Greeting Scholars:

We hope the Spring semester has been going well for all of you and that you had a restful and enjoyable Spring Break. There has been a tremendous amount going on in Scholars over the past few months. Our Book Drive is in full force, having amassed over 3,000 books already, and is beginning on-campus collection this month. We also have a large number of events coming up this semester, so be sure to check out our “upcoming events” section in this edition, as well as our website for the most up to date information. Our Committees are under new leadership this semester and the new Chairs have jumped right into their roles, conceptualizing some really wonderful programs.

Our newest cohort of Scholars Fellows have begun their training, and are doing a terrific job in their new leadership position. In addition, a number of outstanding University Scholars have been profiled on the website on the University’s home page, and three Scholars were just named as SUNY Chancellor’s Award winners. We’ve also received a record number of applications from continuing students who are looking to join our Program. Information on the application process can be found on the Prospective Students page of our website.

The warmer weather is right around the corner, so just hang on! We look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming events and hope that you will join us for our End of Year Banquet on Monday, May 11th, to celebrate the achievements of some of our Scholars over the past academic year. Best wishes for continued success this semester.

Best,
Brian Colle, Jeremy Marchese, David Maynard
On February 2nd, the University Scholars were to meet for the first event of the spring semester—Cards for a Cause. A very intense winter storm, Juno, had canceled all scheduled plans to create a Valentine’s Day banner for the Pediatric Oncology clinic in the Stony Brook University Hospital. However, not even an “abundance of caution” could stop Scholars from crafting and delivering a beautiful banner to the kids. While Long Island was experiencing one the highest snowfalls in its history, several Scholars met in their end hall lounge to paint, glitter, and color the banner. Many paper hearts were cut out and offered to Scholars the following night at the Book Drive Fundraiser. There, attendees were invited to write personalized notes on the hearts, which were then attached to the banner.

The Pediatric Oncology clinic was thrilled to receive our gift, and hung it in the center of the clinic, over the playroom. Lauren Sharaby, a Child Life specialist who devotes her time to making the kids happy, extended a huge thank you to the University Scholars, noting how beautiful the banner was. This is the second year of the Cards for a Cause event, hosted by the Outreach Committee, and we are thrilled to be able to contribute to the clinic. We hope that this event continues annually and that our banners outdo themselves every year!

~Alisa Rybkin
The University Scholars Book Drive, a project over a year in the making, is off to an incredible start. Organized by a group of dedicated Scholars, this initiative works with local Middle and High School students to organize Book Drives in school districts around Stony Brook. Thus far, the group has worked with four districts to collect well over 3,000 books in only four months from drives completely organized by students ages 10-18.

The group works under a simple philosophy: no book cannot have a purpose. With that in mind, any book can be donated, no matter the genre, reading level or condition. Gently used books will be made available to families in the Wyandanch School District, where poverty levels are among the highest on Long Island, at a donation event to be held later this April. Any books that are too damaged to be donated will be properly recycled by the organization Better World Books. This organization will also take any materials not donated locally and use them to raise money for literary charities and donate books around the globe.

Research shows that children that learn to read proficiently by the third grade are four times more likely to receive a high school diploma. We want to encourage students young and old to pick up a book by making literature accessible to those that do not otherwise have access to libraries that many view as commonplace. The program’s long-term goal is to increase the likelihood that students will receive a high school diploma, increasing the chance that they will be able to make a better future for themselves.

But this initiative is not just a Book Drive; it is a multifaceted initiative that goes beyond donating used books. In working with Middle and High School students, we hope to inspire tomorrow’s leaders while bridging the gap between secondary and collegiate involvement. Some of our student organizers are as young as 10 years old and eager to do their part to help the growing community to which they are a part.

In addition to working with school districts, the book drive is spreading to the Stony Brook campus. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to donate any books they would like. The graphic above outlines the locations of our collection bins. Together we can make a difference in our community right here on Long Island and around the globe!

~Bryan Szeglin

For more information, visit our website at you.stonybrook.edu/bookdrive
**Academic Committee:**

Hi Scholars! I am Brandon Cuadrado, the current chair for the Academic Committee. I am a sophomore Computer Science major with an interest in Human-Computer Interaction. I like to occupy my free time with learning new things, participating in research, and seeking out the unique opportunities that Stony Brook has to offer.

I oversee all of the endeavors of the Academic Committee, run the meetings, and make sure that eligible ideas given by the committee come to fruition. As a committee, we are tasked with creating For Credit events that revolve around learning outcomes. For example, a recent event of ours was the Pi Day Math Competition, which, in celebration of Pi Day, tested the mathematical and critical reasoning abilities of contestants.

