

Scholarships  
& Awards  
Report  
2023-2024

# Stony Brook School of Communication & Journalism



# Contents

A Word from the Dean	2
About the SoCJ	3
Scholarship Recipients	4
Academic & Leadership Award Recipients	17

witness ... We can and do  
make a difference."

— Marie Colvin



# A Word from the Dean

I am pleased to share the 2023-2024 awards report for the SoCJ. These awards recognize some of the School's best students and are thanks to generous support from friends of the School, including current and former faculty.

Thanks to the generosity of one of our donors, this year we were able to add academic and leadership awards. As our school grows, in programs and student enrollments, we remain committed to supporting and engaging all of our students.

I am profoundly grateful for your support in helping our students achieve their dreams. I invite you to get to know them in this report.



Laura Lindenfeld  
Dean, School of Communication and Journalism  
Executive Director, Alda Center for Communicating Science



# About the School

At the School of Communication and Journalism, we believe that accurate, engaging communication can help to create a fairer, more just, more rational world.

The School offers a variety of graduate and undergraduate programs in communication, science communication, and journalism that emphasize ethical, engaging, and inclusive research and storytelling.

Students graduate with a strong foundation in communication theory and research, and gain practical skills in digital media through hands-on courses and professional experiences.

The School's undergraduate journalism program is accredited by the ACEJMC. The School is also home to the Colvin Center for International Reporting and the Center for News Literacy, and works closely with the internationally known Alda Center for Communicating Science.

Learn more at [stonybrook.edu/journalism](https://stonybrook.edu/journalism)



# Robert & Rhoda Amon Memorial Scholarship

## Sydney Corwin

Sydney, a senior journalism major, gained reporting and writing experience as an intern at WSHU, a writer for the Stony Brook College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and as the science and news editor of the Stony Brook Press.

Her love for writing brought her to the journalism program after she experimented with a marine science major. At Stony Brook, she's written everything from long-form magazine pieces to broadcast scripts. She's produced video packages and helped her peers hone their writing and interviewing skills, improving her own in the process.

In the program, she has discovered a love for telling other people's stories and helping to promote positive change in the world around her through them. She hopes to pursue a career in science journalism or communication after graduation.



# Aronson & Virag Scholarship for Narrative Journalism

## Skylar Sena

Reading and writing have been a through-line, and perhaps a lifeline, to Skylar, a senior journalism major. As a child, she found her heroes in books and grew to write her own stories, poems and eventually news and feature stories. Writing helped her cope with the stresses and unknowns of the pandemic, and her keen eye for detail helped her find her voice as a writer and drove her up the ranks of the Statesman's copy desk and into the managing editor role.

Skylar is actively pursuing a career in book publishing, and completed an internship with a literary agency in Manhattan. She plans to work her way up to eventually become a book editor so she can help bring new stories to life that will inspire others as she has been inspired.



# Catherine Ayscue Memorial Scholarship

## Rafael Fonseca Cruvinel

Rafael, a senior journalism major, will join the Marie Colvin Center for International Reporting and a small team of other students on the first Journalism Without Walls trip since 2018. The Ayscue scholarship will help him fund his trip to Nepal in summer 2024.

Originally from Brazil, Rafael found journalism as a way to travel the globe and address some of the world's complex issues through long-form journalism. At Stony Brook, he wrote for and edited *The Press*, completed internships at *Tu Prensa Local*, and won awards from the Hearst Foundation and the Press Club of Long Island.

On the trip to Nepal, Rafael will report on stories about wildlife conservation, child trafficking and other important topics, and further develop his voice and his talents as a writer and multimedia journalist. The trip will give him the chance to write powerful stories and immerse himself in a different culture.



# Carol Chernow Memorial Scholarship

## Kaitlyn Schwanemann

Kaitlyn, a junior journalism major, has availed herself of every possible opportunity at Stony Brook and beyond to learn and excel in different media formats. A first-generation college student, Kaitlyn forged her own way with passion and daring to pursue her degree and a career in journalism.

She has taken advantage of every opportunity, reporting for the campus magazine and radio station and working on a podcast.

She completed internships at NBC and Telemundo Miami, and served as a race and equality reporting intern at CNN in Hudson Yards.

She recently won a fellowship with the Dow Jones News Fund, where she will work as a multi-platform editing intern. She is eager to continue building her skills, blending traditional reporting with new and innovative methods of audience engagement, search engine optimization and creative formatting.





