



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Senate  
**FROM:** Maurie McInnis, President  
**DATE:** August 28, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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### UNIVERSITY NEWS

#### **SIMONS FOUNDATION MAKES TRANSFORMATIONAL \$500 MILLION GIFT TO STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY**

On June 1 Stony Brook University received a historic and transformational \$500 million gift from the Simons Foundation – the largest-ever unrestricted endowment gift made to a U.S. institution of higher education, which will be paid over an eight-year period. Igniting what will total nearly \$1 billion invested in Stony Brook's endowment, this visionary gift is an incredible acknowledgement from the Simons Foundation co-founders and co-chairs, Jim and Marilyn Simons, and its president, David Spergel, that affirms Stony Brook University's standing as New York's flagship of the future.

Through the *Simons Infinity Investment*, New York State's new endowment match program for the SUNY University Centers will match the first \$200 million of the Simons Foundation gift with an additional \$100 million for Stony Brook's endowment, which will increase Stony Brook's endowment to more closely match the levels of our aspirational peers. Endowments are developed to be invested for the long-term. The principal is left to grow for the future while modest investment income, typically 4 to 5 percent annually, is available to support current-year initiatives. As an endowment grows, Stony Brook is well positioned to invest strategically in our strengths while responding to changing needs.

#### **STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SELECTED AS AN AMERICAN TALENT INITIATIVE 'HIGH-FLIER' UNIVERSITY**

SBU has been named an American Talent Initiative (ATI) 'High Flier' University as part of its "Accelerating Opportunity" campaign. SBU was recognized by Bloomberg Philanthropies as one of 28 national leaders in providing college access and success for lower income students by leading the way in Pell student enrollment, innovative recruitment, widespread retention and graduation rates.

During this year-long campaign, Stony Brook will be spotlighted as one of the institutions that has made increasing the number of students with economic, academic and demographic challenges a priority through programs like its Simons STEM Scholars Program, its Educational Opportunity Program/Advancement on Individual Merit (EOP/AIM) initiative, Student Success Through Applied Research Lab and Faculty Fellowship Program.

## **STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY WINS AWARD IN COMMUNICATIONS COMPETITIONS**

Several Stony Brook University communications and advancement projects were recognized by the SUNY Council for University Advancement (SUNYCUAD) and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Stony Brook won SUNYCUAD 2023 Awards for Excellence in:

- Excellence in Design, Multi-page Publication – *Stony Brook University Admissions Travel Piece*: **Allison Schwartz**, assistant art director/senior director; **Karen Leibowitz**, art director; **Shelley Catalano**, senior project manager
- Excellence in Photography, Individual Photo – *2022 Roth Pond Regatta*: **John Griffin**, photographer
- Excellence in Photography, Photo Series – *2022 Every Picture Tells a Story*: **John Griffin**, photographer
- Excellence in Writing, Feature Writing – *Reflective Histories*: **Robert Emproto**, writer

The 2022 Stony Brook University holiday video message received the Silver award in the “Video – Holiday/Year End” category. The Office of Advancement received the Bronze Award in the “Communications Initiatives” category for *Stony Brook Matters: Delivering News to Alumni and Friends*.

## **STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY INVESTS IN CENTER FOR HEALTHY AGING**

Thanks to a \$10M investment from the President’s Innovation and Excellence Fund, Stony Brook University is opening a Center for Healthy Aging to further revolutionize senior care in Suffolk County and beyond. The research training center is a collaborative effort between all five Health Science schools: Renaissance School of Medicine, School of Nursing, School of Health Professions, School of Dental Medicine, and the School of Social Welfare. Various on-campus research and education groups will also be involved, such as the Program in Public Health, the Center for Biotechnology, and Psychology.

## **INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES**

### **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CAREER AWARDS**

Three Stony Brook University professors recently received nearly \$1.67 million in combined funding through NSF CAREER Awards to support ongoing research. **Weisen Shen**, an assistant professor in the Department of Geosciences, will use a five-year \$627,000 CAREER Award to investigate the subsurface structure near the South Pole. **Theodore Drivas**, an assistant professor in the Mathematics Department, will use his \$499,999, five-year CAREER Award to expand his research project, “Order and Disorder in Two-Dimensional Fluid Motion.” **Stanley Bak**, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science, received a \$550,000 CAREER Award over five years for the project, “Verified AI in Cyber-Physical Systems Through Input Quantization.”

