



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate
FROM: Maurie McInnis, President
DATE: May 6, 2024
SUBJECT: President's Report

I. University News and Accolades

SBUH Recognized at 2024 United Nations Climate Conference

Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) has once again been recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 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 shared that SBUH was one of more than 130 organizations that have joined 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.

QS World University Rankings Again Place SBU Among the Best

The QS World University Rankings — a leading organization for international rankings — rates the world's top universities by subject area, and once again placed Stony Brook University's Physics and Astronomy program in the top 100. Eight other subjects placed in the top 300 globally: Natural Sciences (#191), Mathematics (#151-200), Geology (#201-240), Geophysics (#201-240), History (#201-230), Biological Sciences (#201-250), Computer Science and Information Systems (#251-300) and Psychology (#251-300).

SBU Awarded \$1M in Federal Funding for Advancing Energy Technology

The Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center will receive \$1 million in federal funding to develop an innovative test platform and applications for offshore wind-generated hydrogen for high-efficiency domestic heating and cooling. This fund was secured thanks to the leadership of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and support from U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand as part of FY 2024 congressionally directed spending.

SBUH Ranked No. 19 on Money Magazine's 'Best Hospitals of 2024'

Out of more than 6,000 hospitals in the country, Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) has been ranked number 19 on Money magazine's prestigious "Best Hospitals of 2024" list. This recognition gave SBUH an "A" ranking for General Practice and underscores Stony Brook's unwavering commitment to providing the highest level of care to every Long Island resident.

II. Individual Accolades

David Tonjes Recognized for Efforts in Improving Recycling

David Tonjes, a research associate professor in the Department of Technology and Society, has been honored with a prestigious 2024 Eco Award from Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities at its fifth annual Eco Awards ceremony. The Eco Awards recognize outstanding contributions to the environment and sustainability made by residents, students, schools, municipalities, businesses, and organizations. Tonjes was selected for his research designed to improve the management of solid waste in New York State.

SBU Programs Share Offshore Wind Training and Workforce Development Grants

Four SBU programs will share \$1.5 million in Offshore Wind Training Institute (OWTI) grants awarded to prepare wind industry. The winning programs will expand workforce development and training initiatives for jobs in constructing, manufacturing, installing, operating and maintaining offshore wind farms. The selected programs and staff include: **Fang Luo**, SUNY Empire Innovation associate professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; **Derek O'Connor**, manager, Workforce Development, Office of Economic Development; **Patricia Malone**, associate vice president, School of Professional Development and co-director of the Offshore Wind Training Institute; **Peng Zhang**, SUNY Empire Innovation professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; and **Yifan Zhou**, associate professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Ellen Pikitch Named 2024 NYSMEA Research Award Winner

Ellen Pikitch, PhD, Endowed Professor of Ocean Conservation Science in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, has received the 2024 Hugo and Anita Freudenthal Research Award for her significant contributions to furthering scientists' understanding of the marine environment. Presented by the New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA), the award is given to standout marine scientists or educators.

2023 Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Anatoly I. Frenkel, professor in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, **Richard K. Larson**, distinguished professor in the Department of Linguistics, and **Judith Brown Clarke**, Vice President for Equity & Inclusion, were named as 2023 fellows of AAAS. As AAAS Fellows, they join the ranks of distinguished scientists, engineers, and innovators who have been recognized for their contributions in the areas of academia, research, and science communications. VP Clarke is honored in the Education section for her distinguished contributions in the field of geoscience education research, policy, and service to diverse scholars in her advocacy for belonging, access, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Professor Frenkel is honored for his distinguished contributions to the development and applications of in situ and operando synchrotron methods to solve a wide range of problems in chemistry and materials science. Distinguished Professor Larson is honored for his contributions in the fields of formal syntax and semantics, notably to their interaction, and for extraordinary devotion to the public dissemination of the science of language.

Professor Izabela Kalinowska-Blackwood Named 2024 Fulbright Scholar

Izabela Kalinowska-Blackwood, associate professor in the Department of English and affiliated faculty in the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies, was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program teaching grant for the 2024-2025 academic year. She will

engage in teaching and research at the Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw, a leading institution known for its significant contributions to regional academic discussions and for its journal publications.

III. **Executive Leadership Update**

Chief Deputy to the President and Senior Vice President for Government and Community Relations: Judy Greiman, Chief Deputy to the President and SVP for Government and Community Relations, will be retiring from Stony Brook University effective September 2024. WiffKieffer has been selected as the firm to lead this search.

Vice President for Marketing and Communications: William Warren, Vice President for Marketing and Communications, has accepted a position as vice chancellor for marketing and communicating at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, effective June 1st. Susan Foley, assistant vice president of marketing and communications, has agreed to serve as the interim vice president of marketing and communications.

