



Stony Brook  
School of Nursing

# Student Profile Booklet

*14th Annual*

SCHOLARSHIP &  
AWARDS CEREMONY

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APRIL | 17 | 2024

Student Activities Center  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Congratulations to all of our Recipients



## **Cybele Adamcewicz**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Hilda R. Maier Endowed Scholarship**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Montauk, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

Growing up on Long Island, I recognized the value of pursuing an education in nursing at Stony Brook University. With its proximity to Stony Brook University Hospital, the connections I've established with leaders in the field, early exposure to potential workplaces, the sense of community on Long Island, and its affordability, Stony Brook was my top choice.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

This year I worked on a project with Dr. Santina Abbate and 11 other students to develop solutions for Southampton Hospital to increase their nursing retention. This was not necessarily a course, however we took on this project in addition to our usual coursework. The experience was meaningful and challenging. Knowing that our efforts could directly contribute to improving the working environment for nurses and ultimately enhancing patient care was incredibly fulfilling. This project not only helped to develop essential skills in research and teamwork, but also empowered me to be an agent of positive change in the healthcare industry. I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside Dr. Abbate and my peers on a project with real world implications.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

As a member of the Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association, I have had the privilege to serve as a mentor to pre-nursing students at Stony Brook University. This role allowed me to share my experiences and offer guidance to support aspiring nurses as they navigate their professional and academic paths. Additionally, I have contributed to the Stony Brook Student Nurses Policy and Education Committee, where I collaborated with fellow committee-members to draft and submit a resolution for the 2024 National Student Nurses Convention. These activities have enriched my educational experience



by providing real-world opportunities to apply classroom knowledge, engage with peers and professionals, and making meaningful contributions to the nursing community.

### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

Forming friendships with future colleagues. The connections I have made with my peers in this program not only enhanced my time at Stony Brook University, but also will lay the groundwork for a lasting professional network.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024.

Working as an RN on a labor and delivery unit, I envision myself providing compassionate care, while striving to make a positive impact on my patient's health outcomes.

After graduation, I hope to pursue a nursing position in a hospital labor and delivery or postpartum unit. I am actively seeking job opportunities that align with my career goals.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This scholarship is profoundly meaningful as it validates my hard work and dedication. It alleviates a financial burden, which allows me to focus on my studies and look forward to an exciting career. With this aid, I can comfortably dedicate my time to preparing for my NCLEX exam and choose a job that aligns with my goals, rather than settling out of desperation.

If I had not received this scholarship, financial strain would have forced me to immediately start working after graduation. I would have had to revert to a previous job in the service industry immediately after graduation to begin repaying my loans while simultaneously studying for the NCLEX exam and applying for nursing positions. This would have placed immense stress on me, potentially compromising my academic performance, and limiting my ability to explore various career opportunities. However, thanks to the scholarship, I will be able to make a significant contribution to my loan repayment, alleviating immediate financial pressures and allowing me to focus on my future career.

### **THANK YOU**

I am incredibly grateful for your generous contribution to the Hilda R. Maier Scholarship Endowment. Your support has made a profound difference in my life, alleviating financial burdens and allowing me to focus on my career and educational goals. Thank you for believing in me and investing in my future. Your generosity has provided me



with the opportunity to pursue my dreams without limitations, and for that I am forever grateful. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!



## **Katherine Ballarano**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Julia O. Wells Memorial Education Foundation Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing majoring in nursing, originally from East Northport, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook for its reputation in healthcare and high quality education. I was drawn to the University after touring it and for its location. Other universities I considered include Molloy University, St. Joseph's and Farmingdale, but Stony Brook was my top choice.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this semester was the School of Nursing's HNI 456 Adult and Gerontological Health Nursing II. This course is taught by Professor Tara Hartwell and the lab portion is instructed by Professor Sofia Reyes. Both professors make each lesson engaging and interesting to learn about. The material and skills that I have learned from lecture and lab will be invaluable when starting my career as a graduate nurse.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside the classroom, I am involved in nursing organizations such as the Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association (SBSNA), the Nursing Students' Association of New York State (NSANYS) and Stony Brook's Chapter of the American Association for Men in Nursing. I even had the privilege of furthering my participation and professional development by serving in leadership roles for SBSNA and NSANYS. Last year, I was elected as SBSNA's 2nd vice president and the northeast regional director of NSANYS. Currently, I am honored to serve as president of SBSNA. This past summer, I also had the opportunity to enhance my clinical knowledge and skills by working as a nurse extern at Northwell Health's South Shore University Hospital.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

The most special person to me is my mom. Without her support, guidance and compassion, I wouldn't have the privilege of pursuing my interest in nursing. She is and always will be my role model. I hope to have the same passion and dedication that she has for her career.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

My favorite part of my experience at Stony Brook is the friendships and connections I've made through the School of Nursing. Since being accepted into this program, I formed



meaningful bonds with clinical groups, peers, and faculty and staff. The School of Nursing feels like a family, and the support and guidance I've received these past few years has been invaluable.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

My greatest accomplishment from my time at Stony Brook was serving in leadership positions for the Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association. Serving as the 2nd vice president last year and the current president of SBSNA has allowed me to make wonderful connections with my professors and peers. I believe I have grown in these roles professionally and personally. I am beyond grateful for the honor I've had serving in these positions.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024.

My passion for nursing stemmed from experiences visiting my grandparents in the hospital. The compassionate care they were provided during vulnerable periods in their lives was inspiring and encouraged me to pursue an interest in healthcare. I hope to begin my career as a nurse working in a hospital. I'm drawn to areas such as critical care and obstetrics but am open to all areas.

After graduating and passing the NCLEX, I hope to begin working as a registered nurse in a hospital on Long Island. I anticipate a career of lifelong learning and plan to advance my education through a master's degree or advanced certification in specific areas.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I am sincerely thankful and appreciative for receiving this award. Entering the field of nursing with this support and honor is encouraging and inspires me to further my dedication for this career. I plan to utilize the award funds for review classes and resources before taking the NCLEX. Thank you so much for this distinction! This scholarship allows me to be further prepared for the NCLEX exam. I plan to take the board exam over the summer. I will invest these funds in additional resources and review classes in hopes of passing the NCLEX.

### **THANK YOU**

I would like to thank the donors of the Julia O. Wells Memorial Education Foundation Award. I am honored to be the recipient of this award and grateful for their generous gift. Their support is greatly appreciated as I begin this new chapter of my life. Thank you again for this honor!



# **Jeanine Carnival**

## **2023-2024 Recipient of the Academic Excellence Award - Doctor Nursing Practice**

### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing pursuing a doctoral degree, originally from Rocky Point, New York.

### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

Stony Brook has been my home for the past 15 years. Any other university was simply not an option for me in my pursuit of an advanced practice degree.

### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

Currently, I am in the process of developing my DNP project. While I have found this class to be challenging at times, I have an amazing faculty mentor who is helping to take this monumental task and make it more understandable.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am involved with my family and my church. I have eight nieces and nephews and I am involved in their daily care.

### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My mother is my inspiration. She has been a nurse for the past 50 years and is still working to this day at age 73. She cares about her patients, their families and the nursing profession.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Last year I needed to take a leave of absence due to several family deaths. My biggest accomplishment was the decision to return back to the DNP program.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2025.

I want to continue to make an impact in the nursing profession. My ultimate goal is to someday teach and be able to present nationally at conferences.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Receiving this scholarship has shown me that I am doing a worthwhile job and my efforts are



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being seen within the academic setting. Often I question myself and my abilities, and this scholarship has validated my hard work and determination.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you! Thank you for believing in me and inspiring me to continue when things get challenging.





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## **Alyson Childers**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Academic Excellence Award - Advanced Practice Nursing in Pediatric Health**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing with a major in nurse practitioner pediatric primary care. I am originally from New York City, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook because of its affordability and reputation. I was considering Columbia University and NYU, but Stony Brook had a flexible program that allowed me to work while I was in school. I chose to pursue my graduate degree at Stony Brook because of positive feedback from friends who have completed their NP program here.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

Dr. Maria Milazzo has made HNG 538 and 548 such a wonderful experience. She is so approachable, knowledgeable and excited to share her passion for pediatric advanced practice nursing.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am not involved at SBU outside academics, but am involved in APHON, CPHON, and a pediatric oncology summer camp where I serve on the leadership committee.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

Rachel Glincher is a nurse practitioner at Memorial Sloan Kettering who has inspired me to pursue my career as an NP. She is a fierce advocate for her patients and her coworkers, and demonstrates how much of an impact an NP can have on their patients and their team.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

Meeting my group of friends has been the best part of this experience. We met our first class when we were put in the same small group and have stuck by each other since then. Having such a funny, intelligent and driven group of people around me has helped motivate me to always do my best in this program.

#### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Completing this program while continuing to work full time and teaching part time has been a huge accomplishment.



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### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024.

I hope to continue my career in pediatric oncology or pediatric palliative care, and aspire to one day work in clinical research to help develop new, safer, more effective treatments for pediatric patients.

I will continue to work as a clinical research nurse at Memorial Sloan Kettering in pediatric neuroblastoma until I find a job as a nurse practitioner.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This support will pay for my graduation robes, and I am excited to wear them when receiving my diploma in May. This scholarship support came at the end of my time at Stony Brook but will still help offset costs of graduation.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for supporting me and other future advanced practice nurses and for contributing to the field of pediatric nursing. Your support is appreciated!



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# **Kyla Copeling Powers**

## **2023-2024 Recipient of the Academic Excellence Award - Nursing Leadership**

### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing pursuing a master's nursing leadership, originally from Rocky Point, New York.

### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

Ten years ago I attended Stony Brook for my undergraduate degree in which I received an outstanding education and had no doubt I would return to Stony Brook for my master's degree. Stony Brook has a phenomenal reputation especially in the medical field.

### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class was HNH 540 - Advanced Theory and Practice IN Nursing Leadership I with Dr. John. It had a clinical component which gave me the opportunity to work closely with my preceptor and increase my leadership knowledge and skills.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I attend various local community health fairs related to promoting heart health and the Cardiac Catheterization Lab where I work.

### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My mom has been an inspiration to completing my master's degree as she completed her master's degree when she was a mother with young children. I had two children starting my master's degree and had my third child during the two-year program. Knowing my mom did inspired me to complete my master's degree as a mom with three young children.

### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

Having the opportunity to meet and learn from some of the most knowledgeable and talented nurse leaders who have been my professors.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Giving birth to my son who had some medical complications as an infant while continuing my master's degree and getting close to successfully completing it.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. I aspire to continue and advance my career in nursing leadership and become a leader that can inspire and motivate staff while providing



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excellent and safe patient care. I hope to grow professionally from my current role as an assistant nurse manager to a nurse manager in the near future.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This award gives me great pride for the hard work and dedication I have put toward my education and progressing towards completing my master's degree.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your generosity and ability to have students recognized for their hard work and achievements that would have not otherwise been possible. Having my achievements recognized by this award gives me great pride in my accomplishments here at Stony Brook University.



## **Michael Davison**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the George E. Xippolitos Memorial Award for Doctoral Education in Nursing Research**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a doctoral student in the School of Nursing, originally from Port Jefferson Station, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I had been a part of Stony Brook for the majority of my healthcare career when I decided to go back for my PhD. I wouldn't have gone anywhere else. I have had nothing but positive experiences throughout my career at Stony Brook. All my encounters are always professional and the school has an outstanding academic reputation.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

Qualitative Designs and Methods in Nursing Research with Dr. Sylvia K. Wood was a favorite and memorable class. I found the class interesting because it was a new way of thinking about research. Dr. Wood was supportive and opened up doors to new designs and methods in nursing research. I appreciated the challenge, and even more so, I appreciated her support throughout the semester. I found the work challenging and in the end rewarding. I was pleased with what I had learned.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am the administrator of nursing for invasive cardiology in the Stony Brook University Hospital Heart Institute. I have been part of the cardiology team since 1999. This year I have joined the Eastern Nursing Research Society and will attend the 36th annual conference in the spring. I am also adjunct faculty in the Stony Brook Master of Science Nursing Leadership program. I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to work with students and share my experiences while helping them grow and develop as nurse leaders. Additionally, I teach in the Suffolk County Community College's nursing program on their Grant campus, working with first-year nursing students during their clinical rotations. I find this equally rewarding and enjoy helping them learn the fundamentals of their newly chosen career. I also spend my free time learning to play the bagpipes with the Roisin Dubh Irish Pipe Band.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My mother is and always will be my biggest supporter. She has supported my career in healthcare and helped me to find the focus and determination to achieve every goal I have set out to accomplish. I credit my mother with the man I have become and the goals I have



been able to accomplish. As I work my way through this PhD program I look forward to sharing with her my struggles and successes throughout this journey. Never in my life has she doubted my ability to do anything, and I use that inspiration to drive me forward in this program.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

As a student returning to school later in my career, I am proud to be a part of the PhD program. Every course and every encounter are a new challenge to face, and I enjoy being part of such an amazing program.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2027.

I hope to use this degree to open doors in teaching and nursing research. When I applied for the program I was thinking of just teaching, but the program has sparked an interest in research and I would embrace the opportunity to work in a research setting as well.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I am honored to receive this award and it will provide financial support as well as motivation to work my hardest to accomplish my goal of a PhD in nursing. I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Lee Anne Xippolitos during my career at Stony Brook. My admiration and respect for Dr. Xippolitos make receiving this award even more special. I couldn't be prouder to receive this award.

### **THANK YOU**

The words "thank you" cannot express the gratitude I feel for such a generous award. I have worked in healthcare for over three decades and always hoped to complete my PhD in nursing. The road can be challenging and this award helps with those challenges. The financial support is outstanding, but it also provides an equal amount of motivation to forge forward in honor of George E. Xippolitos and the supporters of this scholarship. I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Leanne Xippolitos during my nursing career, and she was always professional, approachable and supportive. I was proud to work with her and I'm proud to receive this award. Thank you again to everyone who supports the George E. Xippolitos award. I cannot put into words how happy I am to be a part of it. Thank you.



## **Caroline Doscas**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Kappa Gamma Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Scholarship**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a doctoral student in the School of Nursing, originally from Huntington, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

When I first began researching doctoral degrees, I was considering several programs at Hunter College, Georgetown University and Stony Brook University. I ended up choosing Stony Brook for many reasons. I had completed my master's degree here and felt the curriculum challenged me in a way that enhanced my learning and allowed me to function to the highest of my abilities. Additionally, the faculty has always been supportive of developing knowledge and facilitating intellectual discourse. Stony Brook also affords many opportunities to participate in research studies through the university and the hospital to contribute to the health and betterment of the community. I am truly happy and proud to be a student here.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was qualitative designs and methods in nursing research taught by Dr. Sylvia Wood. I enjoyed this class, as it was the first time I was provided with an in-depth and thorough education in the approaches and methodologies of qualitative research. While uncomfortable at first with this topic, I grew to appreciate the richness and depth it can reveal in topics I had previously explored from a quantitative methodology. I truly enjoyed learning various approaches to qualitative research and rigor associated with each method.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside class, I work full time as a perioperative nurse educator and an adjunct clinical instructor in the simulation lab here at Stony Brook University. I enjoy teaching others and helping them along their journey to becoming a registered nurse.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

One of the most inspirational teachers I ever had was in my undergraduate nursing career. My clinical instructor at the time was not only working full time in a neuro ICU, teaching clinicals, and serving as president and founder of a foundation to provide education and recreational services to those in need, but also pursuing a master's degree in nursing informatics. Despite having a busy life and multiple responsibilities, my instructor never failed to show her patients and students the utmost respect and dignity. She never made anyone feel rushed or overlooked. She took the time to not only treat and teach her patients



and students, but to get to know them and help each and every one of them as an individual. She made me feel like a capable and competent nurse and instilled in me a dedication to the profession of nursing. This instructor inspired me to not only be a nurse who can provide empathetic and sensitive care, but also to be an educator who can inform and empower others through patience, kindness and caring.

## **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Receiving the Kappa Gamma Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Scholarship has not only been my proudest academic accomplishment this year, it has been one of the proudest moments in my entire educational career.

## **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

For the future, I want to study social determinants of health and health disparities in the pediatric and women's health populations. As a nurse who has worked with both of these populations, I have seen first hand the effects of delayed healthcare. I am interested in researching what factors act as barriers or facilitators in receiving care. My education at Stony Brook University will help me achieve this goal by showing me different research approaches, and providing the means to understand the rationale and logic behind each approach and method. Additionally, being a student here affords me the opportunity to work on research studies and learn from the amazing faculty.

