



SCHOOL OF NURSING

2024 Year-End Report



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear Alumni, Colleagues, Supporters and Friends,

This year Stony Brook University embarked on a bold new campaign, inviting all in our community to “**Dare to Be.**” It challenges us all to reach new heights, to be the change you want to see in the world and be the person you know you are destined to be.

As part of New York’s flagship university, the Stony Brook University School of Nursing embraces this challenge in all that we do. True to our mission, we strive to prepare nurse leaders at all levels of practice. We use creative pedagogies, cutting-edge research and innovative practice models to deliver socially just care and improve the health of local and global communities. Our NCLEX pass rate is consistently in the top decile, and our online graduate program is ranked ninth in the nation by U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges.

In this annual report, we share how our faculty, staff, students, alumni and donors rise to the challenge and **DARE TO BE:**

OUR FACULTY AND STAFF DARE TO INSPIRE others through their work in creating a culture of belonging, and in their intention toward health and wellbeing. Events spearheaded by the Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Social Justice (IDEAS) committee focus on promoting these ideals among faculty, staff and students. Wellness and self-care are encouraged as a priority, with the awareness that nursing is a physically and emotionally demanding field.

OUR FACULTY DARE TO BE DATA-DRIVEN AND SOLUTION-FOCUSED. They lead trailblazing work in care initiatives for youth living with HIV. They seek to understand and improve health outcomes following toxic environmental exposure, including World Trade Center cancer survivors. With evidence-based interventions, they promote advance care planning and improved mental health in older adults.

OUR STUDENTS DARE TO BE THE NURSE LEADERS OF TOMORROW. The Stony Brook Student Nurses Association has garnered national recognition in student leadership positions and received numerous awards. Our chapter of the American Association of Men in Nursing dares to care by promoting health education through mentorship and community events.

OUR ALUMNI DARE TO BE GROUNDBREAKING, holding leadership positions in their professional organizations and earning national and international recognition. They work toward solutions to complex care needs for people with heart failure. They lead the way for innovation in health education through simulation. Drawing on their education at Stony Brook University School of Nursing, our alumni share their expertise with the world as Seawolves for life.

OUR DONORS DARE TO ENDOW LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITY. Their generosity has provided scholarships for countless students, easing the burden of tuition debt. In these pages, one alumna shares how her journey from student to nurse leader inspired her to give back to the Stony Brook School of Nursing, while paying it forward to the rising stars in her beloved profession.

Please enjoy this issue as you learn of the outstanding accomplishments happening at the Stony Brook University School of Nursing. By daring to face the challenges and questions of today, we dare to prepare nurses for the healthcare leadership of tomorrow.

Warmly,

Patricia Bruckenthal, PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN
Dean and Professor, Stony Brook School of Nursing

BY THE NUMBERS

ENROLLMENT AS OF FALL 2024



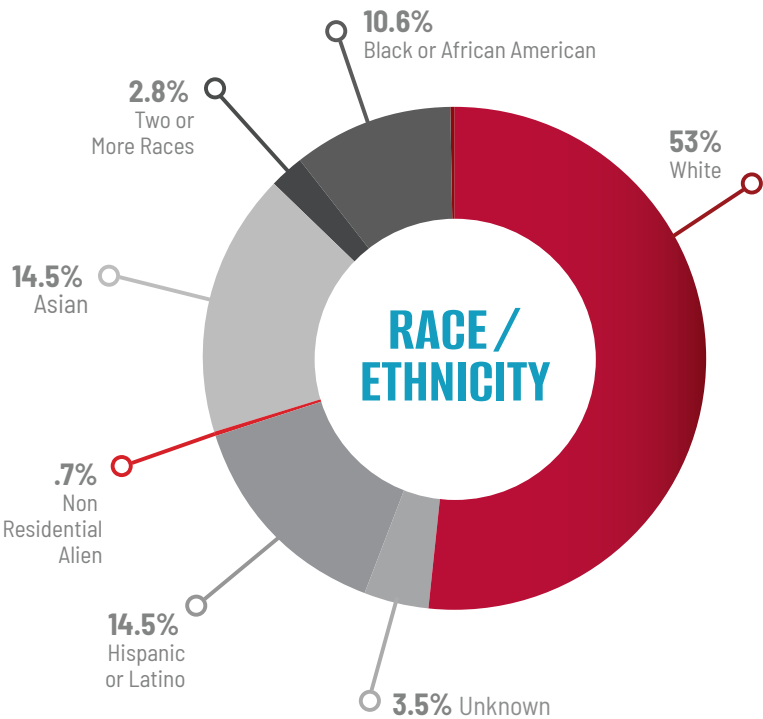
296

Undergraduate



699

Graduate



U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

#7

Best Online
Master of
Science in
Education

#8

Best Online
Master of
Science
Programs

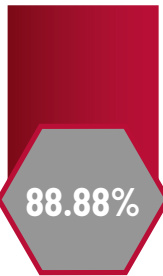
#9

Best Online
Master in
Nursing

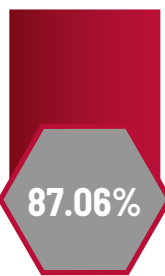
NCLEX PASS RATES



Stony Brook University
School of Nursing



New York State
Nursing Programs
Combined
(AS, BS, Diploma)



