



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate
FROM: Richard McCormick, Interim President
DATE: August 26, 2024
SUBJECT: President's Report

I. University News and Accolades

20 Research Projects Awarded \$1M in Seed Grants by OVPR for Spring 2024

The Office of the Vice President of Research (OVPR) recently announced the winners of the [Spring 2024 OVPR Seed Grant Program](#). This round marks the 10th cycle of the internal seed grant program, with the OVPR awarding \$1 million in total funding to 20 research projects. The OVPR Seed Grant Program gives Stony Brook University faculty a competitive edge in securing external research funds by offering support for preliminary work that will lead to larger, more competitive, and more impactful research projects. For more information about the awarded proposals, visit the [Spring 2024 Seed Grant Award Winners](#) page on the Office of Proposal Development website.

Stony Brook University Awarded \$1M Grant to Safe Streets Initiative

Department of Transportation has awarded a \$1 million grant under the [Safe Streets for All \(SS4A\)](#) program, aimed at enhancing pedestrian safety and connectivity on and around the campus. The funding will be used to develop a comprehensive action plan focusing on creating a safer environment for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. It will include an exploration of the development of a pedestrian overpass over Nicolls Road to connect Stony Brook's East and West campuses.

Stony Brook Receives National Academy of Inventors Chapter of Excellence Award

Stony Brook University has been awarded the 2024 National Academy of Inventors (NAI) Chapter of Excellence award, recognizing Stony Brook's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. This honor highlights Stony Brook's significant achievements in key areas such as innovation, community impact, chapter support and collaboration. The award was received by Wei Zhao, NAI fellow and professor in the Departments of Radiology and Biomedical Engineering in the Stony Brook University [Renaissance School of Medicine](#).

SBUH Receives Award for Excellence in Emergency Nursing

The [Stony Brook University Hospital \(SBUH\) Emergency Department](#) has been selected as a recipient of the [Emergency Nurses Association's \(ENA\) 2024 Lantern Award](#) for demonstrating excellence in leadership, practice, education, advocacy and research performance. The Lantern Award showcases the Emergency Department's accomplishments in incorporating evidence-based practice and innovation into emergency care.

SBUH Recognized Again as a U.S. News & World Report Best Hospital

Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) has been recognized as a 2024-25 Best Hospital by U.S. News & World Report, ranking in the top 15 in New York State. SBUH climbed to a No. 12 ranking overall out of more than 153 hospitals statewide, up from No. 13 last year. In addition to ranking in the top 8 percent overall in New York State, SBUH also rated high performing in five adult specialties nationwide, including Geriatrics, Neurology & Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, Urology and Pulmonology & Lung Surgery.

Stony Brook University Magazine Honored with CASE Circle of Excellence Award

Stony Brook University Magazine, produced by the Office of Marketing and Communications, was honored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) in its 2024 Circle of Excellence Awards, advancement's premier global awards program recognizing outstanding work in advancement services, alumni relations, communications, fundraising, and marketing. The Magazine, issues 10 and 11, earned a Bronze award for Design in the Periodicals and Magazines category.

SBU, Simons Foundation Receive Inspiring Programs in STEM Award

Stony Brook University and the Simons Foundation have been named a recipient of the *Insight Into Diversity* magazine 2024 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award, a unique and prestigious national honor for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to access, diversity, and inclusion in STEM fields.

School of Social Welfare Receives \$2M Award Through New York's Opioid Settlement Fund

Building on the Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare's (SSW) strong partnership with the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), the SSW has been awarded an additional, new contract that will provide support for master of social work (MSW) students interested in working in the field of addiction and substance use. Through this \$2 million OASAS contract, over the next two years, the SSW will be able to allocate significant financial awards to eligible MSW students and to their practicum instructors.

Avram Gallery At Stony Brook Southampton Reopens with Pollock-Krasner House Collaboration

The Avram Gallery at Stony Brook Southampton has reopened as part of an innovative collaboration between the campus and the Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center. In commemoration of the June 21 reopening, the Avram Gallery hosted Lovefeast, an exhibition by Ghislaine and Lando Fremaux-Valdez. The exhibition begins a four-part contemporary art series produced by the Pollock-Krasner House for the Avram Gallery.

Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH) and Stony Brook Southampton Hospital (SBSH) Recognized as Pediatric Innovators

SBUH and SBSH are two of only nine hospitals in NYS that have been acknowledged as Pediatric Innovators in the Always Ready for Children Pediatric Recognition Program and for having dedicated Emergency Department Pediatric Care Coordinators. They are the only two hospitals on Long Island to receive this recognition.

