



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

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

DATE: May 2, 2016

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. STONY BROOK GOES FAR BEYOND THE EXPECTED

On any given day, Stony Brook University is in the news for the remarkable accomplishments of our students, faculty and staff. We have so much to be proud of and celebrate at our University. That excitement deserves to be shared far beyond our campus. It is important that our campus community, peers and the public see the full breadth of our story and recognize the drive and growing reach and impact of our University. That's why we embarked on a comprehensive effort that is intended to give us insight into how these audiences perceive the University, and to understand which communication strategies offer the best opportunities to engage them more deeply.

The result of this two-year effort is called FAR BEYOND – a new brand identity that expresses who we are as an institution, captures our bold spirit and speaks to our momentum. It offers a sustainable platform for the campus community to tell the inspiring stories of our work and accomplishments. Being more dynamic and engaging in our communications can have a dramatic effect across campus and beyond, from attracting the best and brightest students, faculty and staff and connecting with alumni in a more meaningful way, to increasing philanthropic support and the University's impact and visibility around the world. FAR BEYOND is starting to come to life on campus, on our new homepage, in the redesigned University magazine, and through various forms of advertising – to name just a few. I invite you to learn more about the initiative, by visiting: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/happenings/featuredpost/stony-brook-goes-far-beyond-the-expected/>

II. FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The 17th Annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala raised over \$3 million in support of student financial aid, the Dubin Indoor Training Center and for Stony Brook Baseball. To date, this event has generated more than \$42 million for financial aid and campus centers of excellence.

More than 37,000 donors have participated in the Campaign for Stony Brook to date. More than \$444 million has been committed toward our ambitious \$600 million goal and our momentum continues to build. Most importantly, the Campaign has already had a significant impact, generating approximately \$27 million for student financial aid, \$103.5 million for new academic centers and facilities, \$151.7 million in vital research, \$145.8 million for faculty and academic support, and \$16.7 million for colleges and academic units. To learn more about the campaign, please visit: stonybrook.edu/campaign.

III. SENIOR LEADERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interim Provost

As we anticipate the departure of **Provost Dennis Assanis** at the end of the academic year, and with the search for a new Provost underway, I have implemented a transition plan that will remain in place until a new Provost joins us. I have asked **Dr. Chuck Taber**, Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education, Dean of the Graduate School, to assume the role of Interim Provost – effective June 1.

Chuck Taber has been a faculty member in the Department of Political Science at Stony Brook University since 1989. In 2013 he was appointed Dean of the Graduate School, and in 2014 was named Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education, combining responsibility for the School of Professional Development with his role as Dean of the Graduate School. Chuck has served as undergraduate director and graduate director for the department of political science, as chair of the University Graduate Council, chair of the President's Task Force on Graduate and Professional Student Housing, chair of the Provost's Task Force on Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship, chair of the University Senate Subcommittee on the Masters Initiative, and co-chair of the Provost's Task Force on Academic Assessment, in addition to a variety of other committee memberships. I appreciate Chuck's willingness to assume this expanded role and look forward to working with him during this transitional period.

Vice President for Research Stepping Down

After 35 years as a member of the Stony Brook University family, most recently as Vice President for Research, **Dr. David O. Conover** has accepted a position at the University of Oregon as vice president for research and innovation – effective August 15, 2016. Under his leadership as Vice President for Research, David led many successful initiatives to advance our research enterprise. This includes the establishment of the Office of Proposal Development; a 20 percent increase in proposal production; and, a more than five percent increase in research expenditures in a very competitive environment. In his role, he was instrumental in helping our faculty secure a number of multi-million dollar federal grants and our students secure three times as many NSF Graduate Research Fellows. We are grateful to David for the many contributions he has made and for all he has accomplished in the various positions he has held over more than three decades at Stony Brook.

Dean of the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences Stepping Down

Dr. Minghua Zhang intends to step down from his role as Dean of Stony Brook University's School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS) upon the completion of his current five-year term – effective June 30, 2016. Minghua was appointed Interim Dean of SoMAS in June 2010 and was appointed as the School's Dean in September 2011. As Dean, Minghua has worked effectively with the SoMAS faculty to strengthen the school in both breadth and depth. Under his leadership, SoMAS expanded into the new areas of Coastal Engineering/Ecosystem Management and Genomics. Minghua has worked tirelessly to improve and grow SoMAS with respect to its programs of education, research and fundraising. I anticipate that the search for a new Dean of SoMAS will begin in the near future.

