A surprising large 45% of the human genome derives from genomic parasites called “jumping genes” that have the ability to move from one part of the genome to another. While most of these jumping genes appear to be harmless, occasional failures have shown to cause human diseases like hemophilia, cancer and ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease. Join Dr. Molly Hammell, winner of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Ben Barres Early Career Acceleration Award, and associate professor at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, for a riveting lecture. (Wednesday, May 22, 1-3 p.m., $30)
Long Island University sees nature and animals as a natural complement to the intellectual life of a thriving private university. The LIU Post campus is located on 322 wooded acres on the north shore of Long Island. Surrounded by lush green lawns, meditation gardens, and horseback riding trails, it’s not hard to feel at one with nature while on the campus.

The university takes full advantage of its historic beginning. Three pristine country estates, constructed from 1911 to 1930, form a magnificent learning environment. The campus’s main building - Winnick House - contains rooms that resemble a hunting lodge, and the original horse stables house the university’s NCAA Division I Equestrian Team and the North Shore Equestrian Center. A canopy of 4,000 trees dot the landscape of the campus and 150 indigenous trees comprise the LIU Post Community Arboretum.

On your travels to Hutton House in Lorber Hall, be sure to enjoy the view!