### **VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE LYLE GOMES RECEIVES ROBERT J. WAGNER BUSINESS OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Lyle Gomes**, vice president for Finance, has been honored with the Robert J. Wagner Business Officer of the Year Award, presented by the State University of New York Business Officers Association (SUBOA). Gomes was recognized for his many additions to SUBOA, including recently leading state-wide committees on improving the procurement software Jaggaer and updating the broad-based fee process. He also serves as a liaison to the SUNY Council of Information Officers where he shares his tremendous knowledge of SUNY, freely and graciously with all. Fellow SUBOA members describe him as a consistent, reassuring presence at SUBOA, always being the first to volunteer and lead the charge on SUBOA projects that have university-wide implications.

### **BENJAMIN MARTIN RECEIVES \$2M NIH GRANT FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH**

**Benjamin Martin**, associate professor in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, and a member of the Stony Brook University Cancer Center, received a \$2 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) to conduct research to understand the molecular and cell biology of neuromesodermal progenitors. The term is five years.

### **DÁVALOS EARNS FIRST-EVER FULBRIGHT AMAZONIA FELLOWSHIP**

**Liliana M. Dávalos**, professor of conservation biology in the [Department of Ecology](#) and Evolution in the College of Arts and Sciences, has been selected to join the first-ever cohort of 16 scholars as a [Fulbright Amazonia Scholar](#) in Environmental Science. Under the fellowship, Dávalos will conduct research to study the dynamics of cocaine trafficking in the Amazon rainforest and assess the associated impact on land use.

### **SIAN PIRET RECEIVES \$1.4M GRANT TO INVESTIGATE WHAT CAUSES LOSS OF KIDNEY FUNCTION**

**Sian Piret**, from the Renaissance School of Medicine, has received a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to investigate a certain metabolic process that is known to occur with AKI, but its exact role with AKI remains unknown.

### **TWO FACULTY RECEIVE SUNY 2023 FACT2 EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

**Stacy Jaffee Gropack**, dean of the Stony Brook University's School of Health Professions, and **Santina Abbate**, a clinical assistant professor in Stony Brook University's School of Nursing, have won 2023 FACT2 Excellence Awards from the SUNY Faculty Advisory Council on Teaching and Technology (FACT2). The FACT2 awards recognize instructional faculty, technology support professionals and administrative leaders. Stacy received a FACT2 Excellence in Administrative Leadership award and Santina received a FACT2 Excellence in Instruction Award.

### **JOURNALISM STUDENT WINS HEARST AWARD FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

**Viola Flowers**, a rising junior journalism major, has won a Hearst Award for investigative journalism for a story she wrote for the *Riverhead News-Review*. This is the first time a Stony Brook student has won an investigative journalism Hearst Award, and one of the first times a student won for reporting at a professional media outlet. Flowers' piece, "[No foul play suspected: What happens when a teenager runs away from Riverhead's Timothy Hill Children's Ranch?](#)," placed among the top 20 pieces submitted nationwide in the category.

### **CIVIL ENGINEERING PROFESSOR EARNS FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR AWARD**

**Anil Yazici**, associate professor in the [Department of Civil Engineering](#) in the [College of Engineering and Applied Sciences](#), has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award. Yazici will lecture and conduct research at the University of Málaga in Spain to expand upon his U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) project, "One Bridge at a Time: Bridging the Digital Divide for the Well-Being of Aging Populations in Smart and Connected Communities."

### **EIGHT STUDENTS RECEIVE FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM AWARDS**

This year, eight Stony Brook University students were awarded finalist status by the Department of State's prestigious [Fulbright U.S. Student Program](#), a highly competitive opportunity that provides funding for American students to study, research, or teach English in more than 140 countries overseas. An additional three students achieved alternate status, which is essentially an honorable mention with the opportunity to travel if funding becomes available. This year's eight Fulbright finalists are: **Michael Bennett**, Fulbright Research Award to Italy; **Kate Blackwell**, Fulbright Research Award to Norway; **Avery Morris**; Fulbright Research Award to the Czech Republic; **Danielle Ramirez**, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award to

Brazil; **Grace Wivell**, Fulbright Research Award to Indonesia; **Justin Chan**, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award to Taiwan; Bromina Rani, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award to the Czech Republic; and **Rachel Jones**, Fulbright Research Award to India. The three alternates are **Nadine Areikat**, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award to Jordan; **Kurt Butler**, Fulbright Research Award to Spain; and **Daniel Ofer-Moran**, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award to Serbia.