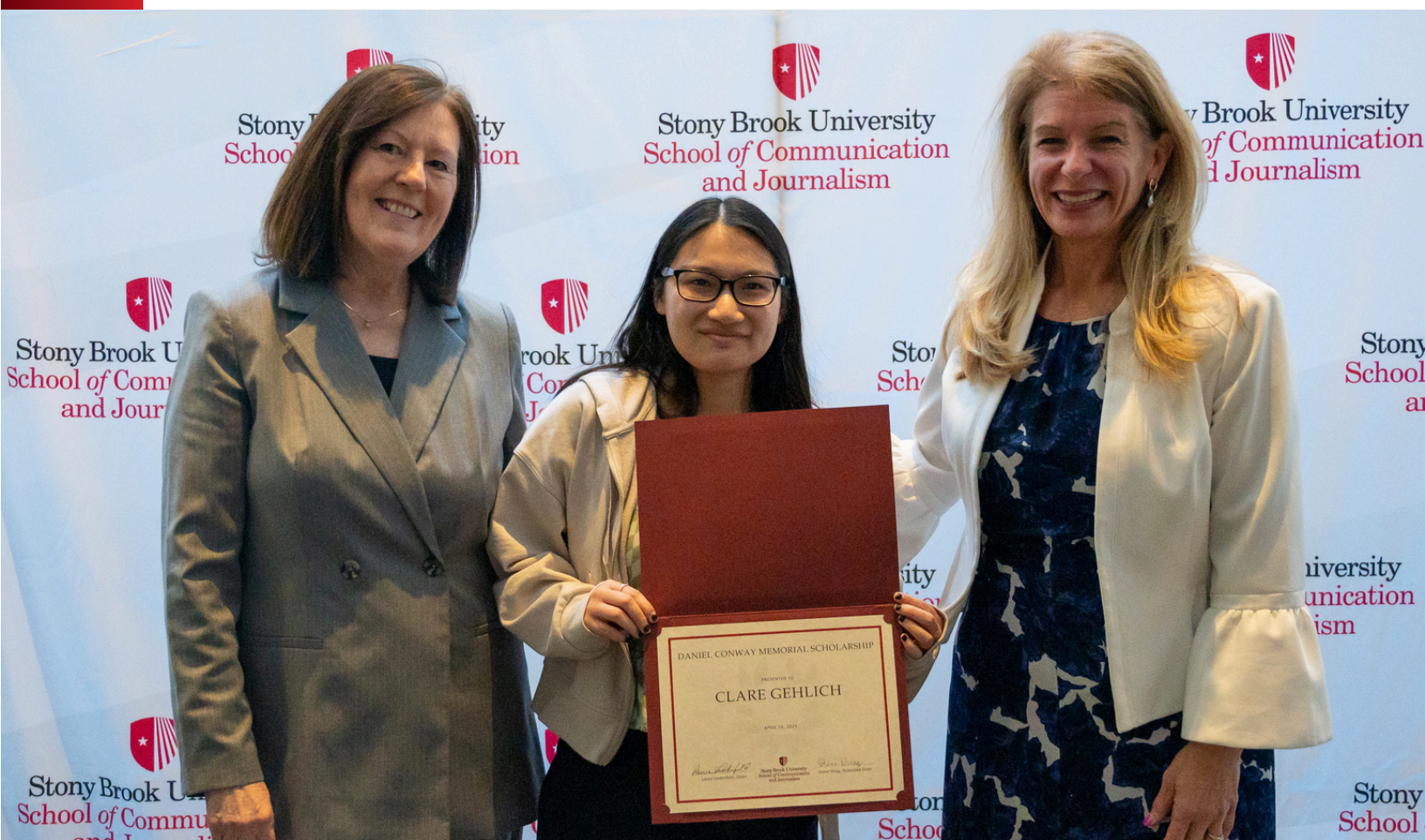
# Daniel Conway Memorial Scholarship

## Clare Gehlich

A senior journalism major, Clare has found and honed her audio storytelling skills for radio and podcasting. She first uncovered her passion for creating exciting auditory experiences and evoking emotions as a student at SUNY Potsdam at North Country Public Radio and, since coming to Stony Brook, at WSHU Long Island Public Radio.

Clare was part of a team of student and professional journalists to work on the award-winning WSHU podcast Higher Ground, about climate change adaptation on Long Island and Connecticut. Because of her strengths in audio storytelling, Clare was selected to help launch a new venture, a podcast about environmental and climate-related research happening at Stony Brook.

