim President McCormick Delivers State of the University Address**

Stony Brook University Interim President Richard McCormick delivered his first Stony Brook State of the University address on September 25, sharing how the university will meet the challenges it faces while continuing to excel as the flagship university of New York.

### **Stony Brook University Wins Car Free Day Long Island Competition**

Stony Brook University has been crowned the 2024 champion of the annual Car Free Day Long Island. Car Free Day is an international event celebrated every September in which people are encouraged to get around without cars. This year, an impressive 892 members of the Stony Brook community pledged to swap out at least one car trip on September 22, choosing instead to walk, bike, carpool, ride the train or bus, or telecommute — making SBU the top performer among all participating Long Island organizations.

### **SBUH Named Top Performer for Excellence in Environmental Sustainability**

Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) has once again been recognized for its achievements in environmental sustainability in healthcare. Vizient, Inc., the nation's largest provider-driven healthcare performance improvement company, named SBUH a top performer in the comprehensive academic medical center group, earning the Environmental Sustainability Excellence Award.

## **II. Individual Accolades**

### **Three SBU Faculty Awarded SUNY-IBM AI Research Alliance Grants**

Three Stony Brook University faculty in the Department of Computer Science are among 14 researchers from the State University of New York's four university centers who have been awarded 2024 SUNY-IBM AI Research Alliance grants. The alliance is part of a partnership between New York State and IBM to create a global research hub for developing next-generation AI hardware. Professor Erez Zadok and associate professors Michael Ferdman and Niranjana Balasubramanian, along with 11 other faculty from the University at Albany, Binghamton University and the University at Buffalo, were awarded grants for projects ranging from cloud computing to sustainable energy to optimizing the next generation of supercomputers.

### **Stony Brook University's Patrick Meade Elected as an American Physical Society Fellow**

Stony Brook University's Patrick Meade, professor in the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics (YITP), was recently elected to a fellowship with the American Physical Society (APS). Meade was elected for his pioneering research and leadership in particle theory and phenomenology, including signatures of gauge-mediated supersymmetry, top partners, long-lived particles, Higgs sectors, phase transitions of the early universe, and the science capabilities of proposed facilities.

### **Biomedical Engineering Professor to Receive National Award**

**Yi-Xian Qin**, PhD, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering in the Renaissance School of Medicine and in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Stony Brook University, will receive the 2025 Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) Christopher Jacobs Award for Excellence in Leadership. This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership excellence within the Cell and Molecular Bioengineering community.

### **Hong Qin Receives Two Awards: 2024 SMA Pioneer Award for Advancing Geometric Modeling and 2025 BMES CMBE Christopher Jacobs Award**

**Hong Qin**, a professor in Stony Brook University's Department of Computer Science, has been honored with two awards. The first is the 2024 Solid Modeling Association (SMA) Pioneer Award for his transformative work in geometric modeling and physics-based simulation. Qin has also been selected to receive the 2025 Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) CMBE Christopher Jacobs Award for Excellence in Leadership.

### **Stony Brook University Professor Heather Lynch Has Won the 2024 Golden Goose Award for Unconventional Research that Yielded Unexpected and Impactful Discoveries**

Stony Brook University **Professor Heather J. Lynch, PhD**, a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution in the College of Arts and Sciences, and the first Endowed Chair for Ecology and Evolution at the university's Institute for Advanced Computation Science (IACS) has been awarded the 2024 Golden Goose Award for Unconventional Research that Yielded Unexpected and Impactful Discovery. Professor Lynch's project, "From Poop to Protection: Satellite Discoveries Help Save Antarctic Penguins and Advance Wildlife Monitoring" which was funded by the National Science Foundation and NASA, looks at a way "to track penguin populations via satellite imagery, leading to the discovery of 1.5 million previously undocumented Adélie penguins and a whole new way to track wildlife."

### **Jeff Ge Recognized by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers**

**Professor Jeff Ge** of the Department of Mechanical Engineering has received the Dedicated Service Award from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) for his work for the society. Jeff Ge was awarded the ASME Dedicated Service Award for his sustained contributions and visionary leadership in ASME's Design Engineering Division, and Mechanisms and Robotics Executive Committees, and in support of the ASME Robotics community. As a founding member of ASME's Technical and Engineering Communities: Robotics Technology Group, Jeff took a lead role in the Group's writing of the ASME Robotics Roadmap to be published this fall.

### **Computer Science Grad Student Receives 2024 Turner Dissertation Fellowship Award**

**Veena Krish**, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Computer Science, has received the 2024 Turner Dissertation Fellowship Award through the Center for Inclusive Education. This \$10,000 award is a testament to Krish's commitment to addressing technical challenges and technology's broader societal implications. The award supports students from historically underrepresented groups and otherwise disadvantaged communities in preparing their dissertations.

### **Gomes, Santora Honored with 2024 HERALD Excellence in Healthcare Awards**

Two members of the Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) leadership team — Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer **Carol Gomes** and Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Regulatory Officer **Carolyn Santora** — received 2024 HERALD Excellence in Healthcare Awards at the third annual awards ceremony September 18 at the Heritage Club in Bethpage, NY.

