



History of Buildings at Stony Brook University

Presentation for the Renaming Buildings, Spaces & Structures Committee

October 16, 2020



Kristen J. Nyitray

Director, Special Collections & University Archives

University Archivist



Part I: Creation of a Campus

My presentation has two parts: the first part discusses the early years of Stony Brook University (SBU) through 1983 when the footprints of the west and east campuses were established.

The second part is focused on the primary ways the university has named buildings over time.

This aerial photograph presents a north-facing view of the west campus taken circa 1962.

Nicolls Road is pictured at the bottom right of the photograph and the Long Island Sound is pictured at the top left. The arrow points to the original library which was expanded between 1969 and 1971.





New York was the most populated state in 1947, yet was the only state lacking a public higher education system.

The State University of New York (SUNY) was founded in 1948.

Demand for higher education opportunities was spurred by the GI Bill, more people of college age, higher graduation rates, and increased part-time enrollments.

In 1960, 7,000 students from New York sought degrees outside of the state due to a lack of classroom space.

In response, SUNY took action to acquire previously established schools across the state including specialized teachers, agricultural, medical, and technical colleges.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM FOR STATE ENACTED

Dewey Signs Bills Following Young Commission Outline With View to Expansion

EDUCATION IN REVIEW

Trustees Begin to Make Plans for Founding The New York State University

7,000 Turned Away in LI College Boom

By Francis Wood

About 7,000 June high school graduates have been turned down for admission to Long Island's seven booming colleges because of a lack of classroom space, a Newsday survey showed yesterday. The colleges, swamped with about 11,000 freshman applications, have been able to accept only slightly more than 4,000.

Admission officers reported that the number of freshman applications was 25 to 40 per cent greater than last year's figure at this date. However, officials conceded that many high school graduates apply at more than one college. Long Island's population increase, with the resultant upsurge of high school graduates seeking a local college education, was given as the reason for this year's upswing in applicants. It also reflects, of course, the nationwide boom on college campuses, which is headed for new highs in the '60's.

C. W. Post College in Brookville led other Long Island institutions in its rate of increase for freshman admissions to date with 2,500 received. Only 550 seats in full time day classes were available. This represents an increase of 1,000 applications compared with last year at the 126-acre liberal arts school. Last year, 1,500 students applied for admission to a freshman class of 400.

With evening enrollments still incomplete, Post expects a total day and evening enrollment of about 3,000 students at Brookville and at its extension school in Hauppauge. At the Brookville campus, the college will open two new dormitories for men and women that will house 312 resident students. The college will also have new language and biology laboratories ready for occupancy when classes start Oct. 3.

Adelphi College in Garden City received 2,200 new

applications this year for a freshman class of 680 at its main campus. Last year it received 1,600. Its day enrollment is expected to reach 2,100 students when classes open Sept. 20 at Garden City. A total day, evening and graduate population will reach an estimated 5,700 when registrations are completed this month. Adelphi's branch college in Sayville becomes an undergraduate day institution for the first time this fall with 109 freshmen accepted to date out of 250 applications.

Long Island's army of June graduates also poured into Hofstra College admission offices in Hempstead to file more than 2,000 applications for a freshman class of 1,155 students. This represents about 600 more applications than last year.

Those accepted for admission this year include 82 students enrolled in the college's new two-year ex-

—Continued on Page 90



Until the opening of SBU, there was only one SUNY operated school on Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk counties):
an agricultural college in Farmingdale.

There were no community colleges yet on Long Island. Suffolk County could be characterized as sparsely populated, underdeveloped, and rural. Options for traveling to this geographic area were limited. There was a Long Island Rail Road station, but Nicolls Road spanned only a few miles, and the Long Island Expressway did not extend beyond Nassau County.

Essentially, SUNY set its sights on Long Island because it lagged in the provision of higher education opportunities.



Map of SUNY colleges, c. 1950



Stony Brook Station, c. 1905



Original advertisement for a model home in Levittown, c. 1950



Regents Propose 4 Colleges for LI

SUNY Board of Trustees recommended the establishment of a new state-supported and operated college on Long Island in 1955.

In 1956, SUNY announced plans to establish a permanent "Teachers School" in Stony Brook, on land gifted by Ward Melville, but to first open in temporary quarters on the former estate of the late William R. Coe near Oyster Bay, about 30 miles to the west.

TEACHERS SCHOOL PLANNED FOR L. I.

Stony Brook Tract in Suffolk
to Be Donated for Campus
of New State College

Urge Rush On College At Stony Brook

(Newspaper Albany Evening)

Albany—The trustees of the State University are "not satisfied" with estimates of the length of time it will take to establish the university's Stony Brook campus, they said yesterday in their annual report.

Architects estimate that the permanent home for the State University College on Long Island (SUCL) won't be ready to open until 1963. But the trustees said they believe that "opportunities to considerably shorten this construction period can be found and every possible effort will be made to take advantage of them." They voiced the hope that, with the cooperation of state agencies, architects and contractors on the \$27,000,000 campus, the target date can be "advanced substantially."

Teachers College Opens on LI in Fall

Albany—Classes will start next fall—a year earlier than expected—at a four-year teachers college in Oyster Bay to be known as the "State University on Long Island."

Gov. Harriman said today the new college would open in September in temporary quarters at Planting Fields, the former William Coe estate. The college originally had been scheduled to open in 1958.

The college will specialize in teacher-training courses in mathematics and sciences. It is expected to move to permanent quarters at Stony Brook in 1962.

Leonard K. Olsen of Delmar, assistant to State University President William S. Carlson for Long Island developments, was named dean of the new college. Olsen was graduated from the University of Chicago in 1936 with an "BA" degree. He is a Naval Reserve lieutenant commander and former instructor director of a liberal

arts program for adults at the University of Chicago. Prospective students will be able to apply at the Oyster Bay campus after April 1. College offices will be open then.

The new college is not part of the four-college plan offered Long Island by the State Board of Regents. Their proposal calls for three two-year community colleges and one state-financed senior college. Under that plan, the counties would pay one-half of the cost of building the community colleges and two-thirds of the operating costs.

Both Nassau and Suffolk have been hesitant in accepting the regents' plan. The State Senate yesterday passed a bill authorizing Nassau to establish a seven-man commission to study the county's community college needs. Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Carlino said he expected the Assembly to approve the bill.

To open the new college at Oyster Bay, Harriman said he would request a supplemental appropriation of \$155,

000 from the present legislature. A State University spokesman said both Republicans and Democrats favor the program and are expected to approve the appropriation.

The college's temporary site includes a 60-room mansion, which will provide administration quarters and classrooms. Adjoining buildings will be converted to a dormitory and dining hall. The Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute will continue to use greenhouses and orchards on the estate. The estate was given to the state for educational purposes by the late William Coe.

