MAKING STONY BROOK STRONGER, TOGETHER

From state-of-the-art healthcare facilities for Long Island’s children to investments in the greatest minds in medicine and in our remarkable students and programs, you make us stronger in every way.

Since it opened in 2010, Stony Brook Children’s Pediatric Emergency Department has seen a 50 percent increase in patient volume, creating an emergency of its own: an urgent need for more space, specialists and services to care for the 25,000 children seen each year.

Now, thanks to two dozen area families, and a collective $4 million gift from the Knapp Swezey, Gardener and Island Outreach foundations, Stony Brook Children’s is one step closer to creating an expanded pediatric emergency facility to serve Suffolk County’s children and the families who love them.

“The Pediatric Emergency Department has been a remarkably successful program in terms of the quality of care we’re providing and how it’s resonated with the community,” said Chair of Pediatrics Carolyn Milana, MD. “Now, thanks to the Knapp family foundations and our surrounding community of generous friends and grateful patients, we will be able to move ahead to ensure we can continue to meet the need now and into the future.”

“Time and again, the Knapp families and their foundation boards have shown such incredible commitment to the people of Long Island by their personal and philanthropic engagement with Stony Brook,” said Deborah Lowen-Klein, interim vice president for Advancement. “In fact, in addition to their generous support of the pediatric emergency department, during the early days of the pandemic, three Knapp foundations...
collectively gave $600,000 to support the COVID-19 effort at Stony Brook University Hospital."

The 17,000-square-foot expansion will better accommodate the current volume with room for growth with the addition of exam rooms. It also will enhance support of Stony Brook Children’s American College of Surgeons-accredited Level I Pediatric Trauma Center by adding two pediatric critical care bays. The expansion will enable the pediatric emergency medicine team to see more patients, prevent backups in the Emergency Department during busy times and provide a better patient and family experience.

Plans for the Pediatric Emergency Department extend far beyond rooms and beds, however. With funding in place, Stony Brook Children’s leadership can recruit even more pediatric emergency care specialists — including pediatric emergency medicine doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

Early supporters included the Peter and Nancy Richard Family Foundation and the Lippe family. Additional generous donations came from Michael and Deirdre Guerin, James and Debra Breslawski, and Vladimir and Elena Sadov.

With the philanthropic goal met, Stony Brook Children’s will move forward and begin planning its two-year expansion project, creating the largest, best-equipped pediatric emergency resource for Suffolk County.

The Knapp foundations continue to invest in protecting the health and well-being of Long Island’s children and the families who love them.
Imagine 375 of the world’s brightest students working together around-the-clock for 24 hours to code, network, create, solve problems and compete for awards in categories as varied as artificial intelligence, security, funniest hack and best beginner hack. That’s exactly what takes place every September when Stony Brook hosts the SBUHacks 24-hour hackathon.

In addition to providing critical funding for the event, sponsors such as Softheon, Inc., Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., SupplyHouse, BNY Mellon, Applied Visions, Inc., MLH and Facebook host tech talks, mentor students and assist in preparations for the event. Students also network with the companies about potential career opportunities in the future. This event is a campuswide effort bringing together staff from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, University Libraries, Office of Alumni Relations and the Career Center.

“I am truly inspired by our students’ commitment to innovating with technology along with their passion for creativity, entrepreneurship and fun,” said Interim Provost Fotis Sotomavromalis, PhD. “Their work in both organizing and participating in SBUHacks is exemplary of the kind of students we have in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences — the global innovators and social entrepreneurs of tomorrow.”

CORPORATE SPONSORS SPUR COMPUTING CREATIVITY

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SOFTHEON HELPS STUDENTS GO FURTHER, FASTER ON CAMPUS

As an organization that strives to make healthcare more affordable, accessible and plentiful for everyone, Softheon, Inc. is in the business of helping people live their best lives. And that’s exactly what the health insurance e-commerce company has done for the Stony Brook campus community for nearly 20 years.

Softheon’s extraordinary support — from delivering thousands of meals to our healthcare workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic and donating $300,000 to Stony Brook’s Health Crisis Fund, to supporting the Career Center and STEM-related programs such as iCREATE, the WISE Professional Series, the Stony Brook Entrepreneur Challenge and SBUHacks — has empowered our healthcare workers, faculty and staff and given our students opportunities to grow and thrive.

The company’s recent gift to Stony Brook’s Wolf Ride Bike Share program is its latest effort to support our students. Now with twice the number of bikes available on campus, the program helps students get around Stony Brook’s 1,400-acre campus, while at the same time reducing traffic congestion and cutting down on our carbon footprint.

