

Congratulations to our spring 2021 graduates (385 of them – 250 bachelors in business management



and 135 graduate students from our MBA and MS programs) whom we celebrated with a fabulous in-person ceremony on May 20th at LaValle Stadium. Earlier that day we hosted our Spring Awards Ceremony to celebrate our highest achieving spring and summer graduates. You can view their accomplishments [here](#). We wish everyone the best, and hope you keep in touch and come back to campus as soon as possible to attend classes and events.

We are looking forward to the fall 2021 semester with most of our classes returning to in-person mode, and many events doing the same. Despite the online format of the past 15 months, we are proud of how our students, faculty, staff, alumni and other SBU friends & colleagues went far beyond in so many aspects - research, new program development, entrepreneurship, academic excellence, and career development.

Here are 12 of my favorite SBU and COB accomplishments of 2020-2021:

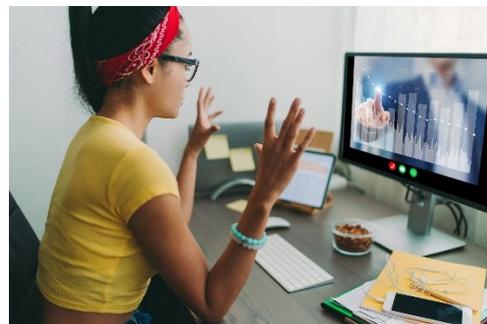
1. Stony Brook University has been ranked No. 39 among all U.S. universities in the QS US University Rankings 2021, moving up from No. 45 last year and placing in the top 5.5% nationwide. The University also ranked as the No. 1 public university in New York and the No. 13 public university in the nation. The rankings are based on weighted scores in the categories of Employability, Diversity and Internationalization, Learning Experience and Research.

2. Stony Brook University has been included in the Princeton Review list, Top Graduate Schools for Entrepreneurship Studies for 2021, ranking at #43 on the list. For this project, there were two lists -- an undergraduate and a graduate school list, each naming in rank order the 50 schools considered to be the best in the nation for students aspiring to become entrepreneurs. Schools were chosen for the 2021 lists based on a June–August 2020 survey of administrators at more than 300 undergraduate and graduate schools offering entrepreneurship studies.

3. At a time when students needed it most, the College of Business, with the help of generous donors, was able to award more than \$25,000 in scholarships to COB undergraduate and graduate students. This included the Leonard Comberiate Scholarship and the Real Estate Institute Scholarship, both of which include full tuition to deserving undergraduate students.

4. We introduced innovative new programs.

Starting in fall 2021 we will be offering a fully online MBA program as one of our MBA options. Students in this program will be able to choose the general MBA, or an MBA with a concentration in Innovation or Operations Analytics. The online MBA is designed as a part-time option best suited for working professionals. The application deadline for all of our fall MBA and MS programs is June 15. You can learn more [here](#).



5. The COB continued to offer a vibrant student life throughout the pandemic. Student life in the College of Business remained very active throughout the academic year. We continued to engage students through co-curricular clubs and activities, student competitions, student organizations, alumni networking events, internships, and experiential learning activities to create a vibrant student life.



The **Finance area clubs**, all led by Professor Michael Nugent, include the **Finance Society, Investment Club, NYSSA Campus Chapter**, and a new club formed in 2020, the **Risk Management and Insurance Club**. Finance clubs saw a big increase in participation in Fall 2020 with an increase of over 400 members among its clubs. The Investment Club welcomed back their former club president William Recktenwald, Market Analyst at Koch Energy Services for a talk about his career path and the obstacles he faced in pursuing it. They also welcomed back club founder and 2011 alum, Owen Meyer, who spoke about his hedge fund and investment career. Mr. Meyer is a technology-focused advisor, executive, and fund manager.

His experiences have ranged from work at hedge funds, investment banks, and venture-backed technology startups. A focus on the **Insurance Industry** is evident in 2021 with a new campus chapter of **Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS)**, an international professional fraternity organized to promote, encourage and sustain student interest in insurance, risk management and actuarial science as professions. An event sponsored by the **Independent Agents and Brokers Foundation (IABF)** is being planned for October, 2021, further emphasizing our dedication to providing student pathways into the insurance, risk management, and actuarial science industry. Insurance Industry panel events took place in Fall '20 and Spring '21 during in-class events, and featured alumni Brendan Regan '18, who talked about his career in the actuarial field, and Ryan Noviello '11, who spoke about opportunities and careers in the insurance industry.

Business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi hosted events including an evening with industry pros, an alumni panel, and a speed networking event that featured DSP alumni from Showtime, Google, Bloomberg, Ironshore Insurance, United Health Care, YearUp, Zenith, KCD, JP Morgan, KPMG, Publicis, Estee Lauder, and NBC Universal. DSP also promoted Café Por La Tarde, a virtual panel event for a conversation with Hispanic/Latinx business owners regarding their career journeys and the challenges they faced.