By 1962 State University officials hope to move the college to a permanent 340-acre site at Stony Brook. The site was donated by shoe manufacturer Ward Melville.

The first class at the Oyster Bay site is expected to number 150. Succeeding classes will be the same size. However, when the college moves to a permanent site, the entering freshman class will be about 600.



Ward Melville's gift of land to SUNY was instrumental to the establishment of the campus. He was heir to the Melville Corporation and a founder of the Thom McAn shoe chain. His contribution was incremental donations of more than 800 acres of land in Stony Brook to SUNY.



LI Tycoon Offers Land for College

Patchogue—A town board plan to make Brookhaven the site of a Long Island State Teachers College got a hefty boost yesterday when shoe tycoon Ward Melville offered 100 acres of Stony Brook land for the college.

The offer, made to Suffolk County Republican Leader R. Ford



Ward Melville
Offers 100 Acres

Hughes and Supervisor Philipp A. Hattermer, came on the heels of a letter from the State University trustees who said they would offer to Gov. Harriman a town board recommendation that the college be built in Brookhaven.

Making the announcement yesterday afternoon, Hattermer said, "I am happy to report that Ward Melville has offered to dedicate 100 acres of land, and more if needed, for use by a State Teachers College here."

Hattermer said the board now has "something concrete" to offer the trustees. The land lies between the St. George Golf Course and Gould Rd. in South Setauket.

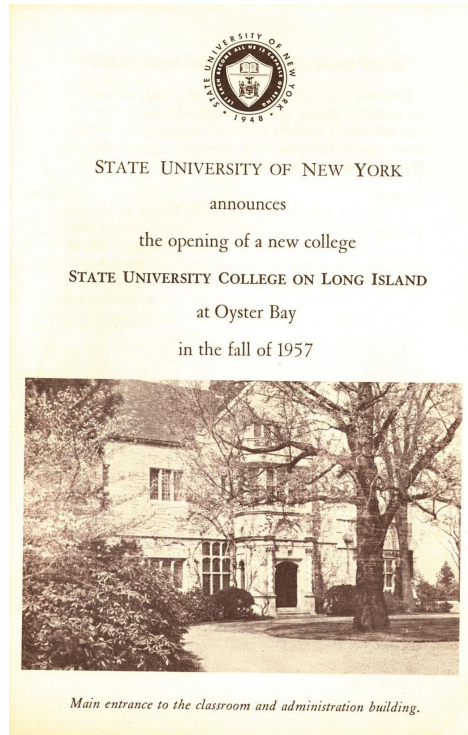
Hattermer last week said Brookhaven would be an ideal site for the college because "it has more to offer in the vastness of the town. There's more area in Brookhaven. In other towns there's not much land available." At the time, however, he said the board had no particular site in mind.

It was through Melville, who lives in the select settlement of Old Field, that the Stony Brook Colonial Village restoration project was completed. His philanthropy throughout the Brookhaven area has become widely known and has resulted in citations for his many contributions to the physical improvement and cultural advancement of the communities of Stony Brook, Old Field and Setauket where he holds large portions of land.

Hattermer said notification of Melville's offer will be made to Frank C. Moore, chairman of the trustees of the State University. Hattermer said it would be "quite a thing" to have the college located in Suffolk. It was pointed out at a previous meeting that Long Island State Park Commissioner Robert Moses apparently squashed hopes that the proposed college would be built on state-owned land at the Bayard Cutting estate.



While plans were being developed for the Stony Brook campus, the first day of classes commenced in Oyster Bay at the tuition-free State University College on September 17, 1957.



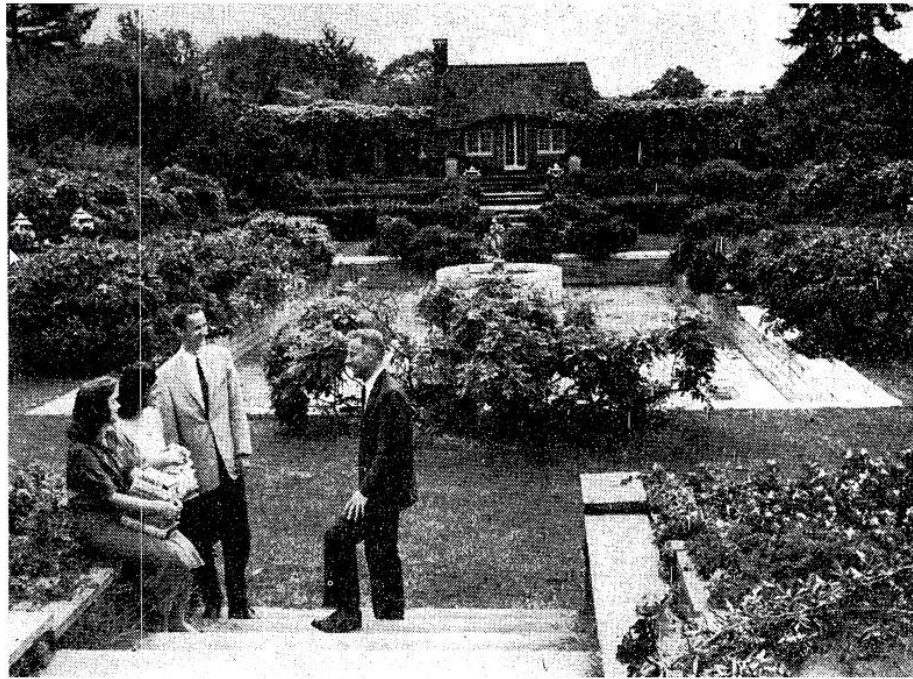
Planting Fields, Oyster Bay, New York, c. 1957



148 students were enrolled in classes. Administrators were served with the mandate to "prepare teachers of science and mathematics for secondary schools and community colleges."

Later that year, the State Board of Regents proposed that a science and engineering college be established at SBU, expanding the original mission of the school.

L. I. Students Make Themselves at Home on Temporary Campus Estate



In the formal sunken garden of the 409-acre estate known as Planting Fields in Upper Brookville, Dean Leonard K. Olsen talks with three members of first freshman class of

New York State University College on Long Island. Estate will be used by college at least until 1962, when a permanent campus will be completed at Stony Brook.

NEW L. I. COLLEGE GETS FIRST CLASS

92 Men and 56 Women Are Greeted on State Campus at Former Coe Estate

By **BYRON PORTERFIELD**
Special to The New York Times.
UPPER BROOKVILLE, L. I., Sept. 17—A group of 148 educational "pioneers" registered here today as the first freshman class of the long-awaited New York State University College on Long Island.

The fifty-six women and ninety-two men were briefed, registered and taken on orientation tours of their temporary campus, the beautiful 409-acre arboretum-estate known as Planting Fields. It is two miles from the village of Oyster Bay.

