

# STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008



Alumni Associations traditionally serve a variety of roles in the lives of their respective institutions. First and foremost, an Alumni Association helps the university fulfill its mission by providing varying levels of support and engaging alumni in the same quest. Most importantly, Alumni Associations strive to keep alumni connected...connected to the institution and connected to each other. This is done in numerous ways, ranging from ongoing communications to the implementation of programs and activities.

The following is a brief overview of the Stony Brook University Alumni Association's operations for the 2008 fiscal year, July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.

## Mission Statement

*The Stony Brook Alumni Association seeks to reach, serve, and engage all Stony Brook alumni, students, and other constituencies to foster a lifelong intellectual and emotional connection between the University and its graduates, and to provide the University with goodwill and support.*

## Message from the President

2007-2008 was an exciting time for Stony Brook University and its alumni as we celebrated 50 years of excellence. Our campus has been transformed since its humble beginnings at the campus in Oyster Bay, to a vibrant campus with modern state-of-the-art facilities such as the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium, and the Charles B. Wang Center - soon to house the beautiful new Alumni Welcome Center. The expansion of Stony Brook, to the east and west, with Stony Brook Southampton and Stony Brook Manhattan meant an expanding alumni base. The Stony Brook Alumni Association embraced our extended family and invited interested Southampton College alumni and friends to be a recognized and important component of our Association.

Our 130,000 alums are one of the greatest strengths and assets of SBU. Sixty percent of our grads of have received their undergraduate degrees from Stony Brook and 40% are from the graduate and professional schools. Our alums range from ambassadors to distinguished scientists, from Pulitzer Prize winning journalists to CEOs, from financial analysts to university presidents and the list goes on and on. In such a short period of time, the accomplishments of our alumni along with the great strides the University has made in education, research and health care, have added significant value to our Stony Brook degrees.

The Alumni Association worked tirelessly to expand our programming and forge relationships with all University constituents as summarized in this Annual Report. Most importantly, much was done to facilitate a more inclusive, member-driven Association that will be better positioned to serve the University, our students, faculty and fellow alums. The Association's Board of Directors voted to eliminate annual membership dues moving to an open membership. Our programs and services continued to reach out to alums establishing regional Stony Brook alumni chapters and affinity groups throughout the country. In addition, we developed programs with admissions and career services to ensure that we recruit the best and the brightest students and to assist in mentoring and placement opportunities for our graduates. As alums we serve as ambassadors for the University.

It was a great honor to serve as the President of the Alumni Association and I am thankful to all of the members of the Board of Directors, dedicated volunteers and the extremely supportive alumni who will ensure that we continue to make great strides for the next 50 years.

Maria Emanuel Ryan, DDS '89, PhD '98  
*President 2007-2008*

## 2007-08 Board of Directors

### Officers

#### President

Maria Emanuel Ryan DDS, PhD '89 '98

#### Immediate Past President

Scott Abrams '80

#### President Elect

Christina Vargas Law '90, '93

#### First Vice President

James Keneally, Esq. '79

#### Treasurer

Gloria B. Snyder '72

#### Secretary

Scott Middleton, Esq. '84

### Directors

Dora Maria Abreu '90, '91

Cheryl Chambers '01

John Cierski '90

Joseph M. Crook '80

Carol Gomes '90, '91, '97

Patrick Jenkins '90

Elizabeth Kelley '00, '01

John Lizzul, Esq. '75

Raymond McKenna, PhD. '84, '88, '91

Phillip Mighdoll '63, '66

Norma Reyes '96

Preeti Priya, Esq. '96

Angel M. Rivera '92, '00

Frank Roethel, PhD. '81

Mark Saidens, PhD. '68

Joanne Campbell Schiefer '79

Sherry K. Sussman, MD '91, '95

Robert Stafford '72, '82

Mark Wolff, PhD DDS '77, '81, '97

Howard Zern '68

Graduate Student: Ahmed Belazi

Undergraduate Student: Mitchell Fourman

Ex-Officio: D. Lance King

Ex-Officio: Daniel Melucci

## Recognizing Excellence

### ***Distinguished Alumnus Awards***

This year marked the university's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Distinguished Alumnus Awards' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In support of such an auspicious occasion, the event was held closer to the University's main campus at the beautiful Flowerfield, in St. James, NY. Over 200 guests attended the lavish event to honor those who have brought distinction to themselves and the university through their professional and personal accomplishments. The Distinguished Alumnus Award recipients included:

Michael R. Anastasio Ph.D. '76  
*Director*  
Los Alamos National Laboratory

Willard S. Moore Ph.D. '69  
*Research Professor and Distinguished Professor Emeritus*  
University of South Carolina

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson Ph.D. '74  
*Professor of History*  
Arizona State University

Frank Otto '72, '74  
*Senior Vice President*  
Edo Corporation

Wai Lam '82  
*Vice President of Engineering*  
FalconStor Software, Inc.



### ***Scholarships and Awards***

The Association awarded a total of \$33,000 in student scholarships in 2007-2008. In support of the Stony Brook Gala, a gift of \$25,000 was made to fund scholarships to students demonstrating outstanding academic performance and financial need. In addition, another \$8,000 was funded to eight exceptional students who were selected to receive the following awards which were presented at the Undergraduate Recognition

Awards Ceremony: Alumni Association Legacy Award, Babak Movahedi Senior Leadership Award, First Alumni Award, Gloria and Mark Snyder Award of Excellence, Larry Roher Entrepreneurial Achievement Award, Joseph N. Campolo Award for Legal Studies, and the Outstanding Future Alumni Award.

In honor of the University's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, The Founder's Group doubled their student scholarship amount to a level of \$2000 and presented it to an outstanding student who exemplifies the pioneering spirit which personifies the *Founder's Group*; those who belonged to the first five graduating classes (1961-1966).

A new student scholarship endowment was established to honor "Life Members" of the Association in recognition of the support of the Lifetime Members during our formative years.

## Campus Outreach

In support of our efforts to create Chapters and Affinity Groups, the Association offered sponsorship grants to academic departments, student clubs and organizations who host events in an effort to reconnect and support alumni engagement in these areas. The goal of this program is to expose our alumni and future alumni to the Association through a variety of channels that are consistent to the objectives of our organization. Over \$10,000 in grants were awarded in 2007-2008, with grants up to \$2500 in support of these activities. The following areas were supported:

### **History Department**

Alumni Reception in conjunction with the American Historical Association in Washington DC

### **Athletic Training Education Program**

Alumni Social at the Annual Conference in Valley Forge, PA

### **College of Engineering and Applied Science**

Engineering Ball

**MBA Association at Stony Brook University**  
MBA Dinner Night

### **WISE- Women in Science and Engineering**

Second annual WISE Banquet – Celebration of Future Alumnae

### **Sigma Lambda Beta**

16<sup>th</sup> Annual Latin Block Party

### **First Students of Stony Brook (the Founders Group)**

Luncheon in Oyster Bay – site of the original campus

## Campus Involvement

### ***9/11 Memorial***

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the names of our alumni who perished on the fateful day in 2001 were read by the President of the Board of Directors as members of the Board presented flowers. The family members and many of the university community gathered at the beautiful Alumni Memorial Arch which was donated by the Alumni Association in 2004.

### ***Campus Sponsorships***

In addition to assisting the campus community through grants, the Association funded sponsorships in support of campus programs and events including Earthstock, Wall Street Day, Hillel Foundation of Stony Brook and the annual Ring Ceremony for graduating seniors.

## Regional Outreach

In support of the development for regional chapters and affinity groups beyond the university's local area, board members and staff attended receptions around the country. These events enabled alumni, distant from the campus, to gather and reconnect with fellow alumni and meet with representatives from the board and staff. During these events, regional chapter leaders were identified and planning for future events commenced in Washington, Florida and California.

In collaboration with the Admissions department, our alumni participated in University Fairs in Washington and Florida to speak with potential students.