IV. UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES

Stony Brook Ranked Top 10 in NY, Top 100 in U.S. for Best Value

Stony Brook University ranked 9th in New York State and 80th in the nation as a Best Value College by SmartAsset – a financial technology company that uses software and data to provide advice on major personal finance decisions. Top-performing schools were ranked as a result of their performance in various categories, including: scholarships provided, starting salary, tuition, living costs and retention rate.

Stony Brook Selected as One of Top 50 Colleges for African Americans

Money & Essence Magazine named Stony Brook University one of the top 50 colleges to offer the best value for African American students. This determination comes after analysis of offerings from more than 1,500 colleges. In their study, Money & Essence used the following criteria to make their selection:

- Graduation rates, which they considered one of the best measures of how a college serves students;
- Affordability, which was calculated with the average net price of the degree from each school after subtracting its financial aid;
- Earning potential, determined by a recent analysis by Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce to identify colleges that produce relatively high earners, given the background of their student body; &
- Representation, which was judged on whether African Americans represent at least 5% of students.

To see a list of all 50 colleges on the Money & Essence ranking list, visit:

<http://time.com/money/topic/best-colleges-for-african-americans/>

V. FACULTY, STAFF & STUDENT ACCOLADES

I am pleased and proud to report on the following recent outstanding accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students:

- **Richard Leakey** has been honored for lifetime achievement by the annual Tribeca Disruptive Innovation Awards. The awards recognize leading innovators not only in the technology and industrial sectors but also in the non-traditional areas that are desperately in need of innovation to help solve intractable problems.
- **James Konopka** was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology.
- **Rezaul Chowdhury** has received the prestigious Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The award will help to advance his research on developing theories and efficient tools to facilitate the design of portable parallel algorithms to be used in computing platforms ranging from small laptop computers to massive supercomputers.
- **Carl Safina** has been named a finalist for the 2016 Indianapolis Prize, the world's leading award for animal conservation.
- **Rowan Ricardo Phillips** has won a 2016 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award from The Cleveland Foundation for his second book of poetry, *Heaven*.
- **Rodney Morrison**, Associate Provost for Enrollment and Retention Management, received the Bernard P. Ireland Recognition Award – the highest honor of the Middle States Region of The College Board – which recognizes commitment to improving humanity through education by demonstrating a record of service to young people in easing the transition from high school to college, and distinguishing themselves as a change agent in their constituency.
- Two Stony Brook University professionals received the highest honor from the Town of Brookhaven Office of Women's Services during its 30th Annual Women's Recognition Night. **Marie A. Badalamente, PhD**, a Professor in the School of Medicine's Department of Orthopedics and **Cathrine Duffy, MA**, Associate Director of Student Support, were among those recognized for their excellence and leadership in their professions.
- Graduate researchers set a new Stony Brook record this year, earning 11 fellowships and 14 honorable mentions in the 2016 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. The fellowships provide each winner a \$34,000 annual stipend for three years plus a \$12,000 yearly cost-of-education allowance. The NSF chose 2,000 winners out of 17,000 applicants from 488 institutions nationwide. Stony Brook's Fellows are: **Nicole Bender, Alexander Borowicz, Emilie Bouda, Andrew Hargrove, Katherine Kling, Sierra Kuzava, Alyssa Liguori, Anthony Stapon, Tenille Taggart, Tanya Victor, and Alisa Yurovsky.**
- Undergraduate students **Michael D'Agati '18, Lea Kenigsberg '17 and Ioana Soaita '17** were honored with prestigious 2016 Goldwater Scholarships and will receive grants to pursue research careers in science, mathematics and engineering.
- Undergraduate **Ruchi Shah '16** was named one of *Glamour* magazine's Top 10 College Women of 2016.
- Thirteen Stony Brook University students received the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence in a ceremony at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany on April 5. The following Stony Brook students received the 2016 Award: **Anirudh**

Chandrashekar, Biomedical Engineering; Meaghan Coyne, Biology; Dhruv Dixit, Physics and Mathematics; Martin Giordano, Mechanical Engineering; Maryam Ige, Biomedical Engineering; Ashwin Kelkar, Biochemistry; Robert Maloney, Mathematics; Japbani Nanda, Biology; Alisa Rybkin, Biochemistry; Heather Savino, Social Welfare; Ruchi Shah, Biology; Bryan Szeplin, Biochemistry; and Casey Vieni, Physics.