## **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I do not think I can properly explain what this scholarship means to me! Receiving this scholarship has helped me finance my degree and be able to focus on my coursework without added stress or pressure. It is also exceptionally rewarding to be recognized and I am honored.

## **THANK YOU**

I would like to share my deepest and sincerest thank you to the donor(s) of this scholarship. I cannot articulate what this means to me and how honored and humbled I am to have been awarded this scholarship. I thank you for your generosity to the School of Nursing! Scholarships and donations to nursing programs are an investment in the future of healthcare and I want to make a positive effect on the health of those around me. This scholarship will assist me in continuing to make a difference in the community.





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## **Dijon Drummond**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Academic Excellence Award - Advanced Practice Nursing in Psychiatric - Mental Health**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing pursuing a master's degree, originally from Queens, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose to attend Stony Brook primarily for its academic reputation. I considered attending Molloy University because I previously achieved my BSN there, but ultimately, I wanted a different academic experience. I chose to pursue a graduate degree at Stony Brook because of its academic reputation, location and affordability. The hybrid online program works well with my full-time work and family schedule.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year is "Advanced Theory & Clinical Practice in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing IV." The clinical experience with Professor Callado has been amazing. In this rotation, I have been learning advanced-level psychopharmacology practices. Professor Callado has opened my eyes to what makes an exceptional practitioner, where patients ultimately benefit.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside the classroom, I'm involved in basketball, yoga and martial arts. These activities enrich my educational experience by incorporating discipline and mental wellness into my life.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My mother is an inspirational person in my life. She has been a school teacher for the last 28 years and, in that journey, achieved a doctorate in literacy in 2016. My mother cares deeply about her students' success, which has influenced my career path. I am motivated to care for and advocate for my future patients, with a great focus on underserved communities.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

The most memorable part of my Stony Brook experience has been interacting with the other students. It has been wonderful getting to know the students who come from different



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cultures, clinical specialties, and towns and states. Throughout the program, we could lean on each other for support when things become overwhelming, which was meaningful to me.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

An accomplishment that has given me the greatest sense of achievement was my ability to adapt to Stony Brook's academic challenges. Before getting into the PMHNP program, I graduated nine years prior with my BSN. Stony Brook is known for its academic reputation, which motivated me to put my best foot forward. This led me to receive an Academic Excellence Award for Advanced Practice Nursing in Psychiatry/Mental Health.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I will graduate this May with my Master of Science as a psych/mental health nurse practitioner. I aspire to work in underserved communities, providing mental health awareness and treatment.

After graduation, I plan to focus on board certification, a competency-based exam that acknowledges the entry-level knowledge and skills of a PMHNP.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I am proud to receive the Academic Excellence Award for Psychiatry/Mental Health. I worked hard—not to receive an academic award, but to graduate as the best PMHNP I could be, although I am delighted to receive this award. This award will help show my dedication to the profession and future patients.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for your generosity. It feels good to be acknowledged for my academic achievements.



## **Leslie Gallea**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Academic Excellence Award - Advanced Practice Nursing in Midwifery**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing pursuing a master's degree, originally from Pittsford, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook for the program flexibility with didactic and on-site instruction. At the time of my admission, Stony Brook was the only distance education program that NYS would allow future CNMs to attend.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

Clinical is by far the best experience. The drive that keeps me moving forward in this profession is connecting with patients and fostering future relationships.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

My husband and I have been business owners for the last 14 years. The humbling experiences that I have encountered with staff and customers have enriched my outlook on patient care and professional relationships.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

Six years ago, I was in limbo between career changes. I knew I wanted to support birthing people, but I was hesitant about going back to school and starting a medical career from scratch as a mother of three. I met a wonderful mentor and CNM friend while I was a birth doula who encouraged me to keep pursuing my dreams. She has been by my side over the last six years, picking me up when I was in nursing school, over the last three years in midwifery school and even now as I take the step in my career. Additionally, I have to give special thanks to Dr. Heather Hines for believing in me the moment we met during my admission interview. She has never doubted me, even when I doubt myself. Her encouragement and dedication to her students are heartwarming and I am grateful to have her mentorship.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

Meeting new people and listening to their life experiences that have brought them to this place in their lives.



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### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Receiving this scholarship! I was honored and humbled to be recognized for academic achievement. Thank you!

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024.

I plan to pursue my DNP and am in the process of applying to Stony Brook! I enjoy teaching and embody the saying, "see one, do one, teach one."

I have been offered a position at a local hospital as a full-time hybrid midwife where I will have the pleasure of seeing patients through the lifespan.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This recognition is very much appreciated! I plan to use the scholarship money to further my education so I can pay it back to future midwifery students..

### **THANK YOU**

I am honored to receive this scholarship! To be recognized for the last three years of hard work and dedication to the pursuit of following my dreams is the biggest reward that I could receive. I am humbled to be chosen from a distinguished group of qualified applicants and hope to pay it forward in my future endeavors. Thank you!



## **Kristina Gonzalez**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Kim Mehmood Scholarship in Nursing**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Coram, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook University for a variety of reasons, one the prestigious reputation the School of Nursing has. Having the opportunity to be part of an organization that is a part of my own community was important to me as well. Stony Brook University is also involved in ground-breaking research which played a role in my decision.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year is HNI 479: Transitions to Baccalaureate Nursing Practice taught by Dr. Santina Abbate. I have enjoyed learning about what to expect as we move forward from nursing students to practicing registered nurses in the next few months. Dr. Abbate organizes the class in a way that keeps us engaged, supporting us tremendously throughout the process.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am a member of the Stony Brook Student Nurse Association and am the secretary of the Stony Brook chapter of the American Association for Men in Nursing. Being part of student organizations enhances my time at school by opening up opportunities for connecting with faculty as well as my fellow classmates. It helps me learn about the nursing profession and build on my teamwork and collaboration skills.

Over the summer I participated in a nurse externship at Stony Brook University Hospital in the Cardiac Acute Care Unit. This opportunity enriched my educational experience by having hands-on clinical involvement, seeing and performing the skills learned in the classroom into practice, and learning something new every day.

Currently, I work at Stony Brook University Hospital in the float pool as a nursing assistant. Working in the hospital has opened my eyes to the many units and types of nursing jobs.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

My favorite part of my Stony Brook experience was my pinning ceremony. It was such a special and exciting event to celebrate our transition from student to nurse. It has been quite



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a journey for me to get to where I am today, and this was a very memorable moment. I was pinned by Professor Trimboli, who is an extraordinary person who cares about her students.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Before getting into the School of Nursing, I graduated with my Bachelor of Science in Health Science with a concentration in public health in 2022. It was always a goal of mine to get into the School of Nursing here at Stony Brook. I had been placed on the waitlist initially which was an obstacle. The biggest accomplishment I have received was when I was notified I had been taken off of the waitlist and accepted into the program. Throughout my time as a nursing student, I have achieved many more accomplishments from passing all of my classes and being invited into the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society, graduating magna cum laude to receiving the Kim Mehmood Scholarship.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024.

My ideal career path would be to continue working at Stony Brook University Hospital. I have a strong passion for the pediatric population as well as an interest in critical care. Starting in the NICU or PICU would be amazing, however, I am thrilled to be starting my career as a registered nurse dedicated to providing compassionate care. I would like to continue my education, however I am undecided on what path I would take.

I anticipate taking my NCLEX a couple of weeks after graduation. I will begin to apply to jobs across Long Island as a registered nurse before graduation with the hopes of an offer before summer. I am confident that the School of Nursing has prepared me for what is to come as a new graduate nurse. This is an exciting time and I could not be more thrilled to begin my career.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I am honored to receive the Kim Mehmood scholarship this year. Kim Mehmood was compassionate and dedicated, and took pride in educating her patients, their families and students. Her commitment to the profession is inspiring. Receiving this support is not only a financial blessing, but also serves as a source of encouragement to pursue my passion for nursing. In the future, I would like to continue paying it forward and provide opportunities for students and support their educational journeys.

Receiving this scholarship has helped relieve a lot of financial burden. It has allowed me to focus on my studies more. Being the recipient of this scholarship has helped me build a stronger network. I have been able to connect with donors, faculty and fellow recipients who all share a common passion for education, nursing and helping others.

### **THANK YOU**

I could not thank you enough for your generosity and support through the Kim Mehmood



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scholarship. This scholarship has provided me with the opportunity to focus on my studies and immerse myself in the world of nursing, motivating me to continue to follow my dreams. I am determined to be a nurse like Kim Mehmood – a nurse who is compassionate and dedicated to the profession, helping the community and educating others. The scholarship has not only lightened my financial burden, but has also paved the way for a bright future ahead of me. Thank you once again for the amazing support and belief in me.



# **Ali Guillermo**

## **2023-2024 Recipient of the Frances Bisignano Memorial Scholarship in Nursing**

### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Patchogue, New York.

### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

From the beginning of my senior year in high school, I knew I wanted to go to Stony Brook. I learned that Stony Brook's School of Nursing had an exceptional reputation with the development and advancement of their student nurses to the professional field. At first, I was intimidated by the acceptance rate of the program. However, I was confident in my abilities to become an outstanding candidate through hard work and dedication. Other universities I considered were Binghamton, Adelphi and Hunter College. I remained with Stony Brook because also during this time my father, also an RN, passed away due to COVID and I wanted to remain close with my family during that time of hardship.

### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year has to be Adult and Gerontological Health Nursing with Professor Tara Hartwell. What made this class so memorable was the clinical aspect. I had the opportunity to work with a new group of classmates and we all learned to work with each other while building our individual skills in a new unit at Stony Brook Hospital. We had the opportunity to bond with each other and understand the reasons we had for entering the nursing profession.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

My biggest extracurricular activity is being a volunteer EMT at South Country Ambulance Company. With an emphasis on emergency patient care, I have the opportunity to utilize the skills that I learned in the School of Nursing and apply them to the field as an EMT and vice versa. My time as an EMT has allowed me to become more comfortable taking care of patients on the critical side in the hospital setting. Student organizations I am a part of include Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association and the American Association for Men in Nursing. These organizations allow me to have more insight into the opportunities that are available when working in the field as a nurse and how I can prepare myself to take those opportunities.

### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

The most inspirational person in my life has to be my father. At a young age, I knew that my





father worked hard to bring his family from the Philippines here to America. I felt as though it was my responsibility to show my father that his efforts were justified, and I strived to show him this through academic excellence. As a result, I ended up graduating at the top of my class in high school. But aside from academics, I knew I wanted to enter the profession of nursing just like my father. Still, I felt I had no strong reason to enter this field. It was not until my father passed away in my senior year of high school that I found that reason. It was through my father's colleagues that I learned how excellent he was as a nurse. He took elements of Filipino values surrounding family and incorporated it into his own practice as a nurse. Because of my father, I seek to preserve this practice and continue what he started in my own career.

### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

The most memorable part of my Stony Brook experience has been getting to know my classmates from the School of Nursing. Everyone has a reason to join this profession and getting to know my classmates through their reasons has allowed for a sense of community. During times of stress and hardship in the program, it was reassuring to know that I could connect with my peers and recognize that I was not the only person feeling stress. This sense of community allowed us to get by, and I am happy to have made these friends along the way.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

My biggest accomplishment from my time at Stony Brook was being accepted into the School of Nursing. During my first two years at Stony Brook, there was constant worry at the back of my mind about whether my efforts were sufficient to earn me a spot in the nursing program. On the day I learned I was accepted, not only was there a huge weight that was lifted off my shoulders, but a sense of pride that told me "I worked for this and I earned this." In this moment, I also knew that my father would be proud as well.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024.

Like my father, I wish to incorporate Filipino values surrounding family into my own nursing practice in an ICU setting. I seek to continue my father's work and will provide the care that patients deserve with absolute compassion and integrity.

After graduation, I plan to take the NCLEX over the summer and hopefully start my first nursing position this fall. I hope to work in an ICU setting for at least two years before I start considering continuing my education to become a nurse practitioner.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Understanding that this scholarship is given to those who were inspired by a family member to become a nurse, I am honored to be the recipient. Receiving this scholarship has allowed



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me to recognize that my father would be proud of all my accomplishments. As I start my career, this award serves as motivation to continue with my persistent efforts at being the best possible nurse I can be. This support will allow me to access the tools that I need to carefully study and prepare for the NCLEX this summer.

### **THANK YOU**

I am truly grateful to receive the Frances Bisignano Scholarship Award. This generosity has allowed me to reflect on my individual efforts that have enabled me to be where I am today. It has also allowed me to reflect on the support I have received from my family and friends which has allowed me to remain motivated and persistent in my education. Thank you so much for the support, and thank you for enabling me to make my father proud.



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## **Laura Hofrichter**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Sigma Award in Recognition for Doretta Dick**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing pursuing a master's degree, originally from Central Islip, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook University because of its reputation in the nursing field. Stony Brook University has one of the top-ranked nursing master's programs. As a Stony Brook alumnus, I enjoyed the support from the professional staff. It was always a goal of mine to pursue a graduate degree. As nurses, we are life-long learners and must be relentless in the pursuit of the most current and innovative research and knowledge. Stony Brook University's mission and values matched my views.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was Advanced Health Assessment (HNG 515). Dr. Walker is a dedicated professor who has made the course extremely interactive and enjoyable. Dr. Walker as well as Dr. Moran met with me on a non-class day to personally demonstrate and walk me through how to perform a proper head-to-toe health assessment. I appreciate the time they both took out of their schedules to spend one-on-one time with me and show me they care about my success.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am a full-time critical care registered nurse. Where I work, I am co-chair in the Collaborative Care Council. Yearly, I volunteer to administer flu shots in the community as well as at the local food drives. I am involved in the adopt-a-family gift drives during the holiday season.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My inspiration is my father. Despite multiple surgeries, countless rounds of chemotherapy and months of radiation for cancer, he continues to have a positive outlook on life. My father's fight against this devastating disease gives me the strength to continue to pursue my goals, no matter how many hardships I face. I see resilience, I see courage and I see so much pride in my father. His fight has led me to never give up. It is not always easy, but if you believe in yourself, there is always a way to get it done or continue trying your best.



## **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Sigma Award in Recognition for Doretta Dick - this was truly an unexpected honor  
I am also proud of myself for maintaining a 4.0 GPA!

## **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2026.

After I receive my post-master's degree as an adult gerontology nurse practitioner, I plan on applying to Stony Brook University for a DNP. This has always been my dream to achieve the highest level of education in my field. I would eventually like to be a professor at a university teaching nursing.

## **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This award is an honor for many reasons. First, academic achievements are prestigious, especially at Stony Brook University. This University is competitive in that all students who attend have numerous talents and are high-level intellectuals. The award is a recognition for the countless hours spent studying and dedicating time to excelling at what I love. Next, the financial stress of paying for school can be overwhelming. To receive this scholarship eases that stress and makes me truly feel that hard work does not go unrecognized.

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for this opportunity and for your generosity. The Sigma Award in recognition of Doretta Dick is an honor to receive and shows that hard work and passion for what you love do not go unnoticed. I am a student, a full-time registered nurse, and full-time caregiver for a family member. This award put a smile on my face and gives me the encouragement I need even when life seems difficult. I want to continue to excel in nursing so I can inspire and help others, just as you have done for me.



## **Cailey Hutchison**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the School of Nursing Alumni Board Scholarship Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing with a major in pediatric nurse practitioner primary care. I am originally from Hicksville, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose to go to Stony Brook University because of its amazing reputation and successful nursing program. I am also a legacy here at Stony Brook. My father, uncle and aunt went to Stony Brook. My father played football and studied health sciences, my uncle went to medical school here and my aunt is also an alumnus of the nursing program. I went back to SBU for my graduate degree due to my incredible undergrad experience. It was the only graduate program I applied to – again, for the experience but also the affordability and flexibility the master's program provides.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

I really enjoyed my advanced pathophysiology class this fall with Professor Terri Cavaliere. She had us work in groups where I was able to meet fellow classmates who have turned into friends. It was intimidating to be mostly online for classes but she provided us with opportunities to meet amazing people and make great connections. The women I was paired with in a group for this class have been great outlets for me and I am grateful to have met them!

