



## 2020 Student Staff Newsletter

### Note from Interim Dean of University Libraries



Shafeek Fazal  
Interim Dean  
University Libraries

A Note of Gratitude to our Students. This past year was unlike any other! From the disruption and readjustment of our “norms” due to COVID-19 to a wave of social unrest, it has truly been a trying time. As students, you had to endure many changes to your usual routine of learning, studying, and socializing. Despite all of these challenges, as University Libraries students, you still demonstrated the care and commitment to continue serving your fellow students through the various facets of library operations. As you know, when it comes to on site operations, the Library has been one of the few units on campus that has always been there for the students. Many of you, as members of the dedicated University Libraries staff, continue to brave the elements of the pandemic to be in our spaces to serve our patrons. And it doesn't stop there! Many of you are able to carve out valuable time from your adjusted commitments to work with us

remotely as we continue to deliver resources and services to our patrons. At this time of great need the Library staff have stepped forward with resiliency, resolve, and flexibility, and all our student employees contributed significantly. Each of you play a valuable role in our daily operations, not only in presenting a public face to our users at all the service point areas but also filling critical roles in all the back-end operations that's equally important in serving the needs of the academic community. As one of the University's largest student employers, the Library values the significant contributions of each and every one of you. Also, we hope that your work in the Library benefits you beyond the wages, providing you with the opportunity to gain valuable experiences and relationships that are useful throughout your careers. In recognition of your dedication, the Library staff organizes several events throughout the year to show our appreciation. It is my pleasure to take this moment to congratulate our recent award

winners, Chynna Rios for the 2020 University Libraries Distinguished Student Employee Award, Benjamin Owusu for the 2020 Spring Dorothy Award, and Cesar Barahona for the 2020 Fall Dorothy Award. On behalf of the Library staff, faculty, and administrators, I would like to say thank you to all our student employees and express sincere appreciation and gratitude for your dedication, professionalism, and services in advancing the mission of the Library and the University. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all supervisors, managers, and the staff of the Student Employment Office. They are all truly committed to your success. This will be an unforgettable year and I am pleased to see how we all came together as a team and rose to the challenges. Thanks to everyone for their continued support and dedication as we carry out the educational mission of the University.

### University Libraries Distinguished Student Employee Award



2020 Award Recipient  
Chynna Rios  
Library Dena's Office

Chynna has worked for the Dean's Office since Sept 2018. Chynna will be graduating this May with her degree in Psychology and she will be returning in the fall to start her BNS through the SBU School of Nursing. Chynna has an Internship with CHILL a peer education internship program through the Center for Prevention and Outreach. CHILL links in-need students to campus resources supporting mental health and wellness. Chynna is the recipient of the Starfish Flinger Award given by other Chill Peer Educators for going above and beyond. Chynna served as Vice President of the “Play It Forward Project” all of last year and now serves as their president. The “Play It Forward Project” is a non-profit organization

and official SBU Club. The purpose of the “Play It Forward Project” is to bring awareness and advocate and educate about all the different field areas of Board-Certified Music Therapy. Monthly performances are done in the SBU hospital lobby and at the bedside of the SBU Children's Oncology Unit. They also outreach through performances in livestreaming utilizing multiple social media-based platforms. Chynna works as event planner for many library related events and activities, she has done tabling during project outreach, where she bought together the Library and CHILL and provided essential information and resources to students. She created a trivia board game to help students learn more about library services and CHILL

resources. Another collaboration of CHILL and the Library Chynna was instrumental in bringing together was during Women's History month. Chynna lead a team to create floor plans for Library event space set ups, which includes images and descriptions to be placed in a portfolio for future library events. She has also created several library promotional materials and library banners. Chynna is a member of Student Health Advisory Committee. The committee works with Student Health Administrators to allocate budgeting for upcoming semesters. Chynna Studied abroad in Japan and learned some valuable life changing principles that has helped her be more at peace when under stress. She has learned to be appreciative and look at the positive throughout life's journey. Congratulations Chynna!



