



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Senate  
**FROM:** Maurie McInnis, President  
**DATE:** November 6, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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### **University News and Accolades**

#### **State of the University Address**

I gave my second [State of the University Address](#) on October 11<sup>th</sup> and shared my vision of how SBU can continue to “take on the big challenges, make a difference and change the world.”

#### **Stony Brook University Named an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University**

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities recently named Stony Brook an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University. This national award acknowledges Stony Brook's role as a leading economic engine, working with private and public sector partners to promote business and industry, talent and workforce development, and innovation and entrepreneurship, sustaining and enhancing Long Island and our state as vibrant and exciting communities.

#### **'Inclusion Done Right!' Offers Insights to the Community**

The ['Inclusion Done Right!'](#) conference was held on October 20<sup>th</sup> and sought to optimize community-based inclusion for children with disabilities and to establish an integrated bridge between Stony Brook University and community partners to promote inclusive recreation and leisure that aligns with best practices. The conference was presented by the Office of the Vice President for Research, School of Health Professions, and the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives.

#### **NSF Grant to Bridge Gap Between Classrooms and Labs**

The [U.S. National Science Foundation's Graduate Education Division and Materials Research Division](#) are partnering to help provide underrepresented groups in STEM with additional access to diverse education, research and training opportunities. These opportunities will empower minority-serving institutions to deliver materials research expertise that strengthens the future scientific workforce and builds institutional capacity for researchers at NSF-funded centers. A team led by **Surita Bhatia**, professor in the **Department of Chemistry** and interim chair of the Department of Anthropology, including partners at the University of Texas El Paso (UTEP) and Navajo Technical University, was awarded \$450K to initiate new training activities through the NSF NRT-PREM program, of which \$150K will go to Stony Brook University. The program builds on the Stony Brook [QuADS NRT](#), a \$3M PhD training grant involving faculty and students in chemistry, materials sciences and chemical engineering, mechanical engineering and geosciences that focuses on quantitative analysis of material structure and dynamics.

## **Individual Accolades**

### **Barry Barish Awarded National Medal of Science**

Barry Barish, the President's Distinguished Endowed Chair in Physics at Stony Brook University, [was one of nine people](#) awarded the prestigious National Medal of Science by President Joe Biden. Barish, a world-renowned experimental physicist and Nobel Laureate [who joined](#) Stony Brook's [Department of Physics and Astronomy](#) earlier this year, received the award October 24 from President Biden at the White House. The prestigious award is among the highest honors in the scientific community.

### **Professor Stephanie Dinkins Named a TIME 100 AI Innovator**

Transmedia artist [Stephanie Dinkins](#), a professor in Stony Brook University's Department of Art, has been named an Innovator on the [2023 TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI](#) alongside renowned industry leaders and stalwarts. Dinkins was recognized for her work with Not the Only One, an ongoing project in which she trained on AI on three generations of Black women to give it cultural roots, a deep history and a perspective that existing systems do not offer.

### **Stony Brook University Professor Elected 2023 APS Fellow**

The [American Physical Society](#) (APS) announced that **Derek Teaney**, professor in Stony Brook University's [Department of Physics and Astronomy](#), is among the organization's 2023 Fellows. This distinction recognizes Teaney as a leading physicist whose research and service as an educator have helped advance the frontiers of science and technology. Teaney was honored for his pioneering work on the hydrodynamical description of the quark-gluon plasma created in relativistic heavy-ion collisions, and for important advances in the non-equilibrium dynamics of quantum chromodynamics.

### **SBU Undergrad is One of 22 EOP Student Ambassadors**

**Hannah Ramirez** has been selected as part of the third class of Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Student Ambassadors. She is among 22 students from 21 campuses that will serve as mentors to other students and encourage high school seniors to enroll, help build on the established student EOP support network across the SUNY system and advise the Chancellor on strengthening the program. Ramirez's academic focus lies in technology systems management where she has chosen to specialize in computer science.

## **Executive Searches and Leadership Updates**

- **Vice President for Strategic Initiatives – Wendy Pearson** started November 1<sup>st</sup> as Vice President for Strategic Initiatives. She most recently served as the Senior Advisor to the Provost at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Pearson will work in close partnerships with campus leaders and partners to identify and advance Stony Brook's institutional priorities. Important goals include ensuring implementation and assessment of the recently completed strategic plan, taking the lead in developing an overall plan for the Southampton campus, and assisting in supporting the university's work as anchor institution for The New York Climate Exchange on Governors Island in New York.

## **Student Affairs Update**

- On Saturday, October 21, the Student Health and Counseling Center hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the recent renovation of the facility, which provides a state-of-the-art and comfortable space for students to take care of their mental and physical health and wellness.

- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Center for Prevention and Outreach hosted a series of events throughout the month to raise awareness and support for survivors of domestic and relationship violence, such as workshops, Green Dot training sessions, Healing Arts events, and the annual domestic violence awareness event, Take a Stand/Walk with Me, on October 25.
- Stony Brook celebrated Homecoming with a wide variety of activities that engaged the campus community as a whole during the week of October 16 including the Homecoming Harvest and Fire Safety Day and the 13th Annual Seawolves Showcase.
- The Shore Club and The Loft at the Student Activities Center (SAC 169 and SAC 221 respectively) were recently reopened. These new spaces underwent extensive renovations to transform them into areas where the campus community can gather and host events for various audiences using state-of-the-art technology and in modern and comfortable settings.
- The Career Center hosted four Job and Internship Fairs this September and October, which featured a 17% increase in student attendance over last year and a participation of over 5,200 students and over 220 employers.
- The Stony Brook's Esports team now has a new home on campus. The newly-renovated space at Tabler Center will feature gaming spaces for students in the team, a watch party area for students to root for their team, and a conference room for team meetings.

### **Advancement Update**

Since the start of the 2024 fiscal year, \$20.7 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 2,253 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:**

- \$60,000,000 in pledges for the NY Climate Exchange
- \$10,000,000 gift to the Department of Pediatrics and the Renaissance School of Medicine
- \$725,000 in gifts and pledges to the Staller Center for the Arts
- \$355,500 pledge to Stony Brook Children's
- \$346,000 gift to scholarships in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- \$200,000 pledge towards scholarships in the School of Dental Medicine
- \$250,000 pledge to the Department of Medicine
- \$179,000 bequest to Department of Music Scholarships
- \$300,000 in pledges to the Pediatric Emergency Room Department Expansion
- \$100,000 gift to support scholarships in the College of Business
- \$100,000 pledge to the Center for Alzheimer's Disease
- \$100,000 pledge for Climate Research
- \$100,000 pledge to the Division of Student Affairs
- \$97,000 gift to support graduate students in the Department of Computer Science
- \$72,000 pledge to the Department of Political Science
- \$63,000 gift to support URECA
- \$50,000 to support Geriatric Medicine in the Department of Medicine
- \$50,000 gift to support the Institute for Ocean Conservation Science

## Recent Events

- **Presidential Lecture Series** –The first in a special series of Presidential Lectures, “Answering the Call: A Special Series on Climate Change” with award-winning journalist and author Jeff Goodell was held on October 25th.
- **CommUniversity Day** recently took place indoors at the Charles Wang Center allowing guests to explore activities in medicine, science, the arts and more.
- **Hispanic Heritage Month** –The university hosted the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Hispanic heritage Month Opening Ceremony featuring keynote speaker Bergre Escorbores '00, '01, a leader in the Long Island community and field of education.
- **Walk of Hope** - The sixth annual Walk of Hope took place with more than 500 students, staff and faculty participants who gathered together to encourage students who are in need of help to reach out and to raise mental health awareness during National Suicide Prevention Month.

## Upcoming Events

- **Stony Awards** –The first annual [Stony Awards](#) will be held on November 29, 2023 at 5:30pm at Flowerfields. This will be an evening of celebration and recognition as we gather to honor and announce our award recipients for the inaugural awards.

## Athletics Update<sup>1</sup>

- Stony Brook alum Travis Jankowski helped lead the Texas Rangers to their first World Series title while becoming the first Seawolf to appear in a World Series game. Jankowski and teammate Pat Cantwell, who serves as the Rangers' bullpen catcher, led the Seawolves to the College World Series in 2012.
- Men's Cross Country won its second consecutive CAA championship on October 27 as four Seawolves finished in the top 10 among the field. Graduate student Carlos Santos finished second overall with a time of 24:15.30 to lead the way in the 8-kilometer race. The Seawolves will compete at the NCAA East Regional Championships on November 10.
- Women's Cross Country narrowly missed winning a championship of its own, placing second at the CAA Championship meet. Four Seawolves (Grace Weigele, Fiona McLoughlin, Grace Sisson and Rebecca Clackett) placed inside the top 15, earning All-CAA distinction.
- Men's Soccer head coach Ryan Anatol was named CAA Coach of the Year as his squad finished the regular season with a third-place conference finish with a record of 4-1-3. Graduate goalie Edmond Kaiser led the CAA with 5.43 saves per game while leading the Seawolves into the conference tournament, which began on November 2.
- Women's Soccer qualified for the CAA Tournament for the second straight season as senior defender Kerry Pearson became the first player in program history to earn first-team All-CAA recognition.
- Women's Basketball was chosen to finish second in the preseason CAA poll and will open the season on Nov. 6 against Columbia at Island Federal Arena.
- Men's Basketball is currently slated for four national television appearances, including the team's season opener at St. John's on Nov. 7 that will appear on FS1.

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<sup>1</sup> As of November 2, 2023

- Football student-athlete Anthony Johnson leads all FCS freshmen with 78.4 receiving yards per game and 6.3 receptions per game.
- Sophomore Kali Moore earned CAA Player of the Week and freshman Ava Jackson was named CAA Rookie of the Year as Volleyball defeated William & Mary in back-to-back matches on October 28 and 29.