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am a retired professional ice hockey player so I enjoy coaching on Long Island to help continue to grow and develop women's ice hockey on Long Island. I am part of the Long Island Hematology and Oncology Pediatric Nurses Association where I attend meetings and participate in community service events. Just this past holiday season I helped organize a pajama drive with this organization in memory of a special girl we lost last summer. We donated these pajamas to the children's hospitals on Long Island including SBU. These experiences have helped shape me into a well rounded individual in the community, which translates well into my future practice as a pediatric nurse practitioner because at the primary care level, community involvement and education are crucial.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

During my nursing school career, my aunt Catherine was battling kidney cancer. She was always so full of life even sitting in a hospital. She would always talk about how I was going



to be a nurse and how proud she was of me. Nursing school was not easy and became discouraging at some points. My aunt's motto was "everything is happening perfectly." She would say that to me during my hardships and remind me to always keep pushing. My aunt unfortunately passed away before I graduated school but I believe she was with me every step of the way, reminding me that everything was happening perfectly and that it would all work out. She continues to inspire me to push for my dreams and help as many people as I can along the way. I know if she could see how far I have come from my days of crying and worrying during nursing school, she would be proud.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Making the dean's list in my summer and fall semester has been a great honor, highlighting my commitment to my studies even though the program is only part time.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2026 and hope to become a strong pediatric care provider. Unfortunately with my current field of work, I have seen a great rise in pediatric cancer on Long Island. With my experience as an RN in this specialty and my education from Stony Brook, I am confident I will be able to help children who are diagnosed with cancer and find it early, increasing their prognosis.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

My goal everywhere I go is to make the place better than it was before I came. I like to be involved in the community I'm in, and I give back to places that have given so much to me. Receiving the School of Nursing Alumni Award is a great honor because I am proud to be an alumnus of this amazing university! This scholarship will help with my tuition and book expenses which is incredibly helpful during this exciting time in my life. Paying for graduate school and a wedding have made money a little tight so I am grateful to be given this scholarship. The money goes a long way!

### **THANK YOU**

It's such an incredible honor to be awarded this because the School of Nursing is special to me. I would not be in such a prestigious graduate program or in an incredible specialty of nursing without my Stony Brook undergraduate experience. My nursing school and NP school experience as well as my work experience has brought me so many incredible people who have made my life better. I will forever be in debt to Stony Brook University for providing me an opportunity to live my life to the fullest in my dream profession.



## **Anthony Inguinez**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Diane Ducey Hitchings-Tiernan '72 RN Baccalaureate Endowed Scholarship**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Coram, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook because I wanted a school that supports education and research. I wanted a place that takes pride in developing a student into the best version of his/herself. I was contemplating an online school, but the relationships and experiences would not have been as strong.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year is HNC 479 Transitioning to Baccalaureate Nursing Practice. This class taught me the value of test taking – the feeling you have when you've studied all week for a test and see a question that was not in the textbook. I feel like tests prepare us for moments like that: being able to pick the best answer when you are clueless. That is life. The class taught me that school really prepared us for those decisions we did not study enough for. The moments we wished we had a little more time to study but had to make a decision regardless. School made us ready for making those decisions. It showed us how to make a choice when we are not completely sure.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I'm involved with the American Nurses Association (ANA) fellowship. I am performing research in my hospital and presenting the findings at the next ANA convention. I am excited to say this role makes me proud to excel in my studies. It pushes me to achieve and represent not only my school but my place of work. Besides this, I am involved in performance improvement at my job, which entails revising flowsheets and proofreading documentation. My duties make sure that I am on top of my job, which also influences my attitude towards my schoolwork.



## **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

Dr. Gambino is the most influential teacher I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. She has pushed me to be the best person I could be. Any opportunity I get to be better, she makes sure she reaches out to me. I have made some serious life choices because of her. If it weren't for Dr. Gambino I would have never decided to apply for the ANA Fellowship, let alone win it. She came to me with the idea and felt I would be a perfect candidate when I, myself, did not believe I was capable of achieving. She sees the potential in me, and I am forever grateful to have her in my academic life.

## **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

My favorite memory at Stony Brook has to be the countless nights I stayed at the library until 3 a.m. It may seem mundane and unexciting, but it was the best time of my life. Putting school before everything else in my life. I would stay at the health sciences library and study. On the drive home I would feel very much accomplished and the grades spoke for themselves. It was a habit I loved forming. The discipline is something I would not trade for the world. By far, the sleepless nights at the library are my favorite memories at SBU.

## **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I joined Sigma Theta Tau. I always wanted an invitation to the Nursing fraternity, I just did not know how to get it. Sure enough, my hard work paid off. My GPA and involvement in extracurriculars must have been enough, because this year they offered me a membership. I felt accomplished. It was like something I had been waiting for, and once it happened it was like everything was well worth it.

## **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024.

I am currently an RN. I am hoping with this degree I would be able to follow an NP role. I want to further my studies in graduate school. I see myself doing research for Stony Brook. Their medical research has always been paramount, and I feel my input may be valuable. Of course, I would have to see if they accept me and there's a long way to go but it is a dream of mine to contribute to research.

After graduation I plan on working as much as I can. I love my occupation and I love caring for people. I think I will be happy being able to give all my time to my patients.

## **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

With this scholarship I am able to focus on school a lot more. The generosity of the donor has allowed me to not worry so much on making money for tuition. I am able to concentrate





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a lot more on my academics and I am grateful. Sometimes with all of my responsibilities it is hard to not worry about money. I enjoy school, and being able to read at my leisure, complete assignments, and learn with no rush is a blessing. I am able to make the most of my semester and absorb as much information as I can. Not having to work overtime, getting some much needed sleep and personal time are a huge benefit.

Aside from the physical impact, it is a psychological asset. This award means all of my decisions in academics, work and life have paid off. We always wonder if we're making the right choices in our lives. Is that not what school is for in the first place? To teach us how to make hard choices when the answer is not always known. I was not too sure of the choices I made, and if certain tasks were worth the effort. But this scholarship showed me that people notice my decisions. It reinforced that I should keep getting involved and take everything I do seriously. It was an encouraging push that I needed. It was a "you're on the right track, keep going." I am very grateful for that.

If it were not for this scholarship, I would have a hard time paying this semester's tuition. I have been working a lot of overtime lately, and I was worried about this semester's tuition. It is my last and of course it has been the hardest to cover. The scholarship allows me to not need to worry about overtime, and to focus on school and prioritize education over money.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your generosity. The award indicates how highly you value education. Students need to be reminded that people out there support their educational pursuit. It is hard to continue doing your best when things start to seem like they are going unnoticed. Not only did the award give me peace of mind monetarily, but it made me confident that I am doing the right things in life. It reminds me that certain achievements do not go unnoticed, and that is invaluable. Sometimes people just need someone to acknowledge their sacrifices.

I am sure you have helped a lot more with their achievements, and your kindness resonates with us all. The impact you have on our lives makes us want to continue our journey and tackle more obstacles than ever before. Knowing I won a scholarship was nothing short of a miracle with its timing. I could not believe I won, I did not think I earned it. Surely there must be someone working harder than me, I thought! But I am grateful I did. I want to thank you sincerely for not only your donation but for making me believe in myself again, and know my decisions are being noticed. Everything I know, everything I am, is because of school. I hope you understand how much this scholarship means to not only me, but all of us who have received it. Thank you again for everything, it means the world to me.



## **Nicole Jellen**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Stony Brook Alumni Association Dean's Choice Award and the Julia O. Wells Memorial Education Foundation Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Port Jefferson Station, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

As a freshman, I began my college career at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Within several months, I decided I wanted to be close to home in Port Jefferson Station, New York. I immediately was drawn to Stony Brook University for its excellent academic reputation on the east and west sides of campus. Additionally, I've known that I wanted to become a nurse for as long as I can remember. When my mother, a SBUH NICU nurse of 25+ years, referred me to research the Stony Brook School of Nursing based on word-of-mouth recommendations from her coworkers, it took me a short time to decide I would work my way into becoming a nursing student in such a supportive and prominent program.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

In the spring of 2023, I began the most challenging class of nursing school, *HNI333: Fundamentals of Pharmacology*. I can recall the nervousness and uncertainty many of my classmates and I felt, but we all were confident that Dr. Kenneth Faulkner was the best of the best. Dr. Faulkner demonstrates an unmatched passion for teaching the most challenging classes and making them exciting for his students. On top of his teaching excellence and extensive knowledge, he cares so much about each and every student. I will always be thankful to Dr. Faulkner for teaching in a way that puts his students at ease, empowers them, and teaches them that success is absolutely achievable.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Out of the many roles I have held throughout my time at Stony Brook University, the most significant to my growth include the Pre-Nursing Society president (2023) and CTICU student nurse summer intern (2023). Pre-Nursing Society (PNS) was named 2023 Organization of the Year at the Jerrold L. Stein Student Life Awards for Excellence in Student Leadership and Campus Involvement. I was in charge of overseeing other board members and delegation of tasks, planning and marketing events pertaining to the nursing profession and how to become an impressive candidate (e.g., mentorships with nursing students, faculty meet and greets, specialty overviews, mock interviews). PNS is well-loved by students, as evidenced by meetings attended by 100-150+ individuals, as well as the status as guides for students



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interested in pursuing nursing. Additionally, my summer internship in SBUH's CTICU was an enriching and unique experience that led me to continue working on the unit as a nursing assistant, and hopefully soon as a RN. I was paired with a fantastic preceptor who allowed me to immerse myself in the critical thinking and care that CTICU nurses provide.

### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

During the early months of 2022, I was awaiting word from SBSO on whether I was being offered an interview for the basic baccalaureate program. I recall sitting in my Introduction to Nursing course, taught by Dr. Virginia Coletti, when Professor Sofia Reyes took the time out of her day to come speak to us. She recounted her harrowing experiences as a nurse during the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic. I was inspired by Reyes' strength, determination and love for the profession. Similar to my mother, Jessica Jellen, Sofia Reyes showed hopeful students that nursing is a calling, a work of heart and a commitment to healing others.

### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

The most memorable part of my Stony Brook experience has been meeting lifelong friends and supporters through my student nurse cohort as well as the unmatched guidance from SBSO staff and faculty. The relationships that I have built have allowed me to transform in such a short time into a more confident and compassionate leader and team member. I will forever be thankful to SBSO for all it has afforded me.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

My greatest accomplishments thus far have been being chosen for the Julia O. Wells Memorial Education Foundation Award, Stony Brook Alumni Association Dean's Choice award, and being a current nominee of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. I am beyond grateful to the SBSO staff and faculty and those who have chosen and nominated me for these prestigious awards. I am honored to be viewed in such a light by individuals who inspire me to be the best person and nurse that I can be.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024.

I hope to secure a residency position in SBUH's CTICU as a new graduate nurse. My summer internship inspired me to take this path and I am excited to begin practicing as a nurse. Down the road, I hope to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Overall, I want to continue to comfort, guide and inspire others. After graduation, I hope to pass my NCLEX in June of 2024 and begin working as an RN at Stony Brook.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I am more than honored to be awarded with the Julia O. Wells Memorial Education Award and the Stony Brook Alumni Association Dean's Choice Award. Not only is the financial aspect of the awards helpful, but to be chosen means a significant amount to me. These awards will



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allow me to fund my continuing education, as I want to build myself into a nurse who not only heals, but inspires others too. I will continue to educate and advocate for others, and these awards are one of my greatest accomplishments. I want to thank those who chose me from the bottom of my heart and I look forward to continuing to represent SBSN long after graduation.

With your scholarship support, I can continue to advance my education and shape myself into a successful nurse who positively impacts my patients, coworkers and students.

### **THANK YOU**

With great admiration and respect, I want to say thank you to the donors and committees who have chosen me to receive the Julia O. Wells Memorial Scholarship and the Alumni Association Dean's Choice Award. The generosity displayed by all of you inspires me to continue to build my leadership, compassion and professional reputation as a SBSN soon-to-be alumnus. I am proud to accept these honors and I will keep you all in my mind as I carry myself as a confident and team-oriented caregiver.



## **Rachel Johnson**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Ellen Weisenberg Endowed Nursing Scholarship**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing pursuing a master's degree in pediatric nurse practitioner primary care, originally from Fredonia, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook because they offer a variety of nurse practitioner specialties in a format that worked for me. I considered D'youville University, University at Buffalo and the University of Rochester. However, each of these schools either did not offer a pediatric specialty or if they did, it was not a distance learning program. Stony Brook offered the right program and the right format. The location and affordability were definitely bonuses.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

HNG 518- Advanced Theory and Clinical Practice in Pediatric Nursing Across the Continuum I instructed by Professors Hotze & Koslap-Petraco.

HNG 518 was my favorite course because it was our first clinical course in the pediatric nurse practitioner program. I enjoyed stepping into the role of Nurse Practitioner student in the clinical setting. I thrive in hands-on experience, and the clinical rotations are always going to be at the top of my list.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

As a student who lives far from campus, I am not involved in many campus activities. However, I do try to stay involved in my local community, advocating for obstetric services at our local hospital. I am also one of two domestic violence coordinators at Brooks Memorial Hospital in Dunkirk, New York. I assist with staff education, policy writing and compliance with domestic violence practices and procedures.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My daughter, Aubrey, is one of the most inspirational influences in my life. At 15 years old, she is one of the most caring, compassionate and giving individuals. She is wholly accepting and provides unwavering support to those around her without contingencies. In the face of her own chronic health conditions that impact her daily life, she remains strong and steadfast. She is an example of how to treat people, including ourselves.



## **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Receiving the Ellen Weisenberg Endowed Nursing Scholarship is my proudest accomplishment this year.

## **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2025.

In the future I plan to work as a pediatric nurse practitioner in a clinic or sub-specialty specifically for patients with complex or chronic medical conditions. Eventually, I would like to continue my education and ultimately use my degree and education to be involved in research that advances treatments and improves quality of life for these patients. One condition I feel particularly passionate about is epidermolysis bullosa (EB), a dermatological condition where patients lack proteins in the skin, making their skin incredibly frail. These individuals live in a constant cycle of skin wounding and healing. The organization EB Research Partnership is a non-profit that specifically helps to advance treatments, fund research and improve quality of life for patients suffering with EB. It is my absolute dream to be involved with their organization in any professional manner.

## **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I am a wife and mother of five children. I work full-time and fund my education through student loans. Obtaining this scholarship equates to a lesser burden on my family in the future as I repay those student loans. I am incredibly grateful.

## **THANK YOU**

It is difficult to express my gratitude for being selected as the recipient of the Ellen Weisenberg Endowed Nursing Scholarship. I assume there were many applicants to choose from, and I am honored to have been selected.

When I made the decision to go back to school for my graduate degree, it was not an easy choice. I knew that it would place a heavy burden on my family, especially financially. However, I knew I needed to take this next step in my education, not only for my career, but to set an example for my children. The example I try to lead by is one of work ethic and perseverance. Receiving this scholarship helps to reduce the financial burden for my family, and allows me to focus on setting this strong example.

So, thank you, from the bottom of my heart. This generous gift means more to me and my family than I can truly express in a short letter.



## **Matthew Killian**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Office of Mental Health Scholarship**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a doctoral student in the School of Nursing originally from Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook to return to my nursing roots as my journey in the field of nursing began here.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

Synthesizing a doctor of nursing practice project has proven to be difficult and rewarding, strenuous and humbling. This process is giving me the opportunity to make a significant change to improve processes for veterans seeking help at the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center and I am relishing this opportunity. I am grateful to Dr. Giselle Gerardi for her guidance and mentorship as I work toward my goals.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

First and foremost I am a father and husband. I am a father of a 7-year-old amazing girl, a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner providing care for veterans suffering from substance use disorders at the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center and an entrepreneur of a private psychiatric practice. I also train for sprint triathlons and enjoy this endeavor as it provides stress relief and physical fitness improvement.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

Having experienced careers in the military, corporate America and nursing, it would be difficult to describe just one individual who has been a source of inspiration for me. I have attempted to emulate the qualities of various leaders and colleagues throughout my life in an attempt to better myself. I could cite an addiction therapist at my current job who will move mountains to help anyone, the vice president of the corporate position I held who sent me to an international emerging leaders conference, or a soldier under my command who rescued an indigenous young girl injured during combat at the risk of his own safety.



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### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Receiving this scholarship is certainly a proud accomplishment, as is being accepted into a doctoral program as the first in my family to do so. I hope to set an example for my daughter that learning is a lifelong endeavor and that it is never too late to start pursuing.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2025.

As a doctoral-prepared nurse practitioner, I hope to bring evidence-based practice, quality and process improvement, and the ideas of others to the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center. I aspire to continue to serve those in need of mental health care. A terminal doctoral degree allows me to do this at the highest level of my licensure by providing me with the tools to pursue quality improvement and implementation of the most recent and relevant evidence-based practice.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I was pleasantly surprised to receive this scholarship award from the Office of Mental Health. I truly love what I do in the service of others and to be recognized and rewarded for pursuing my academic goal is humbling.