## **SUNY CHANCELLOR’S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE**

Twenty-one Stony Brook University faculty and staff have received the 2022-2023 SUNY Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence. The awards acknowledge the dedication and accomplishments of instructional faculty, librarians, and professional staff across SUNY campuses and encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. These programs underscore SUNY’s commitment to sustaining intellectual vibrancy, advancing the boundaries of knowledge, providing the highest quality of instruction, and serving the public good.

The following are the honorees from Stony Brook:

### Faculty Service

**Giuseppe Gazzola**, European Languages  
**Andreas Koenig**, Department of Anthropology  
**Aprajita Mohanty**, Psychology  
**Kevin Reed**, SoMAS

### Professional Service

**Philip Altieri**, Journalism  
**Dominique Barone**, SoMAS  
**Jacqueline Castaldo**, VP for Administration  
**Sheri Clark**, Research Administration  
**Pamela Matzner**, EOP Administration  
**Susan Nastro**, Electrical Engineering  
**Robert Schamberger**, Physics and Astronomy  
**William Swain**, Office of Faculty Affairs  
**Thomas Wilson**, SoMAS  
**Soraya Zabihi**, College of Arts & Sciences

### Scholarship and Creative Activities

**Surita Bhatia**, Chemistry  
**Elisabeth Anne Hildebrand**, Anthropology  
**Nikolaos Nikiforakis**, Computer Sciences

### Teaching

**Maurice Kernan**, Neurobiology & Behavior  
**Tara Rider**, SoMAS

### Librarianship

**Victoria Pilato**, HSC Library

### Classified Service

**Theresa Terracciano**, Physician’s Assistant Program

## **SUNY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS**

Five Stony Brook University faculty members were appointed to the rank of Distinguished Professor by the SUNY Board of Trustees for 2023. The honored faculty members include:

**Dr. Bettina C. Fries**, Distinguished Professor, Microbiology and Immunology;  
**Dr. Christopher Gobler**, Distinguished Professor, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences;  
**Dr. Sharon Applebaum Nachman**, Distinguished Professor, Pediatrics;  
**Dr. Richard T. Mathias**, Distinguished Professor, Physiology & Biophysics;  
**Dr. Susan E. Brennan**, Distinguished Service Professor, Psychology.

### **TWO SBU STUDENTS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIPS**

Two Stony Brook University students have been selected as recipients of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, which recognizes outstanding undergraduates who intend to pursue PhDs in STEM fields. This year's winners are both applied mathematics and statistics majors: **Sarah Gunasekera** '24, from Mt. Sinai, New York; and **Andrew Bae** '24, from Cohoes, New York.

### **STUDENT RESEARCHERS EARN SUNY GREAT AWARD**

Fifteen Stony Brook University graduate students are among the 33 student researchers selected for the SUNY Graduate Research Empowering and Accelerating Talent (GREAT) award. The SUNY GREAT awards, now entering their third year, provide incentives for SUNY graduate students to compete for federal awards sponsored by agencies including the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and U.S. Department of Energy, among others. Each winner will receive \$5,000 in flexible funding for research expenses, professional development, and stipend supplements. The following are Stony Brook's GREAT Award recipients for 2023: **David Arnot; Alexander Baez; Clare Beatty; John Chen; Dylan Galt; Kenneth Hanson; Abe Leite; Adelmy Janice Marin Bernardez; Riley McDanal; Sarah Payne; Chantelle A. Roulston; Jenny Shen; Samatha Stettmisch; Dillon Voss; and Kristin Walker.**

### **SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

Fourteen Stony Brook University students were recently honored by SUNY as part of the 2023 Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence (CASE). This is the highest honor awarded to SUNY students who have best demonstrated academic excellence and leadership. The Stony Brook CASE winners:

- **Nadine Areikat**, Biology and Psychology
- **Dayashree Baskaran**, Biology
- **Joshua Bisulca**, Biology
- **Mary Brantley**, Political Science
- **Jordyn Christophides**, Political Science and Linguistics
- **Quinten De Man**, Computer Science and Applied Mathematics & Statistics
- **Joshua Gershenson**, Biology and Psychology
- **Benjamin Joffe**, Political Science
- **Marcela Muricy**, Biology and Women's Studies
- **Ryan O'Keeffe**, Business Management
- **Purva Shenoy**, Biomedical Engineering
- **Nicholas Smith**, Human Evolutionary Biology
- **Jessica Uvivo**, Computer Engineering
- **Tina Wong**, Computer Science