New York State
Baccalaureate
Nursing Programs



SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Scholarships **25**

Awards **30**

Recognitions **3**

Scholarships in Dollars **\$51,400**

Awards in Dollars **\$23,250**

Total for Scholarships/Awards **\$74,950**

ALUMNI



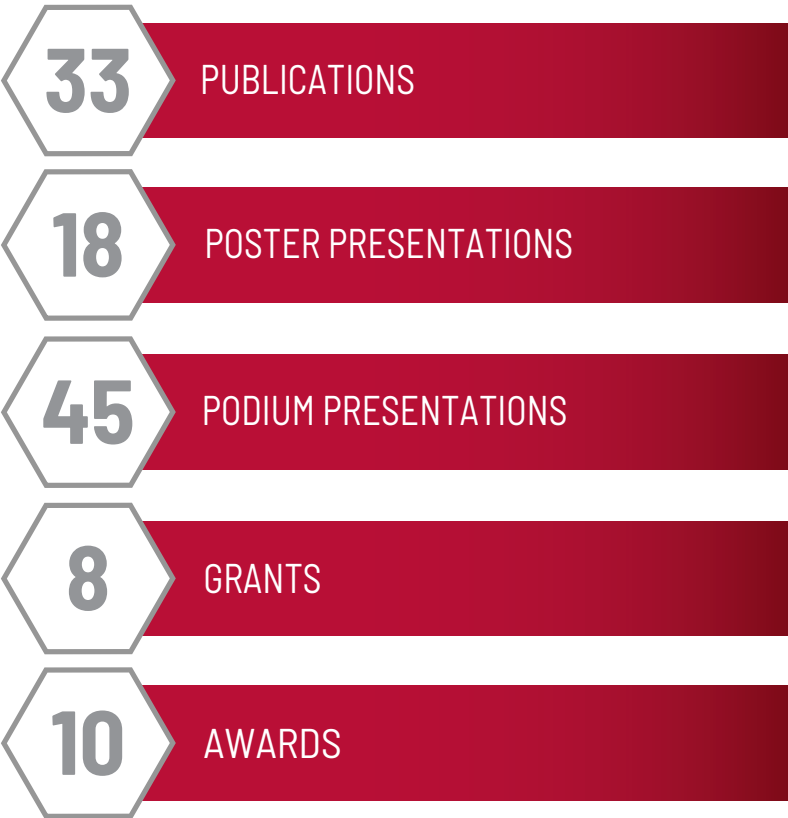
11,947

Alumni

74%

Live in New York State

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



STAFF & FACULTY

Faculty

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..... Staff

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

DARE TO BE INNOVATIVE

Research faculty leading the way in discovery



GISELLE GERARDI

PHD, RN, RNC-OB, C-EFM
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Giselle Gerardi, PhD, RN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, Assistant Professor, has 17 years of nursing experience, primarily in perinatal healthcare.

A 2018-2020 Jonas Scholar, she received her PhD from the City University of New York Graduate Center, a Master of Nurse Science in Community and Public Health Nursing from the University of Hartford, a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature from Stony Brook University, and an Associate's Degree in Nursing from Suffolk County Community College.

Gerardi is an early-career researcher, focused on advancing health equity through behavioral interventions among Latinas at risk for cardiometabolic diseases. In 2024, she shared her findings at the Eastern Nursing Research Society's conference, and at a gathering of the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science.

She serves as a New York State membership assembly representative for the American Nurses Association (ANA) and is currently serving her second term as a Director-at-Large for the ANA's New York Board of Directors.



PAMELA K. GINEX

EDD, MPH, RN, OCN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Pamela K. Ginex, EdD, MPH, RN, OCN, is an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment at the Stony Brook Cancer Center's Division of Population Health Science.

Ginex has focused her research on understanding health outcomes after toxic environmental exposure, seeking evidence-based interventions to mitigate its harmful effects. She works with multidisciplinary research teams focused on cancer in disaster survivors and military veterans. As part of these collaborations, she has been funded by the CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to test and implement a physical activity intervention to mitigate the health effects of toxic exposure for World Trade Center cancer survivors.

Ginex is the proud recipient of the Connie Henke Yarbro Excellence in Cancer Nursing Mentorship Award, a national recognition of her mentorship of oncology nurses, and is a Fellow at the New York Academy of Medicine. She co-chairs the Education Study Group of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer.



ANN-MARGARET NAVARRA

PHD, CPNP-PC, FAAN
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF NURSING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Ann-Margaret Navarra, PhD, CPNP-PC, FAAN, is the Associate Dean of Nursing Research and Innovation. As Associate Professor, she is also Chair of the Department of Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Studies. In the early 1990s, she was one of the first pediatric nurse practitioners leading care initiatives for youth living with HIV/AIDS.

In a recent NIH-funded project, Navarra's work examined ways to improve medication adherence and reduce viral load for young people living with HIV. She was one of 10 scientists named to a Johns Hopkins fellowship program to examine social determinants of health (SDOH) in healthcare inequities.

Navarra is the President-Elect of the Eastern Nursing Research Society (ENRS), an appointed Ambassador for the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. She received the 2021 ENRS/Nursing Research Authorship Award and was named among the Distinguished Alumni for Nursing Research at Columbia University School of Nursing.