II. Individual Accolades

Grant Awarded to Pursue Innovative Approaches to Combat Freeze-Thaw Damage

A multi-university research group led by Principal Investigator **Dilip Gersappe**, professor and chair of the Department of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering, has been awarded a \$4 million, three-year grant from the U.S. Army Cold Regions Lab (CRREL) to address overcoming negative effects of freeze-thaw cycles on geo-structures. **Taejin Kim**, associate professor in the Department of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering and **Benjamin Hsiao**, distinguished professor in the Department of Chemistry, serve as co-PIs for the project.

CEAS' Fang Luo Wins ARPA-E Grant from U.S. Department of Energy

Fang Luo, Empire Innovation Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, was recently awarded a \$779,230 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to continue his high voltage semiconductor packaging research. His work is part of a \$3.5 million award to a team led by researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). The project aims to continue work to develop a device that allows for more resilient and efficient power transmission.

Faculty Duo Win the VLDB Test of Time Award

Cherith Professor **Fusheng Wang**, professor in the Department of Biomedical Informatics and the Department of Computer Science, and **Joel Saltz**, Founding Chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics, have been awarded the 2024 Test of Time award from the Very Large Database (VLDB) Endowment. The duo was honored for a 2013 paper that has made significant contributions to the creation of an ecosystem for big spatial analytics that is currently widely adopted for its merits of large-scale capacity, scalability, compatibility with low-cost commodity processors, and open-source accessibility, making it indispensable in the society for various applications.

Stony Brook Team Makes Finals of First-Ever Climate Exchange Innovation Challenge

In 2023, Stony Brook University was named an anchor institution of The New York Climate Exchange, a world-leading climate solutions center with a future home on Governors Island in the city's harbor. In April, Stony Brook students were invited to compete in the first-ever Climate Exchange AI Innovation Challenge, where teams from eight universities presented cutting-edge solutions to stormwater management challenges faced by New York City. As a result of their strong performance, one Stony Brook team has been invited to compete in the finals — graduate students **Caroline Fabian**, **Nathan Hirtle**, **Ian Maywar** and **Harmanveer Singh**. The second phase has begun, and final presentations are scheduled to take place the last weekend of October in New York City.

Dino Martins Named New Director of Stony Brook University's Turkana Basin Institute

Kenyan entomologist and evolutionary biologist Dino J. Martins will begin serving as the director of Stony Brook University's world-renowned Turkana Basin Institute on September 1. Martins has served as the CEO of TBI (Kenya) Ltd. since August 1, 2022, and has been affiliated with TBI since 2011.

Sanjay Sampath To Be Honored by American Ceramic Society

Distinguished Professor **Sanjay Sampath** of the Department of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering will receive the American Ceramic Society's 2024 Rishi Raj Medal

for Innovation and Commercialization in Ceramics. The award recognizes a member of the ceramics and glass research community for exceptional discoveries or inventions that can, or have, led to innovative products and or processes.

Two Cardiothoracic Surgeons Inducted into American Association for Thoracic Surgery

Henry Tannous, MD, chief, Cardiothoracic Surgery and co-director of the Stony Brook Heart Institute (SBHI) was inducted into the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS). Member inductions are reserved for a limited number of select physicians each year, and SBHI has the distinction of having two cardiothoracic surgeons as AATS members. **Allison McLarty, MD**, director, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Program and co-director, Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) Program, was selected by the AATS for induction in 2020.

Two SBU Undergrads Receive Prestigious Goldwater Scholarships

Gabriella Vaccaro, biochemistry, and **Zain Zaidi**, chemistry have been selected as recipients of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, an award recognizing outstanding undergraduate, PhD-bound students in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering (STEM).

Orlov Receives Lederman Environmental Division Service Award from AIChE

Alexander Orlov, a professor of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, was recently awarded the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Dr. Peter. B. Lederman Environmental Division Service Award. This prestigious award recognizes his outstanding service to the institute's Environmental Division, which was transformed under his leadership.

Two from SBU Named to Inaugural Class of SUNY Climate Corps Interns

State University of New York Chancellor John B. King Jr. announced the inaugural class of paid student interns from the SUNY Climate Corps Internship Program, including two from Stony Brook University. The first class of interns will include civil engineering major **Joseph Caracci** and environmental design, policy and planning major **Danielle Stone**, who will intern with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

SBU Career Center's Andrea Lipack Earns SUNY Lifetime Achievement Award

Andréa Lipack, Stony Brook University's senior director of Career Center operations, has been awarded a Lifetime Achievement award by the SUNY Career Development Organization. Lipack is the first SBU employee to be recognized with this honor.

Stony Brook Wins 11 SUNYCUAD Awards for Excellence

Stony Brook University was honored with 11 awards at the 2024 State University of New York Council for University Advancement (SUNYCUAD) Awards for Excellence ceremony. Chief Deputy to the President **Judith Greiman** received the Education Achievement Award for distinguished service and leadership on behalf of the advancement profession and the State University of New York. Stony Brook University's **Office of Marketing and Communications** took home seven awards, including four Judge's Citations and three Best of Category for excellence in publication design, website, video and photography. **Stony Brook Athletics** and the **Office of Advancement** also earned Judge's Citations, and the Division of Student Affairs won Best of Category.

