



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate
FROM: Richard McCormick, Interim President
DATE: September 30, 2024
SUBJECT: President's Report

I. University News and Accolades

Rankings

US News and World Report again ranked Stony Brook #58 among national universities, #26 among public universities, and the #1 public university in New York. The consistency with last year's ranking reflects both consistency in methodology and university performance. (Embargoed until Sept. 24)

- #15 in Top Performers on Social Mobility
- #34 in Best Colleges for Veterans
- #50 in Undergraduate Computer Science Programs
- #53 in Most Innovative Schools
- #53 in Undergraduate Psychology Programs
- #66 in Undergraduate Engineering Programs (Doctorate)
- #74 in Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs
- Other recently released prominent national rankings
 - #84 Forbes (#30 public)
 - #135 Washington Monthly (#87 public)
 - #265 Wall Street Journal (#110 public)
- International rankings
 - #194 Round University Rankings (#59 U.S.; #25 U.S. public)
 - #206 Center for World University Rankings (#70 U.S.; #40 U.S. public)
 - #227 US News Global Rankings (#67 U.S.; #40 U.S. public)
 - #301-350 Times Higher Education World Rankings (#78 U.S.; #44 U.S. public)
 - #301-400 Academic Rankings of World Universities (Shanghai Rankings) (#98 U.S.; #62 U.S. public)
 - #460 QS World Rankings (#68 U.S.; #36 U.S. public)

Six Seed Grants Awarded to Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Lab Research Teams

The Office of Brookhaven National Lab Affairs announced the six winners of the Annual SBU-BNL Seed Grant Program. Now in its 26th year, the Seed Grant Program serves to foster collaboration between SBU and BNL. Scientists from both institutions work together on preliminary projects that can grow into larger research initiatives and attract external funding. Funding for the Seed Grant Program is provided by the Office of the President and the Office of Brookhaven Affairs. This year, approximately \$360,000 was distributed,

with Brookhaven Lab providing matching funds for certain grants. Awardees and their research topics are posted on the [BNL Affairs webpage](#).

Stony Brook University Launches AI Innovation Institute

In a move that will enhance its capabilities as a leader in AI research and application, Stony Brook University is launching the AI Innovation Institute (AI3), which will expand the [Institute for AI-driven Discovery and Innovation](#) established in 2018 from a department-level institute within the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences to the university-wide AI3, reporting to the provost.

Stony Brook Medicine Nationally Recognized for High-Quality Stroke and Cardiac Care

Stony Brook Medicine (SBM) has once again been recognized by the American Heart Association for its commitment to delivering high-quality patient care across cardiovascular and stroke focus areas. This year marks the 14th consecutive year for Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) (2010-2024) and the 11th consecutive year for Stony Brook Southampton Hospital (SBSH) (2014-2024) to receive the Association's [Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke Gold Plus](#) achievement award. For the 6th consecutive year, SBUH received the [Get With The Guidelines® – Heart Failure Gold Plus](#) quality achievement award. Both awards recognize SBM's dedication to improving outcomes for patients, meaning reduced readmissions and more healthy days at home.

II. Individual Accolades

Wang and Rosenthal Awarded \$1.05M for Patient Risk Prediction Model Research

The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) has announced a \$1.05 million award to Fusheng Wang, professor in the [Departments of Biomedical Informatics](#) and [Computer Science](#), and his team, including Richard Rosenthal, MD, professor and addiction psychiatrist from the [Department of Psychiatry](#), MPI of the project. Their research is focused on machine learning models to predict patient outcomes.

NSF Grant Award

Marianna Savoca, Associate Vice President for Career Readiness & Experiential Education, secured a Co-Principal Investigator for an NSF Grant with **Monica Bugallo** and **Bonita London** of \$1,987,880. This will promote the advancement of talented, high-potential students in Electrical and Computer Engineering through Financial, Career, and Professional Readiness.

