



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate
FROM: Maurie McInnis, President
DATE: April 1, 2024
SUBJECT: President's Report

I. University News and Accolades

Stony Brook University Receives 11th Tree Campus USA Designation

For the 11th consecutive year, Stony Brook University has been named a Tree Campus Higher Education Institution for efforts conducted during the 2023 calendar year. Tree Campus Higher Education, a national program launched in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation, honors colleges and universities, and their leaders, for promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation. To obtain this distinction, Stony Brook University met the five core standards for effective campus forest management, including establishing a tree advisory committee, creating a campus tree care plan, dedicating annual expenditures for that campus tree program, observing Arbor Day, and sponsoring student service-learning projects.

II. Individual Accolades

CS Faculty Awarded \$1.3M from NIH for Smartphone Accessibility Research

Professors Xiaojun Bi and IV Ramakrishnan from the Department of Computer Science received a \$1.3M R01 award from the National Institutes of Health's National Eye Institute (NEI) for the project, *Intelligent Text Input and Editing Methods on Smartphones for Blind Users*.

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Thirteen Stony Brook University students were recently honored by SUNY as part of the 2024 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: **Kevin Wang, Nikhil Vohra, Christina Reed, Gursimran Padda, Christopher Moore, Rachel Leong, Devin Lobosco, Nicole Jellen, Sarah Hassan, Sarah Genasekera, Sofia Chambers, Joseph Bisiani, and Andrew Bai.**

Judith Brown Clarke Named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Judith Brown Clarke, Vice President for Equity & Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, has been named a 2024 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Each year, the Council elect's members whose "efforts on behalf of advancement of science, or its applications, are scientifically or socially distinguished." Dr.

Clarke was selected for distinguished contributions to the field of geoscience education research, policy, and service to diverse scholars with my advocacy for belonging, access, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

2024 Sloan Research Fellow for Mathematics

Theodore Drivas, an assistant professor in the Stony Brook University Department of Mathematics, has been selected as a 2024 Sloan Research Fellow and awarded \$75,000 toward his research investigating the mathematical characteristics of fluid motion. Sloan Research Fellows are considered the next generation of scientific leaders across the United States and Canada. Drivas is one of 126 early-career scholars honored in 2024 and the 71st Stony Brook faculty member to receive the distinction.

Inaugural Civic Education and Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellow

Ashley Mercado-Liegi, assistant director of Stony Brook University's Center for Civic Justice, was one of 10 people selected for SUNY's inaugural class for the Civic Education and Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellowship.

III. Student Affairs Update

- Campus Residences hosted over 1,000 visits of admitted students and their families on Admitted Seawolves Day on March 23.
- The Center for Civic Justice hosted Vote Her In on March 20, a panel and roundtable discussion with local elected leaders for a conversation about electing more women to political office.
- Many educational and cultural events were hosted throughout March to commemorate Women's History Month.
- The Career Center hosted "Not All Heroines Wear Capes", an annual event that connects current students with female leaders in the workplace.
- The first annual "And Still I Rise: Empowering Women of Color in Higher Education" High Tea & Luncheon will be held on April 11, an event that will serve as a foundational step in fostering community among mid to senior-level women of color and allies in higher education across Long Island and the Metro New York area.
- On April 12, Student Affairs is hosting the Student Affairs Opportunity Expo. This is a new recruitment initiative open to higher education institutions and candidates in the region, providing employers a platform to showcase their institutions and engage with prospective candidates looking for student affairs and student services roles.

IV. Advancement Update

Since the start of the 2024 fiscal year, \$609.6 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 5,853 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:

- \$10,000,000 gift towards Stony Brook Medicine strategic initiatives and the establishment of four Infinity Chairs
- \$250,000 pledge to support the Department of Pediatrics
- \$150,000 pledge to support the N.I.C.U Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

- \$115,000 pledge towards cancer research
- \$100,000 gift pledge towards the Internet of Things Laboratory
- \$100,000 gift towards scholarship for underrepresented students in the Renaissance School of Medicine
- \$85,676 gift towards the Department of Neurosurgery
- \$65,560 gift towards A.M.B.E.R. research and outreach by the Lab of Professor Carlos Simmerling
- \$50,000 gift towards student scholarships

V. Upcoming Events

- **Presidential Lecture Series:** Linda Villarosa, award-winning writer at the New York Times Magazine, will discuss her book, *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on Health In America*, which was named one of the best books of 2022 by *The New York Times Review* and was a finalist for the 2023 Pulitzer Prize, on April 25, 2024 – 5:00pm, Wang Theater.
- **University Commencement:** Stony Brook University Commencement will take place on Friday, May 17, 2024, at 11:00am at the LaValle Stadium.

VI. Athletics Update¹

- Women's Basketball claimed their first-ever CAA regular season championship with an overall record of 25-3. Ashley Langford was named CAA Coach of the Year and graduate student Gigi Gonzalez was honored as CAA Player of the Year. The team reached the championship game of the CAA Women's Basketball Tournament before accepting a bid to the inaugural Women's Basketball Invitational Tournament (WBIT) where the Seawolves earned the first postseason win in program history, defeating James Madison 81-70.
- Men's Basketball reached the championship game of the CAA Tournament in Washington, D.C., after defeating Northeastern, Drexel and Hofstra in successive days. The team reached 20 wins for the second time since the 2019-20 season while the championship game appearance was the team's first since 2016 when the Seawolves won their first America East title.
- Women's Lacrosse is currently ranked No. 14 and is 3-0 in CAA play, extending the program's conference winning streak to 56. The 56-game conference winning streak dates back to 2014 and is the nation's current longest streak for any team in any sport.
- Under the direction of new head coach Billy Cosh, Football opened spring practice on March 24 and will culminate in the first-ever Spring Showcase on under the lights of LaValle Stadium on Friday, April 26.
- Stony Brook Athletics has partnered with Influxer to provide its student-athletes the opportunity to monetize their name, image and likeness (NIL) through personalized merchandise. Influxer is an officially licensed vendor, creating co-branded apparel customized with players' names and numbers. Through the partnership, Influxer will provide education and training on marketing, entrepreneurship, and personal branding.

¹ As of March 27, 2024