After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in audio journalism at a news organization that also allows her to expand her skills and talents in narrative and feature writing and storytelling.



# Matthew T. Crosson Memorial Scholarship

## Kaitlyn Schwanemann

Kaitlyn, a junior journalism major, has availed herself of every possible opportunity at Stony Brook and beyond to learn and excel in different media formats.

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She completed internships at NBC and Telemundo Miami, and served as a race and equality reporting intern at CNN in Hudson Yards. This summer, she won a fellowship with the Dow Jones News Fund, where she will work as a multi-platform editing intern.

She is eager to continue building her skills, blending traditional reporting with new and innovative methods of audience engagement, search engine optimization and creative formatting.



# George L. DeWan Memorial Scholarship

## Viola Flowers

Viola's reporting has had an impact that very few of her peers, at Stony Brook or beyond, can replicate.

Her investigation into alleged abuse at a therapeutic facility for adolescent boys on Long Island prompted a legal investigation into the facility, which eventually filed for bankruptcy. The piece won a national Hearst Award and inspired her to expand her reporting of similar facilities across the tristate area for her journalism capstone project.

Throughout her time at Stony Brook, Viola completed several internships, including for NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt and on Dateline's research team, and distinguished herself as a leader of student media. Each time she explores a new form of journalism, she discovers a new passion and a new idea of where she will find her place and make her mark as a reporter after graduating in May 2024.



# Herman Klurfeld Memorial Scholarship

## Jeremy Kuri

Jeremy's lifelong love of sports inspired him to pursue a career in athletics. He pursued his passion through visual storytelling, and upon arriving at Stony Brook, took a job with Stony Brook Athletics, honing his abilities as a journalism major.

Jeremy has devoted himself equally to athletics and academics, and has distinguished himself in both areas.

Jeremy worked athletic events and his work was published to the Athletics website and social media platforms. During his senior year, Jeremy filled in for a full-time member of the Athletics' communications team and helped increase engagement with Athletics media. Jeremy was a teaching assistant for several SoCJ faculty members, and broke the mold with a 17-minute documentary film for his capstone project.

Jeremy will pursue a career in creative media, telling the stories of athletes, their teams and their importance to culture and society.



# Marcy McGinnis Scholarship for Broadcast Journalism

## Jeremy Kuri

Jeremy's lifelong love of sports inspired him to pursue a career in athletics. He pursued his passion through visual storytelling, and upon arriving at Stony Brook, took a job with Stony Brook Athletics, honing his abilities as a journalism major.

Jeremy has devoted himself equally to athletics and academics, and has distinguished himself in both areas. Jeremy worked athletic events and his work was published to the Athletics website and social media platforms. He eagerly took on additional work in Athletics' communications and helped increase their engagement rates. He served as a teaching assistant for several SoCJ faculty, and broke the mold with a 17-minute documentary film for his capstone project.

Jeremy will pursue a career in creative media, telling the stories of athletes, their teams and their importance to culture and society.



# Paul A. Schreiber Scholarship

## Lori Saxena

*not pictured*

As a journalism and biology double major, Lori has led the effort to expand science reporting in The Statesman.

A junior, Lori has found her niche in combining science, journalism and storytelling through internships for HealthDay and Stony Brook Hospital, and helping student-researchers share their work.

She plans to pursue a career in medicine, and advocate for patients and health equity.

## Marie Lolis

Marie found journalism just before she had to declare a major, after considering science and history.

She found her passion for telling stories about topics of interest to her - from her love of certain comic books to her interest in sharing her Greek culture. She finds fulfillment in the power of journalism and reporting on a story to learn about the world around her, and the limitless ways multimedia stories can be shaped and shared.



# Buskin Award for Campus Journalism

## Viola Flowers

Viola's reporting has had an impact that very few of her peers, at Stony Brook or beyond, can replicate.

Her investigation into alleged abuse at a therapeutic facility for adolescent boys on Long Island prompted a legal investigation into the facility, which eventually filed for bankruptcy. The piece won a national Hearst Award and inspired her to expand her reporting of similar facilities across the tristate area for her journalism capstone project.

Throughout her time at Stony Brook, Viola completed several internships, including for NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt and on Dateline's research team, and distinguished herself as a leader of student media. Each time she explores a new form of journalism, she discovers a new passion and a new idea of where she will find her place and make her mark as a reporter after graduating in May 2024.