I am grateful to the New York State Office of Mental Health and Stony Brook University School of Nursing for this scholarship award. This award provides both the financial and reputational support for me to pursue my academic and career goals without placing significant financial strain on my family.

### **THANK YOU**

I wish to humbly offer my gratitude to the Office of Mental Health and Stony Brook University School of Nursing for this scholarship award. Academically and professionally, this award provides me with the opportunity to move forward toward my goal.

To have my efforts be rewarded is humbling and gratifying, and provides me with a newfound source of strength to tackle my academic requirements. I humbly ask the Office of Mental Health to continue this award to other mental health providers in the future, as the growth of our field of practice is not keeping up with the needs of our communities.





## **Esder Kim**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Hugh J.B. Cassidy III Memorial Award and Student Veterans Recognition**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Torrance, CA.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

Stony Brook University was recommended by one of my friends in the Army when I was looking for good nursing programs. The program here met all the criteria for the Army Enlisted Commissioning Program. I also found that the coordinator for the Veterans Nursing Program here was amazing. I ultimately chose Stony Brook University because of the consistently high NCLEX pass rates.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was Sexual, Reproductive, and Perinatal Health. I really enjoyed the clinicals in Labor & Delivery and Mother-Baby units. Dr. Rewa Thompson and my clinical instructor, Professor Isabel Faringer-Perez, taught me how to think critically when taking care of mothers and newborns.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside the classroom, I go to the gym for weight training and the track for jogging. I am required to stay physically fit per Army regulations, but being strong also helps when moving patients. I also volunteer for Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association, which gives me more opportunities to practice my clinical skills.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My battle buddy Dory Alvarenga continues to inspire me even after she moved away. She graduated from Stony Brook University last year and is now stationed in Texas as an Army nurse. I was always awed by her determination, self-discipline and time management skills. Nursing school is not easy, especially as a soldier and a mom of two boys. But she has managed to hit the gym every day, take care of her family and stay on top of her school assignments. She also helped me tremendously when I first moved to New York without a car or furniture for the apartment. I owe her many thanks and congratulations as she welcomes her third baby this March.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

The most memorable part of my Stony Brook experience are the clinicals I had with my



group. All the early mornings, 10 o'clock meds, and post-conferences are definitely unforgettable. Although we were tired and exhausted, we had each other for support.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I felt accomplished when I found out that I was nominated for Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success. It was good to see that my efforts reflected my grades.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024

I will become an Army nurse upon graduation and serve for another four years. I will be taking care of our soldiers and their families in military hospitals. I plan to take the ICU nurse course and then later apply for the United States Army graduate program in anesthesia nursing.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I am thankful for this scholarship. It will help immensely cover the cost of textbooks, RN NCLEX registration and licensure exam preps. Receiving this scholarship provided the extra support I needed to succeed in my studies. I worried less while budgeting my finances and could focus better in school.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your generosity! Your contributions supported me to succeed in nursing school without financial burden. I can now prepare for the licensure exam without worry. With your support, I plan to become a compassionate nurse who contributes to the community.



## **Jonathan Kwaning**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Hugh J.B. Cassidy III Memorial Award and Student Veterans Recognition**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Bronx NY.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

Stony Brook is one of the leading universities in the country and known to be a military friendly school, which informed my decision to come here. Stony Brook was my first and only option when I decided to go back to school.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

I love every class I take in the program because I learn a lot from the instructors and students. But if I were to pick one for the semester, I will choose pediatrics because of the way the class is structured and the amount of the time the instructor puts in to make sure no one is left behind.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I was involved in the spring semester intramural soccer activities. My team, Winners FC, placed third after six games in which I played as a center back. I built friendships with my teammates even though I never knew them before the tournament. Such activities help take our minds off the books for a while while we recharge for the days ahead.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My mother is my source of inspiration. She always looks out for us by facilitating my travel to the United States. I see her struggle every day and the work she put in to make life better for her children. I want to make it in life so I can take care of her while she takes a break.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

The student population, the faculty, the facilities, clinicals, the patients and attending classes have all contributed to my success here at Stony Brook.



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### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I am part of the Sigma Beta society and I participate in different events such as navigating LinkedIn, CPO events, breast cancer awareness walk and learning a lot outside the nursing classroom. This adds to my rich experience here at Stony Brook.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024.

I see myself working at a military hospital after graduation and applying the knowledge I have received here at Stony Brook in building a healthy community. My career path is to become an operating room nurse.

I plan to take the NCLEX and return to active service. Also, I plan to take a certification course in becoming an operating room nurse and continue to deliver the best care to our patients.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Receiving such a scholarship goes a long way in helping me achieve my educational goals here at Stony Brook. Having these awards help me pay for some additional supplies that I need for my classes. And I want to thank our donors for all that they are sacrificing to ensure students can reach their potential.

These scholarships have had a great impact on my educational success here at Stony Brook. I was able to use some of the money to pay for two of my text books and eventually earned an A in those classes.

### **THANK YOU**

I want to thank all the donors from the bottom of my heart, and I pray for long life and prosperity for them and their families. These scholarships have made a great impact on studies here at Stony Brook helping me buy some text books for my classes. May you all continue to find the strength to help students like me in fulfilling my dreams. Thank you.



## **Shamim Lalani**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Academic Excellence Award - Doctor Nursing Practice**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a doctoral student in the School of Nursing, originally from Woodbury, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

Stony Brook's doctoral nursing program is well regarded for its commitment to advanced nursing education, distinguished faculty and research opportunities. The university's strong emphasis on healthcare innovation and its proximity to leading healthcare institutions make it an appealing choice for those who are pursuing a doctoral degree in nursing. The campus and feasibility of accessibility were other factors for my decision.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

Of course, this final semester is when I am witnessing all of my hard work being rewarded and accomplished. Although this semester is my last doctor of nursing practice degree achievement, I consider it the beginning of my career. I look forward to implementing skills in real-world situations.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I volunteered in a nonprofit organization called Aga Khan Development Network and served as a project lead. I spearheaded training over one year for emergency room-registered nurses in three hospitals in East Africa. I also served as the health and wellness director in four international camps (India and Pakistan) that housed participants between ages 15-18 from around the world. I continue to serve in local communities, conducting monthly wellness clinics and annual health-promoting day fairs. I serve as an early childhood facilitator and conduct prenatal sessions for first-time, newly-immigrated mothers and have been an educator/trainer working with volunteers who serve the elderly in assisting with activities of daily living. In this capacity, volunteers also provide much needed support in all of their day-to-day activities.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My husband, Amin, has been an inspiration by consistently encouraging me, providing emotional support during challenges and actively participating in my educational journey. His belief in my abilities and shared enthusiasm for my goals have fueled my motivation and determination. Additionally, witnessing his own dedication to personal and collective growth have served as a positive example, fostering mutual inspiration.



### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

I haven't spent much time physically on campus, but have always enjoyed visiting once a month for three years to meet my classmates and professors.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Achieving my doctor of nursing practice degree is a huge accomplishment, especially while working full time and volunteering in my local and international community. It was challenging, but persistence, determination, hard work and support from my family made it possible.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. I want to implement the skills I have learned through this degree in both my professional career as well as volunteer activities. I have already committed to carry forward my project and disseminate the knowledge to the extended units of the institution. I have committed to an international program where I will be instrumental in utilizing the leadership skills and help establish best practice, evidence-based oncology programs in East Africa. I look forward to continuing to work on the existing projects in my current professional role as well as volunteer role.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This award is a true honor. I am grateful to the donors and to those who considered me for this award. This is a true, humbling honor and I hope I will get opportunities to fulfill the reason why I am being awarded--dedication in healthcare and passion for bringing forth the knowledge for better outcomes for the patients. I also intend to be a role model for the younger generation in healthcare to be always learning and bringing the knowledge to use for good reasons. Receiving this award has shown me how to value myself more and to be more involved in the betterment of humanity.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you! I admire your generosity and willingness to contribute in any amount for individuals who have passion to learn and grow. Your kindness and generosity will go far for several generations. A very big THANK YOU!



# **William Lin**

## **2023-2024 Recipient of the Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award**

### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Brooklyn, New York.

### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

My decision to attend Stony Brook University was driven by its exceptional breadth of academic majors and its distinguished reputation for science and research. As someone deeply interested in a science-focused career, particularly in the healthcare sector, Stony Brook's commitment to fostering a research-intensive environment appealed to me. The university's strong emphasis on integrating scientific inquiry and evidence-based practice into its nursing program aligned perfectly with my academic interests and professional goals. I was actually a transfer student from Rochester Institute of Technology. While the school provided many opportunities in tech, I found myself limited to the universities' lack of majors when I started to lose interest in tech.

### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was *HNI333: Fundamentals of Pharmacology* with Dr. Kenneth Faulkner. What set this class apart for me was not just the subject matter, which was inherently challenging and critical to my nursing education, but more so Dr. Faulkner's unparalleled approach to teaching it. His profound knowledge in both pathophysiology and pharmacology had a way of simplifying complex concepts, making them accessible and engaging. This transformed what was traditionally known as one of the toughest classes in nursing into an enjoyable and enriching experience.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside of the classroom, my past involvement as a nursing assistant at Stony Brook University Hospital, particularly in the emergency department, has been an invaluable part of my educational journey. This hands-on experience has not only complimented my academic studies but has significantly enriched my understanding of nursing in a real-world context. Working closely with nurses and other healthcare professionals, I have been able to observe the practical application of nursing theories and principles firsthand, providing me with a unique perspective and a deeper appreciation for the complexities of patient care.

### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

One of the most inspirational figures in my life is my significant other, who stands out as my



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unwavering supporter, closest friend and source of comfort. What makes her truly special to me isn't just the roles she plays, but the depth of her commitment, empathy and understanding that she brings into every aspect of our life together. She's taught me the value of true partnership sharing joys, burdens and everything in between, with unwavering loyalty and love. This partnership has not only been a cornerstone of my personal growth but has also deeply influenced my professional aspirations, instilling in me a compassionate approach to caregiving that mirrors the kindness and patience she's shown me.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

This year has been particularly rewarding for me academically, marked by several accomplishments that I hold with great pride. One of my proudest moments was completing the rigorous *HNI 310: Pathophysiology* course.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2025. My ideal career path is to become a nurse practitioner specializing in emergency care. This ambition is driven by a deep-seated passion for acute care nursing and a desire to play a pivotal role in delivering advanced healthcare in high-pressure situations. The dynamic and challenging environment of the emergency department appeals to me, as it requires not only a high level of clinical competence, but also the ability to make critical decisions swiftly and effectively.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Receiving this scholarship represents much more than just financial support; it serves as a profound affirmation of my commitment to pursuing a career in nursing and a clear sign to keep moving forward, regardless of the challenges that lie ahead. This scholarship not only alleviates the financial burden associated with higher education, thereby allowing me to focus more intently on my studies, but it also reinforces my determination to succeed in the highly demanding yet immensely rewarding field of nursing. Without this support, my journey through nursing school would have been markedly different, characterized by financial strain that could have detracted from my focus on academic and clinical excellence. The necessity to balance financial obligations with a rigorous program would likely have limited my ability to engage with the breadth of opportunities available at Stony Brook.

### **THANK YOU**

I hope this message conveys the depth of gratitude I feel for your generous support through the scholarship I was honored to receive. Your kindness and commitment to supporting students have profoundly impacted my life and educational journey at Stony Brook University, more than words can fully express. Thank you for believing in the potential of students like myself, for investing in our futures and for making it possible for us to pursue our dreams with fewer burdens. Your generosity has not only lightened the financial load of my nursing education but has also imbued me with a renewed sense of purpose and





determination. It's comforting and incredibly motivating to know that there are individuals like you who are willing to support the aspirations of students you have never met.



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## **Alyssa Mahoney**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am an undergraduate student in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Ronkonkoma, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

Stony Brook University is where I completed my first undergraduate degree in biology. Stony Brook University's education is reputable, valuable and convenient due to its proximity to my home.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was *HNI333: Fundamentals of Pharmacology*. This was the class that I was the most interested in and excited for. Dr. Kenneth Faulkner was an excellent teacher who made the material engaging and fun to learn.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Throughout my nursing program, I have been involved as a member of both Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association (SBSNA) and American Association for Men in Nursing, and volunteered for various events. In SBSNA, I am part of the secretary committee. I also had the opportunity to take part in the Operating Room Winter Immersion Externship that was offered at Stony Brook University Hospital.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

All of my professors in Stony Brook School of Nursing have been an inspiration to me and they have further cemented my interest in the field. They have shared their knowledge of the material, their experience working throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to provide support to all of the students as we progress through this program.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

My favorite part of my nursing school experience was my clinical experience and the friendships I formed.

#### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I was invited to become a member of the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society due to my academic achievement.



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### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. After graduation, I will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and become a registered nurse. I hope to work in the perioperative or intensive care setting and further pursue my education through certifications or additional degrees. After graduation, I will work on becoming a registered nurse. I anticipate working on Long Island and will pursue more education after gaining experience in the position.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

The accelerated baccalaureate program in the Stony Brook School of Nursing is an intensive program that does not allow much time for outside work. This scholarship has allowed me to offset some of the cost of the program and particular experiences that I have encountered. In particular, this scholarship allowed me to take part in the perioperative winter immersion externship at Stony Brook University Hospital. I am eternally grateful for this experience, as it has given me more of a direction in my chosen field. This scholarship has allowed me to graduate with less debt and granted me an operating room experience witnessing aortic aneurysm repairs and craniotomies that I will never forget.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your generous contribution to my education. This scholarship offset the cost of the perioperative winter immersion externship that I took part in during my academic year. This opportunity provided memories I will never forget and has allowed me to further hone in on the direction of my career, as the field of nursing is broad.



## **Justin McEvoy**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Dr. Jacqueline Rose-Hott Memorial Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing in the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program, originally from Lake Grove, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I applied and was accepted to a variety of schools, but what solidified my decision to attend Stony Brook University was its academic reputation and affordability. I felt Stony Brook was a reputable school that would best serve me in achieving my goals to become a proficient provider.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

I enjoyed *HNG 547: Advanced Theory and Clinical Practice in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing IV*, as it was my last clinical course before practicing on my own. This class further reinforced and helped me hone my skills as a future psychiatric provider.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Between working 40 hours a week as a registered nurse and the clinical hours and class work required as a graduate student, I was unable to participate in any student organizations.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

An inspirational relative of mine was my grandmother. She helped steer me into the medical field and helped me realize that a life dedicated to serving others is a life well lived.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

It is hard for me to choose one experience. Between all the lectures, simulation labs and clinical experiences, I feel Stony Brook helped shape me into the provider I always wanted to be.

#### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Navigating through working as a registered nurse and still achieving academic success in this rigorous program is something I am proud of.

#### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. Because Stony Brook's psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner program is a specialty program, I will be practicing as a psychiatric



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provider. Stony Brook helped me develop the skills needed to efficiently assess, diagnose and treat patients in this specialty. I plan on further developing my skills as a new provider. Currently, I am between accepting a job offer in an outpatient setting or working inpatient at a hospital. In the future, I hope to apply for my doctor of nursing practice.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

It is an honor to receive this award. To be acknowledged for academic success makes me feel accomplished and more confident in achieving my aspirations after graduation. These funds helped me with expenses of my program such as bills, textbooks and programs required for me to pass my boards.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your generous contribution to this award. I was happy to learn that I had been selected as the recipient and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for providing this generous award.



## **Mary Joy Mendoza**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Jean M. Bellia Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Hicksville, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook University because it is a top-ranked school with a high passing rate in the New York State registered nurse National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). I also applied to Pace University and Long Island University for their nursing programs, but after careful consideration, Stony Brook University was the best choice for me for many reasons. On top of their outstanding reputation and convenient location near where I currently live, as an alumna who graduated in May 2019 with a bachelor of science in health science, I knew that I would be receiving an excellent education from Stony Brook. They also have great connections with other hospitals and facilities that undoubtedly helped the nursing students like me to get the exposure we need to gain experience and nursing clinical skills.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

The most memorable class I had this year was *HNI 463: Sexual, Reproductive and Perinatal Health* with Dr. Rewa Thompson. I loved my clinical experience at Stony Brook University Hospital at the mother/baby care unit because it opened my eyes to a different nursing care that I had never experienced before. I loved the happy smiles of the mothers who just gave birth to their babies, especially when they saw them for the first time in the labor and delivery operating room. I was excited and happy for them and it definitely made me think about working in this unit as one of the career paths I could take as a future nurse.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

In the summer of 2023, before the last year of my nursing program, I was a nurse intern. I was working closely with my preceptor on the surgical intensive care unit unit at Stony Brook University Hospital. I learned so much from this internship, including nursing clinical skills, effective communication with the interdisciplinary team and therapeutic patient communication. I was exposed to different situations and I got to work with different kinds of people. I believe this experience expanded my horizon and allowed me to grow as an aspiring nurse.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

When I was in the Philippines with my two younger siblings, my grandparents were the ones who raised us for many years. My parents were overseas Filipino workers and I spent my childhood watching my grandparents pour their unconditional love onto us, teaching us many



life lessons which I took with me into adulthood. I began to take interest in the healthcare field, with the hopes of giving back what I received from my grandparents to other people in need. My grandparents inspired me to become a nurse, and I hope to be a pillar of support for others and hold their hand when they need it most.

### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

My favorite Stony Brook experience was feeling how united people were. For example, we did a flu vaccine pod as part of our community and population health clinicals experience. I saw how open everyone was to teaching and learning from each other; not just the students, but also the professors and other healthcare workers who were getting their vaccines. Everyone was so patient and made the experience fun for everyone involved. This made me realize that people at Stony Brook University really do come together as a whole.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

One of the greatest accomplishments was that I became the first in my family to finish college in the US. Before coming here at the age of 12, my parents were working in the Philippines for many years. Being able to walk on that stage at the Island Federal Arena and getting my diploma was one of the happiest moments in my life. My parents and my younger siblings were very proud of me and it encouraged me to keep aiming higher.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. I have always known that I wanted to be a healthcare professional because of the positive influence that my grandparents left on me. I wanted to give back to the people who need the support during the hard times, and help them feel better physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. After fulfilling many roles in different specialties of medicine, I realized that becoming a nurse was my ideal career. Not only would I be able to help many people in this field, I know that I will make my parents and grandparents proud. After graduating from Stony Brook University, I plan on accepting a job in nursing in either Long Island or New York City. I would like to start in an acute care unit in a hospital, where I will have the resources and the chance to improve my nursing clinical skills and other components of nursing care (which is why I am also open to applying for fellowship and/or residency programs). Eventually, I would like to travel to other cities where nurses are in high demand, because I want the opportunity to broaden my horizons and learn even more about this profession through a different point of view.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I am truly grateful for this award and I was very excited when I received the news about this scholarship. This support means a lot to me, as I have a lot to do to prepare for the NCLEX that I will be taking in two months. Financial support is always appreciated, especially because the materials and resources we need to get our New York state license are costly. On top of my own reasons for becoming a nurse, this tremendous support makes me even more motivated to put my best foot forward in achieving my goals and becoming an



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outstanding nursing professional--so thank you very much for this award. I am currently working as a per diem nursing assistant at Stony Brook University Hospital. Receiving this award will help me by alleviating some of the financial stress that comes with preparing for final exams and the NCLEX (because of the materials we have to purchase). In our final semester as nursing students, I could focus a bit more on studying and making sure that I am ready for our Capstone.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me this award. This serves as a reminder that there are people who acknowledge the good work that I do and who believe I could achieve more as an individual and a future nursing professional. I will do my best to become a strong patient advocate and a strong pillar for a team of healthcare providers.





## **Josephina Miller**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Barbara Mills Scholarship in Nursing**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a junior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Setauket, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I always knew I wanted to go into nursing and I knew that Stony Brook had an amazing nursing program. The school was also affordable and close to home.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class was *Pathology* with Dr. Kenneth Faulkner. Although the content was challenging, Dr. Faulkner made the material fun to learn and always was energetic. He was excited about teaching us, which made me inspired to learn.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am involved in the Stony Brook Student Nursing Association and the American Association for Men in Nursing (AAMN). I was just elected to become the secretary for AAMN next year. I'm also a sales associate at a hospital gift shop. I love being so involved in the school so I can get to know my classmates better and spend more time learning about nursing.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My father and the nurses who took care of him inspired me to go into nursing. My father lived in the Long Island Veterans Home up until his passing and the nurses there made it feel like a home for him. I was inspired to go into an occupation that could have such a positive impact on another person's life.

#### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

My proudest accomplishments were receiving the Barbara Mills Scholarship in Nursing, being a two-time recipient of academic achievement award and making the dean's list.

#### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2025. I am currently enrolled in the Stony Brook nursing program, which will prepare me to pursue my lifelong goal of nursing.

#### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

These funds have removed a great financial burden from my family. My single mother is not



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able to afford full payment for college and this scholarship has done a great part in allowing me to pursue my dream of going to nursing school to become a nurse.

**THANK YOU**

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity of giving me this scholarship. I could not be more grateful for being able to attend the Stony Brook School of Nursing and pursue my passion for helping others. You have played a great role in helping me to achieve my dreams. I am looking forward to giving back to my community by caring for my patients when I become a nurse.



## **Michael Naughton**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Huntington Station, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook because I have many family members who are alumni. They loved their experience, so I chose to go here. It is also a very affordable school with prestige that is unmatched by other SUNY schools. I chose the Stony Brook nursing program because it is one of the highest ranked in New York and I want to be part of the best community.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class was *HNI333: Fundamentals of Pharmacology* because our professor was extremely well-versed in the material and had so much passion it was infectious. The class material was dense, but it was my favorite to learn and study for. I also have always been drawn to the science of biology.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside the classroom, I am involved in two clubs. The first one is the American Association for Men in Nursing, where I am the president. The goal of the club is to create a gender-inclusive environment in nursing and to foster a learning environment and develop skills outside of school (ex. practicing physical assessments). I am also a member of the Stony Brook Student Nursing Association. I was a tutor for *Fundamentals of Pharmacology* last fall, where I gave tips and tricks on how to master the material. I am currently involved in an evidence-based research project with Southampton Hospital to decrease the turnover of nurses at the hospital. I was a nurse extern at North Shore University Hospital this summer in the perioperative area, where I hope to return one day. I am a personal aide for a child with physical and mental disabilities and an advocate for their organization called TeamRonnie, which began with the goal of creating awareness about the pediatrically-frail community. As an advocate, I go to colleges and speak with students and faculty about this population and the area of nursing.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

I currently am a personal aide for a little boy who has been through so much. He has had many surgeries and is constantly beating the odds day by day. He shows me to never give up



and to take every day as a blessing. He is the reason I'm in this profession and empowers me to take on a difficult nursing program.

### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

My favorite recent memory was at my pinning ceremony. I had both of my sisters pin me, as they are currently nurses at different departments at Huntington. They helped tremendously in my journey, so it was a very special day.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

My proudest achievement was my ability to maintain a 3.97 GPA. It was a difficult task and it was to find the time to study and handle my extracurriculars. I am in my fourth semester of nursing school with a high GPA. I am very proud and I will finish this semester strong!

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. I hope to begin my journey in a cardio-thoracic intensive care unit. I am in love with the work and of all the potential learning experiences inside. I'd like to work there for a while to absorb all the best practices of nursing. One day, I will return to the operating room after I get a solid foundation of skills. I will study for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and then apply for jobs immediately. I will most likely be working at North Shore University Hospital.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Receiving this award gave me some peace of mind. I have a lot of debt and by getting the award, I can focus more on my last semester of school rather than constantly working. It gives me a buffer. Thank you so much. Without this support, I'm not sure how I would be able to get by! Without this award, the semester would be much more difficult. There are many textbooks, graduation materials and registrations with New York state that I'm not sure how I would be able to afford without this support.

### **THANK YOU**

I would just like to say thank you to everyone involved in the Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award. This award eased my financial situation, which gave me the ability to focus on the important things, like my studies and my extracurriculars that make a difference in people's lives. Your generosity does not go unnoticed and I hope to meet you all very soon. Thank you again!



## **Arielle Nelson**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Academic Excellence Award - Advanced Practice Nursing in Family Health**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing in the family nurse practitioner program, originally from Ronkonkoma, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook because of its reputation for health sciences. I was considering New York University, but Stony Brook was more affordable and the family nurse practitioner (FNP) program was flexible enough that I could continue to work full-time throughout the program.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was *Advanced Theory and Clinical Practice in Family Health Nursing IV* because I translated the didactic portion of the class into clinical practice.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside of the classroom, I work full-time as a kidney transplant coordinator and do education outreach at local dialysis centers.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

Working as a kidney transplant coordinator inspired me to pursue an advanced degree in primary care, because a number of patients I cared for would not be in such a precarious health situation if their community had more education and access to preventative medicine.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

The most memorable part of my Stony Brook experience was the opportunity to complete clinical rotations in medical offices throughout my community.

#### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

My proudest accomplishment during my time at Stony Brook and the one that has given me the greatest sense of achievement has been balancing working full-time while completing a master's degree in family health nursing.

#### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. I aspire to provide education and improve access to care for underserved communities, especially education about metabolic health, as it is the root cause of many ailments and comorbidities. Two of the clinical sites I completed rotations



in were interested in hiring me, but I intend to take the FNP certification exam before making any further decisions.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Receiving this award validates the hard work and time I spent these last three years to advance my degree and career. These funds will help me prepare for the FNP certification exam by allowing me to participate in a live review course.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to the donors who make these scholarships and awards possible. Not only does a monetary gift provide opportunities to those who may not otherwise have the means, the recognition in the form of an award validates students' hard work and provides a confidence moving forward in both their education and careers.



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## **Joycelyn Ocran**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the School of Nursing Alumni Board Scholarship Award and the Gene E. Mundie Endowed Scholarship for Doctoral Study**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a doctoral student in the School of Nursing, originally from Brooklyn, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I was particularly drawn to Stony Brook because it was one of the few schools on the east coast offering both a master's and doctorate program with a specialized focus in neonatology. These academic offerings aligned perfectly with my career aspirations. Additionally, I was impressed by the diversity of the campus community, which I believe fosters a rich and inclusive learning environment. These factors, combined with the school's strong reputation and supportive faculty, played a significant role in my decision to choose Stony Brook over other universities.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was *Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Synthesis III*, taught by Dr. Paula Timoney, Dr. Kathleen Shurpin and Dr. Paul D'Amico. It was the most impactful and rewarding experience. At the beginning of the program, I struggled to conceptualize how I could design, implement and analyze a DNP project; the thought alone was overwhelming. However, as I worked on my manuscript, ran final reports through SPSS and prepared my poster presentation for Stony Brook's research day, everything began to come full circle for me. Seeing my work unit adopt and implement my findings into clinical practice has been incredibly fulfilling and I now understand the purpose behind all the hard work and dedication throughout the program. I am extremely proud of what I have accomplished and look forward to using what I have learned to improve patient outcomes and translate research into practice.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside of the classroom, I have actively engaged in community involvement initiatives that complement my educational experience. I have delivered lectures to registered nurses and midwives in Nigeria through the Council of International Neonatal Nurses, Inc. Additionally, I have mentored aspiring nurses in various organizations through the Ghana Nurses Organization. These experiences allowed me to apply my knowledge in practical settings, contribute to the community and gain valuable leadership and mentoring skills.



## **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

Dr. Paula Timoney stands out as an exceptional educator and mentor who has profoundly influenced my life. From day one, she has been incredibly supportive, patiently guiding me through complex concepts and ensuring I put my best foot forward in every endeavor. Her unwavering belief in my potential and her dedication to advancing neonatology have been a constant source of inspiration and motivation. Dr. Timoney's expertise, kindness and genuine commitment to her students' success make her not only a great professor, but also a role model to follow.

## **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

One of the most cherished experiences during my time at Stony Brook was the seamless integration of their distance learning program into my career advancement journey. Despite the majority of my classes being online, the university ensured that I never felt alone. The most memorable and impactful aspect of my Stony Brook experience was building a deep and meaningful friendship with a fellow student. She was there for me through some challenging times, offering encouragement, prayers and uplifting words that fueled my determination. I thank Stony Brook for that experience.

## **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

One of my most significant achievements during my time at Stony Brook was being accepted into the doctoral program. Unfortunately, on the same day I received news that my father passed away. One of the last things I whispered to him was "I got in," to which he nodded in approval. My greatest achievement will be completing the program in his honor.

## **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. My future aspirations include leading quality improvement projects in NICUs to enhance patient outcomes and becoming a professor to mentor future nursing students. My graduate education at Stony Brook will provide me with the expertise and skills needed to excel in these endeavors, preparing me to make meaningful contributions to healthcare and education. After graduation, I plan to continue in my current role as a board certified neonatal nurse practitioner while preparing for more teaching engagements.

## **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Receiving this scholarship is incredibly significant to me, as it provides vital support for finalizing my DNP project and continuing my work post-graduation. The financial assistance allows me to extend the data collection phase of my quality improvement project, enhancing its generalizability and impact. To finance my education, I took on additional shifts, which limited the time I could devote to my academic work. This scholarship will enable me to reduce my work hours, allowing me to fully dedicate myself to completing my final DNP manuscript with utmost dedication and excellence.





## **THANK YOU**

I wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous support. Your kindness has had a profound impact on my academic journey, allowing me to reduce work commitments and focus more on my final DNP manuscript. Thanks to your generosity, I can dedicate myself fully to my studies and make significant contributions to healthcare quality improvement projects. Your belief in my potential motivates me to strive for excellence in all my endeavors. Thank you for making a difference in my life and empowering me to achieve my educational and professional aspirations.



## **Loryn O'Gorman**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Phyllis Zuckerwise Sterne and Family NICU Nurse Practitioner Scholarship**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing's neonatal nurse practitioner program, originally from Blauvelt, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I decided to pursue my graduate degree at Stony Brook because of the upstanding reputation of the School of Nursing and the university as a whole. I decided to pursue my graduate degree at Stony Brook because of other colleagues' past experiences here, which were all positive and encouraging. They have been through the neonatal nurse practitioner program prior.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was *Advanced Health Assessment of the Neonate and Infant* taught by Dr. Janette Corallo. I enjoyed using practical skills taught in the class in my work environment.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

At work, I recently applied to climb the clinical ladder. In order to do this, I had to implement a teaching project in my unit and precept.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My mom is my inspiration. She became a registered nurse when I was 7 and my brother was 9. Having two young children of my own, my mom inspired me to continue my education while also being a mother.

#### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I am the most proud of maintaining a GPA over 3.5 through my first two semesters of graduate school. This required me to balance work life, motherhood and school life.

#### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2026. I aspire to become a neonatal nurse practitioner and



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practice for many years. I hope to one day inspire some of my colleagues to pursue their graduate degree, too.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This scholarship is such an honor to receive. I am so proud to be a representative for the Phyllis Zuckerwise Sterne and Family NICU Nurse Practitioner Scholarship and feel extremely grateful. This scholarship has offset some of the financial burdens of textbooks and tuition, which is amazing.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for choosing me to receive the Phyllis Zuckerwise Sterne and Family NICU Nurse Practitioner Scholarship. I am truly grateful for this opportunity. By receiving this scholarship, I truly feel like anything is possible if I set my mind to it. I will continue to work hard and stay dedicated to becoming a neonatal nurse practitioner.



## **Edna Okang**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Sigma Award in Recognition for Doretta Dick**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from New Rochelle, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose to attend Stony Brook University because of its reputation, ideal location and affordability. My final decision came down to what Stony Brook had to offer to me as a whole when compared to other institutions.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

It is very difficult to choose a favorite class because I enjoyed all of them. However, if I had to choose one, I would say that my favorite class this year was *HNI 370: Health Assessment* with Dr. Janet Galiczewski. I enjoyed this class because it was held in a small classroom, which allowed me to get closer with my peers. I also loved the hands-on assessments. Dr. Galiczewski was funny, made learning enjoyable and would illustrate to the class with volunteers.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside of the classroom, I am involved in the Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association, where we actively engage with the community to enhance the nursing profession's image and bridge gaps between student life and nursing practice. I am also a member of the Inclusivity Diversity Equity and Social Justice (IDEAS) Committee, where I get to collaborate monthly with faculty, students and staff to integrate topics of inclusivity, diversity and social justice into the nursing curriculum. I am also involved in the Policy and Education Committee, where we review legislative education to compose resolutions for national conferences and organize discussions on healthcare ethics. Finally, I am a member of the Breakthrough to Nursing Committee, where we organize, represent and mentor students preparing for initial licensure as registered nurses who may be sensitive to the cultural diversity that exists in our society.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

An inspirational experience I had was my experience in the School of Nursing. All the faculty and staff were extremely supportive and made my time at the program enjoyable.