SB Foundation Trustees Faculty Awards Recognize Early-Career Achievements

To foster and support promising early-career faculty, the Office of the Provost offers the Stony Brook Foundation Trustees Faculty Awards to recognize the exceptional trajectory of research, creative activities, and scholarly achievements of early-career faculty members. This year, five faculty members have been honored with this \$20,000 award, highlighting their contributions and potential in their respective fields. This year's recipients are **Stanley Bak**, Department of Computer Science; **Theodore Drivas**, Department of Mathematics; **Ruobing Li**, School of Communication and Journalism; **Carrie Mongle**, Department of Anthropology; and **Shanshan Yao**, Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Esther Takeuchi Honored with Special Issue of the Journal of Physical Chemistry C

Esther S. Takeuchi, SUNY Distinguished Professor and the William and Jane Knapp Chair in Energy and the Environment at Stony Brook University, has been honored with a special issue of *The Journal of Physical Chemistry C*. The special "Festschrift issue" is a volume of writings by different authors, presented as a tribute or memorial. The articles in this Festschrift, from friends, colleagues, current and former mentees, honor Takeuchi's ongoing research achievements and her leadership in the field of electrochemistry and electrochemical energy storage. The issue also includes an autobiographical feature, "A Window into the Life and Science of Esther Sans Takeuchi," where she talks about her upbringing and how she decided to pursue science as a field of study.

Karah Munnings Honored with EOP Norman McConney Award

Stony Brook University psychology major **Karah Munnings** was one of 52 students in SUNY's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) who were honored April 18 with the Norman R. McConney, Jr. Award for Student Excellence. The award recognizes outstanding EOP students for their academic merit and perseverance.

Eight from SBU Named SUNY Distinguished Faculty for 2023-24

Eight Stony Brook University faculty members have been appointed to the rank of State University of New York (SUNY) Distinguished Faculty by the SUNY Board of Trustees for 2023-2024. The honored faculty members include:

Distinguished Professor: **Daniel Raleigh**, professor, Department of Chemistry; **Adam Singer**, professor and interim chair, Department of Emergency Medicine; and **Jacobus Verbaarschots**, professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Distinguished Service Professor: **Joanne Davila**, professor and chair, Department of Psychology; **Susan Lane**, professor and vice chair of education, Department of Medicine; **Lawrence Martin**, professor and director of the Turkana Basin Institute, Department of Anthropology; and **Laszlo Mihaly**, professor, Department of Psychology.

Distinguished Teaching Professor: **Marci Lobel**, professor, Department of Psychology.

SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence Honor 27 SBU Faculty and Staff

Twenty-seven members of Stony Brook University's faculty and staff have received the 2023-2024 State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor's Awards for Excellence. The Chancellor's Awards for Excellence are system-level honors conferred to acknowledge and provide system-wide recognition for consistently superior professional achievement and to encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. This year's honorees from Stony Brook:

Excellence in Teaching

Robin DeLuca-Acconi

Anna Geisherik

Jason Paradis

Tony Scarlatos

Ken Weitzman

Excellence in Adjunct Teaching

Maya Koga Endoh

George Giokas

Anna Melnikova

Excellence in Faculty Service

Rachel Bergeson

Holly Colognato

Kathleen de Riesthal

Suzanne Velázquez

Dina Vivian

Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities

Karena Chapman

John Hobbs

Paul Kelton

Ken-ichi Takemaru

Excellence in Professional Service

Marisa Bisiani

Nancy Black

Lauren Brookmeyer

Karen Levitov

Rachael Redhead

Christine Szaraz

Excellence in Librarianship

Mona Ramonetti

Excellence in Classified Service

Michelle Carbone

Steven Altman

Joseph Manitta

Kittay Elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Eva Feder Kittay, professor emeritus and distinguished professor of philosophy at Stony Brook University, was one of 250 new members recently elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. Kittay was elected in the Humanities and Arts class, Philosophy section.

Student Receives American Chemical Society Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Chemistry major **Emma Scher '25** has been named a recipient of the American Chemical

Society's Division of Organic Chemistry Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship for her research project, "Titanium Photocatalysis as an Enabling Tool for Molecular Functionalization," sponsored by Merck.

Qin Named Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Yi-Xian Qin, SUNY Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, was recently elected a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

III. Executive Leadership Update

Justin Fincher Named Interim Chief Deputy to the President and Interim Senior Vice President of Government and Community Relations

Justin Fincher will serve as interim chief deputy to the president and senior vice president of government and community relations effective August 26th. In this role, he will also serve as Stony Brook's primary leadership, policy and advocacy liaison to SUNY. He will continue to serve as executive director of the Stony Brook Foundation.

