B.R.I.D.G.E.S

A Cross-Departmental Graduate Research Conference

February 19, 2026
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Stony Brook University

SAC Auditorium
SAC Ballrooms A & B

SBU Grad Mag

Hosted by The SBU Graduate Arts & Sciences Magazine

About Us

The Stony Brook Graduate Arts & Sciences Magazine

The SBU Graduate Arts & Sciences Magazine (GradMag) at Stony Brook University is an official student organization. We serve as a platform for graduate students to share their academic research with their peers, faculty, and the wider community. The magazine provides an opportunity for graduate students to showcase their talents, explore new topics, and engage in interdisciplinary discussions. We also proudly host the annual BRIDGES conference.

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The 2nd Annual BRIDGES: A Cross-Departmental Graduate Student Conference is hosted by *The SBU Graduate Arts & Sciences Magazine*, the only graduate student media organization at Stony Brook University. Representing more than 35 academic departments, BRIDGES brings together graduate students from across campus to share research and creative work in an interdisciplinary academic setting.

This year, BRIDGES showcases over 100 graduate student projects through research poster presentations, an art gallery and dynamic installation, the screening of short films, and live performances by graduate student musician. The work presented spans the sciences, humanities, engineering, and the arts. The keynote address is presented by Dr. Peter Stokes, Managing Director of Strategy and Operations at Huron Consulting Group. The conference also includes seminars led by the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, focused on effective strategies for communicating complex ideas to diverse audiences, and a practical workshop led by the Stony Brook Career Center that supports graduate students in navigating career pathways within and beyond academia. The Graduate Departments Fair provides opportunities for direct engagement with academic departments, campus resources, and graduate programs across Stony Brook University.

The BRIDGES team is proud to award cash prizes recognizing exceptional graduate student work and will be highlighted in the third edition of *The SBU Graduate Arts & Sciences Magazine*, to be released in May 2026. Poster Awards include a $1,000 1st Place Winner, $500 2nd Place Winner, and $250 3rd Place Winner, and the Art Award and Film Award each recognize a $350 Winner. Award recipients are selected by a panel of faculty and industry judges, with winners announced during the Closing Remarks and Awards Ceremony. The conference extends special thanks to Dean Celia Marshik and the Graduate School for generously sponsoring these prizes and for their continued support of graduate student scholarship and creativity.

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Special thank you to Dean Celia Marshik, Gillian Farnan, Marianna Savoca, Isobel Breheny-Schafer, Karen Kernan, Marina Fandaros, Jessica Roman, Dr. Peter Stokes, Provost Carl W. Lejuez, FedEx printing, Canwell MTS LLC, Elizabeth Moon, Dr. Alfreda S. James, Nancee Moes, Ethan Chen, USG Events Management, James Boglioli, WOLFIE, Simone Binneman, Consuelo Montes, and Lisa Carter.

Conference Schedule

9:00 am	**Breakfast**	*SAC Ballroom B*
9:30 am - 9:45 am	**Opening Remarks** **Ava Nederlander, Founder / President of GradMag** **Gillian Farnan, Assistant Director for Student Engagement & Activities** **Isobel Breheny-Schafer, Assistant Director of Student Media** **Narmin Mekawy, Secretary of GradMag**	*SAC Ballroom B*
9:45 am - 10:30 am	**Alan Alda Center Seminar: Nancee Moes**	*SAC Ballroom B*
10:30 am - 10:50 pm	**Career Center Workshop: Dr. Alfreda S. James**	*SAC Ballroom B*
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	**Keynote Address: Dr. Peter Stokes**	*SAC Auditorium*
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	**Music Concert**	*SAC Ballroom B*
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	**Research Poster Session**	*SAC Ballroom A*
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	**Art Gallery**	*SAC Ballroom A*
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	**Graduate Departments Fair**	*SAC Ballroom A*
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm	**Film Screenings**	*SAC Auditorium*
4:00 pm	**Final Remarks & Awards Ceremony** **Dr. Carl W. Lejuez, Executive Vice President and Provost** **Dr. Celia Marshik, Dean of The Graduate School** **Ava Nederlander, Founder / President of GradMag** **Narmin Mekawy, Secretary of GradMag** **Dennis Jourdain, Managing Editor / HR Director** **Candice Clark, Media Director of GradMag**	*SAC Auditorium*

Keynote & Seminar Speakers

Creating Connections: Research Communication at Stony Brook

Nancee Moes, MFA
Assistant Professor of Practice, Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science
Seminar Speaker

