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**PEACE, LOVE, SBU**  
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**CLUB HUB**  
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**Stony Brook Life - It's often the little things that join together to make the biggest impact.**

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**#SBUTiful**  
Student art is making a lasting impression.

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Stony Brook University

# MAGAZINE

11

WINTER 2024

## #SBUtiful

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a lasting impression

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Answering the Call

BY Lisa N. Burby

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The Place That  
Tom Built

BY Rob Emprato

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Stony Brook University

# MAGAZINE

11



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Stony Brook life — it's often the little things that join together to make the biggest impact.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2023 was a year of incredible milestones for Stony Brook University. We achieved our highest U.S. News & World Report rankings ever, we were selected as the leader of the Center for Climate Solutions on Governors Island, and, thanks to the Simons Foundation, we received the largest unrestricted endowment in the history of U.S. higher education. These impressive accomplishments were only possible because of the incredible Seawolves — students, faculty and staff — who continually put their heart and soul into everything they do at Stony Brook. This issue showcases a few examples of our community.

The Campus Beautification Committee is one example of a group of volunteers working together to help students make a lasting impression to make an impact in our community. Learn more about their contributions in #SBUtiful (p. 14), which highlights current and past campus art projects.

Music educator Tom Built (p. 26), The Jazz Loft, a museum and concert space in Stony Brook Village that joins the past, present and future create The Place That Tom Built (p. 26). The Jazz Loft, a museum and concert space in Stony Brook Village that joins the past, present and future of the genre.

Answering the Call (p. 22) takes a closer look at SBU's plans to bring The New York Climate Exchange to life on Governors Island. Faculty share their thoughts on what they hope to see as the academic programming for the island takes shape.

On stage, Ken Weitzman, associate professor of English, uses drama to explore the scientific work of three SBU faculty (p. 8). In her classroom, Professor Moira Chas takes a unique approach to teaching complex mathematics to her students (p. 10). On the court, Ashley Langford, head coach for women's basketball, shares her philosophy on how she helps her athletes thrive (p. 44).

We hope this issue gives you new insights into how the varied interests of our community fuel Stony Brook's trajectory forward. We can't wait to see what happens next in 2024.





**RETURN TO WOLFSTOCK**

A little rain could not dampen the Seawolves spirit as alumni returned to SBU for Homecoming at LaVale Stadium  
Photo by John Grimm/Story Brock University



**OCEANS OF COLOR**

Children explore the depths of the ocean at one of the exhibits during CommUniversity Day.  
Wang Center  
Photo by John Griffin/Stony Brook University

Following standout individuals and notable Stony Brook news

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Ashly Langford, head women's basketball coach, shares her perspective on how she helps her team thrive

**44 /**



HEARTS

HUMAN

LOVE IS LOVE

KEEPS US CONNECTED

YOU ARE WELCOME

I SEE YOU

WE ARE EVERYWHERE

IMAGINE INCLUSION

RESPECT

ALLY

SHARE OUR SIMILARITIES  
CELEBRATE OUR DIFFERENCES

DIVERSITY

SI SE PUEDE

SPREAD YOUR WINGS

# #SBUtiful

A communal effort is transforming our campus into a work of art

BY Ellen Cooke / PHOTOGRAPHY: John Ormrod/Sunnybrook University  
@sunnybrook.ualmagazine

The newly completed "Spread Your Wings" mural is located outside the entrance to the LGBTQ+ Center.







#SBUTIFUL

### ART AT A GLANCE

The tradition of student art installations began in 1981 with the creation of the Zebra Path. Here are a few works that you can see on the SBU Unhoused Collectors and University Archives, which features all the art on campus.



### THE ZEBRA PATH

This iconic spot on campus came to life in 1981 when student Tim Friedman '82 won a grant to beautify the campus as part of an awareness seminar in public art. The 232' x 12' walkway, located behind the Career Center, is regularly refreshed with new coats of paint. It is now a permanent part of the Seawolves community.

Josiah Daniel with the community-painted rocks that will be installed outside the Center Activites Center.