Designed to prepare teachers of science and mathematics for secondary schools and community colleges, the new college is the first free, public teachers college on Long Island.

Deeded to the State University by the late William R. Coe, sportsman and philanthropist, Planting Fields will be the site of the college until the permanent campus at Stony Brook in Suffolk County is completed in 1962. Plans are being made to expand the curriculum to that of a complete university.



Model of Campus, c. 1960



Groundbreaking ceremony at SBU, April 8, 1960

April 8, 1960: Governor Nelson Rockefeller (second from left) and Ward Melville (third from left) participated at groundbreaking ceremonies in Stony Brook. As per the 1960 SUNY master plan, the new campus was designated a university center on June 6, 1960, and renamed the State University of New York, Long Island Center, with the mandate to develop undergraduate and graduate programs.



Back at Oyster Bay, 1961 was a year of firsts as 30 students were conferred degrees at the inaugural commencement ceremony.

It also showcased ingenuity and creativity, with the installation of several geodesic domes to alleviate space constraints - they served as classrooms, faculty offices, and the bookstore.



Left: First graduating class, 1961.

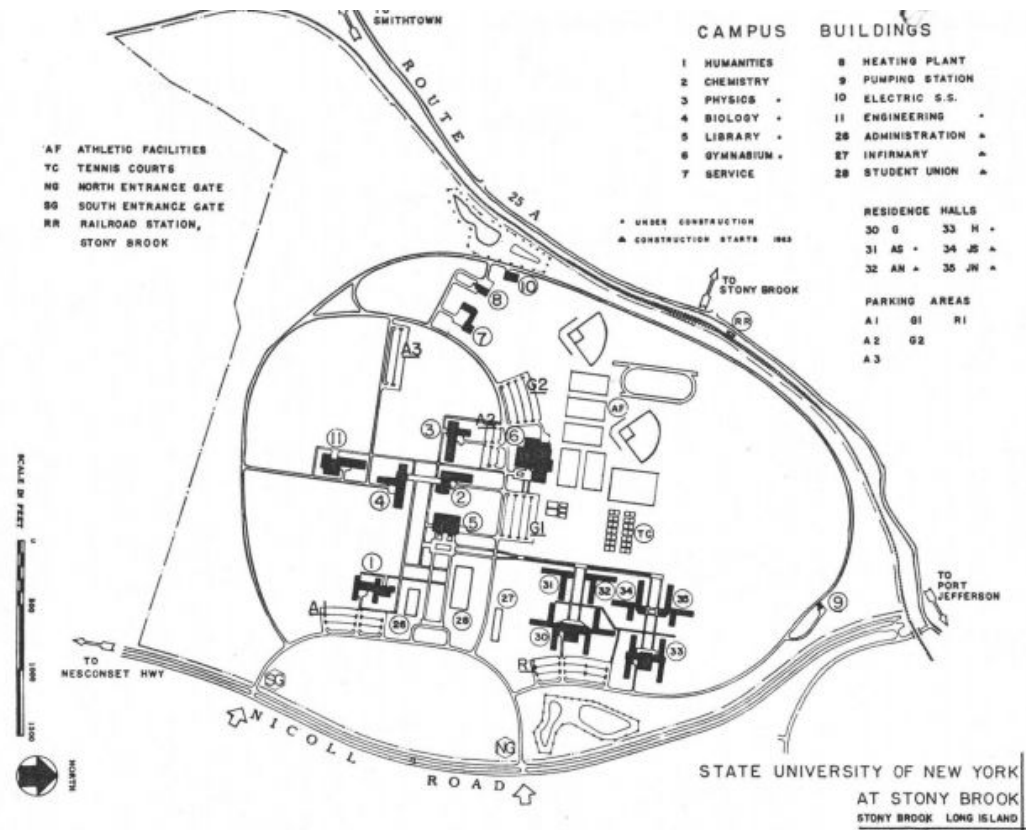
Above: Geodesic domes, 1961.



In September 1962, the campus opened in Stony Brook. The university was officially renamed the “State University of New York at Stony Brook.”

This is an early map of the campus. Many buildings are named with letters and there is an emphasis on facilities with notation of the heating plant, electric substation, etc.

The focus then and for the decades that followed was building the university with minimal thought or time invested in the naming of the buildings.



Map of “State University of New York at Stony Brook,” c. 1962



The first buildings constructed were the Humanities and Chemistry Buildings, and a single, corridor-style dormitory named “G Dorm,” comprised of two wings connected by a cafeteria.