IV. **Student Affairs Update**

- The Center for Prevention and Outreach's Samantha Warren has been named the ACHA Affiliate New Professional Award winner for New York State.
- The Career Center partnered with Cornell University and Binghamton University on the Contribution Project. 70 students from Stony Brook were selected to receive \$400 to support their ideas for how to make a difference in the world.
- Continuing the musical tradition at SBU, the Undergraduate Student Government hosted a very successful annual concert, Brookfest, on April 5, which featured student performers as well as various artists in different genres. The concert was sold out with 4,300 attendees, the highest number ever.
- Fraternity and Sorority life fundraiser, "Wolphiethon", raised over \$82,000, the highest amount to be ever raised at this event.
- The first annual "And Still I Rise: Empowering Women of Color in Higher Education" High Tea & Luncheon was held on April 11. The event was attended by 50 mid to senior-level women of color and allies in Higher Education across Long Island and the Metro New York area.
- The annual Shirley Strum Kenny for the Arts festival was held during the month of April, featuring a series of events that showcase the arts and creativity of our campus community.
- Many educational and cultural events were hosted throughout April to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and recognize the rich and diverse culture of people of Asian descent such as lectures, dance performances, culinary demonstrations, music performances and more.
- We had a very successful Earthstock, Stony Brook's Earth Day week-long celebration, which featured a wide variety of events focused on sustainability and environmental awareness and conservation. This year's keynote speaker was renowned professor Dr. Heather Lynch, Institute for Advanced Computational Science Endowed Chair for Ecology and Evolution at Stony Brook University and the inaugural Director of the Stony Brook Collaborative for the Earth.
- Our most unique campus tradition, Roth Regatta, took place on Friday, April 26. Teams of students tried to cross Roth Pond in boats made from cardboard and duct tape.

- Upcoming campus traditions include Strawberry Fest and Diversity (May 1) and Midnight Breakfast on Reading Day (May 6).

V. **Advancement Update**

Since the start of the 2024 fiscal year, \$614.3 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 8,143 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:

- \$1,500,000 gift to support student scholarships
- \$1,240,000 bequest to support scholarships in physics, math, and the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
- \$500,000 pledge to support Breast Cancer Research
- \$218,529 bequest to support the OLLI Program
- \$160,000 pledge to support graduate students in the Department of Computer Science
- \$100,000 pledge to support undergraduate students in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Upcoming Advancement Events:

- President’s Reception on Long Island – May 9, 2024
- Alumni Scholarship Golf Classic - June 11, 2024

VI. **Recent Events**

- **Presidential Lecture Series:** Kim Stanley Robinson, American science fiction writer, discussed his novel, *The Ministry for the Future*, a Barack Obama Favorite Book of 2020 and one of Bill Gates’ “5 Great Books for the Summer” in 2022, on April 1, 2024 – 5:30pm, Wang Theater.
- **Presidential Lecture Series:** Linda Villarosa, award-winning writer at the New York Times Magazine, discussed her book, *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on Health In America*, on April 25, 2024 – 5:00pm, Wang Theater.
- **Stony Brook Gala:** The 25th Annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala took place at Cipriani, NYC on April 29, 2024 and honored Neil DeGrasse Tyson.

VII. **Upcoming Events**

- **University Commencement:** Stony Brook University Commencement will take place on Friday, May 17, 2024, at 11:00am at the LaValle Stadium.
- **CommUniversity Day:** Save the Date – CommUniversity Day will be held Saturday, September 28, from noon to 4pm, rain or shine. The event will be hosted on the Academic Mall.

VIII. Athletics Update¹

- Joy McCorvey was named the new Stony Brook head women's basketball coach following the departure of Ashley Langford, who departed for Tulane after three successful seasons on Long Island. A native of Brewton, Alabama, McCorvey has served in assistant coaching roles at St. John's, Michigan, Florida State and, most recently, Tennessee.
- Women's Lacrosse claimed its second straight CAA championship and ninth overall (previous seven as a member of the America East) while extending its nation-leading conference winning streak to 61. The team is currently ranked No. 13 and was set to host the CAA Tournament at LaValle Stadium on May 2-4. Head coach Joe Spallina earned his 200th career win at Stony Brook in a 17-4 win over Delaware on April 6.
- Softball has won a program-record 17 consecutive games, the longest active streak in Division I as of April 24. The team is 16-2 on the road this season, trailing only Oklahoma State for the most road wins in Division I. Head coach Megan Bryant earned her 1,000th career win in a win over Fairleigh Dickinson on April 17.
- Seven football student-athletes were named to the 2024 NFF Hampshire Honor Society by the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame. Taylor Bolesta, Nick Capazzola, Casey Case, De'Aundre Cruz, D'Angelo McKinnie, Ross Tallarico and Collin Tunc represented Stony Brook on the NFF Hampshire Honor Society list, which is comprised of standout college football players from all divisions who completed their final year of eligibility, attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.2 and were starters or significant contributors during the 2023 season.
- Stony Brook Athletics raised nearly \$65,000 from 459 donors as part of Giving Day 2024. The total dollars raised yielded the second largest Giving Day ever behind last year's record of \$138,600.

¹ As of April 25, 2024