

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** University Senate  
**FROM:** Maurie McInnis, President  
**DATE:** April 5, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** President's Report

---

**I. ACKNOWLEDGING AN IMPORTANT PANDEMIC MILESTONE**

In March we reached the one-year milestone of the pandemic. I acknowledged the significance of this through a [campus message](#), recognizing the efforts of all the faculty, students, staff and community members who have worked tirelessly, and continue to work to keep our campus safe and strong through the most extraordinary challenge we have ever faced.

**II. LEADERSHIP UPDATE****Enhancements in Finance and Administration**

In a recent [campus message](#) I updated the campus community on changes to the Administration and Finance areas. Effective March 29, **David Gray** joined us as Interim VP for Budget and Financial Planning, with responsibilities for Accounting, Budgeting, Financial Planning and Procurement. David most recently served as the Senior VP for Finance and Business at Penn State, for almost ten years. David's focus - in addition to leading the Finance team - will be to update our budgeting process to an "all funds" approach and support the introduction of new systems to strengthen our evolving financial management requirements. **Kathy Byington** will continue as Senior VP for Administration, with Human Resources, Emergency Management and Police, Environmental Health and Safety, Parking and Transportation, and Facilities reporting to her. These changes will enable us to perform more effectively in these different operational areas.

**III. CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS OF STONY BROOK GRADUATES FOR THE 40 UNDER FORTY ALUMNI RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Honorees will be celebrated for their remarkable achievements in their professions and communities. Please visit the website at [40 Under Forty](#) to read the criteria and nominate a deserving graduate. Nominations will be accepted until April 30, 2021.

**IV. COVID-19 UPDATES**

Below are noteworthy updates related to our COVID-19 efforts since my last report to the University Senate:

**Vaccination**

- We recently administered the 100,000<sup>th</sup> shot at the R&D Park Point of Distribution (POD). This POD has been up-and-running since January 18.
- We are also running a new POD at Stony Brook Southampton, which is one of 10 additional COVID-19 mass vaccination sites in New York State.

- We continue to hold pop-up vaccine PODs across Long Island to ensure access for elderly and underrepresented minority communities.

#### · Testing Requirements - Reminder

- **On campus employees and commuter students:** Pooled saliva testing is required once a week. [Find details and our full spring semester pooled testing schedule here.](#)
- **Resident students:** PCR (nasal swab) testing required twice a week. [Visit our Student Health Services COVID-19 testing webpage for details.](#)
- **Hospital employees and clinical faculty members:** All Stony Brook University Hospital staff, FSA hospital colleagues and School of Medicine clinical faculty are required to participate in weekly anterior nasal swab COVID surveillance testing in the Health Sciences Galleria on Level 3. No appointments or pre-registration required.

## V. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Since the start of the 2021 fiscal year, \$51.9 million has been generously pledged or contributed by 9,000 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:

- \$6.25 million grant for the Turkana Basin Institute
- \$310,463 toward the Laboratory for Chemical Biology
- \$170,000 pledge toward student scholarships
- \$63,500 pledge toward the Department of Music
- \$63,000 toward the Chemistry Department Fund for Excellence
- \$54,000 toward the URECA program
- \$50,000 toward the College of Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence
- \$50,000 toward the Psychology Department Fund for Excellence
- \$50,000 toward the Autism Initiative at Stony Brook University
- \$50,000 toward the Center for News Literacy
- \$50,000 pledge toward the Department of Surgery

Upcoming Advancement Events:

- April 21 – Stony Brook Giving Day 2021
- April 28 @ 1pm – Stony Brook Foundation Discovery Prize Competition
- May 6 @ 5:30pm - Stars of Stony Brook Gala (virtual)

## VI. HONORARY DEGREE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Stony Brook University Committee on Honorary Degrees will begin its work leading to the recommendation of candidates for SUNY Honorary Degrees to be awarded in 2022. The chairs of the committee are Eric Wertheimer, Dean of the Graduate School, and Deborah Lowen-Klein, Interim Vice President for Advancement. The purposes of awarding honorary degrees by the State University of New York are:

- To recognize excellence in the fields of public affairs, the sciences, humanities and the arts, scholarship and education, business and philanthropy, and social services, which exemplify the mission and purposes of the State University of New York;
- To honor meritorious and outstanding service to the University, the State of New York, the United States, or to humanity at large; and
- To recognize persons whose lives serve as examples of the University's aspirations for its students.

Nominations should be sent to Gianna Juliano-Hooper via interoffice mail (zip = 4433) or email [gianna.juliano-hooper@stonybrook.edu](mailto:gianna.juliano-hooper@stonybrook.edu). The deadline for submission is April 30.

## VII. UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES

Two programs have been recognized in the top 100 in the U.S. News & World Report 2021 rankings of the Best Global Universities. Psychiatry/Psychology climbed to [63 in the publication's global rankings](#), which places Stony Brook in the top 16 percent of the 416 universities ranked for 2021. Physics [placed 70th among 911 universities ranked for 2021](#), placing Stony Brook in the top 8 percent globally.