Network Essentials

Alfreda S. James, PhD
Career Center Instructor and Strategist for Graduate Students, Career Center
Workshop Speaker

Keynote Address

Peter Stokes, PhD
Managing Director at Huron Consulting Group
Keynote Speaker

Music Concert

Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano — César Franck

Shiqi Yang, violin
Changyue Liu, piano
Department of Music, DMA

The Hand — Annabelle Dina

Coffee — Chappell Roan

Zombie — The Cranberries

Moon Song — Phoebe Bridgers

On the Radio — Regina Spektor

Gina Rizzo, piano and voice
Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, PhD

Tarantelle, Op. 6 — Camille Saint-Saëns

Petite Suite for Violin, Clarinet, and Piano — Claude Debussy

Kevin Kyaw, piano
Da Young (Rachel) Lim, violin
Guilherme Batalha, clarinet
Department of Music, DMA

Poster Session

#1 **Sinus Inspection - Using Surface Microtexture to Diagnose Cranial Pneumaticity**
Ani Chaudhary, Brian Beatty, Emma Schachner, Drew Moore
PhD Student, Department of Anatomical Sciences
Advisor: Andrew Moore

#2 **Adult ontogeny of the papionin midfacial skeleton**
Maria Feiler, Christopher Percival
PhD Student, Department of Anthropology
Advisor: Christopher Percival

#3 **In-situ Laser Sampling of Micromammals for Isotopic Analysis**
Alexandra Campbell-Grey, Samuel Lavin, Gregory Henkes, Tara Smiley
PhD Student, Interdepartmental Program for Anthropological Sciences
Advisor: Katheryn Twiss

#4 **Using fecal nitrogen to examine the pace of weaning in wild geladas (Theropithecus gelada)**
Ginna Natalia Camargo, Laurie Reitsema, India Schneider-Crease, Noah Snyder-Mackler, Thore Bergman, Jacinta Amy Lu Beehner
PhD Student, Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences
Advisor: Amy Lu Beehner

#5 **The Role of Inflammatory Monocytes in the Granulomatous Response to Persistent Salmonella Infection**
Katie Donnelly, Julie Bettke
PhD Student, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Adrianus van der Velden

#6 **The cGAS/STING pathway impacts the tumor-suppressive function of p53**
Xiaoteng Niu
PhD Student, Department of Pathology
Advisor: Luis A. Martinez

#7 **Traumatic Brain Injury Accelerates TDP-43 Pathology in Drosophila Melanogaster**
Trisha Gollamudi, Dr. Joshua Dubnau
PhD Student, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Joshua Dubnau

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Alicia Persaud, Wei Yin, Kelly Warren, Sharon Martino
PhD Student, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Wei Yin

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Carlyn Annunziata, David A. Rubenstein
PhD Student, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: David A. Rubenstein

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PhD Student, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Ulas Sunar

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PhD Student, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Eric Josephs

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PhD Student, Department of Biomedical Engineering
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PhD Student, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Donghui Zhu

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Taryn Brechbill, Eric Prager, Joshua Plotkin
PhD Student, Department of Biochemistry and Structural Biology
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PhD Student, Department of Biochemistry and Structural Biology
Advisor: Qiaojie Xiong

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MS Student, Department of Biochemistry and Structural Biology
Advisor: Howard Sirotkin

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Advisor: Miguel Munoz-Laboy

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Xiao Liang
PhD Student, School of Social Welfare
Advisor: Gretchen Ely

Art Gallery

If The Moon Was Made of Cheese, I Would've Eaten It
Danielle Henneborn
MFA Student, Department of Art
24” x 20”
Acrylic on canvas

If the full moon rose and it was made of cheese, howling at it wouldn't even be a consideration. I would've eaten it. Curiosity got the... wolf - I just had to know what type of cheese it was (the answer is Monterey Jack).

Collageno
Milena Acosta
PhD Student, Department of Hispanic Languages & Literature
50” x 60”
Digital Drawing

A collage love letter that claims for a destination.

Suspended
Sandra Albanna
MS Student, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior
Digital Drawing

A hand-drawn figurative work depicting a solitary, abstracted human form emerging from layered blue and green textures. The figure’s raised arms and obscured features suggest vulnerability, tension, and emotional exposure. Color and mark-making dissolve the body into its surrounding space, blurring boundaries between self and environment. Originally created on paper and presented here as a photographic reproduction

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Blue Wave Blossom
Fumi Honda
PhD Student, Department of Computer Science
4” x 8”
Photography

Hand-pulled this glass piece myself at the Corning Glass Museum.