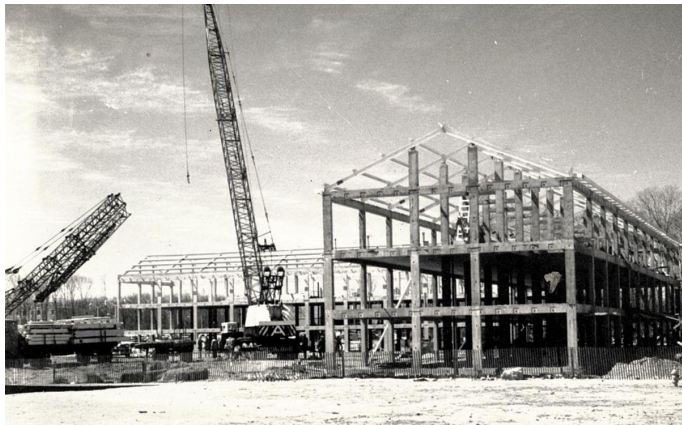


Approaching the Humanities Building

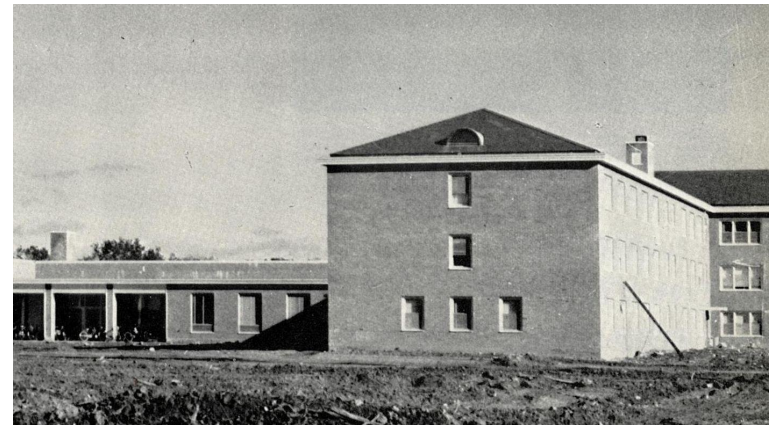
Humanities Building

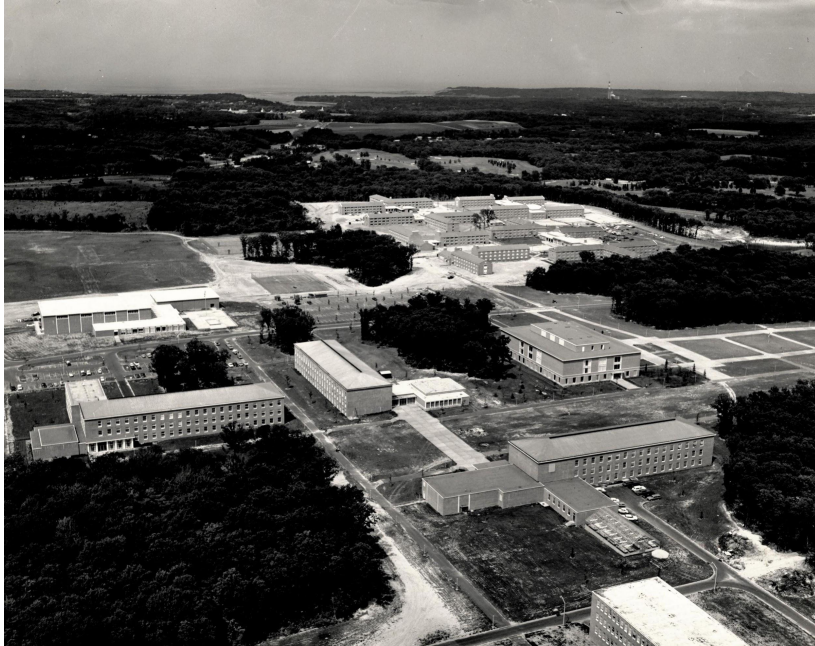


Old Chemistry (Present-day Frey Hall)



G Dorm (Present-day Mendelsohn Quad)





**Aerial photographs of the
Stony Brook campus, c. 1964**





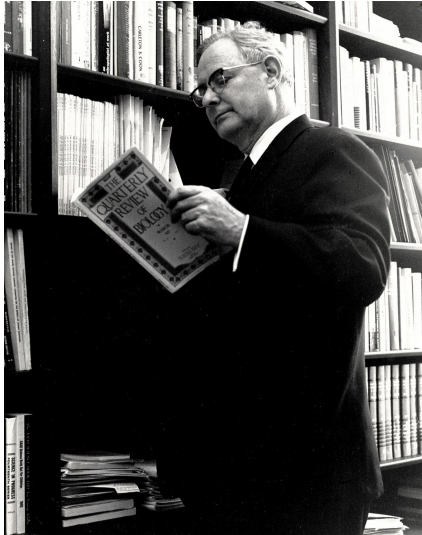
“Mud and Scaffold Years”



Dr. John S. Toll
President of Stony Brook University, 1965-1978

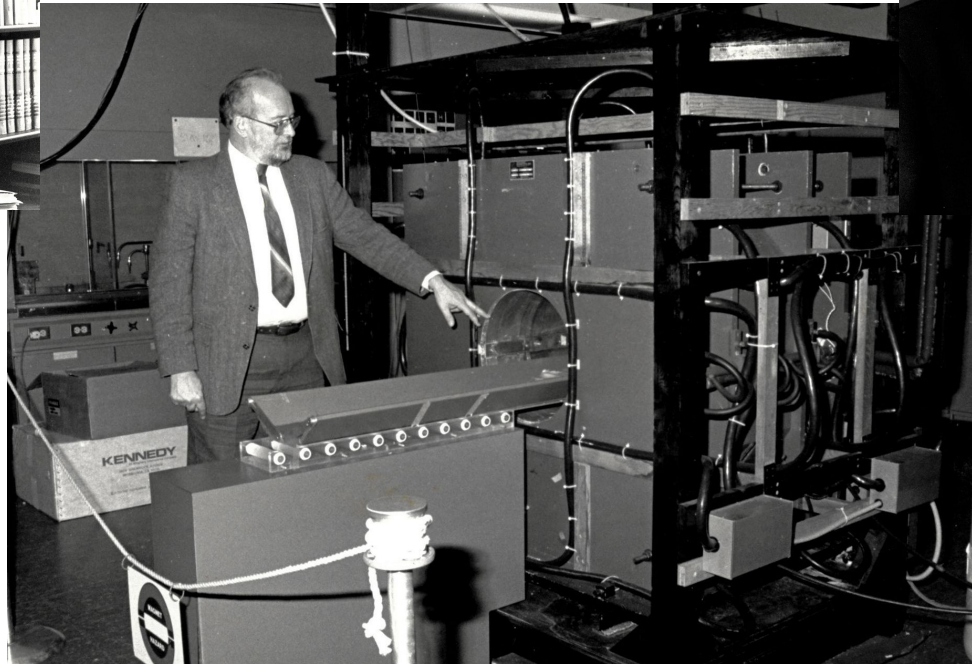
**Building and development of scientific programs
were central to his planning activities.**





H. Bentley Glass

With the appointment of John Toll as president and geneticist H. Bentley Glass as academic vice president, SBU had the leadership to attract a large number of new faculty. Researchers and scholars recruited during this period included Nobel Laureates C. N. Yang and Paul Lauterbur.



Paul Lauterbur



C. N. Yang



**Construction on the Stony Brook Campus, c. 1967.
Pictured center: the Library. Pictured left, in the background: Earth and Space Sciences building.**