Rachel Alexandre Awarded Voyager Scholarship for Public Service

Senior [Honors College](#) student **Rachel Alexandre** has been awarded the [Voyager Scholarship](#), the Obama-Chesky Scholarship for Public Service. Alexandre, who is pursuing a double major in globalization studies and international relations and political science, with a minor in creative writing and literature, is one of only 100 students nationwide selected for the 2024-2026 cohort.

Klaus Mueller Joins Prestigious Asia-Pacific AI Association Fellows

Computer Science Professor **Klaus Mueller**, a trailblazer in the world of explainable machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI), has been invited to join the prestigious 2024 cohort of the [Asia-Pacific Artificial Intelligence Association](#) (AAIA) Fellows. This honor recognizes Mueller's groundbreaking work in demystifying AI, solidifying his status as a leading force in the field.

Arie Kaufman Wins 2024 Test of Time Award for Supercomputing

Arie Kaufman, distinguished professor in the Department of Computer Science, has been honored with the SC24 Test of Time Award (TOTA) for supercomputing for his seminal 2004 paper, “GPU Cluster for High Performance Computing.”

London Mathematical Society Awards Christopher Bishop 2024 Senior Berwick Prize

State University of New York Distinguished Professor **Christopher Bishop** has been awarded the 2024 Senior Berwick Prize by the London Mathematical Society (LMS). Bishop, a professor in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Mathematics, was awarded the Senior Berwick Prize for the pair of papers “Models for the Eremenko–Lyubich Class,” published in the *Journal of the London Mathematical Society* in 2015, and “Models for the Speiser Class,” published in the *Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society* in 2017. LMS announced its 2024 prize winners at the end of June.

Joseph Pierce Named Scholar in Residence at the Museum of Modern Art

Joseph M. Pierce, associate professor in Stony Brook University’s Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature and inaugural director of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative, was recently named as one of the 2024-2025 Scholars in Residence at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA).

Jian Li Earns NSF Early CAREER Award

Assistant Professor **Jian Li** from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics and the Department of Computer Science has earned a U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Early CAREER award for his project, “CAREER: Structured Learning and Optimization for Efficient Management in the Wireless Edge Cloud: Theory and Algorithms.”

III. Executive Leadership Update

Wendy Pearson Appointed Executive Director of Stony Brook Southampton

In addition to her role as Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, **Wendy Pearson** has been appointed as the Executive Director of Stony Brook Southampton.

IV. Enrollment Update

- University enrollment returned to near record levels for an official count of 26,689; the record high was 26,814 in fall 2019
- Undergraduate enrollment hit a record high of 18,263, surpassing the 2019 record of 18,010
 - Increases were driven by a record freshman class of 4,042 and improved retention rates to pre-pandemic levels
 - Racial diversity of the freshman class increased, with 24.3% of entering freshmen identifying as any underrepresented minority group, compared to the previous high of 22.2% in fall 2022. Percentages below count any race/ethnicity identification, include international students, and will add to more than 100%
 - 51.5% Asian
 - 24.3% White
 - 15.7% Hispanic

- 10.7% Black or African American
 - 0.9% American Indian
 - 7.0% Chose not to respond
- The gender balance remained close to even, with women representing 50.5% of the entering class and men accounting for 49.5%
- Economic diversity remained strong, with over 40% of entering students qualifying to receive Pell grants
- Graduate and professional enrollment was 8,426, an increase over the post-pandemic low of 8,201 in fall 2022 but still well below the record high of 8,905
 - Enrollment by degree level remained relatively stable from 2023, with the exception of doctoral enrollment, which was up by about 100 students over fall 2023
 - 4,390 Master's
 - 3,317 Doctoral (PhD, DMA, MD, DDS, DPT)
 - 876 Certificate
 - 169 Nonmatriculated
 - Racial diversity for all graduate students was down very slightly from 17.0% who identified with any underrepresented race/ethnicity group in fall 2023 to 16.8% in fall 2024. Percentages below count any race/ethnicity identification, include international students, and will add to more than 100%
 - 46.3% White
 - 31.4% Asian
 - 9.7% Hispanic
 - 7.7% Black or African American
 - 0.9% American Indian
 - 12.4% Chose not to respond
 - The gender balance among graduate students continued to favor women 55.8% / 44.2%