Anatomy of Thought, Feeling, and Form
Stephanie Laderwager
PhD Student, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior
11” x 14”
Graphite on paper

This series examines the human interior through three fundamental structures: the brain, heart and skull. Rendered in monochrome, each drawing isolates its subject while inviting symbolic reading beyond anatomical accuracy. Thought, emotion, and physical form are treated as interdependent systems rather than discrete functions.
By exposing and recontextualizing these organs, this work collapses boundaries between cognition and emotion, structure and vulnerability. This collection presents the body as both a biological framework and a vessel of the human experience.

A Cacophany of the Senses
Tamor Khan
PhD Student, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior
16” x 20”
Ink and Photography

The 5 senses are engaged in mortal combat.

REUSE TIPS ?
Josh Ho
PhD Student, Department of Chemistry
8.5’’ x 11’’
Ink on Paper

Reuse tips?
I wish they would give me more tips so I could do better.
Reuse can make it better while also making it worse.
Asking a good question is always better than giving a good answer.

Beaver Jesus
Benjamin Truong
PhD Student, Department of Computer Science
17” x 9”
Stone Lithography

In Idaho, 1948, beavers descended from the sky and brought with them entire ecosystems. Jesus was a carpenter, and so are beavers. Need I say more?

My Kitchen Series
Colin Gaelle-Aminata
PhD Student, Department of Sociology
8.5” x 11”
Linocut Prints

Inspired by Carrie Mae Weems' Kitchen Table Series, I offer a series of prints around Loro's kitchen. Each print is a sensation, a scene reinvented from my own memories and my family's photographic archives. There are so many stories about shared meals and the kitchen table experience. But before the dining table, there is the kitchen, the kitchen space. And in our space, we dance, we sing, we try, we fail, we work... or we simply pass by. And when you pass by, the sound, the smell and the cleanliness of the kitchen are enough to guess the state of mind of the cook and the flavor of the dishes that will be served on the kitchen table.

In The Beginning
Madeline Yacovone
MFA, Department of Art
13” x 17”
Lithography

This work has served as a pivotal step in my artistic exploration of the fig as a feminist symbol. Using the mezzotint technique, a reductive process in which the ink is removed from the lithograph stone, I was able to carve away at the fig, slowly revealing the diverse biological symbolism hidden beneath. I invite the viewer to search within the flesh for the universe within.

Verde Vita
Isaiah Taylor
PhD Student, Department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology
16” x 25”
Photography

Verde Vita portrays a living veil of fluorescent green cells draped across a fractured landscape of human bone. Osteoblasts, glowing with vital dye, sweep over the red-tinged scaffold like a tide of renewal. Each luminous strand marks 28 days spent in microgravity, where Earth’s pull was traded for continual suspension. In that weightless realm, the cells redefined how they sense, anchor, and build upon bone. The image becomes a meditation on life adapting at the edge of the unfamiliar—green vitality learning to inhabit a world where gravity is no longer the architect.

Heart of Glass
Allison George
PhD Student, Department of Neurobiology and Behavior
10” x 12.5”
Stained Glass

This stained glass piece depicts an anatomical heart constructed from a single sheet of vintage glass and mounted in an ornate frame. Each individual segment is carefully oriented to highlight specific patterns and striations, using the inherent movement within the glass to suggest muscle, depth, and organic structure. The pieces are cut and shaped by hand, wrapped in copper foil, and soldered together, forming a visible network of seams that echoes the heart’s internal anatomy. A halo of wispy white glass radiates outward from the heart, centering the form and creating a sense of pulse and motion.

Glass sheets are poured in a molten state, and variations in flow, temperature, and composition create unique patterns. As a result, this artwork can never be exactly replicated.

Graduate Departments Fair

CELT

School of Communication and Journalism

Department of English

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Department of Psychology

Department of Technology and Society

Graduate Student Organization (GSO)

The SBU Graduate Arts & Sciences Magazine

The Graduate School

Student Community Development

The Career Center

WUSB

Film Screening

LGBTQ+ Drama
Late to the Party | 2026 | Long Island, New York | 10:13
A young woman, Tez, visits her recently-deceased fiancée's family home to help prepare for the funeral. As tensions rise over their queer relationship, her fiancée's spirit tries to return to her.

Written and Directed by Rebecca Perez Bernal
MFA Student in Film 2027, Advisor: Jennie Allen

Comedy
¡Capicu! | 2026 | Long Island, New York | 10:30
A grieving grandson reminisces on a childhood memory of his late Abuela after finding her illustrious Dominoes set while cleaning out her house.