## Regional Outreach Continued

Stony Brook also participated in a SUNY sponsored alumni event in Washington, DC in September and afterwards held a Stony Brook-only alumni social event near Capitol Hill. Additional regional events included:

*Pre-game Alumni Reception*  
Baltimore Orioles vs NY Yankees  
August '07

*Men's Basketball Game and Pre-game Reception*  
Stony Brook vs American University  
November '07

*Men's Basketball Game and Pre-game reception*  
Stony Brook vs Boston University  
February '08

*Alumni Reception hosted by Board Treasurer, Gloria Snyder and husband, Mark Snyder*  
Boca Raton  
March '08

In addition to the SUNY-wide receptions, the Alumni Association hosted other regional events for Stony Brook alumni to gather and reconnect, including:

*Recent Graduates Reception*  
New York, NY

*15th Annual Orioles Baseball Game*  
Baltimore, MD

*Washington Nationals Baseball Game*  
Washington, DC

*Stony Brook Seawolves vs. North Carolina Tar Heels Baseball*  
Chapel Hill, NC

*Alumni Reception*  
Orlando, FL

## Highlighted Events

### *Homecoming*

Close to 4,000 alumni, friends and the university community celebrated Stony Brook University's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by attending this year's Wolfstock on October 20th, 2007. The festivities began early Saturday morning with departmental tours, lectures and breakfast receptions. Later in the morning, the Wolfstock Village opened and guests enjoyed a trip through the latest breakthroughs in Science, Health and Technologies and discovered the accomplishments of a variety of Student clubs and organizations in our Expo Tent.

The children delighted in magic shows, balloon makers, inflatable rides, pony rides and an impressive array of exotic animals. The Alumni Food Pavilion was teaming with delicious food provided by over 20 restaurants, along with microbrewers and many fine Long Island wineries. All reunion groups had special seating in the tent so that they could enjoy the music entertainment of Full House with easy access to all the refreshments.

Then it was off to an exciting successful football game with the Seawolves taking on the University of Maine Black Bears. Our very own world-renowned opera singer, Christine Goerke '94 graced us with the Star Spangled Banner to open the game. A post-game barbeque was followed by a spectacular fireworks presentation by Grucci and an outdoor showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show. What a day to remember!



### *Alumni Golf Classic*

This year our Annual Alumni Golf Classic was postponed on May 12th due to inclement weather. However, the rescheduled date of August 18th at the St. George's Golf and Country Club in Setauket was sold out. With prepaid fees and our generous sponsors, over \$16,000 for scholarships and Association programs was raised (to be reported in next year's annual report.)

### *Film Festival Reception*

The third annual alumni reception, held in conjunction with the closing night of the Stony Brook Film Festival in July was another sold out event. Our guests enjoyed a delicious buffet on the beautiful terraces of the Charles B. Wang Center prior to enjoying *Rocket Science* in the Staller Center.

### *Manhattan Receptions*

The Alumni Association hosted three major events in Manhattan. Each event had over 100 guests who reconnected and networked with each other. Many thanks go to our alum, Robert deBrauwre '87 who opened the terrace of his Park Avenue office for our alumni to enjoy the view and some refreshments. Informal Happy Hours began in earnest with venues placed around the city for easy access.

### *Southampton*

With the opening of our Southampton Campus, the association took full advantage of the east end location and hosted two major events. In July, we invited our alumni and friends to our Southampton College Campus for a reception at the Avram Theatre to view the art work by James McMullen. In August, world renowned soprano, Christine Goerke '94 performed Ravel, Poulenc and Gaubert in the Avram Theater. Christine was available to meet at a reception with our alumni prior to her evening's performance.

We are very proud of this new campus as it will provide not only an education in the area of sustainability but also contribute to the cultural life of the East End of Long Island.

### *Alumni Day with the New York Islanders*

A day with the Islanders is becoming one of our most popular events. On March 1st, over 100 of our alumni and family cheered on the Islanders at the Nassau Coliseum as they took on the Philadelphia Flyers. A delicious buffet and refreshments were served at the Marriott prior to the game. Special guest and former Islanders player, Mike Bossy signed autographs and posed for pictures.

## Highlighted Events Continued

### *Bronx Zoo*

Dr. Patricia Wright, Stony Brook's esteemed professor of Anthropology, met many of our alumni at the Bronx Zoo on a hot July afternoon to give a presentation on Lemurs while they enjoyed a catered picnic. This was particularly timely as the Madagascar exhibit featuring Dr. Wright's discoveries was on temporary display. Everyone had a fantastic time.