CLARE WHITNEY

PHD, MBE, RN
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Clare Whitney, PhD, MBE, RN, Assistant Professor, is a nurse scientist and bioethicist who is also affiliated faculty in the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care, and Bioethics at the Renaissance School of Medicine. Her current research agenda focuses on normative and empirical aspects of clinician morality, including why and how clinicians apply their own moral values to the care they provide. Most recently, she has inquired into interpersonal dimensions that impact nurse and clinician burnout, resiliency and professional fulfillment.

Being a nurse informs Whitney's bioethical research, as her education in nursing taught her to understand healthcare as a setting in which relational interactions produce a variety of outcomes including, most centrally, meaningful patient experiences. She is currently a Long Island Network for Clinical and Translational Science K12 scholar, and a co-investigator on projects funded by the Department of Defense and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

SYLVIA K. WOOD

PHD, DNP, ANP-BC, AOCNP
CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NURSING
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NURSING (PHD)

Sylvia K. Wood, PhD, DNP, ANP-BC, AOCNP, is a Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing and the Director of the PhD in Nursing Program. Through her work at a national level with the Oncology Nursing Society, she collaborated with other oncology nurse scholars to determine the best evidence for developing clinical nursing practice guidelines. Wood has also managed oncology clinical trial research in both community and hospital settings in breast cancer, colon cancer, multiple myeloma, leukemia, lymphoma and bone marrow transplants.

She is a member of the NYS Cancer Consortium's cancer survivorship workgroup, collaborating with other cancer-surviving healthcare providers on a CDC-funded project to develop guidance for health teams who manage patients living in rural and remote regions. Wood was recently accepted as a Stony Brook Cancer Center clinical research member, collaborating with an interdisciplinary team of cancer investigators to examine mindfulness-based interventions on quality of life in colon cancer and lymphoma survivors.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

DARE TO BE EMPOWERED

Undergraduate faculty
bringing experience
into excellence

DEBRA GIUGLIANO

PHD, RN, CPNP, CPON
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Clinical Assistant Professor Debra Giugliano PhD, RN, CPNP, CPON, is a triple-graduate of the School of Nursing, having earned her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees here. She began her nursing career at Stony Brook more than 30 years ago.

She joined the School of Nursing in 2016 as a Clinical Assistant Professor and Pediatric Course Coordinator in the Undergraduate Department. In October, she was one of 11 nurses selected for the prestigious SUNY Simulation Nursing Fellowship. She later accepted a position in the school as Director of Simulation Education.

Giugliano is currently the President of the Kappa Gamma chapter of Sigma, the international nursing honor society, as well as President of Long Island Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Nurses. Her passion and research interest involves addressing the medical, educational and psychosocial needs of children with cancer and blood disorders.

"Ongoing research is crucial in pediatric oncology to discover new treatment options, understand long-term effects, and improve patient care," she said. "Current research focuses on areas such as reducing treatment-related toxicities, enhancing psychosocial support, and developing personalized treatment approaches."

After publishing her first article in the Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing, she won the journal's Diane Fochtman New Author Award in September.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

2024 ACADEMIC NURSE OF EXCELLENCE

REWA THOMPSON

DNP, RN, WHNP-BC
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

The 2024 Nurse of Excellence Honoree is Clinical Associate Professor Rewa Thompson, DNP, RN, WHNP-BC. She is a devoted nurse educator and passionate women's health expert whose accomplishments as a leader, innovator and advocate go well beyond her academic and clinical roles.

In her nurse faculty role, Thompson has endeavored to create a learning environment where everyone feels valued and respected. In addition to co-chairing the school's diversity committee, she has implemented numerous programs to cultivate a sense of belonging. Through her vision, these initiatives have fostered understanding and empowerment among nursing faculty, students and community members.

One example of this occurred when an outdated term was identified in a newly adopted textbook. Thompson immediately conducted a meticulous review of any course-related documentation that could perpetuate bias and disparities. She used this as a teachable moment with students, explaining why the words were outdated and which corrected terms were more appropriate. Thompson shared this experience at a faculty development day to increase awareness and promote inclusive language beyond her classroom.

Thompson is a subject matter expert in the education workgroup for the American Nurses Association's National Commission to Address Racism in Nursing. Her efforts in this workgroup help to ensure that biases identified in nursing programs and curricula nationwide are addressed, providing students of color with equal opportunities and access to nursing education.

In her clinical practice, Thompson is a staunch advocate for women's healthcare and reproductive rights. She has served as a women's health nurse practitioner at Planned Parenthood for more than 25 years, actively seeking opportunities to educate and empower patients, especially women of color, to advocate for equitable healthcare. Tireless in her efforts to promote health literacy and self-efficacy among her patients, she recently participated in a podcast to educate listeners on how women of color can self-advocate for equitable prenatal and postpartum care to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality.

Thompson's impact extends beyond organized events. She actively mentors students, particularly those from underrepresented groups, providing guidance as they navigate their academic journeys. Her open-door policy and willingness to listen have made her a trusted confidante for many students who seek advice or simply need social support.

For her tireless efforts to promote belonging and inclusion, this year Thompson was awarded the Nassau-Suffolk Nurse of Excellence Award.



