

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

FROM: Maurie McInnis, President

DATE: November 1, 2021

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. INAUGURATION

Following a wonderful week of [events and activities](#), I was honored to be officially installed as President of Stony Brook University by SUNY Chancellor Jim Milatras and SUNY Board of Trustee member Cary Staller on October 23. The inaugural procession was led by Grand Marshal Richard Larson, president of the University Senate, with bagpipe accompaniment provided by the Amityville American Legion Pipe Band. Rose Martinelli, vice president for strategic initiatives, sang the national anthem, accompanied on the piano by Christina Dahl, chair of the Department of Music.

Kevin Law '82, chair of the Stony Brook Council, welcomed the assembled to the ceremony, followed by a traditional welcome, delivered by Chief Harry Wallace of the Unkechaug Nation. Governor Kathy Hochul supplied a video message of congratulations, followed on the stage by United States Senator Chuck Schumer.

New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie '90 offered greetings and reflected on the education that he got and lifelong friendships that he made at Stony Brook. Other speakers included Richard Larson; Cary Staller of the SUNY Board of Trustees; and Kimberly Joy Dixon, SBU director of employer engagement and diversity recruitment, representing the SBU staff. Richard Gelfond '76, chair of the Stony Brook Foundation, provided video congratulations, and Alumni Association president Ahmed Belazi presented SBU with a new university mace. The Stony Brook Gospel Choir provided a musical interlude, singing "Lift Up Your Voices."

Manjot Singh, president of the Undergraduate Student Organization, spoke on behalf of the student body, and remarks were provided by Edward Ayers, president emeritus of the University of Richmond and a longtime friend.

II. SUNY Plan to Expand EOP Program Means More Opportunities for Stony Brook Students

SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras and the Board of Trustees recently announced a comprehensive plan to expand the Education Opportunity Program as a result of the recent state budget increase of \$6.4 million, marking the largest single investment and most significant expansion of EOP since the inception of the program.

The plan, which will begin with the first-ever Spring 2022 class, will improve access by increasing overall enrollment by 1,000 students statewide and adding programs to five SUNY community colleges. It will establish a \$2 million Student Persistence Fund to help EOP students who are at greatest risk of dropping out due to unforeseen financial circumstances and increase the funding per EOP student from \$2,600 to \$2,800.

The plan will also double SUNY's Pre-Medical Opportunity Program, create a statewide EOP Student Ambassadors Program, purchase laptops to mitigate technology gaps, and hire 15 additional counselors across the state.

iii. **ADVANCEMENT UPDATE**

Since the start of the 2022 fiscal year, \$8.4 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 2,500 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:

- \$320,513 gift to support the Michael Corey Scholarship Fund at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- \$225,000 gift to establish the F. James Rohlf Endowed Graduate Fellowship in Anthropology at the College of Arts and Sciences
- \$90,000 pledge to support the Anandavalli & Dr. G. Swaminathan Endowed Research Professorship in Tamil Fund in the College of Arts and Sciences
- \$54,000 gift to the Chemistry Department Fund for Excellence
- \$54,000 gift to support Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities (URECA) program
- \$50,000 pledge to support the Cardiology Research and Education Fund
- \$50,000 pledge to support the Fusen and Yijen Chen Prize for Innovative Research in Materials Science and Chemical Engineering

iv. **UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES**

Stony Brook University Hospital Named One of America's 100 Best for Cardiac and Stroke Care

According to new research released by Healthgrades, Stony Brook University Hospital has earned national recognition as one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery™, one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention™ for seven consecutive years, one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care™ for eight consecutive years and one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care™ for seven years in a row. Every year, Healthgrades — a leading online resource that connects consumers, physicians and health systems — evaluates hospital performance at nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide for 31 of the most common inpatient procedures and conditions.

Stony Brook Medicine Awarded for Stroke Care by American Heart Association

Stony Brook University Hospital received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Gold Plus Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke Award with Target: Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll. Stony Brook Southampton Hospital received the Gold Plus Get With The Guidelines® – Stroke Quality Achievement Award with Honor Roll Elite and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll. These awards recognize Stony Brook Medicine's commitment to ensuring that stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment

according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence. Stony Brook University Hospital and Southampton Hospital each earned these awards by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period.

v. **INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES**

AMS Professor Zhenhua Liu Receives Prestigious NSF CAREER Award

Zhenhua Liu, from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS), has received the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Early CAREER Research Award. He will receive a total of \$533,000 to develop his project, “An adaptive framework to accelerate real-time workloads in heterogeneous and reconfigurable environments.”

