Greetings Students and Friends of University Scholars!

This has been an amazing and fun academic year for Scholars as our program continues to grow and prosper. For the first time, freshmen were housed together within the Undergraduate Colleges and I would like to thank the Residence Hall Directors in the Scholars buildings for all their help and support! The Scholars Council was as active as ever and the Executive Board (now called Student Advisory Board) and various committees worked together to organize several outstanding events. We had our first ever Scholars Fellows class this semester and we look forward to these new Fellows serving as SCH101 Teaching Assistants in the fall. These things and other initiatives would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of all the Scholars students involved. Also, special thanks to my Scholars colleagues (Jeremy Marchese and Dr. David Maynard) for all their great work in advising, teaching, and organizing events.

As highlighted in this newsletter, congratulations to the Scholars students honored for their academic achievements, service, and leadership! We are so proud of you! Congratulations also to the graduating seniors! We wish you all success in your future endeavors. Please keep in touch.

Thank you everyone for a great year. On behalf of all the University Scholars staff, we hope you have an enjoyable summer!

Best wishes,

Dr. Brian Colle

Surf's up with Dr. Colle!
Past Events

Sandy Hook Benefit Concert

In response to the tragic events that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the University Scholars banded together to organize a benefit concert. On March 4th, the Tabler Arts Center opened its doors to over 200 people and many performance groups and speakers. Among them were the Stony Brook University Pipettes, the Stony Brook University Choir, Swallow This, and the Stony Brook Ballroom Dance Team. Each gave a remarkable and moving performance and the spirit of the night was truly captured through their art. In addition, Eric Olsen, the Assistant Chief of Patrol for the University Police, delivered a moving speech. He offered his condolences to those affected and assured students of their safety here at Stony Brook. Assistant Chief Olsen also made certain that students know how to respond to an event similar to that that transpired at Sandy Hook Elementary. A student panel led by Ahmed Belazi voiced their sympathies and offered words of consolation. The concert raised $650 thanks to the efforts of Jeremy Marchese, Steven Adelson, Garry Lachhar, Alisa Rybkin, and April Slamowitz. It would not have been a success without the support of the campus community as well. The donations went towards the United Way’s Sandy Hook School Support Fund to aid the recovery of those affected by this tragedy.

-David Chen

MARCH 2013

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Pi Day Talent Show

A combined effort between Scholars, the Honors College, and WISE where pie was plentiful, digits of $\pi$ were recited, and your talented peers performed. Acts included a narrative reading, vocal performances, and even a kazoo band!
On Thursday April 18th, the University Scholars, WISE, and Honors College teamed up to host a Mocktail Event in the TAC Blackbox Theater. The goal of this event was to address the dangers of partying while partaking in the typical college drinking games with friends. The event consisted of four games: flip cup, root beer pong, kings, and thumper. After being introduced to the game and participating in a round, the group leaders (students from SCH/WISE/HC) addressed the possible risks associated with the game. It was a great way to get everyone thinking about the all too common events that take place on college campuses throughout the country.

Overall, this program was very effective in delivering its message. Students who attended raved about the fun time they had with friends and the unique learning experience. With all of the volunteers who dedicated their time to this event, it went off without a hitch and we thank each and every one of them. Be safe Scholars! - Dana Castro
Past Events

“Learn the skill of how to learn”
“Rely on your friends”

Medical School: Behind the Scenes

From left to right: First Year SB Medical Students Alyssa Mierjeski, Ashwin Malhotra, Rajeev Masson, Bilal Asif

April 2023

Central Park Zoo Trip

Scholars at the Central Park Zoo

End-of-Year Banquet

Senior Scholars receive their Graduation Cords
Alexandra Santiago

Alexandra Santiago is a quintessential example of a Stony Brook student who has applied her passions to her educational life and pursuits over her four years on campus. She is a graduating senior earning a degree in environmental studies with a minor in environmental humanities. The Environmental Studies major is a program designed to provide students with the analytical and communicative skills necessary to understand and address complex environmental issues.

Alexandra came to Stony Brook with one eye towards financial responsibility and another directed at her passion for the environment. Aside from affordability, she found the university’s Sustainability Studies Program a good fit for her. With the closing of the Southampton Campus and the program’s subsequent move to main campus, Alexandra had an opportunity to expand the scope of her studies beyond the core of her program.

Aside from her education, Stony Brook has served as a platform for Alexandra to pursue her passion: travel. Originally, she worked with a humanitarian group called the Global Water Brigade, a nonprofit organization in Honduras that builds irrigation systems. After this first trip, Alexandra found her niche in travelling the world and helping others.