NYC HEALTH & HOSPITALS
HISPANIC HERITAGE

2024 EMPLOYEE AWARDEE

BEATRIZ MAKHOULIAN

MSN, RN, FNP-C
CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR

Clinical Instructor Beatriz Makhoulia, MSN, RN, FNP-C, was recognized in September by NYC Health + Hospitals as the 2024 Hispanic Heritage Employee Awardee. This award recognizes those who have made meaningful contributions to the Latino community, particularly in addressing disparities in healthcare access.

Makhoulia's work has focused on closing these gaps, with a particular focus on Latino youth in need of reproductive healthcare and mental health services.

Makhoulia was also named NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst's Employee of the Year, an award recognizing her efforts in expanding essential community services. Through her leadership in enhancing clinics focused on collaborative care in diabetes, hypertension and depression, she has worked to increase healthcare access to vulnerable populations.

"This recognition highlights my commitment to fostering equitable, high-quality care for all community members," Makhoulia said.

In October, Makhoulia participated in a quality improvement research workshop held by the Center for Healthy Aging (CHA). Established at the Renaissance School of Medicine, the CHA aims to unite researchers and clinicians who are focused on the physical and mental health of people as they age.

At the workshop, Makhoulia presented her research on improving mental health outcomes through collaborative approaches in primary care.

"Participating in the workshop was an enriching experience," she said. "Engaging with intuitive and forward-thinking minds has deepened my commitment to enhancing care for the aging population, providing fresh perspectives and actionable ideas for my project."



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

DARE TO EXCEL

Graduate faculty standing out in access and quality

THE CENTER FOR HEALTHY AGING

The Center for Healthy Aging (CHA) is a research center at Stony Brook University that aims to improve the health and wellbeing of the aging population. The CHA's goals include coordinating research on campus, promoting interactions between researchers and geriatricians, and transforming care for this demographic.

On October 23, the CHA held a quality improvement (QI) research workshop to hear presentations related to these goals. The panel included the Deputy Chief Medical Officer of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, an epidemiologist, and the Dean of the Stony Brook University School of Nursing.

Clinical Instructor Sanjib Dey, RN, FNP-C, presented a quality improvement project from his primary care practice, exploring whether educating patients on advance care planning (ACP) increases the ACP completion rate in a community-based primary care practice.

Alongside seven MDs and a fellow FNP, Dey explained that while ACP is typically discussed in reaction to a crisis or decline in condition, evidence demonstrates that it is more effective when introduced earlier as a part of ongoing care. Primary care clinics are ideal settings to discuss ACP when a patient is in a good state of mind and stable health.

After reviewing each presentation, the panel recommended implementing any necessary adjustments to move the project forward.

"The expert panel's recommendation was incredibly valuable and significantly enhanced my project," said Dey. "I sincerely appreciate the time and expertise they shared, which made a meaningful difference in achieving better outcomes. If given a similar opportunity, I would be honored to participate again and continue learning from such insightful guidance."

(Top) The CHA held a quality improvement (QI) research workshop to hear presentations on research and practice in geriatric care.
(Bottom) After each presentation, the panel made recommendations to note any necessary adjustments.





HEALTH + WELLNESS

DARE TO BELONG

IDEAS
Committee Works
Year-Round to Promote
Inclusive Environment

Cultivating a welcoming environment for all is the driving force behind the School of Nursing committee for Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Social Justice (IDEAS). To bring this mission to life, IDEAS creates initiatives and events to foster feelings of safety and respect among students, staff and faculty.

One of the key steps toward communicating these goals was the creation of a dedicated IDEAS section on the SON website. This platform serves as a resource hub, offering teaching and learning materials that support inclusivity and diversity in education and healthcare. The website also features "Bright Ideas," a program to recognize and celebrate faculty, staff and students who actively promote a sense of belonging and inclusion.

In February, committee co-chairs Rewa Thompson, DNP, RN, WHNP-BC, and Giselle Gerardi, PhD, RN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, attended a diversity symposium hosted in New Orleans by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. After returning to Stony Brook, they shared the insights gained from this symposium at the Faculty Development Day in March, through a presentation titled "Humanism in Nursing Education."

An inaugural mixer in March, "Culture, Cinema and Snacks," brought together faculty, students and staff to celebrate their diverse cultures through food and film. The event featured a screening of the documentary "Aftershock," which sheds light on racial disparities in perinatal morbidity and mortality across the United States.

In July, the committee was awarded a presidential mini-grant of \$2,500 to support the CARE (Cultivating Awareness, Respect, and Equity) seminar program. This program aims to educate the School of Nursing community about diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) and address the perinatal-neonatal health disparity crisis in the US.

The IDEAS committee's efforts have led to a notable increase in participation in their monthly meetings, reflecting the growing commitment of the academic community to inclusivity and equity. Through their dedicated work, the IDEAS committee continues to pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable academic environment in nursing education.

Co-chairs Gerardi and Thompson have led the IDEAS committee in paving the way for a more inclusive and equitable academic environment.



American Association of Colleges of Nursing

The Voice of Academic Nursing



HEALTH + WELLNESS

DARE TO BELONG

Prioritizing Wellness for Academic and Professional Success



Through monthly events and special projects, the Wellness Collaborative promotes a culture of self-care for staff, faculty and students.