### *Roth Pond Regatta*

As part of our new efforts to reach out to our future alumni, the association had a major presence at the Annual Roth Pond Regatta. For the first time, the Alumni Association participated in this fun-filled event by providing ice cream bars and beach balls to all participants and spectators at the event.



### *Hofstra TailGate Party*

In September, in support of our Seawolves Football Team, our alumni, friends and guests, enjoyed a pre-game tailgate party at Hofstra Stadium parking lot and then continued on to the Stadium to cheer on our team. The Stony Brook Marching Band led the cheering.

## Alumni Activities in the Five Schools of the Health Sciences

Alumni boards for the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Dental Medicine and Social Welfare continued their efforts to engage their alumni. Due to the change in membership policy of the Alumni Association, it was agreed by each of the boards to follow the policy of open membership for all alumni.

It was a successful achievement-filled year for Stony Brook's Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Dental Medicine, Social Welfare, and Health Technology and Management. Below are the highlights from 2007-2008.

### *School of Medicine*

Alumni came together to recognize and honor their colleagues on November 10, 2007 at the School of Medicine Distinguished Alumni Awards celebration. John Gordon Harold, MD, '79, Chief of Staff at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA received the Distinguished Alumnus Award and Konstantin Zakashansky, MD '00, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science at Mount Sinai Medical Center was awarded with the Outstanding Recent Graduate Award. Robert LaPorta, MD '86, founder of the School of Medicine Alumni Council was also recognized with the Outstanding Service Award.



Financial support from the Alumni Board enabled two second year medical students, Elaine Shiang and Stacey Massignan to travel to the Thiruvananthapuram Regional Cancer Center in Kerala, India for a four week clinical rotation.

The School of Medicine Reunion for the Classes of '78, '83, '88, '93, '98 and '03 was held on June 21, 2008 at Stony Brook Manhattan. Alumni from several states came to reunite with former classmates, share memories and personal and professional success stories.

### *School of Nursing*

Four Alumni were recognized at the School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Awards luncheon at Danford's on the Sound held on March 8, 2008.

- Norma Deane Armstrong, RN, MSN, ANP-C, '95
- Marie Ann Marino, EdD, RN, PNP, '89
- Daniel Suarez, RN, MA, '74
- Sara Torres, PhD, RN, FAAN, '72

The School of Nursing Alumni Board provided ongoing support for the new state-of-the-art Simulation Laboratory which was completed in June 2008.

### *School of Health Technology and Management*

Six alumni were honored at the annual Outstanding Alumni Lecture Series and Award Presentation event.

Award recipients included:  
Cheryl A. Gillespie '03  
(Physical Therapy)

Christopher Halagarda '03  
(Health Care Policy and Management)

Richard N. Woodfield, Jr. '88  
(Respiratory Care)

John Woods '77  
(Clinical Lab Science)

Ann M. Russo '04  
(Occupational Therapy)

Sierra Daniel '98  
(Physician Assistant).

### *School of Dental Medicine*

The School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association sponsored a welcome reception for the Class of 2011 on August 21st at the home of Dr. Rhona Sherwin '78. The reception was planned to introduce the entering freshman class to members of the class of 2010 and members of the Alumni Association. Lauren Kerpel '07 became the first graduate of the Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine whose parent also attended Stony Brook's School of Dental Medicine.

### *School of Social Welfare*

The School of Social Welfare held their annual Distinguished Alumnus Awards Reception on March 27, 2008. Dean Francis Brisbane recognized 96 School of Social Welfare graduates who are also employees of Stony Brook University. All graduates received a certificate for distinguished service to the University and the Social Work Profession. The 2008 Humanitarian Award was presented to David Krause, Ph.D., Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Anatomical Sciences and Department of Geosciences at Stony Brook University and Founder of the Madagascar Ankizy Fund.

## Planning for the Future

In the third year of the Five Year Plan, the Alumni Association Board of Directors made some significant changes to its policies with the intention of advancing the association towards a more inclusive organization.

