



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

FROM: Maurie McInnis, President

DATE: October 3, 2022

SUBJECT: President's Report

UNIVERSITY NEWS

#1 PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN NY

Stony Brook University has achieved its highest-ever rankings from *U.S. News & World Report* in its [2023 Best Colleges publication](#). Recently named as a flagship in the SUNY system, Stony Brook is ranked #77 among national universities — a significant jump of 16 places from a year ago — and moved up seven spots to #31 among public universities. It is also the first time Stony Brook is the top-ranked public university in New York State without tying with another university.

AMERICA'S BEST-IN-STATE EMPLOYER

Stony Brook University has been recognized by *Forbes* as one of [America's Best-in-State Employers of 2022](#). Each year, *Forbes* ranks employers across the country, and the world, based on feedback from their employees. Out of 101 organizations, SBU ranked 63rd in New York State, and 12th in the Education-specific category.

Being named one of America's Best-in-State Employers reinforces Stony Brook's reputation as an institution that provides exemplary employment opportunities on Long Island and in New York State, and aligns with the multi-year [HR Now Initiative](#) currently underway at the University. This collaborative campus transformation is aimed at positioning Stony Brook for future success through enhanced HR systems and services, as well as targeted investments in opportunities that will enhance the quality of employee experiences.

HR NOW INITIATIVE

[HR Now](#) is a collaborative effort aimed at ensuring that the university is providing world class HR support for all of our employees. It grew out of the Strategic Budget Initiative following input from many faculty and staff.

The initiative was kicked off in the spring and, among other areas of focus, is tackling streamlining systems, automation, training, provision of essential HR support to all areas, and the institution of new resources including expanded support for recruiting, retention, and career development. The HR Now Steering Committee made up of campus leaders, faculty, and staff began its work in June

and will continue to oversee the effort designed to provide and support consistently high levels of dedicated HR service and expertise for all areas of the university. The Committee will be seeking input from members of the campus community in the coming weeks. Our workforce and HR needs have never been greater or more complex, and we must make sure that Stony Brook is an employer of choice.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PROFESSOR STEVEN SKIENA EARNS FULBRIGHT U.S. SCHOLAR AWARD

Steven Skiena, Distinguished Teaching Professor of Computer Science and director of the AI Institute for AI-Driven Discovery and Innovation at Stony Brook University, has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award for the 2022-23 academic year. Professor Skiena will join the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, where he will continue his research collaboration with Arnout van de Rijit, a former sociology professor at Stony Brook. His research project is “Word/Graph Embeddings in the Social Sciences.”

STONY BROOK PhD CANDIDATE AND BIOLOGIST, FANNY M. CORNEJO, NAMED AS FINALIST FOR INAUGURAL INDIANAPOLIS AWARD

Stony Brook University graduate student, [Fanny M. Cornejo](#), has just been named a finalist for the newly-created “Emerging Conservationist Award” presented by the Indianapolis Prize. This award recognizes professional wildlife conservationists, biologists and scientists under 40-years of age who are working to make strides in saving animal species from extinction. The winner, selected from 10 finalists, will be announced in April 2023 and awarded \$50,000 to advance their work to protect species.

STUDENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Suicide Prevention Month

The Center for Prevention and Outreach has coordinated a series of events throughout September to raise awareness and support for mental health and mental illness.

10th Anniversary of the Walter J. Hawrys Recreation Center

On Wednesday, October 19, a series of events are being planned to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Recreation Center, including a health and wellness fair, tours of the facility for faculty and staff, and fun activities for student.

ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Since the start of the 2023 fiscal year, \$10.16 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 1,446 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:

- \$3,015,000 pledge for the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Department
- \$3,000,000 pledge for Stony Brook Athletics
- \$333,000 pledge for the Walter J. Hawrys Campus Recreation Center

- \$200,000 pledge to the DCI Endowed Professorship in Regenerative Medicine
- \$200,000 pledge to the School of Social Welfare
- \$150,000 gift to the Pediatric Emergency Department Expansion Fund
- \$100,000 pledge to the Stony Brook Cancer Center
- \$100,000 pledge to the Center of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease

EVENTS

STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY

I will be delivering my annual State of the University address on October 12 at 1:00PM in the Staller Center. It will also be [streamed live](#).

HOMECOMING

Homecoming weekend is filled with activities running from October 20 - 22. The Homecoming game will be at 2:00PM on Saturday, October 22, when the Seawolves will play the Maine Black Bears.

ATHLETICS UPDATE¹

Men's Soccer made history by recording the school's first-ever non-football CAA win in a 2-1 victory over Hofstra on September 3.

Women's Soccer started CAA play 1-0-1, including a 12-0 victory over Hampton on September 25. The 12 goals established a new single-game school record.

Senior Rob Becker started the 2022 cross country season by winning his first two races, leading the men's team to first-place finishes in the Stony Brook Invitational and the Friar Invitational in Providence. It is the first time since 2019 that Stony Brook has won back-to-back races.

Men's and Women's Basketball held their first official practices of the 2022-23 season on Monday, September 26. The season opener for both teams will take place on November 7 when the men open at Florida and the women travel to Syracuse.

Women's Basketball graduate student Nairimar Vargas-Reyes made the Puerto Rico National Team and represented her native country in the 2022 FIBA World Cup in Australia along with former teammate and Seawolves' alumna India Pagan.

Redshirt senior running back Ty Son Lawton was named to the College Football Performance Awards (CFPA) FCS National Performer of the Year Trophy Watch List.

Men's Soccer alum Stephen Turnbull became the fourth Seawolf to reach an MLS roster when he was signed by NYCFC on September 4.

¹ As of September 27, 2022