Like nursing itself, nursing education can be overwhelming at times. Because nursing is inherently demanding, both physically and emotionally, self-care self-care is essential to foster a state of well-being that contributes to academic and professional success. Stony Brook University School of Nursing has embraced this philosophy and is very intentional about incorporating resources for wellness and stress management in both curricular and extracurricular activities.

The Wellness Collaborative holds monthly events to foster a culture of health and wellness for staff, faculty, and students within the SON community. These have included yoga and mindfulness sessions, pet therapy visits and wellness walks with faculty, all to underscore that a person's mental, emotional, spiritual and social health must be nurtured along with their physical health.

Wellness and self-care are incorporated into several nursing courses. For example, in the first five minutes of her undergraduate course in nursing research, Tina Abbate, PhD, MPA, MS, RN, NE-BC, facilitates activities such as meditation or yoga to introduce a sense of calm. Students are

encouraged to share tips about stress relief, and to discuss their top worries and reasons for gratitude each week.

In the largely asynchronous registered nurse baccalaureate program (RN-BP), students often report that even with the faculty's availability and support, they do miss student-to-student interaction. To address this concern, Program Director Kathleen Gambino, EdD, RN, and Clinical Assistant Professor Barbara Brathwaite, DNP, MSN, RN, CBN, implemented the "Camaraderie and Resilience" project for both first and second year RN-BP students. Second-year students develop informative, entertaining virtual presentations to offer advice to incoming students for success in the program. The students meet on Zoom to watch the presentations, discuss their experiences and provide support to one another. First-year students then write responses using the Gibbs' Reflective Cycle, a process that helps them to identify academic challenges and strategies for coping.

In the graduate pediatric nurse practitioner program, Allison Hotze, DNP, RN, CPNP, uses mid-term reflections to help students work on self-care. Students are encouraged to discuss any difficulties they've had in their classes or work, as well as any lingering anxieties they tend to bring home

with them. By bringing these topics up, faculty can assist in identifying effective self-care strategies or other resources for needed support.

All students are also made aware of wellness resources around the campus. The Counseling and Psychiatric Services Office provides inclusive access to psychological and psychiatric services, and the Student Accessibility Support Center provides services and accommodations for a variety of needs. Timely Care is a free counseling and wellness service available to all undergraduate and graduate students, including distance learning students. It provides access to around-the-clock virtual medical and mental health care, including convenient appointments with licensed providers and health coaches in wellness, nutrition, healthy behaviors and more.

Offering students the tools they need to balance academic demands with personal care is a priority for the SON and helps to ensure that students not only thrive in their studies but also develop the emotional and physical resilience necessary for their careers. Self-care promotes a sense of well-being offering future nurses the opportunity for personal growth that extends beyond the classroom and clinical setting, to approach their professional responsibilities with balance and clarity.

HEALTH + WELLNESS

DARE TO BELONG

Community Engagement

STUDENTS OFFER BARBERSHOP SCREENINGS IN HEALTH DEPARTMENT OUTREACH PROGRAM

In April, undergraduate students participated in a clinical day with the Suffolk County Health Department's Office of Minority Health.

The health department was kicking off a program called "Styled Wellness," in which basic health screenings and information are made available to patrons at minority-owned barber shops. This effort aims to address inequities in healthcare access among people of color, and to raise awareness in these communities about common health issues.

The undergraduate nursing students conducted blood pressure screenings and delivered health information, on a busy Saturday, to customers in two barber shops in Suffolk County. Their participation offered the opportunity to practice essential skills in a community-based setting, and to better understand healthcare disparities in racial-minority communities.

Participating patrons were made aware of potential risks to their health, including their current blood pressure, without leaving the barber's chair.

"Many people of color receive all types of news and information within their beauty salon and barbershop, and they are considered trusted resources," said Adesuwa Watson, Director of Suffolk County's Office of Minority Health. "We are very excited about our collaboration with Stony Brook, which will enable us to bring screenings and information to a greater number of shops and patrons."

The School of Nursing looks forward to continued community work with the Office of Minority Health, as this work offers essential real-world experience for future nurses. Participation in community-based events gives students opportunities to practice their heard-earned clinical skills, and to have authentic interactions with the people and communities they will serve.

(Top) The "Styled Wellness" program brings basic health screenings and information to the barber chair at minority-owned barber shops. (Bottom) The program offered students an opportunity to practice essential skills in a community setting.



HEALTH + WELLNESS

DARE TO BELONG

Community Engagement

AUTHOR SHARES STORY OF "BLACK ANGELS" AND THEIR HISTORIC FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

In September, the School of Nursing proudly welcomed Maria Smilios, an award-winning author, keynote speaker and adjunct lecturer at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, to discuss her book, "The Black Angels: The Untold Story of the Nurses Who Helped Cure Tuberculosis."

The book highlights the extraordinary contributions of the Black nurses who risked everything to care for patients during one of history's deadliest epidemics nearly 100 years ago. As tuberculosis rapidly proliferated in New York, they risked their own lives to care for the city's poorest patients in unspeakable conditions.

In an engaging author talk and Q&A session, Smilios recounted the resilience, compassion and untold sacrifices of these pioneering nurses. She shared her process of recovering their voices from decades of obscurity to share a fascinating story of sacrifice and achievement.

The discussion promoted a meaningful dialogue and memorable reflection on how this historical narrative resonates with healthcare today. After the event, attendees were able to meet Smilios themselves while having their books signed as a memento of the occasion.

