



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate
FROM: Maurie McInnis, President
DATE: May 1, 2023
SUBJECT: President's Report

UNIVERSITY NEWS

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SELECTED AS ANCHOR INSTITUTION FOR WORLD-LEADING CLIMATE CENTER ON GOVERNORS ISLAND

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and The Trust for Governors Island recently announced that Stony Brook University [will serve as the anchor institution](#) for the development of a world-leading [climate solutions center](#) on Governors Island in the city's harbor. "The New York Climate Exchange" ("The Exchange") will be a first-of-its kind international center for developing and deploying dynamic solutions to our global climate crisis, while also acting as a hub for New Yorkers to benefit from the rapidly evolving green economy.

The Exchange will bring together the voices of all stakeholders so that solutions to our climate crisis are not just academic or theoretical, but social and practical — including research that becomes commercially viable and ideas that lead to immediate action on the local and global levels. Our Core Partners include University of Washington, BCG, Pratt Institute, Pace University, Georgia Tech, IBM, and GOLES. Our Affiliate Partners include Duke University, NYU, University of Oxford, RIT, SUNY Maritime College, CUNY, and Moody's, and our Advisory Partners include BNL and URBS. We also have over twenty local non-profit and community partners that will serve on community advisory councils and inform the work of The Exchange.

The design and operations of The Exchange — conceived by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) in collaboration with MNLA, Buro Happold, and Langan Engineering — will also serve as a model for sustainability with a net zero center that complements the natural landscape of Governors Island and the urban landscape of New York City.

The Simons Foundation, together with Simons Foundation International, have pledged a total of \$100 million as matching gift support for The Exchange — the largest gift to date under Simons Foundation President David Spergel's leadership and the second-largest in Stony Brook's history. The gift is the latest expression of these foundations' dedication to higher education and to advancing the frontiers of research in the basic sciences. Additionally, Bloomberg Philanthropies has announced a \$50 million contribution to the project, continuing the philanthropy's commitment to New York City, the fight against climate change, and improving higher education in New York and beyond.

ASHLEY SCHIFF PRESERVE

Stony Brook is taking the legal means to permanently protect a significant portion of the Ashley Shiff Preserve, keeping the beautiful ecosystem full of vibrant wildlife and vegetation, free from development. Construction on the part of the preserve not included in the legal protection will be held in abeyance unless needed for future South Campus revitalization. A comprehensive survey will be secured to identify boundaries for the protected area.

EXECUTIVE SEARCHES AND LEADERSHIP UPDATES

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Stony Brook University seeks an experienced, visionary executive to serve as its [Vice President for Strategic Initiatives](#). Posting end date has been extended to May 26, 2023.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES

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 to receive the [Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for Student Excellence](#). The award recognizes outstanding EOP students for their academic merit and perseverance. In May, Chen will receive a BS in health science with a concentration in emergency and critical care. She is a certified nursing assistant and hopes to be accepted into Stony Brook's accelerated nursing program after graduation. Chen has had several mentoring roles at Stony Brook, as a success coach and resident assistant for other EOP students, aiding them as they transition from high school to college, and she also helps her fellow undergraduates with their academics as a teaching assistant.

GRAD STUDENT FANNY CORNEJO WINS INAUGURAL INDIANAPOLIS AWARD

Stony Brook University graduate student [Fanny M. Cornejo](#) has been named the winner of the newly created "[Emerging Conservationist Award](#)" presented by the [Indianapolis Prize](#). The award recognizes professional wildlife conservationists, biologists and scientists under 40 years of age who are working to make strides in saving animal species from extinction. Cornejo is a Peruvian primatologist, anthropologist and executive director of [Yunkawasi](#), an organization that works with Amazonian and Andean communities for the conservation of threatened species through sustainable economic development and protected area management approach. She was selected from among 10 finalists and will receive \$50,000 provided by the Kobe Foundation to continue Yunkawasi's conservation work.