Alexandra also traveled through Stony Brook’s study abroad program. As a sophomore, she travelled to Tanzania and as a junior studied in Florence, Italy. “You always regret the things that you don’t do, not the things that you do.” It is with this sentiment in mind that she encourages others to also engage in the life changing experience that is studying abroad.

Alexandra’s involvement in the University Scholars Program was facilitated by Dr. Maynard. She explains how he helped her get off the ground and point her in the right direction. To incoming Scholars she recommends that you use all of the resources that Scholars has to provide, with emphasis on our amazing advisors.

Alexandra believes that all students should branch out in their studies and try different things, no matter where they may take you. She reminds scholars “not to get caught up in the rush of ‘am I on track?’ You want to get a quality education over quantity.”

Alexandra looks to the future with great promise. After graduation she plans to resume traveling, this time to Greece and a solo trip through Europe. An MBA may also be in her future. Regardless, Alexandra’s passion and keen practical sense provide an excellent example for the rest of us and will serve her well in the future wherever her travels may take her. -Errol Kupelian
Scholars Fellows Kicking it Up a Notch!

This year marked the first-ever Scholars cohort of Fellows. Historically, Fellows have been trained during the Spring semester of their freshman year by their respective Undergraduate Colleges. This year, Scholars Fellows had their own section where they were all trained together by the University Scholars Team. "The group itself was really dynamic and the students were highly engaged and very enthusiastic about their role," said Jeremy Marchese, Senior Staff Assistant for the University Scholars Program and co-instructor for the Fellows class. "They’re all extremely talented and I wouldn’t be a bit surprised if the applications for Scholars Fellows next year were at an all-time high because of the positive influence I know they’re going to have on the incoming freshmen."

The Fellows Program is a terrific opportunity for high-motivated students who wish to serve as mentors and Teaching Assistants in their sophomore year. Selected toward the end of their first semester here at Stony Brook University, Fellows are trained during the Spring on communication skills, the impact of being a positive peer mentor, and how to be an effective Teaching Assistant. In addition, Fellows were responsible for creating their own lesson plans so that they can teach a class on their own in the SCH 101 class next Fall. Fellows worked in groups this past semester to conceptualize program and event ideas for the next academic year so that incoming freshmen can acclimate quicker to the University and feel a stronger sense of connection to the University Scholars Program.

Fellows are assigned to a SCH 101 course in Fall 2013, where they will serve as a bridge between new freshmen and the University as a whole. Dhara Doshi, a current student in the Fellows class, had this to say about the course, "The Scholars Fellows class was my favorite class this semester. I was able to interact with both the University Scholars Faculty and fellow students. I loved how the class was oriented on becoming a leader, a role model for other students, and building a community. I made a great new bunch of friends and enjoyed getting to know Jeremy, Dr. Maynard, and Dr. Colle. I'm really excited to share my knowledge with future freshmen, interact with other Scholars, and hopefully to establish a connection with other students to expand on the Scholars community!"

We’re very excited to see this new group of Fellows in action, and can’t wait until next year. For more information on the Fellows, please visit https://uua.stonybrook.edu/university-scholars/involvement

From left to right: Gina Falisi, Katherine Kurre, Fernando Torales-Acosta, Dhara Doshi, Varun Sayal, Tiffany Mak, Meaghan Coyne, Swaroopa Thomas, Steven Adelson, Bryan Szeglin, Dennis Caruana, Victoria Ly, TJ Masterson, Kristin Walter, Cody Pomeroy, Jun Cho, and Ray Pak
Chancellor’s Awards for Student Excellence
Daniel Jones
Karthik Rao
Samuel Rosner
Alexandra Santiago

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
Daryl Vulis

Barry M Goldwater Scholarship
Peter Giattini

Provost’s Award for Academic Excellence
James Ging
Peter John
Olesya Levsh
Jon McGinn
Daryl Vulis

William J Sullivan Award
Justin Thomas

Distinguished Community Service Award
Samuel Rosner

Congratulations!
Undergraduate Recognition Awards

Academic Excellence
   - James Ging
   - Qurat-ul-ain Gulamhussein
   - Daniel Jones
   - Olesya Levsh
   - Jon McGinn
   - Ruhani Nanavati
   - Samuel Rosner
   - Alexandra Santiago
   - Justin Thomas
   - Daryl Vulis
   - Christopher Weber