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### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

My favorite and most memorable part of my Stony Brook experience was the day I got accepted to the accelerated nursing program! It was something that I dreamed of doing and I was elated when I got my acceptance letter.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The accomplishments that gave me the greatest sense of achievement were making the dean's list for every consecutive semester since my freshman year in 2019, graduating with a degree in health science and earning magna cum laude Latin honors, and being a Sigma Award in Recognition for Doretta Dick scholarship recipient from Stony Brook School of Nursing.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. My ideal career path is to graduate, then begin working as a registered nurse in a hospital. I also plan to further my education and go to nurse practitioner school. After graduation, I plan to enjoy my summer by traveling with my little sister, who is also graduating with her undergraduate degree, then begin working as a registered nurse.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Receiving this award encouraged me and motivated me by showing me that all the hard work that I put into school was not in vain and will help relieve some financial burden by putting the money towards my school loans. It is easy to get discouraged, however, receiving this support has motivated my studies.

### **THANK YOU**

If I could say something to my donors I would say: first and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to you for your incredible generosity and support through the Sigma Award in Recognition for the Doretta Dick scholarship. Your unwavering commitment to investing in students like me has truly been a motivation to my academic journey and, by extension, my life. Your belief in the power of education and academic excellence has not only lightened the financial burden of pursuing my nursing degree, but has also served as a source of immense inspiration. Knowing that there are individuals like you who are willing to invest in the future of aspiring nurses like myself fills me with a profound sense of gratitude and purpose. Thank you so much.



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## **Courtney Palazzolo**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Academic Excellence Award - Advanced Practice in Nursing Adult Health - Gerontology**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing's Master of Science in Nursing/Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program, originally from East Islip, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

Many colleagues have completed this program at Stony Brook. They all said this helped further their career and enhanced their knowledge as nurse practitioners. I have been a bedside nurse in the ICU setting for 7.5 years and I was ready to learn about preventative care in the primary care setting instead of end-of-life care.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class was *Pharmacology*. As a bedside nurse, I was familiar with medications, but now as a provider prescribing these medications, I needed to know everything from dosages to side effects.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I currently work in a primary care office as a registered nurse.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

My favorite Stony Brook experience was completing my clinicals. I really have learned so much to prepare for my role as an adult primary care nurse practitioner.

#### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I gave birth to my first-born in the beginning of this program while working full time. I didn't think I would be able to manage all three, but I did!

#### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. I would like to work in a primary care office as an adult nurse practitioner. Eventually, I would like to work in some sort of speciality, but primary care seems like the perfect place to start my career. Two of my clinicals offered me jobs to work as an adult nurse practitioner. I like both offices very much and the people in the office as well.



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### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This support makes me feel like all my hard work is being acknowledged and has really paid off. It makes me aware that my hard work has not gone unnoticed. I did not know I was even a candidate for such scholarships.

### **THANK YOU**

I just would like to say thank you. As I stated before, I was not even aware I was eligible for this type of scholarship. Having my hard work acknowledged makes it that much more worth it.



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## **Stephanie Parker**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Marie Frey Memorial Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing's midwifery program, originally from the Bronx, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook because of their diverse faculty, challenging educational pathway for midwifery, affordability and location. I was considering New York University and Downstate, but neither of these schools competed with the pros that Stony Brook had to offer.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this semester was *Midwifery IV* taught by Dr. Heather Findletar Hines and Professor Liot. It focused on hammering down all that we learned over the years in preparation for our finals and boards. It's helped me to bring all that I've learned together and in a fuller picture. It made me feel like I am capable of properly entering the world of midwifery as a safe and competent practitioner.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

My full-time work is in a labor and delivery unit as a nurse caring for families and their babies. This work helped me recognize my passion for women's health and in improving the experience in birthing spaces.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My inspiration is my colleague, K. K is the person who introduced me to midwifery. Prior to her, I had not known a midwife or what being a full-scope midwife entailed. She planted the seed and showed me what was possible, so to her I am thankful.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

My favorite time at Stony Brook was my clinical experience last semester. I was able to work with such a wonderful, supportive, caring group of midwives in my first hospital clinical rotation. There, I was able to get a taste of what being a full-scope midwife was and this group of midwives made my hour plus commute worth it!

#### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

School was not easy for me this time around and I didn't always believe that I would be able





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to finish. With the encouragement of my program director and her "no one left behind" attitude, I always felt cared for and supported. My greatest achievement was making it through those tough moments and truly seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. In the future, I aspire to find ways to be more involved in advocacy surrounding women's health, women's reproductive rights and birth rights. Stony Brook has encouraged us to do this by joining a professional organization and attending annual lobby day, which introduced us to ways to help, represent and advocate for our profession. My plans after graduation include a period of rest to reset after 3 long years of hard work, then taking my boards and looking for midwifery work in the Bronx community where I was born and raised.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I pay for school out of pocket. This does not give me much opportunity to quit work to pursue my education, which many find necessary to complete a graduate nursing degree. I'm deeply grateful for this scholarship as this helps me pay back my debt, leaving financial room to pay for necessary graduation attire, testing fees and boards review material. It also helps me to be successful in entering my chosen profession. If not for this scholarship opportunity, I would have had to work additional shifts or had longer payback times for my debt. With my extra time, I will be able to study and prepare for boards, helping to increase my success in entering my chosen profession.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so very much for this scholarship opportunity. I don't have enough words to say how deeply grateful I am. Your generosity toward students committed to growing within our professions is appreciated. For me, this scholarship means improved women's health, improved birthing statistics, more supportive care environments and better health outcomes. Be proud of the work that you do and know that it not only changed my life, but the lives of all that I am able to care for. Thanks to your award toward my education.



## **Justyne Passarelli**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Stony Brook Alumni Association Dean's Choice Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a doctoral student in the School of Nursing.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

As a high school student, I initially chose to attend Stony Brook because of the strong academic reputation and the opportunity to play division one lacrosse. After completing two bachelor's degrees and a master's degree at Stony Brook, it was an easy choice to return for my doctorate. I had a wonderful experience at Stony Brook throughout the years and knew the faculty would be supportive, promote a positive learning environment and provide me with valuable learning opportunities.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite classes this year were *Independent Cognate* with Dr. Clare Whitney and *Dissertation Seminar* with Dr. Sylvia Wood. I had the opportunity to dive deeper into the literature on adult ADHD and attend a seminar that provided me with great insight into some of the current research and gaps in the literature. These courses provided me with information that has confirmed my interest in the topic and will help me as I transition into the dissertation phase of my PhD program.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

As a nurse researcher, I am interested in learning about neurodiversity. My current research focus is on adult women with ADHD. Recently I joined the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) committee where I work. I am looking forward to assisting with the upcoming DEI lecture series in the fall. The emphasis for this year's event will be on neurodiversity. Through participating in this committee, I had the opportunity to learn about issues encountered by people from diverse backgrounds, listen to different perspectives and gain insight on ways to create a more inclusive environment for all.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

The person who inspires me every day is my mom. She has battled through multiple severe health conditions over the last ten years and continues to persevere. Her appreciation for life



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and determination to never give up, no matter how hard things get, is a demonstration of her strength. She has taught me that although you may face challenges along the way, if you have a positive attitude, work hard and learn from your experiences, you can achieve whatever you set your mind to.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Last year I was selected as a podium and poster presenter for Stony Brook's Nursing Research Day. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss an integrative review I worked on about the stigma surrounding adult ADHD.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

As a nursing instructor, I hope to mentor nursing students on their journey to becoming competent nurses. I also look forward to continuing my research on adult ADHD. Only recently has research begun to identify the different presentations of ADHD in women. As a result, currently very little is known about this population. As I continue my research, I hope to identify some of their needs, expand understanding, decrease stigma and improve care.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

It is an honor to be chosen for this award. This scholarship will help me as I continue my studies and work towards completing my dissertation research.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for providing support for students at Stony Brook. Your generosity gives students like me opportunities that they may not have otherwise had. I truly appreciate being selected for this award and want to send my sincere thanks and gratitude.



## **Bethany Louise Perez**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Phyllis Zuckerwise Sterne and Family NICU Nurse Practitioner Scholarship**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing's Nurse Practitioner Program, originally from Valley Stream, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook because it was an affordable option and one of the only neonatal nurse practitioner programs offered in New York. I was considering University of Pennsylvania and Duke, but chose Stony Brook for the affordability.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was *Neonatal Pathophysiology* with Dr. Terri Cavaliere. She made this hard subject enjoyable to learn. She is very knowledgeable and was available 24/7 to support her students.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Currently, I work full time as a neonatal ICU nurse at Lenox Hill Hospital. I am not involved in any extracurricular activities.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My mother is my biggest inspiration because she left behind her family and everything she knew in the Philippines to immigrate to the United States, all while pregnant with me. She selflessly sacrificed her old life to raise her family for better opportunities. She inspired me to follow in her footsteps to become a nurse and supported my education.

#### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

When I received the Phyllis Zuckerwise Sterne and Family NICU Nurse Practitioner Scholarship as a first-year graduate student.

#### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2026. I aspire to be a successful neonatal nurse practitioner after graduation. The field of neonatology is growing and I learn something new every day. I can't wait to see where it takes me in the next 5-10 years.

#### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Receiving this scholarship helped support my education as I balance graduate school with my



full-time job. With this scholarship, I was able to focus on school with just one staff job versus picking up shifts at various hospitals to make ends meet.

**THANK YOU**

Thank you endlessly for this scholarship! I will be forever grateful as a first-year graduate student balancing graduate school and working full-time. This opportunity will help support my career towards becoming a successful neonatal nurse practitioner. Thank you for the investment in my education and for my future little patients.



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## **Jade Pimentel**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Ora James Bouey Scholarship**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Amsterdam, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook University to pursue a career in nursing because of the school's reputation, high National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) passing rates and opportunities in the area. The School of Nursing is widely recognized for its role in helping students succeed and for providing a smooth transition into the professional world. I also heard wonderful comments about the support current students in the program received prior to applying.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class was in my spring 2023 semester: *HNI333: Fundamentals of Pharmacology* with Dr. Kenneth Faulkner. It felt as though for the first time in my nursing education, I found a subject I was truly passionate about. Everything just clicked. Dr. Faulkner had a way of presenting material in an engaging way, but it was his knowledge that truly captivated me. I went to class each week excited and eager to learn more. I was genuinely interested about the "why's" and "how's" medications worked and I felt the more I learned, the more nursing came together for me. Taking this course unlocked such a beautiful passion within me. I formed study groups, made practice questions to help myself and my peers study for exams and came up with creative mnemonics.

In the moment, it may have been a tactic to pass exams and reinforce the material, but it later became a passion for teaching and learning. Along the way, I learned that I enjoy teaching and helping others learn. Because I took this course, I feel I have unveiled a potential path for my future in education. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to learn from such a knowledgeable and well-versed individual who has inspired me to want to learn and even teach the content. Since then, it has been my honor to accept tutoring another student for pharmacology.



## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I'm currently the senior class representative in American Men in Nursing and the student representative for the Admissions and Academic Standards Committee. I also participated in a wellness research evidence-based practice project to help with feelings of burnout, compassion fatigue and post traumatic stress within surgical intensive care unit's nurses. Lastly, I completed a summer internship at a mobile intensive care unit (MICU).

## **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

I have encountered many inspirational beings in my life, but perhaps the most significant in my nursing career was my preceptor in the MICU. She embodied so many admirable traits and really portrayed the type of nurse I aspire to be. My preceptor made sure she advocated for each and every patient before their first interaction. She reviewed orders to ensure safety, completed full assessments, was very knowledgeable and always sought to fulfill her responsibilities correctly. She was very kind and patient to me as a student and took her time to explain foreign concepts to me. Overall, she's had an immense influence on the type of care I'd like to deliver to patients as I grow in my professional career. I also hope to provide safe and proper care to my patients while remaining empathetic during such a vulnerable time in my patient's lives.

## **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

The most memorable part of the Stony Brook experience has been interacting with my peers and faculty throughout nursing school. I feel like my nursing class is a community and nursing school is a challenge within itself. It's been an absolute pleasure to meet so many wonderful and amazing people that I would not have met otherwise. Each student and faculty member brings something to the table. I whole-heartedly believe that the staff within the School of Nursing is supportive of their students' success. Each faculty member goes above and beyond and I feel so lucky to be a part of such a wonderful community. I would not have wanted to endure nursing school with any other group of people.

## **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Being selected as a part of Stony Brook's School of Nursing's honor society is one of the biggest sense of accomplishments I felt recently. It feels nice to be recognized for the hard work put into my education.



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### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. My ideal career path would be working in a MICU for a few years and returning to school to obtain my master's in nursing. Hopefully after graduation I will be able to work in a MICU where I can expand my knowledge and learn in a unit I'm truly passionate about.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Receiving this scholarship has been one of the highlights of my college experience. My family currently lives about 4-5 hours away in upstate New York and I'm currently supporting myself to be able to attend college. It can be very challenging at times to attend college in an unknown area, away from my biggest support system. I'm also enrolled in a vigorous program that does not always allow time for working in order to sustain myself.

Living on campus would subsequently leave me with a bill of about \$6,000 each semester, which I could not afford. Therefore, I live off-campus where I can afford my living arrangements without taking on much debt. Besides housing, I also have to pay for my car insurance, food, textbooks, gas, etc., so receiving this scholarship is such a blessing for me. My mom is not able to contribute because she is disabled and does not have a high income. She also does not receive child support anymore, as I turned 21 last year.

There have been times over the last two years when I struggled, so receiving this scholarship allows me to breathe for the first time in a while. I'm so appreciative of the scholarship and for the kindness of the person funding it. I feel so blessed to be selected for the opportunity. This scholarship is really going to help fund my living expenses throughout the graduation process.

I'm currently in my last semester. Our classes end in April and are immediately followed by Capstone, where we shadow nurses similar to an internship. We also must complete course work and begin testing material to pass our licensure exam. All of these responsibilities do not leave much room for working, so this scholarship is supporting me in a time where I have so many things going on and not much opportunity to support myself.





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## **THANK YOU**

If I could say something directly to the donor of the fund I have received, it would absolutely be thank you so much. Words cannot truly express the amount of gratitude that I feel for your kind, selfless gesture. When I received the news that the scholarship was granted to me, I immediately began to cry. It felt surreal. It was almost as if I was not alone anymore. I currently live about 4-5 hours away from my family just to pursue my education at Stony Brook. During my time in high school, I was luckily able to save up money to chase after my dreams but those savings have only lasted me so long. I currently assume all responsibility for my cost of living, which can be very overwhelming. I have struggled to raise enough money to afford my education during the semester and during breaks. Receiving this scholarship was like being able to breathe for the first time in a while. I immediately felt a weight get lifted from my shoulders.

This scholarship means that I can get two months of food and rent paid, which is the biggest blessing I could have ever asked for. This alleviates so much stress during the last few months of nursing school. Finishing my last semester of school is such a bittersweet feeling. There is so much to look forward to, so many responsibilities occurring in the present and so many aspects of school I do not feel I'm ready to let go of yet. Receiving the scholarship means that I am financially supported while I take my final exams in April, begin Capstone, apply for jobs post graduation, and attend to all the big things that come with graduating. The donor has absolutely no idea the amount of impact and peace of mind they have given me. They gave me the gift of living in the present and for a few months, not worrying as much about my next meal or paying rent. I feel so incredibly lucky, blessed and appreciative.

I sincerely cannot find the right words to express my immense gratitude. Thank you so much for your generosity and for helping another generation of students accomplish their goals and fulfill their dreams. You have made such an impact on my life and I will not take the opportunity given to me for granted. I will use this opportunity to work as best as I can to finish my last semester strong, keeping up the good grades and putting my all into finishing my degree. On behalf of myself and my mom, thank you so much. Once again, words cannot express how thankful I am for your contribution.



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## **Brianna Rioradan**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Academic Excellence Award - Nursing Education**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing's Nursing Education Program, originally from Commack, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

Stony Brook was the only logical choice for me. The dedication to scholarly pursuits and education in the healthcare field is well known. I am pursuing my graduate education at Stony Brook due to the affordability and the support from Stony Brook University Hospital. My coworkers in the hospital strive to ensure I can learn from others and receive positive clinical experiences.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

*HNH 513: Advanced Theory and Practice in Nursing Education I* with Dr. Stacey Frawley. I am so thankful for Dr. Frawley's support and accommodations. She gave us the freedom to make clinical experiences whatever the student was passionate about, and I was able to make the most out of my semester. I exceeded my own expectations for myself and Dr. Frawley was the biggest cheerleader I ever had.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am a neonatal intensive care unit nurse at Stony Brook University Hospital. It is my passion and has informed the trajectory of my career. I seek to become a nurse educator to allow new neonatal nurses to have the similar welcoming orientation to nursing that I was granted.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

A professor in my undergraduate program always supported aspirations that I believed were beyond my ability or reason. I aimed for a competitive externship at a prestigious children's hospital and she wholeheartedly knew I would be selected. She wasn't surprised when I told her I'd fulfilled my dreams. When I asked her for a recommendation for graduate school, her only request was that I don't stop at my master's and pursue my doctorate. Her belief in me was the catalyst to a career in which I strive for more.

#### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I received the Academic Excellence Award - Nursing Education, which was incredibly rewarding, as a professor nominated me.



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### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2025. I aim to become a neonatal nurse educator and teach new nurses how to safely care for the tiniest of patients. Neonatology is a field where new research and equipment is constantly created and it is exciting to be able to educate nurses on the newest advancements for our patients. My graduate degree will help prepare me for this task and create the necessary programs to nurture safe, quality care.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This award is very exciting! It is an honor to be nominated by faculty and to be recognized for academic efforts. I previously thought my academics were fulfilling both academic requirements and fueling a research project that piqued my interest.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your generosity! Your support goes beyond the individual and will reach the audiences I will be educating in the future!



## **Julianna Rubio**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the David and Gloria Klapisch Scholarship**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a graduate student in the School of Nursing's Masters in Education program, originally from Palm Beach, Florida.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I am proud to be a student at Stony Brook University because the mission, vision and values align with those of my own. I believe that it is the responsibility of a nurse and educator to honor a personal commitment to lifelong learning and pursue my education to the highest level possible.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was *Advanced Theory and Practice III* because I was awarded multiple opportunities to see how many unique roles a nurse educator truly embraces. Professor Debra Havranek offered us positive feedback and guidance along our journey, which was truly appreciated.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside of the classroom I am an outreach coordinator for those struggling with substance abuse. We run a hotline and distribute personal care packages to those less fortunate. Giving back to the community enriches my life and helps me to realize that giving back really makes a difference in those who need and appreciate it.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

I would like to thank Frankie Corso. He has been an extremely positive influence in my life as I pursue my graduate degree. He has exemplified hard work and dedication as well as perseverance in all walks of life.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

My most memorable experience at Stony Brook has been all the professional relationships I formed over the years. I gained so much insight into various cultures and backgrounds from my peers. What makes Stony Brook truly unique is that this institution fosters a high-performing, culturally diverse workforce. A healthy culture encourages people to share ideas, take calculated risks and collaborate.

#### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

One of my greatest accomplishments was working at the adjoining Stony Brook Hospital. The



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hospital has given me invaluable work experience as a floor nurse and unit clinician/educator. I am proud to be a part of such an innovative and industry-leading organization.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. By obtaining my graduate degree, I am one step closer to pursuing my goals and dreams. I hope to obtain my doctorate degree with a research focus on neurological disorders. Understanding the underlying mechanisms of these disorders can lead to the development of more effective treatments and ultimately improve the quality of life for those affected by these disorders. After graduation, I plan to start researching and applying to doctoral programs. I will also start studying for the Oncology Certified Nurse examination to become certified nationally in my specialty of nursing.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I greatly appreciate this scholarship recognition. As an alum, I will be able to give back to future students so they can have additional support during their journey. Receiving assistance encourages students to push forward, knowing that regardless of their social situation, someone out there believes in them. Receiving this scholarship has lessened the stress of a financial burden and allowed me to remain more focused and engaged in my studies. This scholarship has enlightened me with the significance of philanthropy and the value in giving back.

### **THANK YOU**

I would like to personally thank the donors who established the David and Gloria Klapisch Scholarship. Being a recipient of this award has motivated and supported me in my educational journey. Not only did this scholarship fill my heart with aspiration, but it also resonated strongly with me. Scholarship opportunities promote students to strive for growth, development and success.



# **Kaylyn Schwartz**

## **2023-2024 Recipient of the Academic Excellence Award - Doctor of Philosophy**

### **ABOUT ME**

I am a doctoral student in the School of Nursing, originally from Patchogue, New York.

### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook as the institution to pursue my PhD in Nursing because of its wonderful academic reputation, location and affordability.

### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

I really enjoyed *Dissertation Seminar II*, as I experienced a lot of personal and professional growth alongside my peers and faculty mentors.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am a full-time nurse educator in the Northwell Health system, specializing in critical care and oncology, where I assist bedside nursing in real time. I am an instructor for a variety of courses and serve on several committees. I am part of a Stony Brook research group for aging in place, am currently writing an integrative review and working on my dissertation. All of these enrich my educational experience by keeping me immersed in the ever-changing world of medicine, while also continuing my professional development.

### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My mother is my biggest inspiration, having been an amazing mother and nurse herself.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In March of 2023, I did a poster presentation at the Eastern Nursing Research Society on my integrative review. In July of 2023, I passed Stony Brook's PhD in Nursing competency exam and in December of 2023, I completed my didactic requirements to advance to candidacy.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in December 2025. I hope to continue being engaged in research as it relates to the oncology and critical care patient population. I also hope to use my PhD to continue developing as an educator, either in the clinical or academic setting.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This award is a reminder that my hard work does not go unnoticed and that I have an



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immense amount of support from those around me. I am so grateful to be recognized in this way and I will use this as more motivation to continue my work!

**THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for this recognition and award! It is meaningful to be surrounded by and offered so much support, professionally and financially. This award will certainly contribute to my current and future work!



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## **John Stewart**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Latham, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I decided to attend Stony Brook due to its academic excellence. I was also offered a spot on the university's lacrosse team. Everything came together to allow me to come to this prestigious university.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this past year was *Medical-Surgical* with Professor Tara Hartwell. She knew the material and was able to articulate it in a way that helped me better understand the disease processes.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I was a part of the Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association and the Breakthrough to Nursing Committee, which helps facilitate different activities in the community. In addition, I helped another club in the School of Nursing with a workshop on sterile glove donning. Before nursing school, I interned with the Stony Brook Strength Training Program, was a teaching assistant for first-year seminars and general chemistry and was on the men's varsity lacrosse team.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

There are many inspirational people who have crossed my path in life and led me towards nursing. The biggest would be my mother. She was a teacher and taught me the art of compassion, with a primary focus of patient-centered care. In addition, my late aunt Linda taught me what it meant to be empathetic and start my journey towards helping others.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

The most memorable part of my career at Stony Brook has been all the friends I've made through lacrosse and nursing. They're lifelong friends who I know will always be there for me!





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### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

My greatest achievement from Stony Brook will be graduating from the most prestigious public university in New York!

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. My ideal career path is acute care nursing. I would love to be in an emergency department or in an intensive care unit when I graduate. I think those two areas, although on opposite sides of the spectrum, could really benefit me as far as building my nursing tool belt. However, I also want to be there for people in their most vulnerable time and provide them comfort. After graduation, I plan on applying to jobs or fellowships, studying for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), taking and passing the NCLEX and then officially starting my nursing career!

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Receiving this scholarship meant the world to me. To me, it is a token of my hard work and it gives me the utmost gratitude that others felt that I deserve to receive this scholarship. These funds have given me significant financial aid to help me purchase and sit for my licensure exam and register as a nurse in New York state.

### **THANK YOU**

I would like to say thank you to the donors who have generously contributed to the scholarship fund. I am very grateful that the organization thought that I was fit to uphold the criteria of the scholarship. I will continue to uphold the principles of the scholarship.



# **Temidayo Taiwo**

## **2023-2024 Recipient of the Jim Stelling Family Endowed Scholarship in Nursing**

### **ABOUT ME**

I am a junior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Brooklyn, New York.

### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

My top choices were Syracuse, Adelphi, Binghamton and Stony Brook University. Something within me wanted to be at Stony Brook. Its focus and excellency in the field of sciences aligned with the goals I had for myself. The location from home made it not too far but far enough to have a feeling of independence. However, my choice of what school to go to would be determined by which one offered me the most financial aid. Fortunately for me, out of all schools, Stony Brook offered me the most. Additionally, I was honored to be accepted into the Educational Opportunity Program at Stony Brook, which has opened up a tremendous amount of support and opportunities for me.

### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class in my first year of nursing school was *HNI 310: Pathophysiology* with Dr. Kenneth Faulkner. Professors like him are what drive people to become the best nurses possible. You can truly tell that he is passionate about this field and his students. The same can be said about many of the professors at the School of Nursing such as Professor Lani Blanco, Professor Tracy Trimboli, Professor Hill-Civil (the best clinical instructor) and more.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am one of the board of directors (treasurer and director of finance) for the Student Nurses' Association of New York State as well as the Breakthrough to Nursing co-director of the Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association. I have two jobs working as a certified nursing assistant at a nursing and rehabilitation center and as a success coach for freshman Stony Brook Educational Opportunity Program students. I have learned so much in all of my roles. I learned both how to be a leader and how to be led. I connected with other passionate students, nurses, doctors and more who already are and will be future trailblazers. I have been an influence to my students and have also been influenced by them.

### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

So many people have inspired me throughout my life and I have learned greatly from those around me. My high school teachers encouraged me and saw potential in me. They pushed



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me often more than others because they knew I would be able to handle it. They saw the hunger I had. My older brothers were also a great inspiration to me, as they are making spaces for themselves where young Black men are normally not welcome. They encourage me and support me every single day to be better and to never forget my worth. Their utmost faith in me uplifts me when I am feeling unworthy or incapable.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

My proudest accomplishments were making the dean's list, achieving a 4.0 GPA for the first semester of nursing school and earning the Jim Stelling Family Endowed Scholarship in Nursing.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2025. I plan to pursue a career in nursing and become a nurse practitioner. I want to start my own practice that focuses on holistic care for individuals throughout their lifespan and emphasizes accessibility to health care, health and nutritional education for the underrepresented and most vulnerable communities. I am passionate about environmental justice and the disparities in amenities in low-income and minority neighborhoods. I plan to integrate spiritual, mental and physical health together to provide the best care for my patients.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This scholarship came at the perfect moment. I have not been able to work often, so it's always a mental battle of, "Do I want to jeopardize my academics by working?" and "I need to work to provide for myself and pay my tuition." When I got the email, I broke down in tears--my prayers were answered! A huge weight was lifted off my shoulders and I felt like I could breathe again. This scholarship will help me pay off any remaining balances and allow me to put money aside for the next school year's book expenses. Instead of going to work constantly and not seeing the fruits of my labor, I now know I have a back up. As a first-generation student with immigrant parents who don't work much, there is not much to fall back on. Knowing that I could cut down on working and enjoy a day or two to myself without worrying about how it might set me back is something I am blessed to be able to do.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for giving back abundantly to those in need. Words on a page cannot truly encompass the joy that is felt when someone cares enough to help you out, to take from their own cup and fill your own. Your generosity also encourages those you help to do the same when they reach stability. Even a little goes a long way for the recipient and their families, for their mental and physical health and more. It is greatly appreciated.



## **Jonathan Theodore**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Brooklyn, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook because of their core values of diversity, integrity and commitment to growth. These are values that align with my own, so making the decision to attend this university was very easy for me. Other universities I was considering were New York University, Mount Sinai and Downstate; however, once I received acceptance to Stony Brook, I was relieved because I knew my search had commenced.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class was *Psychology* with Professor Tracy Trimboli. I was interested in psychology and amazed with the difference in the style of nursing and interventions used in a behavioral health unit. I thought Professor Trimboli did an exceptional job highlighting these differences and their importance. She is a great advocate for the specialty.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside of the classroom, I was involved in clubs such as Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association and the American Association for Men in Nursing. I believe these clubs served as great conduits to help members ingratiate themselves with each other and the community.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My influence is my mother. She is a teacher and I have watched her sacrifice for me and her students time and time again. Perhaps unbeknownst to her, her sacrifices gave me insight into what it meant to be committed to something bigger than yourself. This insight directly correlates to the profession I am pursuing: nursing. As a nurse, I will be someone's educator, advocate and caretaker. To be successful in this position, I will work with my colleagues and hospital, committing to patients, communities and healthcare.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

The most memorable part of my Stony Brook experience was when the School of Nursing held a pinning ceremony for the class of 2024. Seeing everyone's family come together with the students and faculty was amazing. The support the School of Nursing offered throughout the school year was second to none. I was extremely proud to be a part of that ceremony



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and being welcomed into the profession by our faculty and other nurses served as a culmination of all the hard work put forth by the university's students, their families and the faculty and staff.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

This semester I received the Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award and attended a dinner in honor of the scholarship recipients. I felt a great sense of achievement for this recognition; however, getting to share this moment with the donors who made it possible made it all the better.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. I am currently on track to fulfilling my long-time goal of becoming a registered nurse. My degree in nursing from Stony Brook University will make this possible. To this university, I am forever grateful. After graduation, I plan on taking and passing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). I feel confident that the School of Nursing has prepared me to pass this exam and subsequently enter the profession.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Awards such as the Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award are extremely significant and impactful on a student's life. Specifically for me, this award helps to alleviate the financial burden of loans that I had to take out to receive my education. Awards like these allow students to focus more on their studies and less on how they'll have to pay for them. This semester I attended the scholarship dinner and had the opportunity to meet some of the donors. It was an amazing experience, to put faces to the names of the donors who make this whole thing possible. This scholarship allowed me to focus on my studies as opposed to the debt I have incurred in the process. Alleviating that stress made all the difference while studying and doing my clinical rotations.

### **THANK YOU**

I would like to extend my gratitude to the donor(s) of the Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award. Your generosity helped make my education more affordable and allowed me to pursue my dreams and focus on my studies, instead of worrying about my debt. Donors like you are essential to the next generation of students and professionals, as it affords them the gift of affordable education. Additionally, it has inspired me to one day be a donor, as I am sure it has inspired many others as well. Thank you so much for your contribution(s).



## **Rosila Wang**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the School of Nursing Alumni Board Scholarship Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Flushing, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I was considering other schools such as Binghamton University, SUNY Buffalo and Hunter College, but I ultimately chose to go to Stony Brook University because of its reputation, academic rigor and exceptional opportunities for growth in the field of healthcare. Knowing there was a level I trauma center and hospital on campus really attracted me and the School of Nursing itself has a strong national reputation for its education. (It shows with their consistent top rankings.) And while I am not from Long Island, Stony Brook University was both far and close to where I'm from, which is something I wanted from a college experience. Having received a lot of aid--both from federal and state financial aid and scholarships from the school--Stony Brook was the most financially-sound option to choose.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was *Population Health* with Professor Erin Zazzera because of the content and the clinicals we had. It was different learning about health within a community as a whole, not just health within a patient, and seeing it play out during clinicals brought a different perspective of nursing and the role we play as nurses in the community.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am currently a resident assistant in Langmuir Hall, a building that holds only first-years. I also work on campus as a safety assistant in Campus Residences Department of Safety and Support Services. During the 2023 school year, I was secretary of Pre-Nursing Society. I am currently involved with an evidence-based project with Dr. Santina Abbate and other students in finding implementations to help improve nursing retention rates in Southampton Hospital.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

The most memorable part of my Stony Brook experience was the friends and relationships I made. Before coming to Stony Brook, I had friends but did not really reach out to new people. I was more inclined to keep to myself and was open to forming friendships when the other reached out. Being at Stony Brook taught me how to present myself to others and to find the courage to be the one to reach out and talk. From there, I've met many people and while some stay as mere acquaintances, I believe I've formed deep bonds with some here.



## **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

My greatest accomplishment from my time at Stony Brook was receiving my acceptance letter to the basic baccalaureate program in the School of Nursing. It was something that I applied to for myself, and not for others, and I put in a lot of effort and hard work to achieve it. I haven't felt as proud as I did reading that letter in a long time.

## **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. My ideal career path is to become a registered nurse in New York state and work for about two years in perioperative services. From there, I may come back to school to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist or a registered nurse first assistant. After graduation, I plan to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and apply to perioperative fellowships and positions in hospitals all around New York.

## **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

Receiving this award was extremely significant to me because it allowed me to do things I hadn't planned to do. For example, I originally did not think I was going to join the Sigma Theta Tau honor society because of the membership fees and dues. I was also having trouble deciding if I should attend convocation and walk during graduation, because I was unsure if I had the funds to purchase regalia that I would only wear one time. Receiving this award has reduced some financial burden and allowed me to choose the right options for me--like freely choosing to be inducted into the STT Honor Society and potentially walk across the stage in our department convocation for graduation.

