

AARON PODOLEFSKY RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD FROM STONY BROOK

Honored for community achievements, extraordinary commitment to SBU

STONY BROOK, NY, November 10, 2011 – The [Stony Brook University Alumni Association](#) honored Aaron Podolefsky with a [2011 Distinguished Alumni Award](#), the highest honor given by the Alumni Association, at a special ceremony and reception held at Flowerfield in St. James on November 9. Dr. Podolefsky was presented the award by [Lawrence Martin](#), by fellow anthropologist and Dean of the Graduate School at Stony Brook.

The Stony Brook University Alumni Association recognizes prominent SBU graduates for their career and community achievements, extraordinary commitment to Stony Brook and for reflecting “the highest values embraced and promoted by the University and the Stony Brook Alumni Association.”

[Dr. Aaron M. Podolefsky](#) became the eighth president of [Buffalo State College](#) in 2010 and is the co-chair of the SUNY task force on a seamless education pipeline. He earned a BA in mathematics from San Jose State University, MA degrees in liberal studies and anthropology, and a PhD with distinction in anthropology, all from Stony Brook. He is a fellow of the American Anthropological Association and the author of numerous scholarly works, including books, textbooks and articles.

Before joining Buffalo State, Podolefsky served as president and professor of anthropology at the University of Central Missouri, where he raised the institution’s academic profile, initiated strategic and master planning efforts, cultivated mutually enriching campus-community partnerships, enhanced regional economic development, and launched landmark energy-saving and sustainability initiatives.

Podolefsky previously served as provost and vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa. He also taught and served as department chair in Western Kentucky University’s Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work and in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at West Virginia University. He was a research associate for the Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research at Northwestern University. He is married to Ronnie Lynn (Shapiro) Podolefsky, an attorney specializing in civil rights, employment law, and mediation. Together they have two adult sons, Noah and Isaac.



The Stony Brook University Alumni Association also honored [four other individuals](#): Jane Corrarino (MS ’86, DNP ’10); Keith Kowalsky (BE ’86, MS ’88); Peter Seccia (BA ’89); and Marilyn Simons (BA ’74, PhD ’84).

“Our five recipients are a great credit to their alma mater,” said Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD, President of Stony Brook University. “Each one is a dedicated and dynamic person who has made the most of his or her Stony Brook degree. They are all a source of inspiration to our emerging scholars, beginning researchers and developing professionals. They represent the best Stony Brook has to offer.”

About the Stony Brook Alumni Association

The Stony Brook Alumni Association is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that represents more than 144,000 Stony Brook University alumni nationwide and abroad. Established in 1965, the Association seeks to reach, serve and engage all alumni, students, and other constituencies to foster a lifelong intellectual and emotional connection between the University and its graduates, and to provide the University with goodwill and support.

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