The **Accounting Society** led by Professor Christie Comunale, Accounting Area Head & Graduate MS Accounting Program Director, hosted several panel events including: **The Effect of the Pandemic on the Accounting Profession: What It Means for Hiring and Career Growth; Big 4/Non-Big 4; Alumni Panel Discussion; and CPA Review Firm Panel Discussion**. Events included alumni from several regional and national firms.

6. We Celebrated Our Student Entrepreneurs!

The Stony Brook Entrepreneurs Challenge competition awards financial prizes to student competitors with the most promising and persuasively developed business ideas. All finalists presented their ideas to a panel of experienced entrepreneurs, angel investors, venture funders, and regional business leaders. The winning teams received a share of cash prize funds and advanced to regional and state competitions. Since 2005, the first year of the Stony Brook Entrepreneurs Challenge, the winning student-competitors have been awarded almost half a million dollars.

College of Business students who have done well in this competition in recent years include:

- James Martino, '21, Downtown Dating, 2021 New York State Business Plan Competition 2nd Place, Software & Services Category
- Ethan Doutney, '20, Dune Fishery Blue Point Oyster Farms, who was one of four Annual Regional Business Plan Competitors in 2020 from SBU to advance to states and won 1st Place in AgTech category
- Orville Davis, '21, ScrapIt, Tied for 2nd Place in 2020



Wolfie Tank, SBU's Annual Pitch Competition returned in February '21, this year for a completely remote program. Stony Brook alumnus and Dean's Advisory Board member, Dipita Chakraborty, client partner at Fractal Analytics Inc., participated as a one of the judges of the program. Five teams delivered prerecorded presentations, and after a series of live Q&A sessions that followed each presentation, Hocus Pocus, a portable ultrasound training tool for hospitals and first responders, was named the winning business idea, taking the top prize of \$1,500. You can read more about the program [here](#).

7. We Welcomed Entrepreneurship Speakers Throughout the Year.

The Entrepreneurs Edge speakers series returned in April '21 and featured **Pablo Legorreta, Founder and CEO of Royalty Pharma**, founded in 1996 and currently the largest buyer of biopharmaceutical royalties and a leading funder of innovation across the biopharmaceutical industry. Other speakers in the 20-21 year included our May '20 fireside chat with **John Williams, CEO of the New York Federal Reserve Bank**, moderated by David Calone; as well as a March '21 talk featuring authors **Colin Bryar and Bill Carr** on their book, "Working Backwards: Insights, Stories, and Secrets from Inside Amazon."



8. The SBU Center for Remote Internships & Experiential Learning was formed by the Career Center in 2020, in response to the unexpected and jarring transition to virtual work as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic and requests from many employer partners for greater support. Two College of Business faculty/staff members, **Associate Professor Peter Caprariello**, and **Assistant Dean Amy Milligan**, serve on the Advisory Panel for this new initiative. The mission of the Center is to curate resources and support for employers who wish to create, structure, and manage remote internships and other forms of experiential learning.



9. The College of Business Led the Way In Helping Small Businesses During COVID. In March 2020, the College of Business engaged a committee of faculty, staff, students, and local/regional business leaders to form the **COVID-19 for Business Task Force**, with the goal to assemble programs and services to help small businesses survive and in many cases pivot. The task force met weekly and worked with the Suffolk County Executive's Office to develop programs offered through Suffolk Forward, an initiative to help small businesses, at no cost.

Some press about the program included:

- <https://news.stonybrook.edu/featuredpost/sbdc-business-students-team-up-to-help-local-firms-cope-with-pandemic/>
- <https://news.stonybrook.edu/newsroom/stony-brook-universitys-college-of-business-launches-free-workshops-for-local-business-owners-impacted-by-covid-19/>

10. We Collaborating Across Campus with the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Our departments will be awarded a **New York Empire State Development Entrepreneur Life Sciences** grant of \$500,000 for the development of new joint programs. This will include an Advanced Graduate Certificate with an MS/MBA course in Bio-Startups and Innovation. The grant follows from the \$50,000 seed grant we received in 2020 to develop the proposal. The program is consistent with Stony Brook's new emphasis on developing Workplace of the Future programs, a committee chaired by Manny London, to spearhead development of cross-college programs that build on Stony Brook's distinctiveness and focus on transferable skills.