Photo by Josiah Daniel/Stone Brook Press

### TABLER PIANO STEPS

Inspired by an art class led by Professor Nobuko Hagiwara, Navarin Mallangala '17 worked alongside several members of the campus community to paint the steps leading to Tabler Quad to look like the keys of a grand piano. Quad is the major pedestrian access to Tabler Road, and its most visible feature from Circle Road. Mallangala said at the time, "I wanted it to be a grand entrance that represents how Stone Brook University supports both the academic and artistic potential of its students."



### HEARTBEATS OF STONY BROOK

Following his experience with the Heart Steps, Navarin Mallangala decided to take on a larger art project, this one connecting the "Heartbeats of Stony Brook" in a stunning mural painted inside the Nicolaus Hall underground tunnel. Mallangala, who graduated in 2017 with his degree in biology, was beginning his studies at the Pennsylvania College of Podiatry when the mural was completed in September 2017.



we all plan to have more student representation after we graduate, so this was fun too." Projects Daniel and the CBC are working on include community rock painting at Tabler's on Commencement Day — a project he felt was perfect for bringing community together for artistic expression — and potential plans for a skate park on campus. "Trinka said this initiative made him hopeful for the future. "There are the type of people you want to put out into the world. They are so talented, so wonderfully creative and so diligent. They're superstars and we want to help them achieve their dreams and achieve all they can."

**Spreading Its Wings** — including from the Leadership support — including from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives (ODI) — has helped lead CBC initiative, take off. Josi Brown Clarke, vice president for equity and inclusion, said: "What Josiah brought to me with the idea, it was immediately clear we had the same goals — working toward having every point of entry, every hallway, every

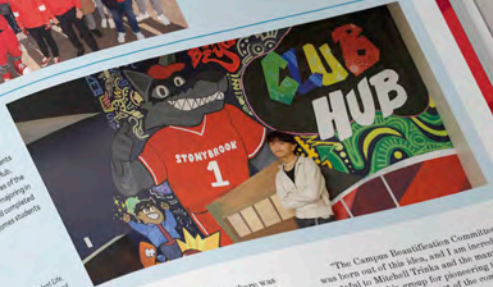
### PEACE, LOVE, SBU

In November 2022, students, faculty and staff from across campus joined together to help paint the "Peace, Love, SBU" mural outside of the Life Sciences Building on the rear walkway near the walkway to the Nicolaus Road tunnel. The mural was featured in President McInnes' annual end-of-year message.



### CLUB HUB

Since 2005, members of the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives (ODI) have worked with student organizations to create a vibrant, inclusive space for students to connect and engage with one another. The Club Hub is a central location for student organizations to meet and collaborate.



campus beautification initiative, there was also community involvement in the project. For the mural, that included Clarke and the ODI working out to SBU and surrounding local community members to find the most meaningful words to express the predominantly LGBTQ+ Center Coordinator and CBC team member Maxine Shojan said, "It's meaningful to express the community's commitment to creating and fostering a welcoming, inclusive campus community. It's no mistake that the mural is located in such a prominent spot on campus. It serves as a bold, eye-catching message to everyone who passes." You are welcome here. You belong here.

At the mural's ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 8, President Mauri McInnes said, "Art plays a crucial role in forming the identity and culture of who we are right now; it is a celebration of who we are right now; it is a celebration of our shared experiences and a commitment to one another. I can't think of anything more beautiful than that."

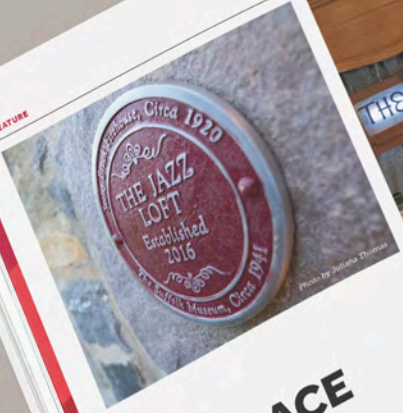
### Leaving a Legacy

From the first meeting to the ongoing stream of projects taking shape and form, Trinka said he also has personal reasons for putting his passion to work for all of the in success: "None of us knows how much time they have and so what we do each day is really important and meaningful. I'm coming at this 100 percent. But I also see myself as just a link in a chain where it comes to leaving a legacy of creating community on the campus. It's not for me and the next link comes in, people along with me and the next link comes in, extra glimmer for where the next link comes in. I've had a good life."

The Campus Beautification Committee is open to all Seawolves. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Mitchell.Trinka@stonbrook.edu.