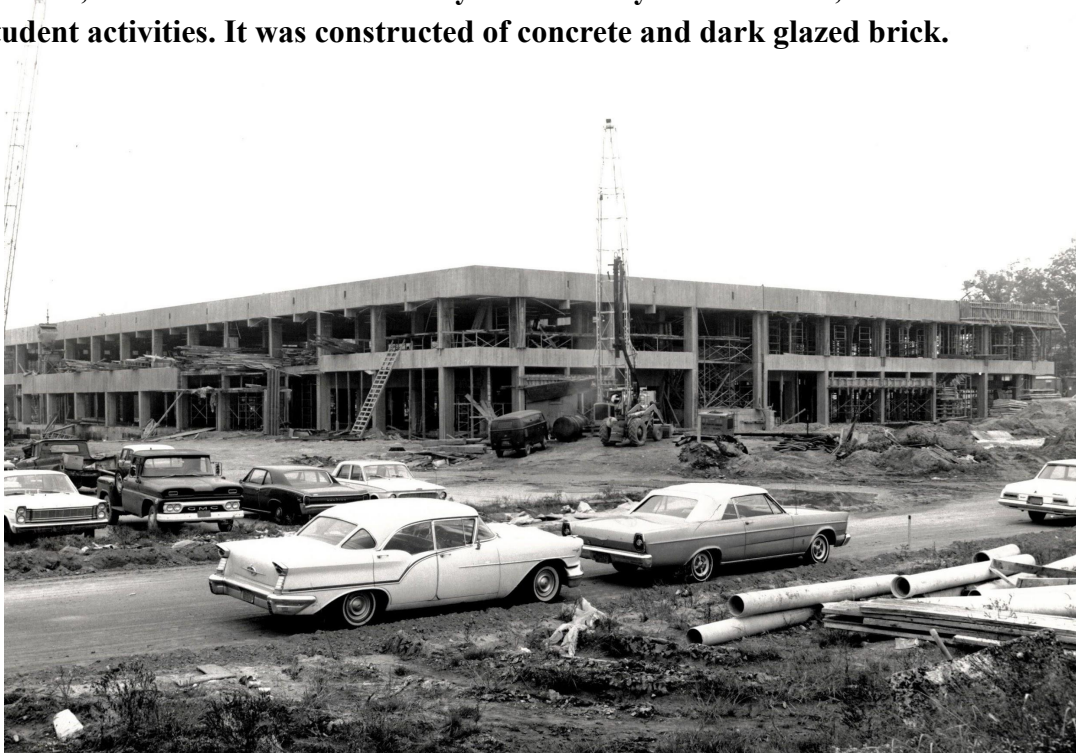


A large pedestrian bridge was designed to connect Fine Arts, the Student Union, and the Library. It was named the “Bridge to Nowhere” because it did not connect to the Fine Arts building for nearly 10 years after ground was broken. It opened in 1977.



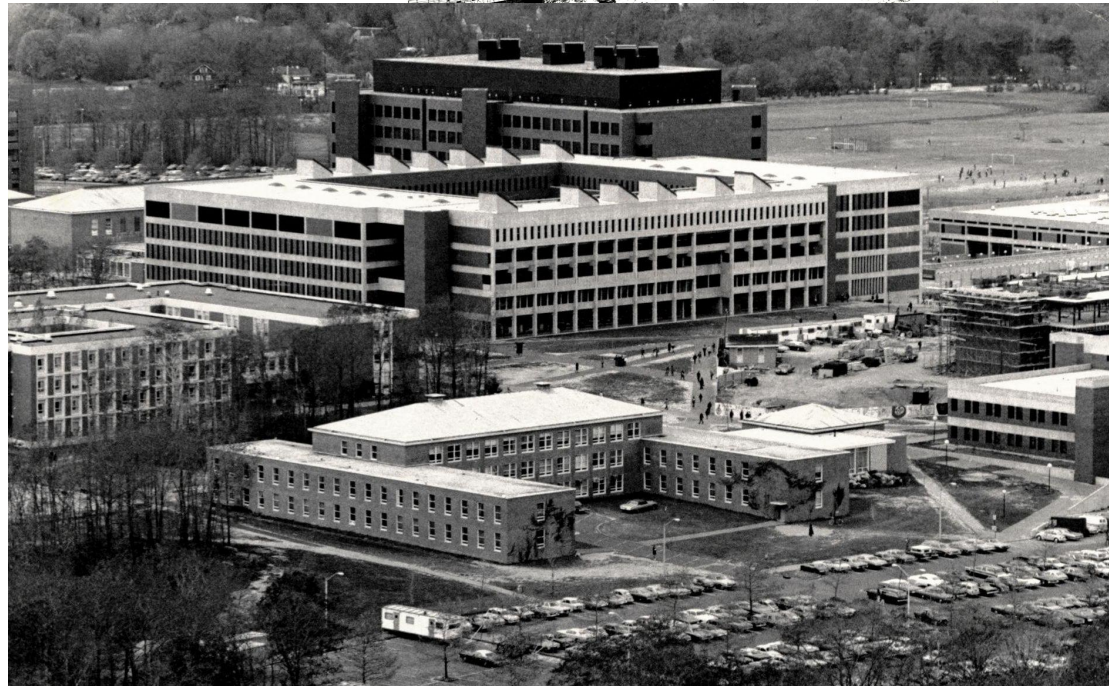


In 1964, construction was underway on the Stony Brook Union, a hub for student activities. It was constructed of concrete and dark glazed brick.





Architect Ervin Galantay designed the expansion of library which today is one of the largest structures on campus. Additions around the perimeter and an atrium to connect the original building to them was completed in 1971. Today, the building is named the Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library in honor benefactor Ward Melville's father.





STATE CALLS FOR LI MEDICAL SCHOOL

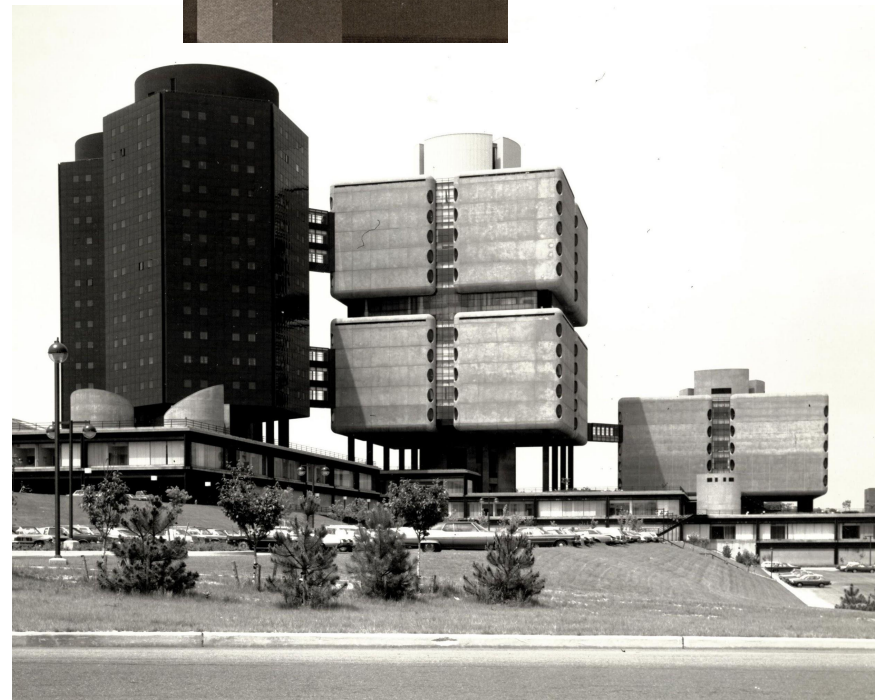
In 1963, New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller commissioned the report “Education of Health Professions” also known as the “Muir Report.” This document was important for Stony Brook, as it recommended the creation of a Health Sciences Center and an academic hospital on Long Island. Planning began in 1965 under the leadership of professor of medicine Dr. Edmund Pellegrino.