“This program is not just about helping students get to class on time. These bikes provide shared experiences for our Seawolves. And, importantly, they help our global community by promoting sustainable modes of transportation.”

Shaheer Khan ’21
President of the Undergraduate Student Government
In 2015, the Empowerment Charitable Trust (ECT) committed its support for an interdisciplinary multiyear project developed by Associate Professor of English Eric Haralson, PhD, called "Global Citizenship and World Literature.

Through the generosity of the Empowerment Charitable Trust, Professor Haralson developed innovative syllabi using literature, film and other media. The project established a guest-lecture series, an expansive new anthology of international writings, a website dedicated to global consciousness-raising resources, student-organized global-activism events and an interdisciplinary faculty/student advisory group.

Now, as the project continues to challenge students to confront vital questions about what it means to be a global citizen, the Empowerment Charitable Trust has generously funded an endowed professorship in global citizenship.

In January, Professor Haralson was formally installed as the Empowerment Charitable Trust Endowed Professor in Global Citizenship. Professor Haralson is creating new initiatives designed to generate widespread intellectual interest in global citizenship and ethical self-growth among Stony Brook students.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A GLOBAL CITIZEN?

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Henry Tannous, MD, General Ting Feng Cheng Endowed Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery, has transformed the care of adult cardiac patients at Stony Brook. Among other accomplishments, Dr. Tannous has made great strides in pursuing the most effective and advanced techniques for aortic valve replacement and coronary bypass and minimally invasive surgery for certain lung cancers. As the General Ting Feng Cheng Endowed Chair, established by Stony Brook alumni and Stony Brook Medicine Advisory Board members Carol Cheng '96, '97 and Eugene Cheng '97, he will continue his remarkable clinical successes and expand his research in cardiology/cardiothoracic surgery, along with leading a collaborative effort to reduce lung cancer death rates through early detection and treatment.

When Anissa Abi-Dargham, MD, Lourie Endowed Chair in Psychiatry, uses molecular imaging techniques to study the neurobiology of schizophrenia and substance use disorders, she is transforming our understanding of schizophrenia and concurrent addictions. Now, as the Lourie Endowed Chair in Psychiatry, established by Robert Lourie, PhD, and Ivana Stolnik '16, Dr. Dargham will have additional resources to accelerate discovery around the workings of the brain and, ultimately, develop preventive and diagnostic tools that will lead to more focused treatment interventions for schizophrenia and substance use disorders.

Ute Moll, MD, Renaissance Endowed Professor in Cancer Biology, is an internationally renowned leader in cancer biology, recognized for her seminal discoveries about the p53 tumor suppressor gene — the most frequently mutated gene in cancer. Inspired by Dr. Moll’s work, a group of nine Renaissance Technologies families — Stanko and graduate alumna Nicole Barle, MA ’16; Michael and Victoria Bershadsky; Sergey Butkevich and Irina Gulina; Michael and Nina Douglas; Tomislav and graduate alumna Vesna Kundic, MS ’05; Robert Louise and alumna Irina Stolnik ’03; Mark and Jane Metzger; Vladimir and Elena Sadov; and Francesco Scattone and Judith Gibbons — came together to create the Renaissance Endowed Professorship in Cancer Biology. As the inaugural holder of the professorship, the late Dr. Moll will expand her landmark work in cancer pathogenesis and therapeutics.

The field of theoretical physics is essential to human understanding of the universe. Many of its modern conveniences, from satellite communications to diagnostic imaging technologies, have emerged from the study of the fundamental nature of the world. At Stony Brook, the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics (YITP) is a center of such discovery, led by some of the field’s greatest minds.

Leonardo Rastelli, PhD, a professor in the YITP and the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Physics and Astronomy and a 2020 Simons Investigator, is one of those great minds. In recognition of his groundbreaking research in quantum field theory and string theory, Professor Rastelli has been named the inaugural holder of the Renaissance Chair in Theoretical Physics. The chair was endowed by the Simons Foundation, Stanko Barle, Tomislav Rudnic and Robert Louise. Co-founded by longtime Stony Brook friends Jim and Marilyn Simon ’74, PhD ’84, the Simons Foundation supports discovery-driven scientific research in the pursuit of understanding the phenomena of our world.

RENOWNED PROFESSOR NAMED RENAISSANCE CHAIR IN THEORETICAL PHYSICS