



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Senate

**FROM:** Maurie McInnis, President

**DATE:** December 6, 2021

**SUBJECT:** President's Report

---

### I. GOVERNORS ISLAND COMPETITION

Stony Brook's proposal to be the anchor institution for a climate science development project on Governors Island is progressing through the process developed by the Trust for Governors Island. Our proposal centers on the development of the New York Climate Exchange, which will include a climate solutions accelerator. We expect that finalists will be named in the coming weeks.

A [webinar](#) will be held via Zoom on December 8 at 7:00PM to discuss the project with climate science expert and Stony Brook Professor **Kevin Reed**. The discussion will include information about the climate science work we're already doing and why Stony Brook is uniquely positioned to lead this once-in-a-lifetime project.

### II. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Since the start of the 2022 fiscal year, \$17.6 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 3,800 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:

- \$225,000 gift toward the Mobile Dental Van Project
- \$211,750 in pledges toward Bipolar Disorder Clinical Research
- \$200,000 pledge toward the Nisha and Vinod K. Singhi Graduate Fellowship in Computer Science Endowment
- \$200,000 gift bequest toward the Pollock-Krasner House
- \$100,000 pledge toward the Leonard Krasner Psychological Center
- \$90,000 pledge toward The Laufer Family Fund for Tibetan Scholars
- \$75,000 gift toward the Topological Lab of Dr. Chao Chen in the Department of Biomedical Informatics
- \$56,000 gift toward the Biochemistry and Cell Biology Fund for Excellence
- \$50,000 gift toward the Biomedical Informatics Special Projects Fund
- \$50,000 pledge toward the Chhabra Endowment for Undergraduate Student Research in Math & Science

- \$50,000 gift toward Dr. Richard August Clark and Dr. Marcia Graff Tonnesen Cutaneous Biology Research Fund
- \$50,000 gift toward the Herrnstein Family Endowed Chair in Conservation Biology
- \$50,000 gift toward the Turkana Basin Institute Project

### III. UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES

#### **107 Stony Brook Physicians Named to New York Magazine’s Top Doctors List**

A total of 107 Stony Brook Medicine physicians have been named “Top Doctors” on New York Magazine’s 2021 list, which includes doctors from Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital and Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital, across more than 45 different specialties. The “Top Doctors” list represents the top 10 percent of New York area physicians.

#### **SBU Researchers Part of Team Driving Renewable Ocean Energy Research**

Researchers from Stony Brook are working with scientists in the Northeast as part of the new Atlantic Marine Energy Center (AMEC) to conduct research and development that address ongoing needs for sustainable renewable ocean energy. The Stony Brook team has received \$2 million to conduct its research, which is part of a \$9.7 million Department of Energy four-year grant given to a consortium of academic institutions on the East Coast led by the University of New Hampshire (UNH). The AMEC will be one of only four National Marine Renewable Energy Centers in the country.

The Stony Brook team from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) includes Principal Investigator (PI) **Ali Khosronejad**, co-director of the AMEC and assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, Co-PI **Fang Luo**, associate director of the AMEC and associate professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, and Co-PI Peng Zhang, professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering.

#### **\$9M in Grants to Help Explore Engineering Potential for Biopolymer-Enhanced Soil**

Leading a team of researchers in the Department of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering, professor and department chair **Dilip Gersappe** has secured two grants, totaling \$9 million over the next four years to explore and validate the potential of replacing cement, which is environmentally expensive, with naturally derived biopolymers to increase the structural stability of soil. The first award of \$5 million from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) is to develop the fundamental principles by which biopolymers can be used to strengthen and improve the properties of earthen structures. The second grant of \$4 million, also awarded by ERDC, will test and confirm the principles developed in the first proposal at engineering scales.

#### **SBU College of Business Earns AACSB International Accreditation**

Stony Brook University’s College of Business has been recognized for its world-class curriculum and its demonstrated focus on excellence in all areas — including teaching, research, curriculum development and student learning — and has earned AACSB International Accreditation. Less than six percent of the world’s schools offering business degree programs hold AACSB business accreditation.

### **Two Research Projects Involving SBU Faculty Receive DEO INCITE Awards**

Two high-impact computational science projects that include Stony Brook University faculty from the Department of Physics and Astronomy have been awarded supercomputer access from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science for 2022 through its Innovative and Novel Computational Impact on Theory and Experiment (INCITE) program. Through these awards, the research teams will be able to access the leadership-class supercomputers at DOE's Argonne and Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

The first project, "Approaching Exascale Models of Astrophysical Explosions," includes Principal Investigator Professor **Michael Zingale** and co-investigators Associate Professor **Alan Calder**, Postdoctoral Associate **Alice Harpole** and PhD student **Maria Barrios Sazo**. Assistant Professor Sergey Syritsyn is a co-investigator on the other project, "Internal Structure of Strong Interaction Nambu-Goldstone Bosons."