The Academic Committee also has ideas for the events to come this semester. Very soon, there will be a Recyclemania competition to promote reusing recyclable products, and later in the semester we will also be holding an Alcohol Awareness Event.

If you or a friend are interested in helping to plan these events, or have ideas for events like them, please do not hesitate to join us! The Academic Committee will resume holding meetings on alternating Wednesdays starting March 25th in the GLS/HDV Center Room 109-111 at 7:00pm.

**Outreach Committee:**

Hi everyone! We’re the new co-chairs of the Scholars Outreach Committee; Michael Cheung, a freshman from Westchester, New York, majoring in Computer Science; and Kathryn Eckartt, a freshman from Wantagh, New York, majoring in Biochemistry.

Outreach Committee is one of the three Scholars Committees, and it focuses on planning and executing volunteer activities for the Scholars Program. Ever since its founding, the Outreach Committee has put on many successful and productive events for the community. Some of these events included collecting and donating to Toys for Tots, creating and giving a Valentine’s Day themed banner to the Children’s Oncology Unit at the Stony Brook Hospital, and volunteering at Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck’s Spooky Walk. This semester we have a few awesome events planned. We are participating in Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck’s annual camp cleanup, hosting a self-love body image event, and holding a senior prom for senior citizens called “Senior Senior Prom.”

Our committee meetings are every other Wednesday at 7pm in the Skylight Lounge (3rd floor of the SAC). Our next meeting will be on March 25th. If you have any questions about the Outreach Committee, you can contact us at anytime by email!

**Social Committee:**

Hello everyone! My name is Shao Peng Chen and I am majoring in Mechanical Engineering. I am currently the Scholars Social Committee Chairperson.

The Social Committee organizes competitive and informative events for Scholars to learn more about each other. Our committee aims to plan fascinating events that will encourage students to get involved. The majority of our events are results of ideas we discuss during social committee meetings. We are currently organizing an engaging activity that resembles one of our past successful event, Scholarly Pursuit. Its purpose is to help incoming students familiarize themselves with the campus in an enjoyable way. All Scholars are welcome to come. We hope students will work together to navigate around Portions of Stony Brook’s Campus.

The Social Committee will be brainstorming more interesting events in upcoming committee meetings. Do not hesitate to join us if you are interested in being involved or wish to plan future events. Our current meetings location is the Seminar Room (C119-A) in the LDS Center. Please note that dates will vary. If you have any questions or have ideas and would like to contribute, please feel free to email me!

**Email Information: click below!**

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Brandon.Cuadrado@stonybrook.edu

Outreach:  
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During his drive to work every morning, Dr. Robert Kaplan, Writing and Rhetoric Professor, spends one hour carefully mulling over what he’s going to do that day.

Mid-drive, he mentally goes over his mission to become the best professor that he can possibly be. He wants to help his students become better writers, and he thinks about how he can guide them to where he expects them to be at the end of the semester. To accomplish his mission, Dr. Kaplan uses the personal ideals and experiences that he has acquired over the years.

To this day, he remembers his fifth grade teacher. He describes the relationship he had with her as “tough love.” She demanded a lot from him and her other students, but she tried to help them meet her high expectations. To Dr. Kaplan, this is the definition of an ideal teacher: “someone who has expectations of their students and provides structure for them to get there.”

From the very beginning of his teaching career, Dr. Kaplan has been trying to emulate his fifth grade teacher. As a result he has become a firm believer in “scaffolding,” the term he uses to describe his teaching style, which consists of low-stake and high-stake assignments.

He uses low-stake assignments—weekly journals and reading responses—to allow students to practice writing without the fear of making mistakes that could affect their overall grades. Then, as his students work on the low-stake assignments, make mistakes, and consult with Dr. Kaplan (who then reshapes their mistakes into learning opportunities), they develop the skills necessary to successfully complete the high-stake assignments. Dr. Kaplan may raise the bar for all of his students and expect a lot from them, but he also provides a lot of guidance along the way to help them get there.

And as much as Dr. Kaplan loves to watch his students become better writers in the environment he creates, what he enjoys most is when students surprise themselves at what they are able to accomplish. “When students are in an environment where they are appropriately pushed,” Dr. Kaplan believes, “it creates a space for them to explore and discover capacities they didn’t know they have.”

Hearing his students tell him that they didn’t think they could write so well creates a certain feeling of warmth in Dr. Kaplan, one that starts in his chest and puts a smile on his face. When this happens, Dr. Kaplan feels that he has accomplished his mission for that day or that semester. At the end of such days, he gets into his car and prepares for the hour-long drive home, during which he thinks happily of what happened that day and of how he got closer to being the ideal teacher.