FEATURE



# THE PLACE THAT TOM BUILT

A trumpet player creates a space for the spirit of jazz that's the cat's meow

BY Rob Dimpino  
[storybrook.edu/magazine](http://storybrook.edu/magazine)

"If jazz were a person, it would be the person you'd want to have as a best friend. Jazz would be the person your mom or dad would want you dating. Jazz would be that person that you would go to when you're looking for a confidant. And the reason why jazz is important is because of those characteristics that jazz embodies."

PHOTO BY JULIANA THOMAS



Tom Manuel leads the trio during a recent "Young at Heart" performance. The concert space is a 400 jazz club retro room on the second floor. During most shows, the 100-seat room is filled to capacity.

STAMPBROOK UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FEATURE



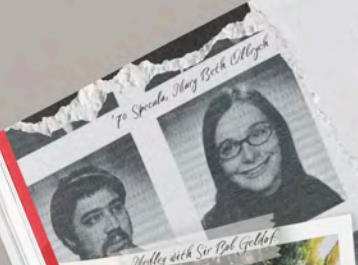




# HER HEART OF ROCK 'N' ROLL BEGAN AT SBU

A piece of paper changed the trajectory of alumna Mary Beth Medley's career, and she hasn't looked back since.

BY Christina McCharr



To Special: Mary Beth Medley

Medley with Sir Paul Galtch



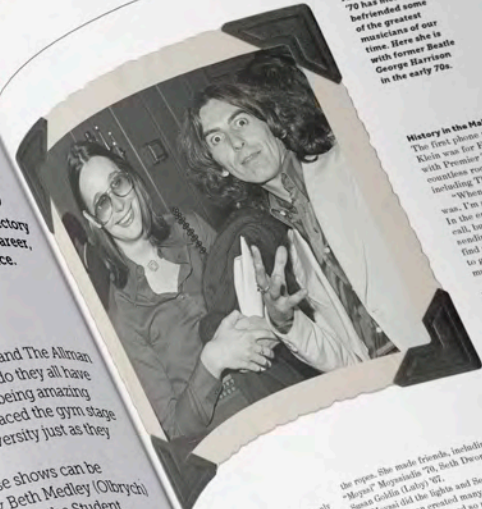
The Who, Van Morrison and The Allman Brothers Band — what do they all have in common? Besides being amazing rock stars, they all graced the gym stage at Stony Brook University just as they achieved fame.

Many of those shows can be credited to Mary Beth Medley (O'Brock) '70, who took over as the Student Activities Board (SAB) concert chair when Howie Klein '69 stepped down.

"Before he left Story Brook, Howie handed me a piece of paper and told me to call the numbers on it to get the big acts," she recalled. That piece of paper would kick-start her career in the music industry and guide her to many of her own star-studded acts.



Peter Frampton (top left) with Medley, below with Medley and friend Peter Frampton



Mary Beth Medley '70 has met and befriended some of the greatest musicians of our time. Here she is with former Beatle George Harrison in the early '70s.

### History in the Making

The first phone number on that paper from Klein was for Frank Hornakina, a top agent with Premier Talent Agency who worked with countless rock performers over the years, including The Who, Led Zepplin and Big Frank.

Medley believes some of the best shows in university history took place during her time as concert chair from 1968 to 1970. Blue Oyster Cult (or rather 50/50 White Underbelly or Stat-

How did she get these big names to Story Brook? Through her relationships with Hornakina and other agents, and because many big acts booked city venues on weekends. It

For Horn, it was just a drive out to the sound and lighting system. "Booking some acts was easier than others. Kiekie Havens would come out for a bottle of wine and a train ticket. Chuck Berry, on the other hand, wouldn't perform unless paid directly in cash."

Just about everyone on campus attended the concerts. The shows were free for SAB staff and \$2 and visitors outside Stony Brook paid \$5. Medley said they all-week students from other campuses but never advertised publicly — except for her very last show.

Medley did the same.

the ropes, she made friends, including James "Moggy" Hornakina '70, both Deacon T1 and "Sweet Goblin (Lobby) '67."

After graduation, Klein founded the record label UG Records, and Moggy went on to have a successful music career in the music and entertainment industries, so it's no surprise that Medley did the same.



Medley and friend Peter Frampton