V. Middle States Accreditation

- Full institutional re-accreditation for Stony Brook University was approved by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education on June 27, 2024 with no qualifications or follow-up requirements.
- The team's site visit report found no areas that rose to the level of a recommendation (a negative finding).
- The report called out 14 areas for recognition of accomplishments, progress, or exemplary/innovative practices and offered collegial advice in 16 areas.
- Stony Brook's self-study found 19 areas where improvements could be realized, and many of these are already underway.

VI. Recent Events

- **State of the University Address:** Interim President McCormick delivered the State of the University Address on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 1:00 pm, Staller Center Main Stage. A reception immediately followed at Staller Plaza.
- **CommUniversity Day:** CommUniversity Day was held on Saturday, September 28, on the Academic Mall.

VII. Upcoming Events

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

VIII. Student Affairs Update

- Student Affairs kicked off the semester with the Weeks of Welcome (WOW), a program series designed to welcome new and returning Seawolves to campus and provide engaging opportunities for involvement and community building. WOW culminated with the annual Wolfieland Carnival which had an attendance of over 5,200 students.
- Nearly 10,500 resident students are living on campus this semester. Due to flood damages, two of our residence halls remain closed until further notice. We do not yet have a confirmed timeframe, but the team is working as quickly as possible to bring these residence halls online for student occupancy. Approximately 475 displaced students were relocated to vacant spaces, new triple rooms, and a hotel in the local area.

IX. Advancement Update

Early results for the 2025 fiscal year are encouraging, with \$23.8 million in gifts and pledges versus \$16.9 million one year ago.

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 \$12.9 million in endowment gifts, bringing our two-year total to \$80 million. These pledges will earn \$40 million from the New York State endowment matching program and \$120 million in unrestricted endowment funds from the Simons Foundation and New York State. The challenge runs through April 2026.

All of 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:

- \$8,000,000 to create to establish a semiconductor research center to focus on silicon carbide crystal growth
- \$8,000,000 in faculty support for the Laufer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology
- \$2,250,000 to create an endowed scholarship in biological sciences
- \$1,500,000 to establish an endowed chair in Cheminformatics to promote excellence and scholarship in the field within the Department of Chemistry
- \$800,000 gift for scholarship support for students matriculating from the Bronx High School of Science or James Madison High School
- \$400,000 to support a mobile stroke unit in the Neuroscience Institute

X. Athletics Update¹

- First-year football coach Billy Cosh led Stony Brook to a 2-1 record for the program's best start since 2019. The team also received votes in the Top 25 following its 27-21 win at Fordham.
- Volleyball earned the program's best start since 2002 with a 6-1 record. Head coach Kristin Belzung notched her 100th career win in a victory over Colgate on Sept. 8.
- Women's Soccer jumped out to a 5-2-1 record after recording three straight shutout wins the week of Sept. 9.
- Men's Basketball announced its 2024-25 schedule, which begins on Nov. 4 on the road at Marquette. The team, which advanced to last season's CAA championship game, will open conference play at Monmouth on Jan. 2.
- Women's Basketball and new head coach Joy McCorvey will open the 2024-25 season at Columbia on Nov. 4. The defending CAA regular season champions will open conference play at Northeastern on Jan. 3.
- H2M Architects + Engineers is once again partnering with Stony Brook University for the 2024 Football Season, sponsoring the Seawolves' touchdowns through the H2M Touchdown Tally campaign. For every touchdown made during each home game, H2M will donate \$100 to Seawolves United, the university's athletic fundraising organization.

¹ As of September 18, 2024