(Right) Pat Bruckenthal, Maria Smilios and Carolyn Santora.
(Bottom) After the event students had the opportunity to meet Smilios.



HEALTH + WELLNESS

DARE TO BELONG

Community Engagement

SCREENING CHALLENGES NURSES TO CONFRONT STRUCTURAL RACISM IN HEALTHCARE

In October, the Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Social Justice (IDEAS) committee hosted a seminar focused on inclusion and belonging in healthcare settings.

Presented in partnership with the Kappa Gamma chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Society of Nursing, the evening began with a special screening of the documentary “Everybody’s Work: Healing What Hurts Us All,” which examines structural racism in healthcare in the United States.

Through the lens of fearless nurses, this documentary exposes the biases that result in worse healthcare outcomes for people of color. By illuminating the contrast in experiences between nurses and patients of color and their white counterparts, it also captures the harmful impact these biases have on society as a whole.

The screening was followed by a discussion focused on perinatal healthcare. While a sub-specialty for nursing, perinatal healthcare delivery has implications throughout the life course, and is an environment in which racial biases are often most starkly observed.

Special guest speakers for the event included Kenya Beard, EdD, AGACNP-BC, ANEF, FAAN, Dean of Mercy College School of Nursing, Melicia Escobar, DNP, CNM, WHNP-BC, FACNM, an assistant professor at Georgetown University, and Timothea Vo, PhD, RN, CTN-B, an assistant professor at Binghamton University’s Decker College of Nursing and Health Science.

The screening was just one in a series of events planned by the IDEAS committee in its mission to cultivate a sense of belonging, safety and respect among faculty, staff and students.

The screening was followed by a discussion focused on perinatal healthcare, a subspecialty with lifelong implications.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

DARE TO BE INSPIRED

Student groups extend their reach across campus and beyond



For Stony Brook's chapter of the American Association of Men in Nursing (AAMN), 2024 was a year of growth.

With a plan to expand outreach to students on west campus, the group hosted a bake sale in January during the involvement fair. This helped pique the interest of students who weren't already familiar with AAMN and it also served as a fundraiser for future projects. Later in the year, AAMN collaborated with the American Red Cross Club on a vital signs workshop to help open more eyes to the field of nursing.

The AAMN also hosted events during which senior students could offer guidance to their fellow undergraduates. This created opportunities for all involved to practice and demonstrate their skills, including a class where students practiced placing EKG leads on a person and interpreted EKG rhythm strips. After final exams, the AAMN partnered with the Student Nurse Association to distribute bags of wellness treats to reward the students' hard work.

The "Men in Nursing" panel that is offered each semester featured Clinical Associate Professor Kenneth Faulkner, PhD, RN, ANP, FHFSA, and other nurses from various specialties of the nursing profession. It was a lively discussion and a great opportunity for emerging nurses to learn what to expect in their careers.

The fall semester ended with another west campus collaboration. This time, AAMN partnered with The American Sign Language Club to teach students how to communicate in this complex visual language. An AAMN-sponsored toy drive gathered gifts for use by child life specialists in Stony Brook's pediatric hematology and oncology units, and at Stony Brook Child Care.

The group looks forward to another year of growth and continued success.

The AAMN hosted events to promote nursing education across campus, and to impart wisdom to current nursing students.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

DARE TO BE INSPIRED

Student groups extend their reach across campus and beyond

The Pre-Nursing Society (PNS) had a meaningful impact on the campus and community through a variety of activities in 2024.

Society members supported the community by contributing to hurricane relief efforts and supported the Child Life program with donations of toys for all ages. A partnership with the Red Cross led to a successful food drive, bringing nutrition and comfort to communities in need.

To pique interest in nursing education among students across campus, the society hosted a bed lab tour. The experience offered hands-on learning opportunities for prospective nursing students and inspired lively conversation on all the healthcare field has to offer.

To strengthen relationships in the School of Nursing, the PNS organized a faculty meet-and-greet to foster collaboration opportunities between students and faculty members. The society also hosted trainings with the Center for Preparedness and Outreach, including CPR and Stop the Bleed certifications, advancing lifesaving skills and awareness.

Furthering their community outreach, society members also walked alongside the Parkinson's Foundation in their mission to raise awareness and support for those affected by Parkinson's disease.

Efforts have continued into 2025, including a partnership with Stony Brook University Hospital to offer virtual tours of various hospital units. This glimpse inside the hospital setting helps students to focus their areas of interest and envision their future careers.

Each of these initiatives reflects the society's continuing dedication to furthering the noble profession of nursing through service, education and community support.

The Pre-Nursing Society organized multiple events to strengthen their clinical skills and build connections around the campus and community.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

DARE TO BE INSPIRED

Student groups extend
their reach across
campus and beyond

From national recognition to local outreach, the Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association (SBSNA) has made remarkable strides to enhance the educational experience of future nurses.

In February, members attended the 72nd Annual Convention of the Nursing Students' Association of New York State, in Huntington, where they collected four awards for their contributions to the field of nursing. Two board members were awarded scholarships for excellence, and nine were elected to the state board.