SOMAS PROFESSOR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NSF UNDERGRADUATE GRANT

Sharon Pochron, associate professor of practice in the Department of Sustainability Studies in the [School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences](#) (SoMAS) has received a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) award. She will receive \$293,933 to work with undergraduate students in the [Earthworm Ecotoxicology Lab](#). This proposal harnesses an innovative learning pedagogy called "Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences" or CURE, to promote STEM interest, motivation and persistence in the Stony Brook undergraduate population. Pochron plans to implement two CURE-based interventions for STEM first-year students in an effort to maximize feelings of STEM belonging. By the end of the project, more than 500 undergraduates will benefit from this program enriched CURE. Some students will also become peer-educators and carry this powerful pedagogy to the next generation.

HAOTIAN YANG WINS NATIONAL ACS GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Haotian Yang, a doctoral candidate in the Department of [Materials Science and Chemical Engineering](#) in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has been selected for the 2023 Graduate Student Award in Environmental Chemistry by the American Chemical Society ([ACS](#)). The award is based on research productivity, future goals and recommendations from colleagues. In collaboration with [Brookhaven National Lab](#) (BNL) scientists and the [U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory](#), Yang developed a new generation of nanoparticles to address environmental problems and utilizes a very special method of making such nanoparticles, where gold vapor infuses super cold helium droplets and creates a jet of highly uniform catalysts. The equipment used to produce liquid helium is based in the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory, with other research conducted at BNL's [Center for Functional Nanomaterials](#).

STUDENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

CAMPUS EVENTS:

- Continuing the musical tradition at SBU, the Undergraduate Student Government hosted a successful annual spring concert, Brookfest, on April 14, which featured various artists in different genres.
- We had a very successful Earthstock, Stony Brook's Earth Day week-long celebration, which featured a variety of events focused on sustainability and environmental awareness and conservation.
- The campus community celebrated diversity and inclusion at the PrideFest Block Party & the Shirley Strum Kenny Arts Festival Street Fair on April 26. There were dance performances, information tables, games, arts and crafts, food, music, and various opportunities to highlight the diversity of our campus community.
- Our most unique campus tradition, Roth Regatta, took place on Friday, April 28. This year over 80 teams tried to cross Roth Pond in boats made out of cardboard, duct tape and paint.
- Upcoming campus traditions include Strawberry Fest and Diversity Day on Wednesday, May 3.

WOLFIE'S SUNY CHAMPIONSHIP:

- Wolfie won, for the second time in a row, the SUNY Mascot Madness Championship. The competition was fierce this year, but the entire campus community rallied together to help Wolfie keep the title.

CENTER FOR CIVIC JUSTICE

- Julia Brandenstein, graduate intern at the Center for Civic Justice, was recently selected to the [2023 ALL IN Student Voting Honor Roll](#) representing Stony Brook University, recognizing her efforts in advancing nonpartisan student voter registration, education, and turnout.

CENTER FOR PREVENTION AND OUTREACH (CPO)

- The New York Council on Problem Gambling has awarded CPO a \$5,000 Capacity Building Mini-Grant to address problem gambling in our community. CPO will utilize this grant to host educational events to address the current state of problem gambling among youth and develop educational materials to raise awareness about this current issue.
- April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). CPO hosted a series of events to raise awareness about sexual and relationship violence and to prevent and eventually eliminate all forms of sex or gender-based discrimination and violence. One of these events was Take Back the Mic, an open mic event to celebrate and empower survivors.

ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Since the start of the 2023 fiscal year, \$51.2 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 8,457 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:

- \$3,000,000 pledge to endow a chair in Metabolic Neuroscience
- \$2,551,000 million planned gift for the Emergency Medicine Residency Program
- \$1,550,000 in gifts for the Stars of Stony Brook Gala
- \$660,000 in pledges to support the Pediatric Emergency Department Expansion Fund
- \$500,000 planned gift for an endowed scholarship in the Department of Electrical Engineering
- \$287,000 gift for the Hartman Center for Parkinson's Research
- \$200,000 planned gift to support the WISE program
- \$100,000 pledge for the Baseball/Softball Complex Fund
- \$100,000 pledge to support undergraduate students in the Department of Political Science
- \$80,000 to the Stony Brook Film Festival
- \$75,000 pledge for the Georgica Pond research project
- \$51,000 gift to support graduate students in the Department of Computer Science
- \$50,000 to support the Centre ValBio Rainforest Conservation Fund
- \$50,000 gift to support the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
- \$50,000 gift towards the John L. Hennessy Endowed Professorship in Computer Science

Upcoming Advancement Events:

Stony Brook Scholarship Golf Classic-June 27

RECENT EVENTS

CAMPUS CELEBRATED NAMING OF DR. MAY EDWARD CHINN HALL

The Stony Brook University community celebrated the naming of Dr. May Edward Chinn Hall on April 5 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Tabler Community Residence Quad. The commemoration follows the SUNY Board of Trustees' approval earlier this year of a [formal process](#) that Stony Brook initiated in 2020 to rename Sanger Residence Hall. The daughter of two formerly enslaved people, Dr. May Edward Chinn was the first Black and Native American woman to graduate from Bellevue Hospital Medical College (now the NYU School of Medicine) in 1926 and was the first woman ever to work on an ambulance as a first responder. While barred from admitting privileges or residencies at city hospitals due to her race, Chinn operated a private practice and is known for her advocacy for new methods to detect cancer and was a passionate supporter of early cancer screenings.

PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE APRIL 27: A CONVERSATION WITH ECONOMIST RAJ CHETTY

Raj Chetty, the William A. Ackman Professor of Public Economics at Harvard University, was the featured guest at the April 27 Presidential Lecture. The event was held in conjunction with the Gujavarty Seminar on Leadership and Values and Mattoo Center for India Studies. Dr. Chetty uses big data to study the

science of economic opportunity and focuses on finding ways that children from all backgrounds can succeed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

The 2023 Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony will be held Wednesday, May 17, 12:30PM in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena.

Main Commencement will be held Friday, May 19, 11:00AM in the Kenneth P. LaValle stadium.

ATHLETICS UPDATE¹

- Stony Brook Athletics raised more than \$330,000 from 402 donors as part of the campus wide Giving Day initiative on March 29. The support eclipsed the \$58,000 raised from 372 donors as part of Giving Day in 2022.
- Five former Stony Brook football student-athletes were named to the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) Hampshire Honor Society as announced by the organization. Eric Black, Damien Caffrey, Reidgee Dimanche, Carthell Flowers-Lloyd, and Kyle Nunez all claimed the prestigious recognition for their academic success coupled with their contributions on the field.
- More than 80 Stony Brook student-athletes participated in the Seawolves Etiquette Dinner on April 19 as part of an ongoing partnership with the Stony Brook Career Center.
- Graduate student Keenan Fitzmorris was selected to represent the CAA on the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Student-Athlete Engagement Group.
- Women's Lacrosse is currently ranked No. 10 in the nation and enters the CAA Tournament, which begins on May 5, as the top seed. The program has now won 10 consecutive regular season championships.
- Women's Lacrosse junior Ellie Masera was named as one of 25 nominees for the Tewaraaton Award, given annually to the nation's best college lacrosse player.
- Men's Lacrosse entered the final week of the regular season tied for second place with a 4-2 record in the CAA. Senior Dylan Pallonetti has scored a goal in 41 consecutive games, currently the longest scoring streak in the nation.
- Baseball junior Evan Fox established a new program record for career stolen bases when he swiped his 80th in a win over Iona on April 25. Fox broke an 11-year-old record that had been held by Stony Brook alum and current Texas Rangers outfielder Travis Jankowski.
- Senior track and field student-athlete Patrick Abel continued his dominant spring by breaking a 30-year-old school record in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.78. Abel also broke the program record in the 60 meters this spring.

¹ As of April 26, 2023