Written and Produced by Issack Cintrón
MFA Student in Film 2027, Advisor: Magdalene Brandeis

Drama
Finders Keepers | 2025 | New Jersey | 07:37
A young boy helps find a neighborhood kid's lost coin, but an unlikely friendship between them challenges the lie he's kept in his pocket the entire time.

Written and Directed by Nicholas Jun
MFA Student in Film 2027, Advisor: Jennie Allen

Comedy (Web Series)
The Temple | 2025 | New York City, NY | 04:56
A young, overly-ambitious kung-fu student must rally her less than enthusiastic classmates to save their beloved temple from closing.

Written and Produced by Haley Sakamoto
MFA Student in TV Writing 2026, Advisor: Alan Kingsberg

Drama
Housewife | 2026 | Cedar Grove, NJ | 05:00
Lonely housewife Lorelai struggles to befriend the neighbors.

Directed by Dalton Snider-Smith
MFA Student in Film 2027, Advisor: Niav Conty

Comedy

Shore Games | 2026 | Long Island, NY | 03:18

A lonely guy mishears a compliment on his morning walk, setting off an inward spiral.

Written and Directed by Jackson Macleod

MFA Student in Film 2028, Advisor: Perry Blackshear

Drama Romance

Her Flowers | 2026 | New York City, NY | 04:17

After a grueling performance, a lonely violinist engages in a play of glances with a man who's waiting in the same park as her to meet his girlfriend.

Written and Directed by Martial Junceau

MFA Student in Film 2028, Advisor: Magdalene Brandeis

Drama

So Long, My Friend | 2025 | New York City and Yonkers, NY | 12:36

A girl has to go on a trip with someone who broke her heart.

Directed by Xiaoxing Chen

MFA Student in Film 2027, Advisor: Magdalene Brandeis

Narrative Drama

War of the Weisses | 2025 | Brooklyn, NY | 12:25

Noah, a dutiful son, wants to leave a successful family business but must first wrestle with his own fear- and his father's.

Written and Directed by Vickie Tanner

MFA Student in Film 2026, Advisor: Magdalene Brandeis

Drama

Us | 2025 | Roselle, NJ | 03:53

June must navigate her girlfriend's recent diagnosis and decide how to best support the woman she loves.

Written, Directed and Produced by Kosoko Jackson

MFA Student in Film 2028, Advisor: Magdalene Brandei

Judges

Poster Judges

Jesús Perez-Rios, PhD
Department of Physics and Astronomy

Alfreda S. James, PhD
Career Center

Elizabeth Boon, PhD
Department of Chemistry

Sarah Jourdain, PhD
Department of Languages and Cultural Studies

Yizhi Meng, PhD
Department of Material Sciences

Anna Hayward, PhD
School of Social Welfare

Elizabeth Kotseas, PhD
Department of Linguistics

Nancee Moes, MFA
Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science

Quinton Bruch, PhD
Department of Chemistry

Jill Alty, PhD
Department of Chemistry

Vibha Mane, PhD
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Tara Rider, PhD
Department of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences

David Hwang, PhD
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Jeffrey Lipshultz, PhD
Department of Chemistry

Nicholas Wilson, PhD
Department of Sociology

Lori Repetti, PhD
Department of Linguistics

Art Judges

Patricia Maurides, PhD
Department of Art

Jason Paradis, PhD
Department of Art

Qin Han, PhD
Department of Art

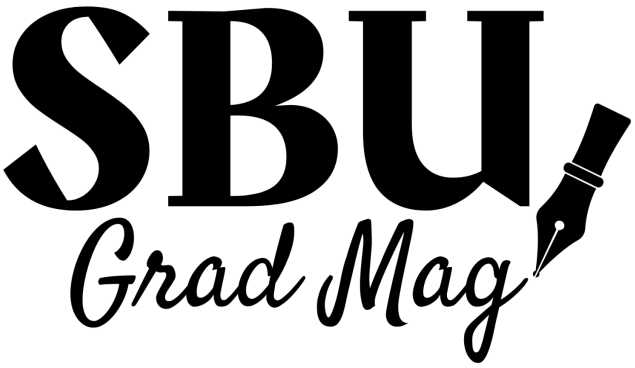
Film Judges

Suree Towfighnia, MFA
Department of Journalism and Media Production

Craig Downing, MS, MFA
University of Washington

Michelle Roadfeldt, MFA
Film Producer

Bry Troyer, BA
Top Secret Pictures



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