William Wertheim Named Executive Vice President, Stony Brook Medicine

William Wertheim, MD, MBA, who has been serving as the interim executive vice president of Stony Brook Medicine, has been promoted to executive vice president. In this role, he will continue to work in partnership with academic, hospital and clinical leadership and with community partners to ensure the continued development and excellence of the premier academic medical center and health system. Stony Brook Medicine's leadership team will continue to report to Wertheim.

Kevin H. Gardner Appointed Vice President for Research

Kevin Gardner, the former executive vice president for research and innovation at the University of Louisville, has been appointed vice president for research at Stony Brook University effective August 1, 2024.

Michael Kinch Appointed SBU's Inaugural Chief Innovation Officer

Michael Kinch has been appointed Stony Brook University's inaugural chief innovation officer. Kinch will report to the vice president for research, Kevin Gardner, and will be a member of the president's university council. He will also hold a faculty position in the university's Department of Pharmacology.

IV. Student Affairs Update

- **Upcoming Presidential Elections Planning:** The University's 2024 Presidential Election Planning and Coordination Committee spearheaded by Student Community Development and the Center for Civic Justice is a committee that involves students, staff, and faculty members from multiple specializations and areas of expertise. The committee is focused on developing and implementing a comprehensive plan that includes high quality, high impact educational and learning opportunities, as many of our students will be voting in a presidential election for the first time.
- **Wolfie Statue:** An unveiling of the much-anticipated statue of Wolfie and campus-wide event will take place on Friday, September 27 from 4-6pm on the academic mall.
- **Family Weekend:** Stony Brook's annual family weekend is scheduled from Friday, September 27 - Sunday, September 29.

- **Involvement Fairs:** Students are encouraged to attend the many involvement fairs in the first few weeks of the semester where they can connect with our over 400 recognized student clubs and organizations.
- **Red Book:** The Red Book is a website (stonybrook.edu/redbook) that serves as a guide for 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, and other concerns that might require support or intervention, as well as contact information for campus resources and services.

V. Advancement Update

During the 2024 fiscal year, nearly 9,200 donors generously pledged or contributed \$655 million to the University.

In the effort to raise \$200M in new endowment gifts and pledges to fully earn the 1:2 New York State endowment match and the Simons Infinity Investment, donors to Stony Brook have committed \$67.2M. When fully paid, these pledges will earn \$100.8M in combined Simons Infinity and New York State matching unrestricted endowment support. The challenge runs through April 2026.

The University received a record 138 major and principal gifts (gifts or pledges of \$100,000 or more), of which 13 were gifts of \$1M-\$4.99M, and a record eight were gifts of \$5M or more.

All of these philanthropic investments in our students, research, healthcare, and campus programs provide critical support, helping to elevate every part of the University.

Notable, select contributions since the last update include:

- \$1,500,000 to endow a chair in Indic Linguistics
- \$1,000,000 to support the Staller Center Endowment
- \$1,000,000 to support the Staller Center Outreach and Program Funds
- \$1,000,000 to endow undergraduate scholarships
- \$ 776,352 for Pediatric Hematology Oncology Support Services

VI. Upcoming Events

- **State of the University Address:** Interim President McCormick will deliver the State of the University Address on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 1:00 pm, Staller Center Main Stage. Reception immediately follows at Staller Plaza.
- **CommUniversity Day:** CommUniversity Day will be held Saturday, September 28, from noon to 4pm, rain or shine. The event will be hosted on the Academic Mall.
- **Honoring Jim Simons Impact on Campus:** Save the date: October 23, 2024, 1-5pm Simons Center Auditorium.

VII. **Athletics Update**¹

- Stony Brook student-athletes tied a program-best term GPA in history with a 3.26 for Spring 2024 culminating in a 3.24 for the year
- Lara Hunter was hired as the second full-time dedicated counselor for Athletics Student-Athlete Mental Health Services
- The 10-year naming rights partnership with Island Federal Credit Union for the arena ended in August with the hope that a new partner will be identified in the coming months
- First-year football coach Billy Cosh will make his Stony Brook debut when the team opens the 2024 season at Marshall on August 31. The team's home opener is set for September 7 at 3:30 against Stonehill
- Freshman first baseman/pitcher Erik Paulsen was named CAA Baseball Rookie of the Year while earning First-Team Freshman All-America honors
- Graduate punter Anthony Pecorella was named the recipient of the prestigious 2024 Coastal Athletic Association John H. Randolph Inspiration Award, which recognizes individuals who, through strength of character and human spirit, serve as an inspiration to all to maximize their potential and ability for success
- Graduate track and field student-athlete Carlos Santos became the first male student-athlete in program history to advance to the NCAA Championships after qualifying in the 3,000-meter steeplechase

¹ As of August 14, 2024