# Rosenbaum Scholarship

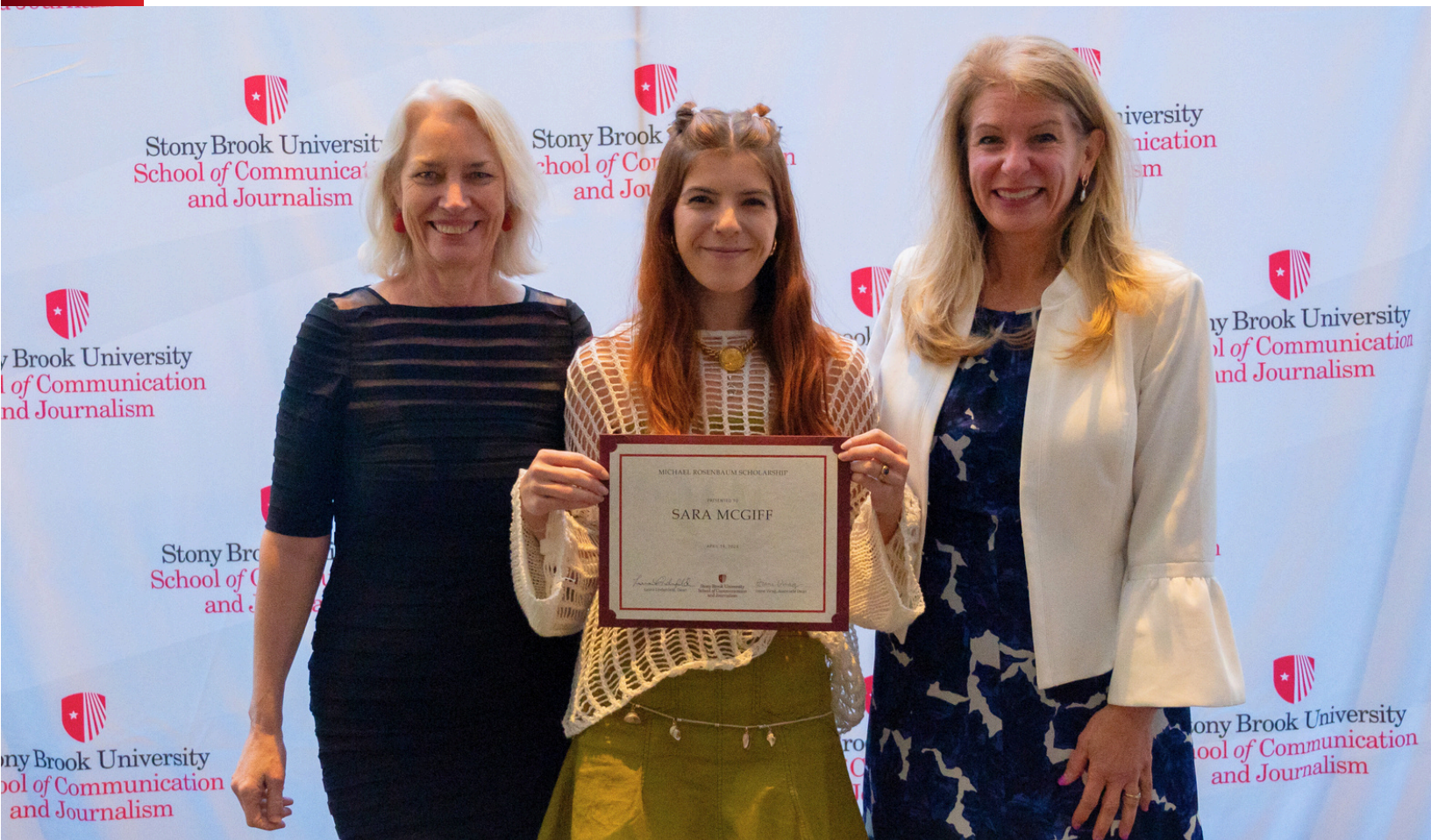
## Sara McGiff

Sara McGiff, a senior journalism major, will be one of three students to join the first Journalism Without Walls trip since 2018.

The trip to Nepal will include reporting on child trafficking there, in collaboration with an NGO that is active in the country. In addition to caring about protecting and advocating for children, Sara is eager to follow her grandfather's example of reporting what he saw and experienced for the AP when he was stationed in Manchuria.

During her time at Stony Brook, Sara has built her leadership skills and honed her abilities as a reporter with roles at The Statesman and internships at WSHU Public Radio and the Yaphank Historical Society.