### **SBU STUDENTS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS NSF-GRFP FELLOWSHIPS**

Four Stony Brook University students have been awarded prestigious Graduate Research Fellowships by the National Science Foundation (NSF), with another three SBU students earning honorable mention. NSF Fellows receive three years of an annual stipend of \$37,000 across their graduate career. Students honored with fellowships include: **Marie Millares**, Materials Science and Chemical Engineering; **Asa Wong-Gómez**, Anthropology; **Gabrille Lopez**, Marine Vertebrate Biology; and **Ava Nederlander**, Computer Science. The honorable mentions are **Sarah Barkley**, Clinical Psychology; **Matthew Belzer**, Physics and Applied Mathematics & Statistics; and **James St. John**, Physics.

## **SBU SENIOR EARNS SUNY EOP AWARD FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE**

**Nicole Chen** '23 is among a group of Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students from across the SUNY system to receive the Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for Student Excellence. The award, now celebrating its fourth class of awardees, recognizes outstanding EOP students for their academic merit and perseverance. The award is named in memory of Norman R. McConney Jr., who helped create the EOP as a statewide program.

## **EXECUTIVE SEARCHES AND LEADERSHIP UPDATES**

### **T. SIMEON ANANOU NAMED DoIT VP AND CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**

**Simeon Ananou** has been named Stony Brook University's Vice President for the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) and Chief Information Officer (CIO), effective August 14, 2023. Ananou holds a B.A. in International Relations from The Ohio State University, an M.B.A. in Computer Information Systems from Baker College, and a D.Ed. in Administration and Leadership studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. In addition, he attended Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management. He comes to Stony Brook from the University of Vermont where he was Chief Information Officer and provided executive leadership and oversight for all aspects of IT.

### **WILLIAM HERRMANN NAMED VICE PRESIDENT FOR FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

**William (Bill) Herrmann** has been named Stony Brook University Vice President for Facilities & Services, effective August 8, 2023. Herrmann joined Stony Brook in March 2020 as the associate vice president for Campus Planning, Design & Construction (CPDC), providing leadership and oversight for the operation and management of all capital development, campus planning, architectural and engineering design, construction project management and commissioning. He also played a key role in conceptualizing and negotiating SBU's successful bid for The New York Climate Exchange on Governor's Island. During his time as AVP, State University Construction Fund (SUCF) allocations for critical maintenance to academic buildings at Stony Brook rose from an average of \$37 million per year (FY17 – FY20) to \$122 million per year (FY21 – FY23). This increase to capital funding is vital to addressing our \$1.8 billion backlog of deferred maintenance. Herrmann earned a Master of Science degree in Sustainability Management from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business, Management, and Economics with a concentration in Facilities Administration from SUNY Empire State University. He also is a New York State Certified Code Official and a representative for the New York State Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education (NYCSHE).

### **CELIA MARSHIK NAMED DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND VICE PROVOST FOR GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

**Celia Marshik** has been named as dean of the Graduate School and vice provost for Graduate and Professional Education at Stony Brook University. Marshik had served as interim in the role since May 2022. As interim dean and vice provost, Marshik has rebuilt Graduate School staffing, working closely with the Provost's Office to target critical hires needed to support academic program, student and post-doctoral scholar needs. She strengthened partnerships between graduate program leaders and academic support units to enhance support around admissions, recruiting and retention. She has also worked closely with the Graduate Council to help shorten the approval time for programs.

## **NEW BNL DIRECTOR JOANNE HEWETT TO JOIN STONY BROOK FACULTY**

Theoretical physicist **JoAnne Hewett** has been named director of Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) and will be joining Stony Brook University as a tenured faculty member in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics. Hewett, the first female director to lead BNL will oversee a team of more than 2,800 scientists, engineers, technicians, and professionals working to address challenges in nuclear and high energy physics, clean energy and climate science, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, isotope production, accelerator science and technology, and national security.

### **OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH LEADERSHIP UPDATE**

**Richard J. Reeder** has made the decision to step down as Vice President of Research this summer. Reeder has been in the role since his appointment in 2016, and has more than four decades of dedicated service to Stony Brook as an administrator as well as a faculty member and chair in the Department of Geosciences. Reeder will continue to serve as Associate Vice President for Brookhaven National Laboratory Affairs, a position he has held simultaneously with his roles as VPR and Research Foundation Operations Manager.