The design of the Health Sciences Complex on the east campus was the work of architect Bertrand Goldberg.

Pictured left to right: University Hospital (1980), Clinical Sciences Tower (1976), and the Basic Sciences Tower (1978).



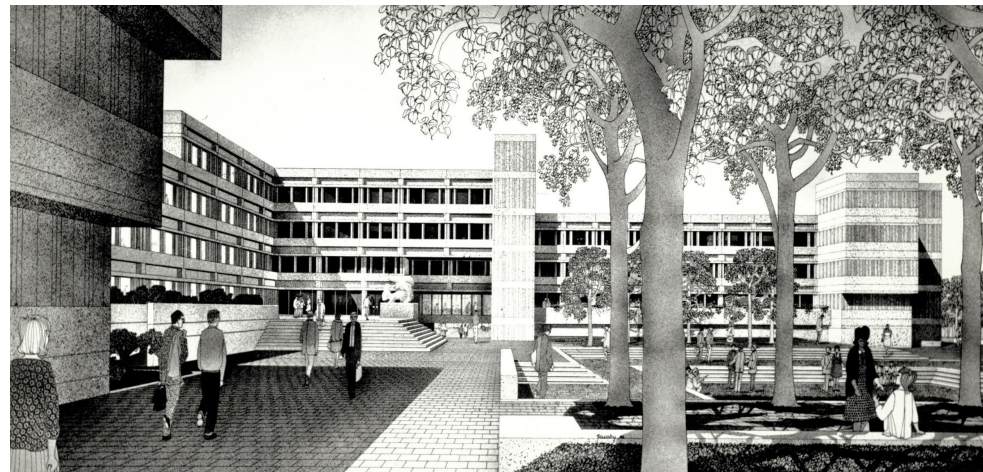


In 1966, New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller visited SBU and addressed several thousand people at ground-breaking ceremonies for three new buildings, marking another \$50 million dollar expansion project.

The governor's visit signaled the official start of construction on the Earth and Space Sciences building, and buildings for graduate engineering and computer science.



Rendering of the Earth and Space Sciences Building, c. 1965





Left: Chemistry building

Right: Physics building



Chemistry building



A park preserve was dedicated in memory of Dr. Ashley Schiff (1932-1969), a beloved professor of Political Science and an avowed naturalist.

The Ashley Schiff Park Preserve is located between Roth Quad and the Marine Science Research Center.



Distance = .14 Miles
Distance = .08 Miles
Distance = .15 Miles



A Place for Peace and Quiet

The Ashley L. Schiff Preserve, a 28-acre nature preserve between the core campus and the south campus, is a serene spot of untouched terrain filled with trees and wildlife. When former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall dedicated the preserve to the late political science professor and conservationist in 1970, he said, "I believe that is what Ashley Schiff stood for." An alumni scholarship (see page 1) also honors the memory of Dr. Schiff.





Kelly Quad



Math and Physics

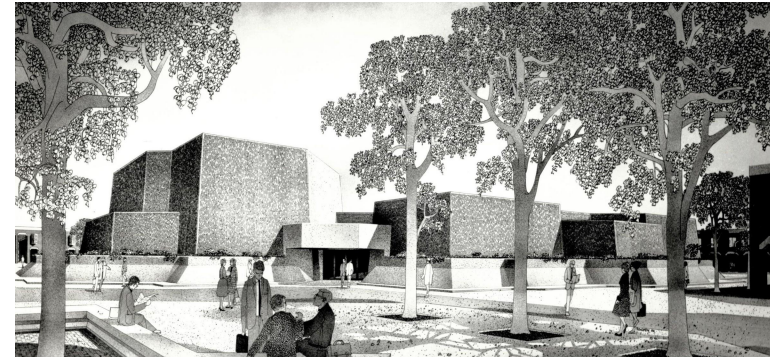
By 1969, enrollment reached 8,000. Over the next few years, the brick-faced graduate Mathematics and Physics buildings, Life Sciences, Engineering, Computer Science, and Social and Behavioral Sciences were completed along with two undergraduate dormitories today known as Kelly Quad and Roosevelt Quad.



Computer Science



Roth Quad



Lecture Center



Architects contributing to the design of campus buildings included Richard J. Roth of Emery Roth and Sons, who planned the dorms in “Roth Quad.” William Kessler designed the large windowless lecture hall later named at the suggestion of students in honor of U.S. Senator Jacob K. Javits.



By the time John Toll left the university in 1978, enrollment had grown from 1,800 to 17,000.

In this article published in *Newsday*, he is referred to as the master builder of Stony Brook University.

Ll's Towering Symbol Of Future Health Care

By Stuart Diamond

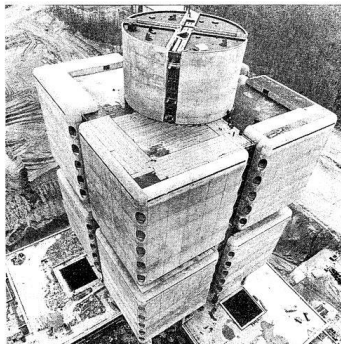
A broad science facility, the health center of the future rises over the woods at the State University at Stony Brook, in a giant cluster of gray concrete cubes.

via an entrance tunnel, one built on Long Island (the Nassau County Medical Center is still not built), is scheduled for completion in December. It is the first part of a \$206,000,000 health sciences complex, the first comprehensive state university health center in New York State in more than 20 years. The complex will include:

- The first new dental school established in the state during this century.
- The first medical school—ever in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.
- A children's hospital that also will provide for 150,000 outpatient visits a year.
- Five other health schools—nursing, social welfare, allied health sciences (physical therapy, medical technology), basic health sciences (pathology, anatomy) and podiatry (foot ailments).
- Provision for 3,500 students, 100 faculty members, 4,000 employees.
- Sophisticated research and treatment facilities, such as radioactive brain scanners and machines that X-ray different depths in the body.

In addition, the directors say, the complex will be a community service facility. It will provide refresher courses and the latest technical information for doctors and other professionals already practicing.