**2020 Spring Award Recipient  
Benjamin Owusu  
Library Dean's Office**



## Dorothy Award - (Spring Semester)

Benjamin has been working for the Library Dean's Office since Aug 2017. Benjamin has currently changed his major from Health Sciences to Social Work. His internship working with "Radical Health" an outreach program that prompts community health and wellness in the South Bronx has influenced this change. He is involved in numerous events and activities not just for the University Libraries, but throughout campus. Benjamin represented the libraries at SBU Information Fair, Comm University Day, Open Access Symposium and participated in the President's ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Center for Digital Humanities. Benjamin is a student mentor for the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), where he mentored over 20 students to prepare for college readiness,

organize and help plan college initiative events for upcoming freshman and served as tour guide for students interested in SBU. He is certificated in the Red Watch Band Bystander Intervention Program and he is part of Males of Color Mentorship Program. Benjamin serves on the Committee of Public Relations. The committee's goal is to publicize and promote all Student African Student African American Brotherhood; the American Brotherhood (SAAB) events and is also responsible for maintaining SAAB's public image on Stony Brook campus. He is a member of the project team for the Scholar in our Society and Africa, SOAS is seeking the development of an extracurricular program for young women and girls in Ghana. The program strives to engage young learners in discussions

surrounding the abilities and empowerment of women in Ghana and their communities. Benjamin is the Treasure of the African Student Union (ASU) where he coordinates meetings and events to raise funds to meet the target financial goals of the club. He leads the fundraising committee of 6 people to plan and organize fundraising activities on campus and maintains the records of organizational funds and presents reports to the executive board members. ASU supports charity fundraising one being Scholar for Africa to help grow a library and computer lab. Benjamin was featured in the Statesmen for Black History month's "poets on campus". He brought a proposal to the interim dean of libraries for a student reflection hour to increase the Library's presence on campus. Congratulations Benjamin!

## Dorothy Award - (Fall Semester)



**2020 Fall Award Recipient  
Cesar Barahona  
Access & User Services**

Cesar has been working in Access & User Services since September 2017. He has worked in the Health Sciences Library, Music Library, the North & Central Read Rooms & Main Stacks (Circulation). He not only performs room checks, shelving, shelf reading, sorting, edging & monitoring the Reading Rooms. He mentors the new student employees & helps them learn the in & out of the position & most importantly teaches them how to deal with difficult patrons. He has never missed a shift without finding proper coverage, he is punctual & always follows proper procedures. Because of his maturity & sense of responsibility he has closed the libraries on numerous occasions and at the end of the night he makes sure patrons clear the Reading Rooms safely, the books are sorted accordingly, furniture is put back exactly in its original location, white boards are wiped down &

cleaned & cleans out all garbage left behind by patrons. He is very flexible & can be counted when coverage is needed. Cesar has worked days, evenings, overnights & weekends. He works during finals which is one of the library's busiest time. Cesar is hardworking, responsible & handles himself in a professional manner, these are qualities the University Libraries values. Cesar is the President of "Students Helping Honduras" SBU Chapter. They have raised \$10,070 for an addition to an elementary school in Escuela Cruz Rojo in Portrerellos Honduras, through cake sales, book sales & Zoom game nights. The school currently is a 4 classroom school for first to sixth grade & 2 grades are sharing a classroom. The fundraising efforts is to raise money to expand & add

3 more classrooms. New classrooms for this school will provide a better learning environment. Cesar is also the Vice President of the Fundacion Lourdes Fugon. The foundation was created in memory of his mom. He focuses on fundraising & the logistics for the foundation. The foundation focuses on giving full scholarships to students in rural areas of Honduras where the dropout rate is extremely high. The foundation also provides clothing, fresh drinking water, food & hygiene products & masks for the homeless in Honduras. After graduation Cesar plans on increasing his involvement in the foundation so they can keep growing their efforts. Congratulations Cesar! [Click Here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhES7kX7n9E) to view ceremony recording or go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhES7kX7n9E>



## 2020 - Student Employee of The Year Nominees

We'd like to acknowledge the following Library Student Staff for being nominated for the 2020 Student Employee of the Year! The student employee of the year nominations are sent to the selection committee who consider nominees from all departments throughout campus who employee student staff. The following Library Student Staff were nominated for the 2020 Student Employee of the Year Award:

**Kaylee Chavez**—Access & User Services (night/weekend) - Received Distinction of Excellence for being in the top 5 students for this year's Student Employee of the Year.