11. Our Business Honors Program Continued to Innovate. BHP students take additional coursework to complete a capstone thesis and develop a program based in either research under the guidance of a faculty member, or a project with a corporate sponsor. In the past 10 years over 250 students have participated in this program, which includes presenting at URECA, the University's Undergraduate Research Symposium. A sampling of the 20 BHP research projects presented at the 2021 URECA can be found [here](#). And one project received coverage on the SBU [website](#). Beginning in 2020, students in the BHP were able to choose the **Broadridge Executive-in-Residence Program** as their capstone project. Broadridge students worked in teams on developing business solutions based on parameters set by company executives and worked closely with Broadridge management throughout the semester, with a final presentation to the Broadridge team at the end of the semester. The BHP/Broadridge cohort also created a LinkedIn Business Honors Program group and hosted several alumni events this Spring in coordination with the Accounting Society, Finance Society, Alpha Kappa Psi, American Marketing Association, and Delta Sigma Pi. Student also created video interviews with BHP alumni for the LinkedIn page.

A promotional poster for an event titled "THE VERSATILITY OF A BUSINESS DEGREE". The event is a "Panel and Networking Event" featuring the College of Business Honors Program collaborating with SB Finance Society. The poster lists four speakers: Steven Hromin (Analyst, Author) from JPMORGAN CHASE & CO., Owen Meyer (Managing Partner) from MEYER EQUITY, Anastasia Kiryushkina (Assistant Vice President) from usbank, and Nicholas Hayman (Analyst) from DRAFT KINGS. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, from 5PM to 6PM.

THE VERSATILITY OF A BUSINESS DEGREE
Panel and Networking Event

The College of Business Honors Program collaborates with SB Finance Society.

Meet and ask Stony Brook Alumni about their professional experience:

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.
Steven Hromin
Analyst, Author

MEYER EQUITY
DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION
Owen Meyer
Managing Partner

usbank
Anastasia Kiryushkina
Assistant Vice President

DRAFT KINGS
Nicholas Hayman
Analyst

Wednesday, April 14
5PM - 6PM

12. Our Faculty & Staff Are Rock Stars!

For the second year in a row, a College of Business professor has been selected for a **Stony Brook Trustees Faculty Award**. In 2020, **Assistant Professor of Management, Jiyin Cao**, was named a winner. The honor comes with \$20,000 in research funding. Jiyin's application entitled "The Psychological Implication of a Series of Globalization Phenomena." This is the kind of research endeavor best suited for an early-stage, innovative researcher, and represents the kind of innovation that can only be fostered and flourish within a business school like the COB, which is committed to go beyond business as usual.



SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence honored 20 Faculty and Staff in 2021, including **Amy Milligan, Assistant Dean for Curriculum, Accreditation and Student Services**, who was awarded for Excellence in Professional Service. The awards acknowledge the dedication and accomplishments of instructional faculty, librarians, and professional staff across SUNY campuses and encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. These programs underscore SUNY's commitment to sustaining intellectual vibrancy, advancing the boundaries of knowledge, providing the highest quality of instruction, and serving the public good.

Julia Bear, Associate Professor of Management, received the Rosabeth Moss Kanter International Award for Research Excellence in Work and Family, Center for Families at Purdue University and the Boston College Center for Work & Family in February '21.



Richard Chan, Associate Professor of Management, was awarded the [KSG Entrepreneurship Research Award](#) in October '20, for his work "Situating signaling: How signaling environment moderates the effects of quality signals on fundraising success of initial coin offerings." Richard was also a finalist for the Toronto Best Paper Award in December '20, Toronto FinTech Conference/Scotiabank Digital Banking Lab at Ivey Business School.

Jadranka Skorin-Kapov, Professor of Management was elected to the [Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts](#) as a corresponding member. She was elected into Department of Social Sciences based on her multidisciplinary research and books.



Christie Comunale, Accounting Area Head & Graduate MS Accounting Program Director, worked with Becker CPA, to offer students an optional CPA review program. SBU students can enroll in Becker's Customized Stony Brook CPA Review Program, which will provide students with Becker's online course, synchronous virtual reviews, office hours with a dedicated Becker representative, unlimited access to Becker's CPA Success Coaching, study groups, study strategies and skills workshops. Professor Comunale worked with Becker to create a detailed timeline that enables students to study for and pass the CPA exam in 15 months.

Stacey Finkelstein, Associate Professor of Marketing, was interviewed frequently during the beginning months of the pandemic about the consumer psychology behind panic buying and how consumers respond to uncertainty. Stacey was also interviewed for the **SBU Beyond the Expected podcast series** in June '20 and in January '21 was a panelist in the **Iowa State University/Journal of the Association of Consumer Research (JACR)** virtual workshop, "How to approach doing racism and discrimination research." And there's more! Stacey moderated **SBU's FAQ of Social Media Workshop: A Concrete Toolkit to Help Small Business Owners**; joined Newsday in two webinars: **Local Experts Discuss Next Steps for Businesses After Reopening** and **Business & COVID-19: Getting Ready for Spring**. Also, in March '21 Stacey was invited by NY State Senator John E. Brook's office to speak in a small business webinar that his office hosted.

