

From the Desk of President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.

As we welcome the Class of 2022 onto campus this fall, I am inspired when I think about the tremendous opportunities that lie ahead for these special young people. The largest and most academically qualified class to enter Stony Brook, they are joining a dedicated community of leading scholars, administrators and students who are committed to our tradition of providing upward economic mobility for deserving students.

During their time at Stony Brook and beyond, these young people will traverse an amazing frontier ripe for discovery and achievement. I know I am not alone in imagining Stony Brook students and alumni at the forefront of the changes to come ... from the colonization of Mars to the 100 percent use of renewable and clean energy, cures for devastating diseases, self-driving cars and much more.

And the Class of 2022 enters Stony Brook University knowing that friends and alumni are actively supporting them, as evidenced by the successful completion of The Campaign for Stony Brook. More than 47,000 donors participated in this historic fundraising initiative that raised more than \$630 million to advance our noble mission, the impact of which is detailed in our campaign website, stonybrook.edu/campaign/.

Today, with a new academic year upon us, I hope you will take this moment to look back with me at some of our recent accomplishments, an excellent indicator of what is possible for us in the years ahead:

- Stony Brook and Brookhaven National Lab (BNL) have established the **Center for Frontiers in Nuclear Science**, helping scientists to better understand the building blocks of visible matter. The new center, made possible with \$8 million in research grants, including \$5 million from the Simons Foundation, brings together scientists from Stony Brook, BNL and around the world to investigate the fundamental structure of nucleons and nuclei.
- Stony Brook's **Center for Biotechnology** was named a National Accelerator for Health Security Innovations, one of eight selected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As a National Accelerator, the Center for Biotechnology will support bioscience companies that are developing health security innovations.
- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced funding totaling \$21.75 million for two **Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRC) at Stony Brook** — one of only three universities to receive funding for more than one EFRC. These centers are designed to

accelerate the scientific breakthroughs needed to strengthen U.S. economic leadership and energy security.

- Renowned energy storage researcher **Esther Sans Takeuchi, PhD**, will lead the work at the Center for Mesoscale Transport Properties EFRC (m2M), with the goal of advancing and enabling the deliberate design of materials to achieve higher-performing, longer-life and safer energy storage systems. Earlier this year Dr. Takeuchi, the **William and Jane Knapp Endowed Chair in Energy and the Environment**, won a 2018 European Inventor Award for her research in battery technology development. Takeuchi is the first American ever to win this prestigious award presented by the European Patent Office.
 - The second EFRC, known as A Next Generation Synthesis Center (GENESIS), will be led by distinguished professor **John Parise, PhD**, of our Geosciences Department and will focus on harnessing the power of modern radiation sources along with computing and data mining strategies, ultimately allowing researchers to design new materials.
- The Stony Brook women's lacrosse team achieved a unanimous No. 1 national ranking during the 2018 season, winning its sixth consecutive America East Conference Championship and entering the NCAA tournament with an undefeated record. The team was led by graduating senior **Kylie Ohlmiller** (Islip, New York), who was named the 2017-2018 America East Woman of the Year and concluded her NCAA career as the national record holder in career points, points in a season and assists in a season.
- Stony Brook's **College of Engineering and Applied Sciences** has been awarded two grants totaling \$4.5 million from **SUNY's Empire Innovation Program**. The funding will be used to recruit and retain world-class faculty and researchers to strengthen Stony Brook's research productivity in two high-economic-opportunity areas of state and national significance — artificial intelligence (AI) and cybersecurity. These funds will also accelerate the development of our new Institute for AI-Driven Discovery and Innovation.
- The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has awarded **Joel Saltz, MD, Cherith Chair of Biomedical Informatics**, together with a team of researchers from the University of Arkansas and Emory University, an \$8 million grant to develop an integrated Radiology/Pathology/"omics" data repository. The goal of this research is to enable the coordination of radiology and pathology information in the battle against cancer.

- This past May, we graduated the most diverse class in Stony Brook history, boasting students from 43 states and 73 countries. The graduates ranged in age from 18 to 77 and set another record for their class gift, as more than 915 students contributed a total of \$21,785 to the Stony Brook Foundation.

It was my pleasure to recognize several students during commencement for their extraordinary achievements, including **Lydia Senatus**, an economics major with minors in business management and international studies, and **Ann Lin**, who graduated with a dual major in biochemistry and economics.

The first in her family to attend college, Lydia made the Dean's List every semester while working two jobs to help cover the cost of her education. While at Stony Brook, she received a Gilman Scholarship, which helped support a month of study in China. Most recently Lydia became Stony Brook's first student to win the prestigious Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship, which supports extraordinary individuals seeking a career in the U.S. Foreign Service. This fall Lydia will be pursuing her master's degree in international relations at the Johns Hopkins Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.

Ann, also a first-generation student, conducted research on campus and at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, leading to a first-author publication for her study on genes associated with survival from cancer. Her many honors include being named a Goldwater Scholar and making the "22 Under 22" list of Most Inspiring College Women by hercampus.com.

Ann has also received a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Norway before pursuing her goal of obtaining a PhD focusing on genetics and cancer biology. Women in science like Ann are finding a welcome home at Stony Brook. Since 2012 there has been a 45 percent increase in the number of women graduating from Stony Brook with STEM degrees.

With the Class of 2022 now on our campus, I look forward to having more stories like Ann's and Lydia's to share with you in the months and years ahead. Our incoming class was chosen from a record number of 38,000 applications, demonstrating the growing demand for a Stony Brook education.

Demand for a Stony Brook education is driven in large part by our world-class faculty, and I am pleased that our faculty and administrative staff union, the United University Professions, has reached a tentative agreement with the state on a new contract. Our faculty and staff deserve every penny, and then some.

However, with salaries comprising more than 70 percent of the University's budget, this is a very significant cost increase, which the University is expected to absorb without additional funding. In addition, this increase is coupled with the usual increases for goods and services and the expenses (both planned and unexpected) of an aging infrastructure.

While these challenges give us pause, I am reassured by the knowledge that we have been down this path before, following the 2008-09 economic crisis, and that we came out sounder for it, managing the deficit and witnessing measurable growth in student and research success. This will be a difficult time for us, but I am confident of our resilience and that Stony Brook — New York's preeminent public research university — will emerge stronger once again.

I hope that you are not hearing despair in my comments, but rather, a call to action. Because you are a friend of the University, I am hoping that Stony Brook can count on you. I know there are many ways you can invest your time, talent and treasure, but few have the multiplier effect we offer here at Stony Brook. In return, we pledge to tackle these challenges head-on, work harder and deliver more value to our students, our community and the nation.

I look forward to continuing to report to you on Stony Brook and the achievements of our class of 2022. When I consider the remarkable accomplishments of the 60 plus years since Stony Brook was founded in 1957 — most notably the explosion of technology, including the development of the MRI, personal computers, smartphones and the internet — I am optimistic about what our young people will accomplish in the next 60 years.

And with you by our side, in our labs, in our classrooms, from close and from afar, there is no limit to what we can accomplish. Because, together, we go far beyond.

Sincerely,

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President

P.S. To stay updated about Stony Brook and learn more about how we go far beyond, please visit stonybrook.edu. Thank you.