**Miguel Garcia-Diaz** has been appointed Interim Vice President for Research. As the university's senior research officer, he will provide oversight for research administration, strategy, policy, technology transfer and economic development. He also serves as the Operations Manager for the SUNY Research Foundation. Miguel received a BS in Biochemistry and a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the Universidad Autonoma in Madrid, Spain. Following completion of a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, he was appointed as assistant professor in the Renaissance School of Medicine's Department of Pharmacological Sciences in 2007, where he is currently a professor.

### **STUDENT AFFAIRS UPDATE**

#### **WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS:**

New students (first years and transfers) participated in New Seawolf Welcome, a series of events that acclimate students to Stony Brook and introduce them to faculty, staff, and fellow students. This is a week full of high-energy and student-centered activities and workshops. Each student had a unique schedule of assigned workshops and "Choose Your Own Workshops" as well as robust evening programming focused on community building and sense of belonging.

**FALL 2023 RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCY:** About 10,300 resident students are living on campus this semester.

#### **NEW PLACES AND SPACES:**

This summer, we collaborated with campus partners and are currently renovating community spaces where students can connect with each other, attend programming, and relax with peers.

- The Shore Club (SAC 169) - multifunctional lounge/event space featuring a performance area and bar/catering accommodations
- The Loft (SAC 221) - space with versatile seating options to host private events and viewing parties
- Fraternity and Sorority Lounge
- SAC Lobby
- Club Hub in the Stony Brook Union

#### **TimelyCare - 24/7 TELEHEALTH FOR STUDENTS:**

- Virtual and free access to medical and mental health services as well as health coaching, right from a phone or computer

- On-demand medical and counseling (TalkNow) or scheduled counseling and medical visits with licensed providers
- Students can choose providers according to availability and areas of specialty/focus

### **RED BOOK:**

- This website ([stonycampus.com/redbook](https://stonycampus.com/redbook)) guides faculty and staff on how to best help students in need.
- It includes signs to look for and how to respond to student situations including emotional distress, disruptive behavior, medical emergency, or other concern that requires support or **intervention**, as well as contact information for campus resources and services.

### **ADVANCEMENT UPDATE**

The Advancement Office closed the 2023 fiscal year raising \$184,055,770 million in gifts and pledges from 9,561 donors.

Since the start of the 2024 fiscal year, \$2 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 708 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:**

- \$100,000,000 pledge to the New York Climate Exchange
- \$15,000,000 pledge to the Turkana Basin Institute
- \$4,000,000 pledge for an Endowed Cancer Center Directorship
- \$3,366,000 pledge to the Shinnecock Bay Restoration Program
- \$622,500 pledge for fellowships in the Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology
- \$550,000 in gifts and pledges for student scholarships in the Renaissance School of Medicine
- \$333,333 pledge to support the Walter J. Hawrys Campus Recreation Center
- \$280,000 gift to the Laboratory of Chemical Biology in the Department of Pharmacology
- \$200,000 pledge towards a fellowship in Abstract Expressionism
- \$200,000 gift to the Stony Brook Cancer Center
- \$200,000 pledge to Seawolves United
- \$200,000 in gifts and pledges for the Department of Chemistry Fund for Excellence
- \$150,000 gift to support the STEM Outreach Program and Women in Science and Engineering Program
- \$138,000 estate gift towards a scholarship in the Department of Music
- \$115,000 bequest to support the Department of Economics
- \$100,000 bequest for a scholarship in the School of Dental Medicine
- \$100,000 gift for the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics
- \$100,000 gift to the School of Journalism
- \$100,000 in gifts and pledges to the Pediatric Emergency Department Expansion Project
- \$60,000 gift to support Department of Philosophy fellowships
- \$50,000 pledge to the Men's Lacrosse program
- \$50,000 pledge for student scholarships
- \$50,000 gift to support research in the Department of Chemical Engineering
- \$50,000 gift to the Stony Brook Southampton FoodLab
- \$50,000 gift to the Marie Colvin Memorial Fund in the School of Communication and Journalism
- \$50,000 gift to the Alzheimer's Disease Clinical Trials Clinic



### **Upcoming Advancement Events:**

September 18: Discovery Prize Competition

October 19-22: Wolfstock: A Homecoming Festival for All

November 6: Investiture Ceremony

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Suffolk County is seeking input on the possible benefits of modernizing the Branch through electrification, double tracking, potential yard modifications and other improvements that would allow for direct train service options on the Port Jefferson Branch to both Penn Station and Grand Central, and more frequent service overall. Community members can complete a [short survey here](#).