**Shivani Mishra** - Health Sciences Library - Access & User Services

Congratulations Kaylee and Shivani for being nominated for this prestigious recognition.

## Star Recognition Award

Tingyi has been working for the Music and Math/Physic Libraries since Sept. 2018. She is a double major in psychology and social work. She is the president of the Cat Network, an animal advocacy group on campus which sets up food stations for the feral cats and work with local shelters and set up warm shelters to protect the Cats during the winter. They practice TNR (Trap, Neuter and Release) to cut down on the ferial population. Tingyi interned at CAAAV: which is a pan-Asian, community-based organization that works to build the power of low-income Asian immigrants and refugees in NYC. CAAAV develops leadership in Asian communities to impact the policies and institutions that effect their lives and to participate broader movement for racial and economic equality. Even though her internship is over, Tingyi volunteers her time to CAAAV when she can. Tingyi also volunteers to translate documents electronically for a legal aid service that assists non-English speaking tenants. She also, has interned at the Street Vendor Project, which is part of the Urban Justice Center, a non-profit organization that provides legal representation and advocacy to various marginalized groups of New York. Tingyi also works as a crisis counselor. Her job as a Crisis Counselor is to talk to people with suicide intentions and to de-escalate the situation. She's been involved in the Red Cross and started "Cookies for Kids" which is a club dedicated to fundraising and promote awareness for pediatric cancer. Congratulations Tingyi!!!



Star Recognition Award  
Tingyi Zhong  
Music & Math/Physics Library

## 17th Annual Student Staff Appreciation Award Ceremony and Student Social

We came together virtually to celebrate the Stony Brook University Libraries 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Staff Appreciation Celebration. We virtually celebrated because we didn't want to miss the opportunity of celebrating and showing our appreciation to the Library Student Staff. Although due to circumstances beyond our control we are not able to gather together to having lunch, but we could gather together virtually to acknowledge some of your accomplishments and to present the Dorothy Award and the University Libraries Distinguished Student Employee Award. This virtual ceremony and student social is our way of saying THANK YOU for all you do throughout the year, for your dedication and hard work for the University Libraries. You can view a recording for the Award Ceremony by [Clicking Here](#) OR entering the following in your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?y9CIX8DIYiw>



Photo contributed by Jeanne Quagliata

## End of Year Student Staff Appreciation

The University Library Faculty/Staff want to wish the library student staff success on your finals and say thank you for the great job you do!! A special acknowledgement to the Library Faculty/Staff who donated towards the purchase of items for this year's goody bags. Without you this would not have been possible. (photos contributed by Pam Di Pasquale)



### Special Thank You

#### University Libraries Distinguished Student Employee Award

The award was established by Library faculty / staff in 2004 to reward outstanding work and commitment to the University Libraries by Library student staff. It is supported by library staff and individual donations. This year's award was made possible by the generous donation of Hanne Tracy. Thank so much Hanne! For considering our student staff in such a special way and making this year's award possible!



#### Dorothy Award

A very special Thank You to the anonymous donor of The Dorothy Award. Without your continued support, the award would not be possible.



### Special Acknowledgment

#### Supervisor of The Year

Congratulations to Christopher Larson (*Health Sciences Library*) for being the 2020 recipient of the Supervisor of the Year Award! Christopher was nominated by Library Student Staff for special recognition.

#### Newsletter distributed by:

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**FAR  
BEYOND**

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