Susan Lee Receives INSPIRE Award from American Medical Women’s Association

Susan Y. Lee, MD, associate professor of clinical medicine at Stony Brook’s Renaissance School of Medicine, is an inaugural winner of the INSPIRE Award from the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA). She received the award — along with her colleague Dr. Ankita Sagar from the Zucker School of Medicine Hofstra/Northwell Health — for starting a Women in Medicine Series for the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP). Dr. Lee is also governor of the ACP New York Chapter.

Chi-Kuo Hu Receives NIH New Innovator Award, \$1.5M Grant

Chi-Kuo Hu, assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, is a recipient of a 2021 New Innovator Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a project that studies how organisms live in dormancy and its effect on quality of life. The award includes a five-year, \$1.5 million grant.

SBU Research Group, Start-Up Awarded \$1 Million from NSF for Robotics Proposal

Anurag Purwar, assistant professor of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and research group, in collaboration with Stony Brook University startup Mechanismic Inc., recently received a \$1 million award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for their proposal, “A Design-Driven Educational Robotics Framework.” The award comes from NSF’s Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR), an approximately \$180 million seed funding program designed to help commercialize high-risk technological innovations via research and development grants to small businesses and startups.

Assisting Purwar with their own unique expertise are Stony Brook colleagues Keith Sheppard from the Institute of STEM Education, Erik Flynn, clinical lecturer from the School of Health Technology and Management, Kedar Kirane, assistant professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Jeff Ge, professor and chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering.

RECENT EVENTS

UNITI CENTER RIBBON CUTTING

The UNITI Cultural Center (UCC) recently held the ribbon cutting ceremony to open its new, 3,500 square-foot space on the first floor of the Stony Brook Union. The UCC was created over 40 years ago and has moved to various places on campus. This beautifully designed space will

provide a permanent home. The UCC promotes cultural diversity, inclusion, and equity, offering students in-person and virtual cultural programs and opportunities to engage with their peers, faculty, and staff on a variety of contemporary issues.

At the ceremony we were honored to be joined by Alumnus and NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Alumni and NYS Assembly Members Kimberly Jean-Pierre, Sarah Clarke, and Steve Englebright, all of whom, along with Alumna LaToya Joiner supported the funding and creation of the new space. Chancellor Jim Malatras celebrated the UCC in his remarks, and dozens of students, staff, faculty and members of the Black and Latino Alumni Network also joined the ceremony.

HOMECOMING

A festive barbeque, including rides and games for all ages, mini-golf, axe throwing, carnival booths, live music and more was enjoyed by all. Following the barbeque, the Seawolves football team played the University of Richmond Spiders and topped off a truly extraordinary day by winning the game, 27-14.

vi. UPCOMING EVENTS

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

A ceremony to honor our veterans will be held in the Student Activities Center, Sidney Gelber Auditorium, on November 10 at 1pm. A reception will immediately follow.

VIII. ATHLETICS UPDATE¹

- Stony Brook's men's and women's basketball teams were selected No. 1 in their respective America East preseason polls. Both teams open the 2021-22 season on Nov. 9 when the men are at George Mason and the women are home against Delaware State.
- Nine distinguished Seawolves were enshrined in the Stony Brook Rita & Kurt Eppenstein Athletics Hall of Fame on Oct. 22. The Hall of Fame ceremony honored the induction classes of 2020 and 2021 as the inductees were celebrated for their outstanding contributions to Stony Brook Athletics. The class of 2021 included William Carmona '16 (Baseball) and Joe Castiglie '79 (Men's Basketball Coach). Seven inductees composed the class of 2020 as Tommy Brenton '12, '13 (Men's Basketball), Michael Crooks '06 (Men's Tennis), Bryan Dougher '12 (Men's Basketball), Paul Dudzick '72 (Coach/Administrator), Kathy Koshansky (Head Athletic Trainer), Jenny Payne (Simpkins) '03, '07 (Women's Track & Field/Cross Country, and Aden Smith '03 (Football) all were inducted into the Hall of Fame.
- One week after defeating No. 14 Delaware, Stony Brook Football earned a 27-14 Homecoming win over Richmond as graduate student Carthell Flowers recorded 14 tackles to claim CAA Defensive Player of the Week honors. The Seawolves' defense forced six turnovers, the most in a game since 2011.
- Stony Brook Football alum Sam Kamara made his NFL debut with the Chicago Bears on Oct. 17, recording one tackle in a loss to Green Bay. Sam was a standout during his four-year career at Stony Brook from 2016-20.
- Graduate volleyball student-athlete Kiani Kerstetter established a new school record for career digs with 1,781 in a win over Binghamton on Oct. 1.

¹ As of October 25, 2021