### **Ballan Honored with HERALD Excellence in Healthcare Award**

**Michelle Ballan**, professor and associate dean for research in the Stony Brook School of Social Welfare, received the HERALD 2024 Excellence in Healthcare Award at a

ceremony on September 18. The award honors individuals whose dedication and commitment has made a difference in the health and well-being of others.

### **Steven Skiena and Team Win 2024 KDD Test of Time Award for Research**

Department of Computer Science Professor **Steven Skiena**, along with his former students **Rami al-Rfou** and **Bryan Perozzi**, received the 2024 KDD Test of Time Award for their work on graph representation learning.

### **III. Recent Events**

- **Honoring Jim Simons Impact on Campus:** October 23, 2024, 1-5pm Simons Center Auditorium.

### **IV. Upcoming Events**

- **Annual Light the Brook Event:** November 4, 2024, 4:45 – 7:30pm, Admin Fountain
- **Stony Awards:** November 20, 2024, 6pm at FlowerField Celebrations, St. James

### **V. Student Affairs Update**

- Stony Brook celebrated Homecoming with a wide variety of activities that engaged the campus community during the week of October 21:
  - Homecoming Harvest featured fall traditions, a pumpkin patch, a Harvest Market, and more.
  - Home Sweet Homecoming invited the campus community to enjoy fall treats, games and giveaways in a festive environment.
  - On Friday, October 25, Seawolves Showcase featured more than twenty-five of the campus's favorite performance student groups that lit up the stage with pure talent.
  - The Center for Prevention and Outreach also hosted its annual Soberfest, an event which engages the campus community in the homecoming spirit and teaches Seawolves how to stay safe. The event featured fun activities such as crafts decorating, outdoor games and activities, and educational resources about the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- The Center for Prevention and Outreach hosted its annual Take a Stand/ Walk with Me march on October 30 to raise awareness for domestic and relationship violence. In addition, they presented a robust and month-long educational program to support our campus community and provide a safe space for students.
- The Center for Civic Justice has hosted an array of events supporting civic engagement and educational support around this upcoming election. On Wednesday, October 23, they hosted an all-day event to raise awareness for this new civic holiday, Vote Early Day.
- The Career Center hosted 4 Job and Internship Fairs and recruitment events this September and October, which featured the participation of over 3,400 students and over 500 employers. This year's Diversity Networking Dinner, hosted by the Career Center, had over 270 attendees, an increase compared to last year's event. This event is designed to connect students with hiring organizations who have a focused DEI recruitment initiative.
- On Monday, October 28, Student Affairs hosted Collective Liberation: Salt of the Earth, a conversation with two activists who shared their powerful stories about growing up in

Israel and Palestine and spoke to the campus community about humanity, hope and their journey towards peace.

- On November 4, the Undergraduate Student Government will be hosting the 7th Annual Light the Brook event on the Academic Mall. This event marks the start of the holiday season at SBU.

## **VI. Advancement Update**

Early results for the 2025 fiscal year are encouraging, with \$32.7 million in gifts and pledges recorded.

In the effort to raise \$200M in new endowment gifts and pledges to fully earn the 1:2 New York State endowment match and the Simons Infinity Investment, donors to Stony Brook have committed \$17.1 million in endowment gifts, bringing our two-year total to \$84.3 million. These pledges will earn more than \$42 million from the New York State endowment matching program and \$126 million in unrestricted endowment funds from the Simons Foundation and New York State. The challenge runs through April 2026.

All these philanthropic investments in our students, research, healthcare, and campus programs provide critical support, helping to elevate every part of the University.

Notable, select contributions since the last update include:

- \$1,596,793 to support the Leakey Endowed Fund for TBI
- \$1,250,000 to support scholarships in the Renaissance School of Medicine
- \$1,000,000 to support endowed graduate fellowships in Pharmacology, Biomedical Engineering and additional programs in the health sciences
- \$250,000 to support an endowed fund in pediatric research

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

- Football is currently ranked No. 20 after a 6-2 start to the season, including a 35-13 Homecoming win over No. 15 William & Mary to give the Seawolves their first ranked win since 2019. The No. 20 ranking is the highest for Stony Brook since the team was ranked No. 17 in 2018.
- As part of the Homecoming festivities, the five new members were inducted into the Stony Brook Athletics Hall of Fame. This year's inductees included Pat Cantwell '12 (Baseball), John Espey (Men's Lacrosse Head Coach & Administrator), Bria Green '15 (Softball), Corinne Leake '04 (Women's Track & Field) and Dorrien Van Dyke '17 (Women's Lacrosse).
- Women's Soccer won a share of the CAA regular season championship and will enter the CAA Tournament as the No. 2 seed. The team won five straight games to close out the regular season.
- The men's and women's cross-country teams competed at the CAA Championships on Friday, November 1. Stony Brook's men were seeking their third straight conference title.
- Men's Basketball was selected for four nationally televised games on CBS Sports Network as part of the CAA television package. The games include home contests against Monmouth (Feb. 13) and Elon (March 1) with road games including Charleston

---

<sup>1</sup> As of October 29, 2024

(Jan. 30) and Northeastern (Feb. 15). The team opens the season against 17th-ranked Marquette on Monday, November 4 in a game that will be televised nationally on FS1.

- Stony Brook Athletics hosted its third annual Breast Cancer Awareness Night on October 9 where coaches and student-athletes received education about early detection, prevention and supporting those affected by breast cancer.