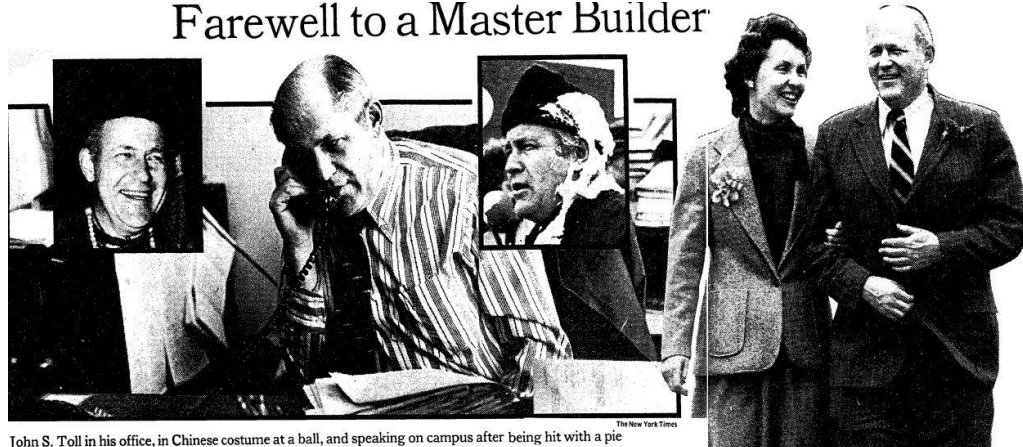
The aspiring professionals—medical students, social workers, physical therapists, health administrators—all take the same basic courses, sitting together in the same classes. "That in-



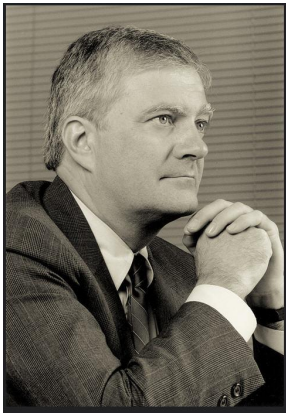
Stonewall Photo by Don Larkin. All photos were at 244 feet, the health center rises at the State University at Stony Brook, in the future building on Long Island.



Farewell to a Master Builder



John S. Toll in his office, in Chinese costume at a ball, and speaking on campus after being hit with a pie



Dr. John H. Marburger III became the third president of Stony Brook in 1980. The beginning of his presidency coincided with the opening of the University Hospital.



The footprint of the west and east campuses in Stony Brook was established by 1983.

New construction essentially ceased due to diminishing financial resources.

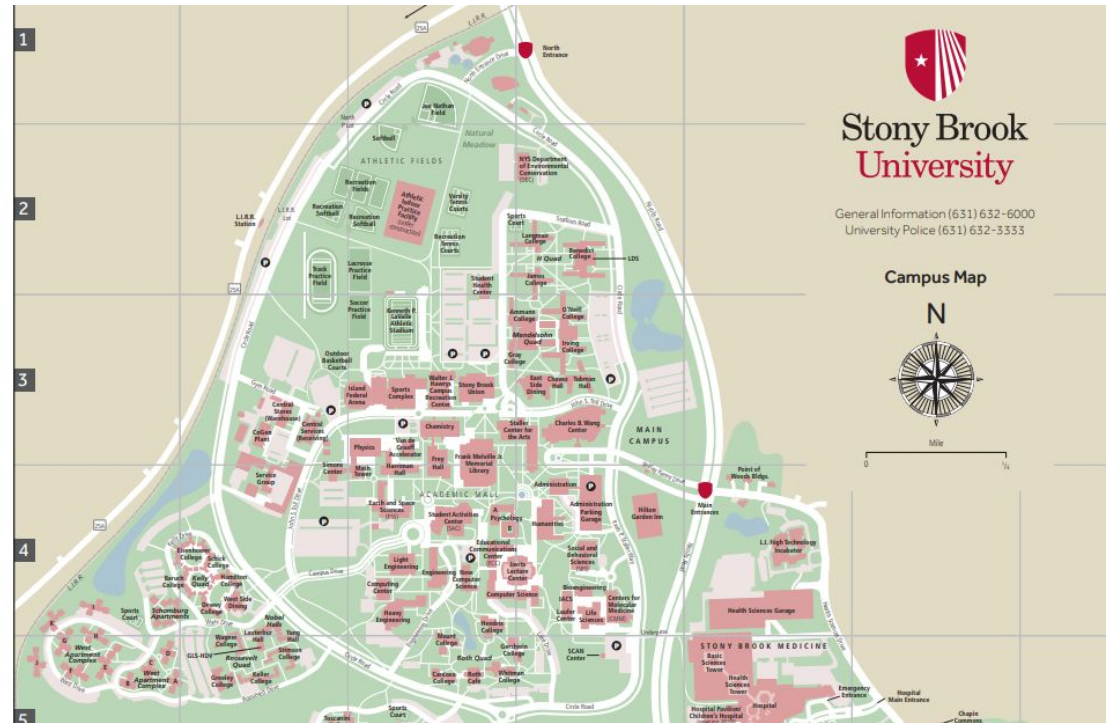
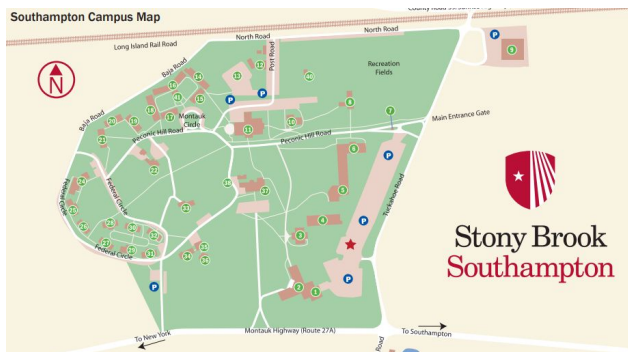
The three major construction projects completed between 1976 and 1991 were the Health Sciences Complex, the Long Island State Veterans Home, and Chapin apartments.





Part II: Naming History of Buildings 7 Primary Categories

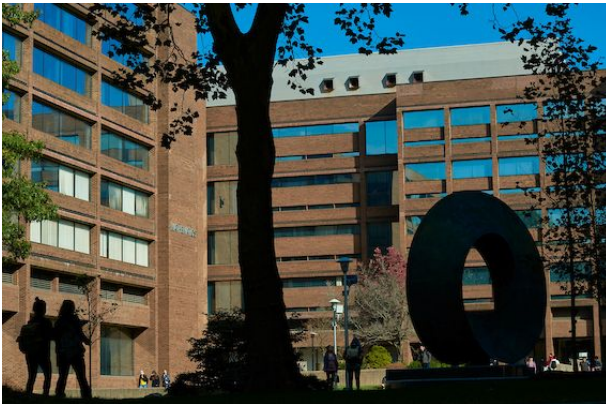
1. Function or Discipline
2. Campus Architects
3. New Yorkers
4. Place Names & Cardinal Directions
5. Honor
6. Donors
7. Inherited





Part II: Naming History

1. Function or Discipline



Many of the buildings are named by function or discipline. Examples include Administration (top left), Mathematics and Physics (left), and Chemistry (above).