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you for your support, this scholarship and for believing I am a great choice as a recipient for it. Having these funds really was significant to me and I am also thankful that my contributions to the campus were seen by someone.



## **Pamela Wong**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Matt Silverstone Memorial Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Queens, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook over other schools because it is close to my home in Queens. I wanted to attend the Stony Brook School of Nursing because it's an exceptional program and their NCLEX pass rates are higher compared to other nursing schools in New York.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was simulation labs for *HNI 455/456: Adult and Gerontological Health Nursing I & II* with Professors Sofia Reyes and Tara Hartwell. In the lab, we simulated having a patient, assessing them, recommending next steps to the physician, and giving a Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation (SBAR) report to the next nurse. It was a stressful simulation, but it helped me apply the skills of what to do during a patient interaction.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I was the treasurer of the Pre-Nursing Society at Stony Brook for the 2023 academic year. I was also a member of the American Association for Men in Nursing and the Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association. I participated in a nursing externship at the Long Island State Veterans Home in the summer of 2023. All of these activities enriched my time as a student and have prepared me to be a leader and a team player.

#### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

I've had a few inspirational teachers during my time here at Stony Brook University School of Nursing. They were always there for me and my peers and rooting for us regarding academic achievement and extracurriculars. Their names are Dr. Kenneth Faulkner, Professor Lani Blanco, and Professor Sofia Reyes. They showed us how to be great leaders in the field of nursing and were great sources of knowledge.

#### **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

My favorite part of the Stony Brook experience was making friends with other people in the nursing program. I think what made it meaningful was that we were all going through the





same struggles and the same achievements. We were getting through nursing school, which was not an easy feat. I loved the study-buddy moments that we shared and the fun stuff that we did outside of school.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I was the treasurer of the Pre-Nursing Society while going through some of the hardest semesters of nursing school. I was able to balance school, life and extracurricular activities. The Pre-Nursing Society also won club of the year in spring 2023.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. My ideal career path is becoming a registered nurse (RN) and working in the maternity ward. I thought I wanted to work as an organ transplant RN but I realized it hit too close to home and I wouldn't be able to work in that unit. However, after my obstetrics clinical rotations, I realized I could see myself working in labor and delivery. I have no set plans, but I want to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) after graduation, hopefully pass after the first try, and then apply to jobs in Stony Brook University Hospital and other hospitals in the city.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

The support from the Matt Silverstone Memorial Award award means a lot to me. I plan to use the award money to pay for UWorld, which is an NCLEX test prep program. Winning this award makes me feel like my character was able to shine through my actions and I was able to make a change.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for the award and your contributions. It acknowledges the accomplishments of people like me and allows them to further their education. The support from this award means a lot to me and if I could say "thank you" a million times, I would.



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## **Xiaoying Wu**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Yvonne Corinne Headley-Harmon Memorial Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a senior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Brooklyn, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose Stony Brook because of the active campus life, affordability, location and the great reputation of the nursing program. Other universities I considered included Villanova University and CUNY Hunter College, from which I received offers into their nursing programs. However, I made the final decision to go to Stony Brook because of the affordability, diversity, location (it was not too close and not too far from home), its affiliation with the Stony Brook University Hospital (a place for healthcare opportunities and experiences) and the connections you could make within the school (great faculty, especially in the School of Nursing). This was my most ideal option compared to other universities and I definitely do not regret my decision!

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was *HNI 479: Transitioning to Baccalaureate Nursing Practice*, taught by Dr. Santina Abbate. Everything I have learned so far is so memorable. I love that I learned about the different types of leadership and the philosophy behind working as a team in the healthcare field. Until now, I learned leadership through my experiences from working and volunteering.

However, after learning it through a class, the concepts and actions I learned in the field are now more defined. Everything made more sense and it allowed me to think of the work environment from various perspectives. I also loved that Dr. Abbate began each lecture with a mindfulness session. The structure of the class made it enjoyable as well. Taking this course was exciting to me because I will soon be able to apply this knowledge into practice.



## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

Outside of the classroom, I am involved on campus by working part-time as a peer tutor at Stony Brook's Academic Success and Tutoring Center. From fall 2022 to now, I provided tutoring services to students taking introductory statistics courses. This experience allowed me to practice building a professional relationship with my peers and guide them to succeed in their courses. I am also president of the Artists in Medicine Club on campus since spring 2023. I served as vice president, secretary and class representative in previous semesters. Leadership in a campus club allowed me to practice my time management, organization, communication and leadership skills. It helped me learn to work with other students and manage my own academics. I also made medical-related artwork for the club, which helped reinforce the health science knowledge that I need to know for nursing. I am also involved as a member of Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association and Stony Brook American Association of Men in Nursing. These nursing organizations allowed me to volunteer and practice my nursing skills, while also giving opportunities to listen to professionals speak about their experiences. I also participated in a student nurse externship at Mount Sinai Brooklyn during summer 2024. This was an enriching clinical experience that allowed me to practice many nursing skills, as I was mentored by a registered nurse. The experience enlightened my understanding of nursing and allowed me to understand nursing concepts better than before the externship. Overall, all my activities played a major role in allowing me to excel as a nursing student at Stony Brook.

## **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

My inspiration is a coworker from an afterschool program/summer camp that I previously worked at. I began by working under her as a teacher's assistant while she was the group leader of a class of students. She taught me different variations of leadership, communication, teamwork and flexibility in the teaching environment. When I began to take on more leadership positions, she was my role model and was always supportive of my growth. I eventually became a group leader and worked alongside her, continuing to learn her ways. I could always look to her for guidance in being a leader. By learning and being guided by her, I grew into the leader I am today. The skills I learned gave me the confidence to become more involved in the campus community and to pursue my passions. I am always grateful for the guidance that she gave me because it influenced me to become a leader who is confident, communicative, respectful and flexible. Even today, I continue to use these foundational skills as I work in the healthcare setting.

## **MY FAVORITE STONY BROOK EXPERIENCE**

The most memorable part of my Stony Brook experience was connecting with my wonderful peers, classmates, instructors and faculty. Knowing that I have the support of so many amazing people helped make my learning experience at the School of Nursing unforgettable. I am forever grateful to have the wonderful classmates and faculty at the School of Nursing.

## **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

My proudest accomplishment at Stony Brook was being the president of the Artists in



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Medicine Club. During my time as president, I created new events and made improvements to the club. I am proud of the accomplishments I made for the club, along with the executive board team who I worked with to make these events happen. Since becoming president, I made many new connections and improved my leadership skills even more than before.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2024. After graduating with a bachelor of science in nursing, I will take my licensure exam and work as a registered nurse. I ideally want to work for at least a year before considering going back to school for a master's degree. I would like to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner in pediatrics. After graduation, I will take the RN-NCLEX exam and hopefully become a licensed registered nurse in pediatrics.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

I am very honored to be awarded the Yvonne Corinne Headley-Harmon Memorial Award. It means a significant amount to me to know that I am recognized! Having this support is very meaningful to me because it motivates me to continue doing the work I am passionate about. The award will financially assist me in paying fees for my academics. My family is low-income, so having financial assistance for my education is helpful. I appreciate and honor the support I am receiving with the award. If I had not received scholarship support, my parents would have struggled more with assisting to pay for my education at Stony Brook. We would have been taking out more loans. Without scholarship support, I may have not made the decision to attend Stony Brook and would've been attending a CUNY college instead. I am grateful to be having a scholarship for financial assistance.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for selecting me to receive the Yvonne Corinne Headley-Harmon Memorial Award. I am honored to be awarded this and your support further motivates me to continue pursuing my passions and nursing goals. I am grateful to be part of the School of Nursing, to be learning from amazing faculty and to be provided enriching resources. I always feel a sense of support within the School of Nursing. With an award, I have even more confidence to work towards my career goals. I am also grateful because your generosity will assist me in my financial hardships. I am truly thankful and appreciative for your support. Thank you so much!



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## **Matthew Zender**

### **2023-2024 Recipient of the Keane T. Kyle Memorial Award**

#### **ABOUT ME**

I am a junior in the School of Nursing with a major in nursing, originally from Sayville, New York.

#### **WHY I CHOSE STONY BROOK**

I chose to attend Stony Brook because the Stony Brook Children's Hospital helped save my life. At the age of 16, I was diagnosed with osteosarcoma and underwent chemotherapy and a full knee replacement. After I finished my treatment and it came time to choose a school and major, Stony Brook was an easy choice. I wanted to become a nurse through the Stony Brook School of Nursing. The only thing that I thought may cause trouble was that the program did not directly admit freshmen out of high school. Even still, I was offered a spot in Stony Brook's Nursing Scholars Program, which guarantees selected freshmen a spot in the School of Nursing upon finishing all prerequisites after the first two years of school. When I got my acceptance letter, I was beyond elated and I knew I was going to be a Seawolf.

#### **MY FAVORITE CLASS**

My favorite class this year was both *Introduction to Pathophysiology* and *HNI333: Fundamentals of Pharmacology*. Both of these classes were very difficult. Dr. Kenneth Faulkner was one of the best professors I ever had and he really cared for all of his students. He went above and beyond to help students who were struggling, and made sure they understood the material.

#### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS**

I am involved in multiple organizations on and off campus. I am involved with the Stony Brook Student Nurses' Association, where I am a co-community health director. I am also involved with the Nursing Student Association of New York State, where I serve as president, and the National Student Nurses' Association, where I sit on the council of state presidents committee. All of these organizations have tremendously helped me develop my leadership skills and have made me a better leader, not only in the nursing community, but also in the Stony Brook community. I am also a student photographer for Stony Brook Athletics. This job brought me closer to athletics than I could have ever imagined. I am very grateful for the opportunities the Strategic Communications Department has given me and for all of the people I had the pleasure of meeting. Lastly, I am a member of Project Sunshine. This organization has truly introduced me to some of the kindest human beings I have ever met.



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They are all so driven to help pediatric patients and I am very proud that I get to be a part of this organization.

### **INSPIRATION & INFLUENCES**

All of the nurses who cared for me in the pediatric oncology unit at the Stony Brook Children's Hospital inspired me to become a nurse. They all showed me kindness and compassion, and helped make my decision to become a nurse that much easier. I remember when I first started treatment and a nurse named Brian came to introduce himself as my nurse. He helped inspire me to pursue nursing as a potential profession and I am very grateful for his impact on my life. I still remember all of their names to this day due to the impact they had on my life. Their names were Brian, Lauren, Sara, Ashley, Krista, Christina, Brittany, Sinead, Dale, Xiao and Lorene. I will be forever grateful for the impact they had on me and my family.

### **PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

My proudest academic accomplishment was making the dean's list in my first two years at Stony Brook.

### **MY ASPIRATIONS AFTER GRADUATION**

I am planning to graduate in May 2025. I want to pursue pediatric oncology once I finish nursing school. This specialty has been near and dear to me ever since I was diagnosed with osteosarcoma at 16. I would love to one day work in the same unit I was treated in and help kids who are going through similar situations I went through.

### **YOUR IMPACT ON MY LIFE**

This scholarship will help both me and my family. I am a triplet and both my brother and sister are also attending college, so it is difficult for my parents to fund all of their children's education. This scholarship will greatly help me and my family afford college. I am so grateful for receiving this scholarship and will put it to great use to help fund my tuition for the upcoming school year.

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you so much for your generosity in providing the funds for this scholarship. It will greatly help me pursue my dream of becoming a nurse.



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## **Dr. Kellie Bryant, WHNP, CHSE, FAAN, '98, '01** **2024 Recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award**



Dr. Kellie Bryant is currently the Director of the Center for Innovation in Education Excellence at the National League for Nursing. Dr. Bryant has garnered expertise in her field with a teaching career spanning over two decades and 15 years of specialized simulation experience. Within her current 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 online and in-person resources, and developing new simulation and technology products through collaborations with strategic partners. In addition, she also serves as a consultant for Dr. Uché Blackstock's Advancing Health Equity.

Dr. Bryant's research pursuits include leveraging simulation to enhance patient safety, prevent opioid overdoses, and create nursing pathway programs to inspire historically marginalized students to pursue a nursing career.

In leadership and service, Dr. Bryant actively engages with numerous national and international committees. She holds the vice chair position for the Society for Simulation in Healthcare's DEI committee and is a board member for the Global Network for Simulation in Healthcare. Furthermore, she is an elected board member of the International Nursing Association of Clinical Simulation Learning and is a member of the editorial board of the Clinical Simulation in Nursing journal. Lastly, she is the second vice president of the Greater NYC Black Nurses Association.

Dr. Bryant's educational journey commenced with an Associate degree in nursing from Hudson Valley Community College. She received her Bachelor's in Nursing and a Master's Degree as a Women's Health Nursing Practitioner from Stony Brook University.





Lastly, she obtained her Doctorate in Nursing Education from Case Western Reserve University.

**Dr. Corinne Jurgens, PhD, RN, ANP, FAHA, FHFA, FAAN, '89**

**2024 Recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award**



Dr. Corrine Jurgens is an Associate Professor and PhD Program Director at Boston College's William F Connell School of Nursing. Prior to Boston College, she was a faculty member in the School of Nursing at Stony Brook University for 25 years. While at Stony Brook, Dr. Jurgens held several 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.

Dr. Jurgens research focuses on biobehavioral factors underpinning symptom perception among patients with heart failure. To support judicious use of healthcare resources, the aim of her program of research is to appropriately stratify patients to self-monitoring or intensive/objective clinical oversight. Dr. Jurgens has conducted and published several studies and given numerous presentations nationally and internationally. A key element of her research was the development of a robust measure of heart failure symptom perception that predicts clinical events. The Heart Failure Somatic Perception Scale has been translated into several languages including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Chinese, Japanese and Turkish to name a few. In October 2019, Dr. Jurgens had the honor of representing the Heart Failure Society of America at the Japanese Heart Failure Society Scientific Sessions in Hiroshima, Japan to present on multidisciplinary management of patients with heart failure.

Dr. Jurgens is an active member of several professional organizations including the American Heart Association (AHA), the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA), and the Eastern Nursing Research Society. She served as Scientific Sessions chair representing the





AHA Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing council, chaired 2 AHA scientific statements and has been on several writing groups for performance measures and data standards. She also was on the board of directors of HFSA for 12 years and held the officer positions of secretary and treasurer. Dr. Jurgens 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.

Dr. Jurgens earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Vermont, her Master of Science from Stony Brook University, and her PhD from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In addition, Dr. Jurgens 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.

## **Dr. Jeannie Martin, DNP, RN, ANP-BC, '96, '16** **2024 Recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award**



Dr. Jeanne Martin, DNP, RN, ANP-BC received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg PA in 1988. She received a Master of Science in Adult Health Nursing from Stony Brook University in 1996 and Doctor of Nursing Practice degree also from Stony Brook University in 2016. She began her nursing career at Stony Brook University Hospital in 1988 working as a Registered Nurse and then accepted a Nurse Practitioner position at the same institution in the Department of Urology in 1997. Her primary responsibilities involve caring for the Adult Urology patients admitted to Stony Brook University Hospital in all aspects of care from admission to discharge, along with coordinating care post-discharge. Dr. Martin also serves on several hospital-wide committees including institutional quality improvement, interdisciplinary care and departmental initiatives.

Dr. Martin strongly believes that nurses must remain active in professional organizations. She has been an active member of The Nurse Practitioner Association NYS and the Nurse Practitioner Association of Long Island since 1996. She also 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 where she is currently holding the position of Immediate Past-President.

Dr. Martin has received several honors and awards during her profession career including The NPA NYS Nurse Practitioner of the Year award (2015), the American Association of Nurse Practitioner's Excellence in Advocacy for New York State (2015), the Lenora McClean Award for Excellence in Advanced Practice Nursing for Stony Brook University Hospital (2017 & 2004), Nurse Practitioner Association Long Island's Nurse Practitioner of the Year award (2009) and the Pura Pantojas Award for Nurse of the Year for Stony Brook University Hospital (1994). She was also inducted into her High School Hall of Fame at Commack High School as a Distinguished Alumni in



2018 and into her college Athletic Hall of Fame at East Stroudsburg University in East Stroudsburg, PA in 2019.

Dr. Martin has presented on numerous occasions on Urologic topics both locally, regionally, and nationally. She recently contributed, as lead co-author, a chapter on Genitourinary Cancers to Oncology Nursing (in press) as well as authored 3 sections on urologic topics in Textbook for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner published in 2023. She also speaks to numerous nurse practitioner students on legislative issues and professional membership. She has served as an adjunct Clinical Instructor at Stony Brook University in the Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner program.