## VIII. INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES

- **Yanhong Annie Liu** and **Scott Stoller**, professors in the Department of Computer Science, have been awarded a four-year \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for their research project, "Configuration for Assurance: Safe, Live and Secure Distributed Systems."
- **Patricia Wright, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology**, will be awarded the Wildlife Conservation Award from the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden on April 21 at its annual Barrows Conservation Lecture Series.
- **Benjamin S. Hsiao**, distinguished professor, and **Priyanka Sharma**, research assistant professor, both from the Department of Chemistry, received the Creativity Prize — which is awarded to water-related interdisciplinary work — in the ninth [Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water](#) (PSIPW).
- **Lilianne R. Mujica-Parodi**, professor of Biomedical Engineering, has been awarded the **Fulbright Distinguished Scholar Award** for 2021-2022. **R. Anna Hayward**, associate professor at the School of Social Welfare, has received a **Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program Award** for Spring 2022.
- **Qingzhi Zhu, PhD**, Associate Professor in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, has received a SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund (TAF) award for his research to develop a low-cost, high-accuracy nitrogen detecting system for wastewater systems that has the potential to greatly improve testing processes and quality of water.
- **Two Stony Brook Students Win Prestigious NSF-GRFP Fellowships**  
Two Stony Brook University students have been awarded prestigious Graduate Research Fellowships (NSF GRFP) by the National Science Foundation. Another six SBU students earned honorable mentions. This nationally competitive award provides successful applicants in NSF-supported STEM disciplines with three years of funding for graduate school.

The two students honored with fellowships are: Alum **Marlee Harris**, Anthropology, who received her bachelor's degree from Stony Brook in 2018 and will be joining the University's Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS) in Fall 2021, and graduating senior **Marisa Petrusky**, Physics, who will be joining the University of Colorado at Boulder's PhD program in aerospace engineering in Fall 2021 after completing her bachelor's degree at SBU in May.

Students winning honorable mentions are graduating senior **Abbigayle Cuomo**, Chemistry; graduating senior **Daniella Hebert**, Mechanical Engineering; PhD student **Angus Koller**, Chemistry; PhD student **Alicia Mendoza**, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology; PhD student **Sekine Ozturk**, Clinical Psychology; and alum **Durre Riaz**, Anthropology.

- **Eight Stony Brook students received the new SUNY Graduate Award**

Eight students from Stony Brook University have received the first-ever SUNY [Graduate Research Empowering and Accelerating Talent \(GREAT\)](#) award, which provides \$5,000 to each student in flexible funds for research expenses, professional development and supplemental stipend support. The recipients have all won national recognition for their research from prestigious graduate fellowship programs sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. A total of 22 students received the award.

The eight Stony Brook students are:

- **Erica Bower**, Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
- **Gabrielle Elise Kamm**, Chemistry
- **Madani Ahmed Khan**, Chemistry
- **Tori Peña**, Psychology
- **Margaret Ellen Shevik**, Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology
- **Jennifer Susan Thalappillil**, Pharmacological Sciences
- **John Connor Williams**, Biomedical Engineering
- **Priscilla Edinam Yevoo**, Neurobiology and Behavior

## IX. RECENT EVENTS

The annual **Academic Achievement Ceremony** was held virtually on March 18, honoring students who have achieved a 4.0 semester GPA while taking 12+ graded credits, with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.85 overall.

## X. UPCOMING EVENTS

Maggie Haberman, White House correspondent for *The New York Times*, will deliver the latest **My Life As Speaker Series** lecture next month. Her lecture will be streamed live on Wednesday, April 7, at 6:00PM on the Stony Brook School of Communication and Journalism's YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. Haberman, a 2018 Pulitzer Prize winner, will discuss her political reporting career and work covering the White House. Haberman joined The Times in 2015, and has covered five presidential elections. Prior to The Times, Haberman worked for *Politico*, the *New York Post*, and the *New York Daily News*.

The **Discovery Prize** competition will be broadcast virtually on April 28. Finalists and their research projects are:

- **Eszter Boros**, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry “Activation of anticancer drug molecules with a radioactive light switch”
- **Eric Brouzes**, Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering “Enabling platform for high-resolution spatial -omics to reveal cell-cell interactions within tissue by sequencing”
- **Gregory Henkes**, Assistant Professor, Department of Geosciences “A rare oxygen isotope recorder of continental aridity”
- **Kevin Reed**, Associate Professor, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences “Attribution of the human influence on the 2020 and 2021 hurricane seasons”

### 2021 Stars of Stony Brook Gala

The 22nd Annual Gala will be held virtually on May 6th, from 6:00-7:00PM, and will feature an exclusive conversation between 2013 Gala honoree Alan Alda and President Maurie McInnis. Proceeds from the event will benefit student scholarships.

[Commencement ceremonies](#) will be held on campus in person in May. Ten individual ceremonies will be held Wednesday, May 19 through Friday, May 21, hosted by individual schools and colleges. All of the ceremonies will be held outdoors at the LaValle Stadium, rain or shine, and all ceremonies will be live streamed and recorded.

The **Staller Center's** spring [season](#) continues to be virtual through May 2.

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

- Women's Soccer seniors Kimmy Chavkin and Alyssa Francese are two of 30 national finalists for the prestigious NCAA Senior CLASS Award, which focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.
- After winning the America East championship, Women's Basketball played in their first NCAA Tournament game in school history on March 22. The Seawolves earned the No. 14 seed and were defeated by No. 3 Arizona at the Alamodome in San Antonio. The program has a combined 41-9 record over the past two seasons.
- Women's Soccer is 4-0 in conference play and seeking their third championship in the last four seasons.
- Softball head coach Megan Bryant earned her 900th career victory in a 10-0 win over Binghamton in the second game of a doubleheader. In the first game, senior pitcher Dawn Bodrug tossed her second career no-hitter in a 1-0 victory.
- Women's Lacrosse has won 49 consecutive America East contests and is ranked No. 5 nationally with their only two losses coming against No. 1 North Carolina and No. 2 Syracuse.
- Men's Lacrosse is ranked No. 20 after winning three straight, including a 16-10 win over No. 19 Albany. Freshman Dylan Pallonetti has earned America East Rookie of the Week honors for five out of the last six weeks.
- Baseball earned a four-game road sweep of Albany to open America East play. Senior Chris Hamilton was named America East Player of the Week after batting .500 in the series.
- Football claimed the Golden Apple by defeating Albany 21-7.

---

<sup>1</sup> As of March 30