#### **IV. INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES**

##### **April Masten Receives 2021 Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award**

The American Historical Association has awarded April Masten, an associate professor in the Department of History, the 2021 Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award, which recognizes inspiring teachers whose techniques and mastery of subject matter have made a lasting impression and substantial difference to students of history. Masten, who joined Stony Brook University in 2001, specializes in nineteenth-century America, teaching graduate and undergraduate courses on the Early Republic, antebellum, and Civil War eras, industrialization, slavery, women's history, and popular culture. She has developed a unique research seminar, Dancing Through American History, in which students learn to ring shout, jig, waltz, square dance, jitterbug, and salsa to complement their archival study of the people, places, and periods that produced these dances.

##### **Math Professor Samuel Grushevsky Named a 2022 AMS Fellow**

Samuel Grushevsky, a professor in the Department of Mathematics and deputy director of the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, has been elected as a fellow of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) "for contributions to algebraic geometry and Teichmüller dynamics, and service to the mathematical community." His research interests include algebraic and complex geometry, relations with number theory, integrable systems and mathematical physics.

#### **V. UPCOMING EVENTS**

**December Commencement** will be held Friday, December 17 at 11:00AM in the IFCU Arena.

**New Student Convocation** will be held on Friday, January 21, at 3:45PM at the Staller Center.

#### **VI. RECENT EVENTS**

The **Stony Brook University School of Nursing** held its first-ever **Oath Ceremony** for nursing students entering its undergraduate programs on October 29 at Stony Brook Medicine. A total of 132 students participated in the ceremony that carried the theme, "Keep Healthcare Human." The purpose of the ceremony — devised similarly to Medicine's white

coat ceremony — is to welcome students into the profession and highlight the impact that nursing brings to society and patients worldwide. The event was made possible with a grant from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to support the [Gold-AACN White Coat/Oath Ceremony](#) for Nursing.

**WolfieTank** — Stony Brook’s premier cross-campus pitch competition that showcases innovative business ideas was recently held at the Charles B. Wang Center. Inspired by the popular TV show “Shark Tank,” WolfieTank is now in its seventh year. Five teams delivered presentations featuring the following business ideas:

- **Nota Bene** — an agency to help improve communications in the STEM sciences
- **CICaidA** — a device for individual crisis aid monitoring
- **AVIOT** — technology for early glaucoma detection and home monitoring
- **EZEduTunity, Inc.** — a service for matching high school students with internship opportunities
- **Soulo** – a device to help elderly people clip toenails

**EZEduTunity, Inc.** was named the winning business idea, taking the top prize of \$2,500.

#### **SUNY Long Island Pitch Competition**

The first annual SUNY Long Island Pitch competition between Stony Brook University, SUNY Farmingdale, and SUNY Old Westbury was held on November 16, 2021. The entrepreneurial development event gave students from each of the schools a chance to compete for more than \$1,000 in prizes. The competition took place virtually, with a combination of a live Q&A session, which gave students an opportunity to interact with successful business people, and asynchronous videos between presenters.

The first-place winner of the competition from Stony Brook was Soulo, a toe-nail clipper for older adults. **Joshua Zhu**, a second-year medical student in the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, is the creator of Soulo.

#### **Stony Brook Southampton Brings Back Lighting of the Windmill for 2021**

The Lighting of the Windmill was held on Friday, December 3 and honored Assemblyman Fred Thiele for securing a \$500,000 capital grant that was used for the restoration and rehabilitation of the windmill. The event featured guided windmill tours, crafts for children, music, refreshments and an alumni-sponsored photo booth. The lighting was followed by an open lecture by Joe Warren, Associate Professor from the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, titled “Whale Watching From the Beach: How Are New York Whales Reacting To A Changing Environment?”

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

Stony Brook Athletics reached a linear television agreement with SNY for 13 men’s and women’s basketball games during the 2021-22 campaign. The women’s basketball team is set to appear on SNY seven times and the men’s team is slated to play on SNY six times this season.

---

<sup>1</sup> As of December 1, 2021

The 7-0 start for Women's Basketball is the best in program history. Led by first-year head coach Ashley Langford, the team was one of only 11 in the nation to begin the season with seven straight wins.

Men's Basketball landed on ESPN's SportsCenter after defeating Sacred Heart 75-72 on a buzzer-beating three-point shot by junior Anthony Roberst in the team's home opener on November 22. The shot was featured on the popular Top Plays segment.

Football ended the 2021 season by winning four of their last five games, including a 36-14 win over Albany to retain possession of the Golden Apple trophy. Freshman linebacker Tyler King was also named as a finalist for the Jerry Rice award, which is presented annually to the FCS national freshman of the year.

Stony Brook Football alum Gavin Heslop became the second former Seawolf to appear in an NFL game this season when he suited up for the Seattle Seahawks on Monday Night Football against Washington on November 29.

Junior diver Mia Sclar was named America East Diver of the Week on November 24 after breaking a 19-year-old school record in the 1-meter dive with a score of 302.17.