Athletics
   - Samuel Kimmey

Community Service
   - Jennifer Hanrahan
   - Blessen Thomas

Leadership
   - Jennifer Hecker
   - Aimee Pomeroy

Mirage
By Qurat-ul-ain Gulamhussein

Running through the sunlight
galloping through the plight
of papers and exams
of morning alarms,
a new age to be found
while hearing a sound:
the lick of an ice cream
the kids circling a beam
hopeful as it seems
time now deems
summer is near.
A mirage, my dear.
Senior Graduation Cord Recipients
Nahrin Ali
Sandeep Dhillon
Xusheng Gao
Thomas Hand
Sylvia Horne
Marouh Hussein
Peter John
Daniel Jones
Nicholas Kelman
Gregory Klubok
Olesya Levsh
Dong Hui Liang
Roy Lotz
Jon McGinn
David Meltzer
Hashim Mustehsan
Ruhani Nanavati
Angela Ngo
Ryan Orvedahl
Thomas Quartararo
Rebecca Quinn
Karthik Rao
Benjamin Rasa
Samuel Rosner
Lauren Santoro
Joshua Skou
Griffin St. Clair
Katherine Woodford
Klaudia Wozowczyk
Lina Wu
Ee-Lin Yeo
Bowie Yung

Senior Leadership Awards
Eric Blaney
Meaghan Broderick
Megan Dwyer
Jennifer Hecker
Ryan Heslin
Daniel Jones
Ruhani Nanavati
Aimee Pomeroy
Karthik Rao
Sam Rosner
Alexandra Santiago
Justin Thomas
Daryl Vulis
Chris Weber
Katherine Woodford
Klaudia Wozowczyk
Isaac Yeung

Scholar of the Year Awards
Meaghan Broderick
Chris Weber
Katherine Woodford

Freshman Awards
Steven Adelson - Emerging Leader
Bryan Szeglin - Freshman of the Year

Research Awards
Brittany Barnett
Sarah Bonilla
Erin Brady
Francis Chan
Emma Chylinski
Meaghan Coyne
Aaron Cuisen
Justin Cukier
Thao Do
Cade Dong
Eric Engoron
Anna Flores
Peter Giattini
James Ging
Simranjit Jawandha
Joseph Jenco
Peter John
Daniel Jones
Min Jung
Aisha Khokhar
Sherin Kuriakose
Jammie Law
Susan Le
Chang Heon Lee
Olesya Levsh
Karen Lohman
Roy Lotz
Alexis Martone
Jon McGinn
Patrick Montalto
Denis Nguyen
Ryan Orvedahl
Ivan Pak
Kirti Parmar
Thomas Quartararo
Mallory Rothstein
Deanna Schneider
Zaki Shafi
Shephali Sharma
Sukhchain Singh
April Slamowitz
Viven Solomon
Jacob Spiegel
Griffin St. Clair
Jeffrey Sun
Ariana Tao
Morgan Teeratanon
Tanuf Tembukar
Kazi Ullah
Daryl Vulis
John Williams
Katherine Woodford
Weida Zhang
Senior Scholar Shows Persistent Dedication

Katherine Woodford, a senior English major on the Pre-Medical track here at Stony Brook, has, by far, been one of the most influential Scholars in this program to date. After receiving multiple awards at the University Scholars End of Year Banquet on April 24, it was evident how large of a role Katherine played in the Scholars program. She took home some flashy red honors cords (as a graduating senior with a GPA 3.75 or higher), a research award (for her lab study showcased at URECA on ways to prevent coronary artery disease), a leadership award, and the coveted Senior Scholar of the Year Award.

Katherine has been an active and engaged Scholars Council member for four years, a peer mentor for first year Scholars, a frequent invited speaker at Scholars events like Admitted Student Day, and most recently a member of our Scholars Council E-Board. Just this past weekend, Katherine organized a very successful trip to Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck, where Scholars volunteered their time to help renovate a summer camp for children with disabilities. Katherine also leads the outreach committee.

During her undergraduate career at SBU, Katherine was active as an RHA representative in her Hall Council and is a participant in Stony Brook's English Pal program. She is currently a commuter and has worked part-time while pursuing her studies at SBU.

Her commitment and dedication to (and genuine love of) the Scholars program have been truly noteworthy and remarkable since she started at Stony Brook in Fall 2009. Everyone who knows Katherine in the Scholars community and at SBU more generally will certainly agree that she is smart, funny, and refreshingly honest.

Her future plans are to attend medical school and we hope to see Katherine back on campus often after she graduates in December to visit and be a speaker at future Scholars alumni events. -Dr. David Maynard

Thank you for your continued dedication to Scholars.

Good luck on your MCAT! 💖
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Dana Castro
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2013-2014

Aisha Khokhar
Senior Liaison

Merium Syed
Junior Liaison

Gina Falisi
Sophomore Liaison

Michael Maloney
Commuter Liaison
Thank you wonderful and dedicated Advisors!

Dr. Brian Colle, Jeremy Marchese, and Dr. David Maynard

Have a great summer!