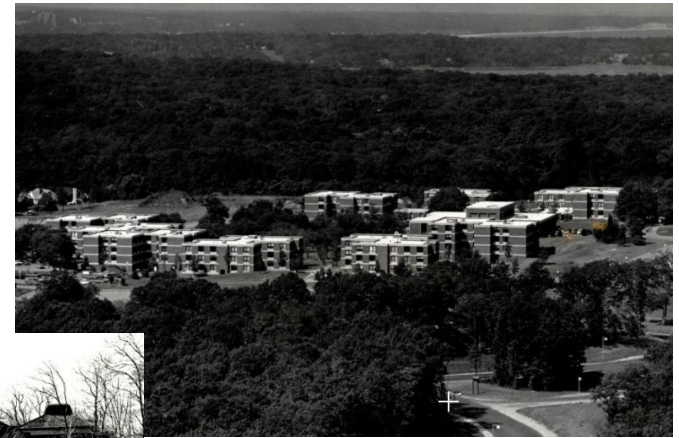


Part II: Naming History

2. Campus Architects



Kelly Quad: Hugh A. Kelly



Tabler Quad: William Tabler



Roth Quad: Emery Roth and Sons



Part II: Naming History

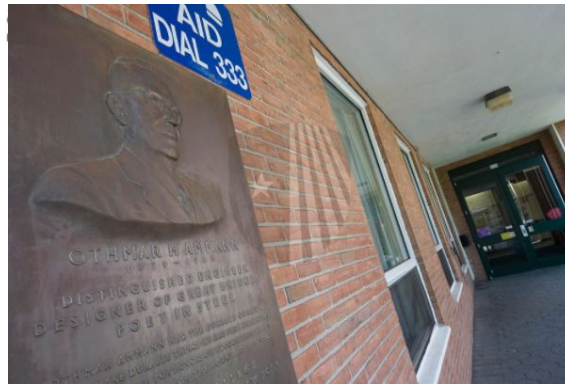
3. New Yorkers

Colleges Named for NY'ers

The Dorms have been named! As of Sunday each dorm will bear the name of a distinguished, deceased New Yorker and will be known as the College of that name. For example, "H" dorm is now Benedict College and South Hall has now become Gray College. The new names should be used by students as part of their mailing addresses. The following is the list of names for all the existing colleges including names for three colleges in the unfinished Tabler quad.

H - Ruth Benedict
JS - Henry James

JN - Irving Langmuir
GS - Washington Irving
GN - Eugene O'Neill
North Hall - Othmar Amman
South Hall - Asa Gray
Roth 1 - Benjamin Cardoza
Roth 2 - Walt Whitman
Roth 3 - George Gershwin
Roth 4 - Joseph Henry
Roth 5 - William Mount
Tabler 3 - Theodore Dreiser
Tabler 4 - Charles Steinmetz
Tabler 5 - Frederick Douglas



In 1967, a plan to name dormitories after New Yorkers was underway. Clockwise: Irving Langmuir College, Benjamin Cardoza College, and Othmar Ammann College.



Part II: Naming History

4. Place Names & Cardinal Directions

Putnam Hall,
South Campus



West
Apartments

Shop Red West
(located at the
northeast corner
of the Melville
Library)

On campus and need a mask?

**Visit SHOP RED WEST
campus store
pick up window**

Melville Library, Lower Level

Open on the following dates:
July 13: 11am to 2pm
July 16: 9:30am to 12:30pm

sbushopred.com | @sbushopred



East Side Dining



Part II: Naming History 5. Honor



Top, left to right: (Jimi) Hendrix College, (C. N.) Yang Hall, (Senator) Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium
Bottom, left to right: (Senator) Jacob K. Javits Lecture Center, (Cesar) Chávez and (Harriet) Tubman Residence Halls,
(Paul) Lauterbur Hall



Part II: Naming History

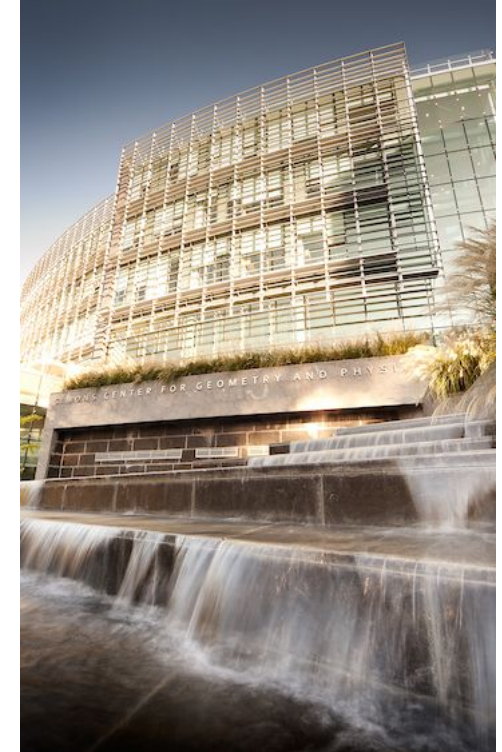
6. Donors



Charles B. Wang Center (top)
Frey Hall (bottom)



The Avram Theater at Southampton (top)
Staller Center for the Arts (bottom)



Simons Center for
Geometry and Physics



Part II: Name History

7. Inherited: original building names retained



**Left: original (top) and present (bottom)
Sunwood estate, Setauket, NY**

Above: Amagansett residence hall, Stony Brook Southampton



Part II: Naming History

Inventory of 180 buildings on West, East, South, Research & Development, and Southampton campuses

Access via the website of the University Archives at:

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/libspecial/archives/index.php>

1	Compiled by Kristen Nyitray. Last update: 2020-10-02		
2	SH=Southampton		
3	Campus	Name of Building	Name Reference
4	SBU SH	Abney Peak	n/a
5	SBU WEST	Administration	n/a
6	SBU R&D	Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (AERTC)	n/a
7	SBU SH	Amagansett	n/a
8	SBU EAST	Ambulatory Surgery Center	n/a
9	SBU WEST	Ammann College	Ammann, Othmar (1879-1965)
10	SBU WEST	Arena, Island Federal Credit Union	Island Federal Credit Union
11	SBU SH	Art Studio	n/a
12	SBU WEST	Athletic Indoor Practice Facility	n/a
13	SBU SH	Atlantic Hall	n/a
14	SBU SH	Avram Theater and Gallery	Avram, Morrell and Maria
15	SBU WEST	Baruch College	Baruch, Bernard (1870-1965)
16	SBU EAST	Basic Sciences Tower	n/a
17	SBU WEST	Benedict College	Benedict, Ruth Fulton (1887-194
			Residence Hall; H Quad

Screenshot of Stony Brook University building inventory



For more information, contact:

Kristen J. Nyitray

Director, Special Collections and University Archives

University Archivist

Associate Librarian

Stony Brook University Libraries

Stony Brook University

Stony Brook, NY 11794-3323

e: kristen.nyitray@stonybrook.edu

t: 631.632.7119 / f: 631.632.1829