In April, SBSNA joined other chapters at the annual convention of the National Student Nurses' Association in Orlando, Fla., where they earned five awards. This included a renewal of their Stellar Scholars Status, which demonstrates a strong commitment to shared governance and professional development of students and faculty. A highlight of the occasion came when Matthew Zender '25 was elected as vice president of the national board.

At Stony Brook's 2024 Student Life Awards, the SBSNA was named Organization of the Year. This recognition makes the group a standout among more than 600 student organizations, and recognizes "consistent flexibility, initiative, creativity and perseverance" in supporting the growth of its members.

Throughout the year, the SBSNA welcomed several guest speakers to help broaden students' understanding of the nursing profession. These include the president of the New York chapter of the American Nurses' Association and the magnet director at South Shore University Hospital, as well as experts on rapid response teams and nurse anesthetists.

To engage with the community and promote awareness, members set up a fire safety table at the Stony Brook CommUniversity Day and hosted a disaster preparedness event with the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps. For one of the group's most beloved initiatives, the teddy bear clinic, SBSNA members partnered with the Stony Brook Pediatric Trauma Center to teach children about safety and healthcare in a fun and interactive way.

The Stony Brook Student Nursing Association has thrived through hard work and is eager to pursue more growth and achievement in nursing.

The SBSNA has grown through hard work and intentional outreach, earning recognition as Stony Brook's Organization of the Year.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

DARE TO BE YOUR OWN LEGACY

Distinguished Alumni

KELLIE BRYANT

DNP, WHNP, CHSE, FAAN

Kellie Bryant, DNP, WHNP, CHSE, FAAN, is currently the Director of the Center for Innovation in Education Excellence at the National League for Nursing (NLN). In this role, she is responsible for providing leadership and strategic direction, focusing on developing revenue-generating initiatives that advance teaching excellence and enhance faculty skills for contemporary learners. This includes expanding the NLN faculty development program offerings with innovative teaching and learning strategies while also enhancing resources for online and in-person learning. She also develops new simulation and technology products through collaborations with strategic partners.

Bryant has garnered expertise in her field through a teaching career spanning over two decades, including 15 years of specialized simulation experience. Her research pursuits include enhancing patient safety, preventing opioid overdoses, and creating pathways to inspire historically marginalized students to pursue a nursing career.

In leadership and service, Bryant actively engages with numerous national and international committees. She holds the vice chair position for the Society for Simulation in Healthcare's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee and is a board member for the Global Network for Simulation in Healthcare. She is also an elected board member of the International Nursing Association of Clinical Simulation Learning and is a member of the editorial board of Clinical Simulation in Nursing. Bryant is the second vice president of the Greater New York City Black Nurses Association and also serves as a consultant for Advancing Health Equity, an organization dedicated to eliminating harmful bias and discrimination in healthcare.

Bryant's educational journey commenced with an associate's degree in nursing from Hudson Valley Community College. She received her bachelor's in nursing, and later a master's degree as a women's health nursing practitioner from Stony Brook University School of Nursing. She earned her doctorate in nursing education from Case Western Reserve University.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

DARE TO BE YOUR OWN LEGACY

Distinguished Alumni

CORRINE JURGENS

PHD, RN, ANP, FAHA, FHFA, FAAN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND PHD PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Corrine Jurgens, PhD, RN, ANP, FAHA, FHFA, FAAN, is an Associate Professor and PhD Program Director at Boston College's William F Connell School of Nursing. She served as a faculty member in the Stony Brook School of Nursing for 25 years, with positions including the Associate Dean for Research, Program Director for the DNP program, and Director of Cardiovascular Nursing Research. Her clinical experience in cardiac and critical care nursing informs her program of research.

With research focused on biobehavioral factors underpinning symptom perception among patients with heart failure, Jurgens has conducted and published several studies and given numerous presentations nationally and internationally. A key element of her research was the development of the Heart Failure Somatic Perception Scale, a robust measure of heart failure symptom perception that predicts clinical events. It has been translated into several languages, including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Chinese, Japanese and Turkish. In October 2019, Jurgens had the honor of representing the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) at the Japanese Heart Failure Society Scientific Sessions in Hiroshima, Japan, to present on multidisciplinary management of patients with heart failure.

Jurgens was on the board of directors of the HFSA for 12 years, including terms served as secretary and treasurer. She serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing and the Journal of Cardiac Failure, and reviews for numerous nursing and medical journals.

After earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Vermont, Jurgens graduated with her master's degree from Stony Brook School of Nursing and her PhD from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She was a Claire M. Fagin Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania with a focus on elders with heart failure. She is a fellow of the American Heart Association, the Heart Failure Society of America, and the American Academy of Nursing.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

DARE TO BE YOUR OWN LEGACY

Distinguished Alumni

JEANNE MARTIN

DNP, RN, ANP-BC

Jeanne Martin, DNP, RN, ANP-BC, began her nursing career as a Registered Nurse at Stony Brook University Hospital in 1988. In 1997, she accepted a Nurse Practitioner position in their Department of Urology.

Martin's primary responsibilities involve caring for the Adult Urology patients admitted to Stony Brook University Hospital from admission through discharge. She is also responsible for coordinating post-discharge care. Martin also serves on several hospital-wide committees, including institutional quality improvement, interdisciplinary care and departmental initiatives.