Sara is eager to pursue a career in investigative journalism, starting with her senior capstone project that explores the deep divisions of opinion about the benefits of wind farms off the coast of Long Island.





# Journalism Without Walls Scholarship

## Rafael Fonseca Cruvinel

Originally from Brazil, Rafael found journalism as a way to keep traveling and explore complex global issues through long-form journalism.

At Stony Brook, he wrote for and edited *The Press*, completed internships at *Tu Prensa Local*, and won awards from the Hearst Foundations and the Press Club of Long Island.

## Viola Flowers

Throughout her time at Stony Brook, Viola completed several internships, including for *NBC Nightly News* with Lester Holt and on *Dateline's* research team, and distinguished herself as a leader of student media.

Each time she explores a new form of journalism, she discovers a new passion and a new idea of where she will find her place and make her mark as a reporter after graduation in May 2024.



# Student Leader in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

## Hailey Lantigua

Hailey is a highly motivated and academically talented student in the mass communication program. Her dedication to promoting diversity and inclusion extends far beyond the classroom, as evidenced by her exceptional work in internships, coursework, and volunteer activities.

Hailey's thoughtful explorations of pop culture and how different cultures are expressed blend critical research with creativity, skills that are in high demand in professional communication and design.

Beyond the SoCJ, Hailey works with the campus LGBTQ\* Center and worked at the UNITI Cultural Center to advocate for fellow students and help create safe, welcoming spaces for all. Her passion, creativity and social justice inspire her peers and instructors alike.



# Spirit of SoCJ

## Tim Giorlando

A senior mass communication student, Tim has distinguished himself across the School for his academic prowess, his kindness, and dedication to his studies, his peers and his school.

Tim always goes above and beyond to support the SoCJ and advocate for his fellow students. He steps up to record and photograph SoCJ events, and is one of the most active members of the student advisory board. He is collaborative and offers thoughtful ideas and feedback to his fellow students, as well as to school leadership.

He is active in the Stony Brook Media Group and directed both of the group's live broadcasts his senior year: the Holiday Spectacular and Roth Regatta.

Tim was selected, after a competitive process, to give the student commencement address at Stony Brook's May commencement at LaValle Stadium. He is the second SoCJ student in its history to give the address.



# SoCJ Rising Star

## Jenna Zaza

A journalism student, Jenna has already impressed her instructors so much that they were surprised to discover she was a sophomore, not a graduating senior.

In class assignments, Jenna goes beyond to analyze texts and popular media with a critical and original eye, and her instructors believe she is already well on her way to achieving her goal of focusing on issues of gender equity in an international media outlet. She is the arts and culture editor of *The Statesman*, the campus newspaper, and won first place for her entertainment reporting by the Stony Brook Media Council. Off campus, she interned for *City Limits*, where she wrote about homelessness in New York City, including an investigative piece about unfair policies regarding where proposed homeless shelters are located.

Jenna is the type of student professors wish for: motivated, creative, curious, and brilliant. The SoCJ and Stony Brook are lucky to count her among our students.



# Student Leader in Community Engagement

## Anthony Johnson

Anthony, a senior journalism major, distinguishes himself for his academic prowess and his care for his classmates, encouraging them to join in-class conversations.

He encourages comprehensive news coverage, fosters a strong and collaborative team at WUSB, and actively engages with the community through his involvement in the Stony Brook Media Group.

## Emma Ehrhard

*not pictured*

Emma, a senior mass communication major, answered the call to create a mural on the building that houses the School's studio.

The mural will invite the campus community to visit the studio, raise our School's visibility on campus, and bring faculty, staff and students together to help paint her design on the wall.



# Outstanding Undergraduate Capstone

## Gabriella Ferrara

A mass communication major, Gabriella's capstone project was one of the first to be highlighted on the Stony Brook Media Showcase, a website that features the best work by SoCJ students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Her project, *The Impact of Nostalgic Media*, stood out as the best in her class for its exceptional writing and production. In it, Gabriella explores the power of media, including television, films, music and books, to impact an individual's psychological well-being.

All SoCJ students across undergraduate and graduate programs are required to do a capstone experience that blends all that they have learned over the course of their studies at Stony Brook.



# With Gratitude

The students, faculty and staff of the School of Communication and Journalism are profoundly grateful for the support of our generous friends and donors.

Thank you for helping our students earn their degrees and begin rewarding, meaningful careers.