### *Vision Statement*

*Stony Brook University alumni are a proud and engaged community that serves and supports the University, celebrates the achievements of students, faculty, and fellow alumni, and works tirelessly to ensure that Stony Brook University stands with the finest universities in the world.*

On January 4, 2008, administrative, academic and alumni leadership met for a retreat at Sunwood to develop a new vision for alumni relations at Stony Brook University. There was widespread consensus that collaboration must be at the heart of the new approach.

All academic units and key administrative units should be engaged as full partners in communicating with and engaging Stony Brook alumni. Keith Brant, former Vice Chancellor for External Relations at the University of California, San Diego was the moderator and lead the dynamic discussions throughout the day. Following the retreat, an ad hoc committee, including many of the participants in the retreat, was created to formalize Alumni Interest Groups (AIG). These AIGs were divided into three categories. 1: Student Clubs and Organizations, 2: Academic Departments, and 3: Regional Chapters.

In addition to the retreat, a number of other accomplishments were made and are outlined below:

### *Membership*

Critical changes to the bylaws were enacted when it was decided by the membership committee and sanctioned by the board that the association becomes an "open" membership and all Stony Brook graduates become part of the Association without paying dues. This was a major step towards becoming more inclusive and therefore improved outreach to all our alumni. Notification letters were sent out to all and response was overwhelmingly positive.

### *New Home*

Through the support of the University President and Vice President of Advancement, construction of the new Alumni Center was initiated on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Charles B. Wang Center. The board approved a \$75,000 expenditure towards the completion of the center.



### *Student Engagement*

- Through the grants and awards committee, the Association sponsored a variety of student programs.
- For the first time, the Alumni Association's words of welcome were included in the Commencement Ceremony program and each graduate received an Alumni Association commemorative graduation medal. The President of the Alumni Association also presented the commemorative medals to the representatives of the First Graduating Classes (1961-1966), who were invited to attend this very special commencement ceremony celebrating 50 years.



- The Alumni Association supported the Class Ring Program and continued to support other campus traditions.
- The Alumni Association promoted alumni participants in the Student Mentoring Program with the Career Center by providing a link and actively encouraging career mentoring opportunities at alumni gatherings.

### *Marketing and Promotion*

Stony Brook Matters, the alumni e-newsletter was sent out monthly to inform all our alumni and friends about the accomplishments and endeavors of the university and the alumni. It was also used as a vehicle to notify the alumni of upcoming events.

Our communication efforts were expanded by reaching out to our alumni and future alumni through establishing our own Facebook Group; Alumni Association of Stony Brook University. This group has become extremely viral and very popular with many of our alumni.

Alumni Relations staff made significant strides in reaching out to each of the Colleges and creating ways to re-engage their alumni through their departments with a variety of marketing collaborations.

### *Alumni Association Organization and Fiscal Responsibility/Accountability*

The board welcomed three new Directors in addition to Undergraduate and Graduate representatives. These new members exemplified the diversity and talent that represents the Stony Brook University student body.

With the expiration of the Bank of America credit card affinity program in November 2008, negotiations for a new affinity card commenced.

In creating the new fiscal budget, it was determined that the association limits their financial responsibility to \$50,000 for the 2008 homecoming event.

Each of the board members signed a "Conflict of Interest" statement.

The board of directors organized their committees into the following separate sub-committees;

- Executive
- Events & Programs
- Awards, Grants & Scholarships
- Nominating Committee
- Budget Committee
- Chapters & Affinity Groups

## *Association Finances*

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

The financial information provided below is derived from audited financial statements by Holtz, Rubenstein, Reminick, the Alumni Association's independent auditors. The financial statements were prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

#### Unrestricted Revenue and Support:

Royalty Income	\$	311,025
Fees		85,207
Gifts and in-kind distributions - <i>(Including Special Events revenue)</i>		551,009
Membership dues		12,258
Interest income		4,888
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Total Revenue and Other Support		964,387

#### Expenses:

Alumni Services	607,397
Grants	52,539
Management and General	263,094

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Total Expenses	923,030
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Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets	41,357
<u>Unrestricted Net Assets, beginning of year</u>	<u>301,576</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets, end of year	\$ 342,933