In addition to presenting locally, regionally, and nationally on numerous urology topics, Martin has authored and co-authored multiple manuscripts for oncology journals and chapters for urology textbooks. She has served as an adjunct Clinical Instructor at Stony Brook University School of Nursing in the Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner program.

Martin has been part of the Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates since 1998, Sigma Theta Tau International since 2004, and the American Urological Association since 2016. She has also served on the Stony Brook University School of Nursing Alumni Board of Directors since 2016, currently holding the position of Immediate Past-President.

Martin has received several honors and awards during her career, including the 2015 Nurse Practitioner of the Year award from the Nurse Practitioner Association of New York State, the Lenora McClean Award for Excellence in Advanced Practice Nursing for Stony Brook University Hospital (in 2004 and 2017) and the Nurse Practitioner Association of Long Island's 2009 Nurse Practitioner of the Year award. She was also inducted into the Commack High School Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Alumnus in 2018 and into the East Stroudsburg University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019.

Martin received her bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania in 1988. She earned a master's degree in Adult Health Nursing from Stony Brook School of Nursing in 1996, returning for her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in 2016.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

DARE TO BE YOUR OWN LEGACY

Retiring Nurse Embraces
“Paying It Forward”

BARBARA MILLS

DNP, ACNPC, ANPC, PNP, CCRN, PCCN

In May of 2024, Barbara Mills, DNP, ACNPC, ANPC, PNP, CCRN, PCCN, '09, retired from her distinguished career of more than four decades at Stony Brook University Hospital. As president of the Stony Brook School of Nursing Alumni Association, Mills has been a role model and inspiration to countless nurses and nursing students.

After earning a master's degree at the Stony Brook School of Nursing in 1993, Mills went on to specialize as a nurse practitioner in adult acute and critical care. She was a member of Stony Brook School of Nursing's inaugural Doctor of Nursing Practice graduating class in 2009 and was a recipient of the School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015. A vital member of the Stony Brook Medicine community, Mills serves as a preceptor for today's nursing students and identifies as a “nurse's nurse.”

In addition to her 45 years as a nurse, Mills is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Renaissance School of Medicine. As Director of Stony Brook's Rapid Response Team for the past 17 years, she has transformed the Rapid Response Team into one that is imitated throughout the nation.

Mills has often shared the story of nearly having to drop out of nursing school as a sophomore when her father passed away. It was the generosity of a scholarship that allowed her to stay in school and graduate without debt.

Recalling the importance of that gift, Mills has created a scholarship of her own to lighten the load of a present-day student. She has said that one thing she values most in her career is the opportunity to give back to the School of Nursing, not only through financial means but through the teaching and mentoring of new nurses.

The Stony Brook School of Nursing is fortunate that Mills' retirement from hospital service does not mean the end of her service to future nurses. She encourages students to one day pay it forward themselves, by providing mentorship to new nurses or by supporting their school of nursing financially, saying that “no amount is too small or too big to help someone achieve their goal. Nursing is the future of healthcare in this country, and the more we support each other, the better off this country and healthcare will be for all of us.”



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

DARE TO BE YOUR OWN LEGACY

Research and Clinical Expertise
Help to Fight Tick-Borne Diseases

ANNA-MARIE WELLINS

DNP, M.ED, ANP-C

Anna-Marie Wellins, DNP, M.Ed, ANP-C, focuses her scholarship on Lyme disease, a tick-borne illness that is prevalent on Long Island. Wellins participates in research studies focused on developing an early diagnostic test for Lyme disease by identifying specific cytokines in skin tissues.

In April, her team's research was highlighted as part of a feature story on the year-round threat of ticks on Long Island in Newsday's Sunday edition. In August, Stony Brook Southampton released the third edition of its Tick-Borne Disease Handbook, including a chapter on Lyme disease contributed by Wellins.

Wellins was the only nurse practitioner invited to a three-day meeting on "Lyme Disease and Other Infection-related Chronic Conditions" at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Wellins joined participants from across the United States and Europe. These included research scientists and physicians from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute of Health, the National Cancer Institute, the Smithsonian Institute and the Multiple Sclerosis Society, as well as multiple American and European universities.

The gathering included a special focus on post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome (PTLD) and its overlapping symptoms with other post-infectious conditions, such as myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) and post-COVID syndrome. These conditions involve a subset of patients who recover from a viral or bacterial infection only to continue to have severe lingering symptoms, including debilitating fatigue. Believed to stem from immune system dysfunctions, they are difficult to diagnose due to the lack of specific diagnostic biomarkers.

"It is important for health care providers to acknowledge the existence of post-infectious diseases," said Wellins. "Many of these patients feel ignored or marginalized by their health care providers. They often seek treatment from practitioners who are inexperienced in the care and treatment of Lyme Disease. This unfortunately has the unintended consequence of distrust of the medical community and a variety of non-evidence-based therapies which may be ineffective, unsafe and costly."

In addition to her research interest and teaching about Lyme Disease, Wellins continues to see patients at the Regional Tick Disease Center in Hampton Bays, N.Y. Now in its second year, the clinic is staffed by adult and pediatric infectious disease specialists from Stony Brook Southampton Hospital and Stony Brook University Hospital. Her patients experience a range of conditions, including acute and chronic Lyme disease, and other tick-borne diseases such as babesiosis, ehrlichiosis and alpha-gal syndrome.





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