### **RECENT EVENTS**

#### **2023 MAY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES**

The **Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony** was held Wednesday, May 17 in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena.

**Main Commencement** was held Friday, May 19 in the Kenneth P. LaValle stadium. More than 7,700 students joined the ranks of the University's accomplished alumni. Degrees bestowed included 4,895 bachelor's degrees, the most ever, breaking last year's record of 4,670. It also conferred 2,115 master's degrees, 580 doctoral and professional degrees, and 240 certificates.

#### **SIMONS STEM SCHOLARS SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM**

Stony Brook University's [Simons STEM Scholars Program](#) celebrated the signing of its first-ever cohort of students on May 5 at the Simons Foundation's Flatiron Institute in NYC and completed the six-week program with a closing ceremony on August 5th. 29 incoming freshmen were selected from roughly 800 applicants in a series of interviews and symposiums to determine the finalists. The Simons STEM Scholars Program is funded by a \$56.6 million donation from the [Simons Foundation and Simons Foundation International](#) and provides members with full scholarships, housing research opportunities, internship stipends, advising, mentoring and more to comprehensively ameliorate gaps in the STEM career pipeline for underrepresented students.

#### **RICHARD LEAKEY MEMORIAL CONFERENCE JUNE 5-9**

The Richard Leakey International Memorial Conference was held from Monday, June 5 through Friday, June 9, at Stony Brook University. [Africa: The Human Cradle](#), commemorated Dr. Richard Leakey's life and his extraordinary achievements in African Prehistory.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS**

President McInnis will deliver the State of the University address on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – 1:00pm in the Staller Center Main Stage. It will also be streamed live.

#### **COMMUNIVERSITY DAY**

[CommUniversity Day 2023](#) – the celebration of Stony Brook's campus and community – will take place on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 12:00pm. Festivities will include interactive hands-on activities for this free, fun, family-friendly day showcasing some of the best academics, medicine, sports and entertainment that

Stony Brook has to offer.

## **HOMECOMING**

Homecoming weekend is filled with activities running from October 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Homecoming Football game will be on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – 3:30pm, when the Seawolves take on the University of New Hampshire Wildcats in LaValle Stadium.

## **ATHLETICS UPDATE**<sup>1</sup>

- Stony Brook Athletics celebrated a record fundraising year which saw the department raise over \$7.3 million (\$7,382,464) in cash and pledges for the 2023 fiscal year. This year's record-breaking effort tops the previous high of \$5.988 million in the 2016 fiscal year.
- Sophomore softball student-athlete Alyssa Costello earned the prestigious 2022-23 SUNY Scholar Athlete of the Year honor. Costello was one of six student-athletes and one of two Division I student-athletes from SUNY colleges and universities sponsoring intercollegiate athletics at the four- and two-year levels who were nominated and voted upon by representatives of members from the governing board.
- A total of 261 Stony Brook student-athletes were tabbed to the 2023 CAA Spring Commissioner's Honor Roll. Student-athletes on the Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll must have participated in a CAA-sponsored sport, attained a minimum grade point average of 3.0 during the designated academic term and been enrolled as a full-time student.
- Head tennis coach Gary Glassman announced his retirement after 24 years at the helm of the program. The six-time conference Coach of the Year led the Seawolves since the beginning of the school's Division I era in 1999.
- Football opens the 2023 season under the lights at LaValle Stadium on August 31 at 7 p.m. against Delaware. Several changes to the fan experience have been planned for the upcoming season, including new videoboards, fan amenities and interactive events. The team will honor the memory of late defensive coordinator Bryan Collins, who passed away suddenly in July.
- Seven standout Seawolves highlight the 2023 Stony Brook Athletics Hall of Fame class, which will be enshrined this coming fall. The 2023 Hall of Fame class is comprised of Dr. Leah Fiorentino (Holland) '76 (Swimming & Diving), Brock Jackolski '12 (Football), Nini Lagvilava '13 (Women's Tennis), Courtney Lawless (Murphy) '17, '18 (Women's Lacrosse), Kylie Ohlmiller '18 (Women's Lacrosse), Carson Puriefoy '16 (Men's Basketball), and Steve Waldeck '10 (Men's Lacrosse).

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<sup>1</sup> As of August 22, 2023