~Alexander Tsurikov
Nearly four years ago, a high school senior from Sayville, New York, named Cathy Rico came to Stony Brook University’s Admitted Students Day—a day many of us attended with apprehension, eagerness, and uncertainty. As Dr. David Maynard spoke about the Scholars program, and the Stony Brook community at large, any uncertainty Rico had faded away. In that moment, she knew that Stony Brook University would be her home.

Rico believes Stony Brook is keenly aware of its large student body as it aspires to foster opportunities for personal and academic growth across various organizations, so that every student finds their niche. Rico has become deeply involved with activities and opportunities across campus, and her pride in Stony Brook is inspiring. One of her favorite traditions is “Red Hot Fridays,” to show her school spirit.

Her enthusiasm, however, is not self-contained. Rico loves to inspire and help others through her various campus roles and in her everyday life. She was a Fellow for the Undergraduate College of Arts, Culture, and Humanities, the University Scholars programming intern, and a camp counselor for Camp Kesem. Rico will be returning to Camp Kesem this upcoming summer to reprise her role as the Arts and Crafts Programming Counselor. Rico’s favorite part about Camp Kesem is getting to know and working with the campers. She is also a Staff Assistant at the Dean of Students Office, and a Resident Assistant in Tabler Quad, a position she has held since her sophomore year.

Rico’s post-Stony Brook plan is to become a high school Spanish teacher. She travelled to Spain for a four-week-long study abroad program last summer, which gave her a greater understanding of Spanish culture. With her experience with children, and her profound language knowledge supported by her Spanish major and French minor, Rico is primed to achieve her goal of working in secondary education. She will be continuing her studies in the Teacher Preparation program here at Stony Brook this summer, a program she has been enrolled in since her junior year. She will graduate next year with both her Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees.

Rico’s successful journey through Stony Brook has not been without challenges, however. The biggest obstacle she faced was finding a balance between academics, involvement, and her social life. She thinks that all Scholars students can identify with this struggle. Yet she has met this challenge by managing her time and prioritizing tasks.

Cathy would like to congratulate the graduating seniors and wish them luck with the next stages of their journeys. She also would like to express her gratitude to the University Scholars Program, which she thinks plays an integral role at the university, especially by creating a home for first-year students. She encourages current Scholars students to take advantage of all the opportunities the campus has to offer, and stresses how programs and involvement are very powerful for personal and professional growth.

Rico has met every challenge and success with her positive, outgoing, and warm persona; she believes having conviction in oneself is vital for success. It is clear that Rico is deeply interwoven into our Scholars and campus community, and her confidence and enthusiasm have propelled her far. She truly embodies one of her favorite quotes, “do it with passion or not at all.”

~Taylor Brant
All University Scholars are encouraged to take advantage of their exceptional Advisors: Faculty Director Dr. Brian Colle, Advisor and Senior Staff Assistant Jeremy Marchese, and Advisor Dr. David Maynard. From academic planning to research to general advice, the University Scholars Advisors are an invaluable resource to students. Feel free to visit during office hours listed below or email to schedule an appointment.

Brian Colle  
Brian.colle@stonybrook.edu  
Wed  2:00pm-4:00pm  
Thur  10:00am-12:00pm  
available by appointment

Jeremy Marchese  
jeremy.marchese@stonybrook.edu  
Mon  10:00am-12:00pm  
Tue  11:00am-1:00pm  
Wed  11:00am-12:00pm  
Fri  11:00am-12:30pm  
available by appointment

David Maynard  
david.maynard@stonybrook.edu  
available by appointment

Academic Deadlines and Upcoming Events:
Events in red are For Credit. Please note that some events have special stipulations to receive credit.

**Mar. 27**  
Camp Kesem Journal-Making, 6-8pm GLS.HDV Multipurpose Room

**Mar. 31**  
Correction Day due to Snow: Follow Monday Schedule

**Apr. 3**  
Project Runway Recyclemania, 6-8pm LDS Center

**Apr. 6**  
Research Panel, 6-8pm LDS Center

**April 8**  
Decorate your DNA, 7-9:30pm Ammann College Main Lounge, Mendelsohn Quad

**April 16**  
Medical School Panel, 7-8:30pm Tabler Center Black Box Theater

**April 29**  
Alcohol Awareness and Bystander Intervention, 6-8pm Tabler Center Black Box Theater

**May 8**  
Last day to withdraw from the University

**May 9**  
Last day of Monday through Friday Classes

**May 9-11**  
Reading Days

**May 11**  
End of Year Banquet, 6:30-8:30pm, SAC A

**May 12-20**  
Finals for Monday through Friday Classes

**May 16**  
Saturday Finals held during regular scheduled class time

**May 20**  
End of Term

**May 21**  
Doctoral Graduation & Hooding Ceremony; Baccalaureate Honors Convocation

**May 22**  
University Graduation Ceremony