VI. TITLE IX/CLERY ONLINE TRAINING COURSE FOR EMPLOYEES

Stony Brook is offering all employees the opportunity to take *Haven* – an interactive online training program on understanding and combating sexual misconduct. This program provides knowledge and resources that will help contribute to creating a campus that is free from discrimination and violence. To complete Haven, have your NetID and password ready, and click: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/employeehaven>. Questions should be directed to the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action (ODAA) at odaa@stonybrook.edu or [631-632-6280](tel:631-632-6280).

VII. COMMENCEMENT & HONORS PROGRAMS SET FOR THIS MONTH

Stony Brook University will celebrate its 56th Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 20 at 11:00 a.m. in the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. The Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, May 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena. A Baccalaureate Honors Convocation will also take place on May 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena. This ceremony will recognize candidates graduating with distinctions of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude, as well as members of Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi and recipients of the Chancellor's and Provost's awards.

Having received approval from the SUNY Board of Trustees, Stony Brook University will confer honorary degrees this year upon two distinguished professionals who have made lasting contributions in their respective fields. **Eric H. Holder, Jr.**, the 82nd Attorney General of the United States, will receive a Doctor of Law; and Award-winning journalist and Long Island native, **Soledad O'Brien**, will receive a Doctor of Letters.

VIII. RECENT EVENTS

Earthstock 2016

Stony Brook Earthstock, the week-long campus celebration of Earth Day, took place the week of April 18. The week featured a number of environmental programs, including various talks, the Earthstock Festival, walks, and a Keynote Lecture "Green Chemistry: The Missing Elements" delivered by **John Warner**, Co-Founder, President and Chief Technology Officer Warner Babcock Institute for Green Chemistry.

Annual Awards Ceremony Highlights Stellar Service

The annual Service Awards Ceremony recently took place to honor employees marking 25 years or more of service to the University. The luncheon and award ceremony celebrated individuals reaching the 25-, 30-, 35-, 40-, 45-, and 50-year milestones and included a recognition ceremony. A total of 376 people achieved recognized levels of service in 2015: 183 celebrated 25 years, 120 reached 30 years, 51 reached 35 years, 11 reached 40 years, ten reached 45 years, and one reached 50 years of service.

Stony Brook Celebrates New National Academy of Inventors Chapter

On April 11, an Inaugural Dinner Gala was held in the Student Activities Center to celebrate the newly established Stony Brook University Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors (SBU-NAI). Thirty Stony Brook faculty members — all of whom hold patents issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office — were inducted as inaugural members to the SBU-NAI. Their inventions cross into many scientific fields, such as chemistry, biomedical engineering, computer science, pharmacological science and mechanical engineering. Guest speaker **Karen J.L. Burg**, NAI Board of Directors, addressed the new Stony Brook inductees, and Distinguished Professor of Chemistry **Benjamin Hsiao** gave the keynote speech.

IX. ATHLETICS UPDATE¹

Spring Sports

- **Women's Lacrosse:** The team is currently ranked #6 in the nation and is on an 11 game win streak following last week's non-conference win over Long Island rival Hofstra University by a final score of 16-5. The Seawolves are currently 13-3 overall and tied with Albany for first place in the America East Conference. The final game of the regular season is at Albany on April 30. The America East Conference Tournament will start May 6. The team will look to repeat as champions and advance to the NCAA tournament for the 5th straight year. Junior **Courtney Murphy** (Shirley, NY/William Floyd HS) leads the nation in goals scored with 81 tallies. Murphy is only nine goals shy of the program record and 17 short of the Division I single season record of 98.
- **Men's Lacrosse:** The team is currently ranked #15 nationally heading into the final week of the regular season and into the America East Conference Tournament. Seniors **Brody Eastwood** (Victoria, British Columbia) and **Challen Rogers** (Coquitlam, British Columbia) are both finishing strong for the Seawolves and have had impressive careers. Eastwood broke the score record for career goals (currently at 176) while Rogers became only the fifth player in Stony Brook history to tally at least 200 points in his career (currently at 202).

¹ As of April 25

- **Softball:** The team is in the final weeks of the regular season with an eye on the conference championships and NCAA berth. With a record of 21-21-2, the team is currently seeded in third place in the America East with one remaining series against Albany prior to the conference tournament. The team has had some incredible games this year, including 2 no hitters thrown by pitcher **Jane Sallen** (Lake Worth, FL/Grandview Prep) in back-to-back games. With two more wins, Head Coach **Megan Bryant** will join a very elite group of colleagues, as she will be only the 26th active NCAA college coach to earn 800 career victories.
- **Men's and Women's Tennis:** Coming off of 4 straight conference championships and NCAA bids, the women's tennis team advanced to the America East Conference title game this past weekend before falling 4-2 to the Great Danes of Albany. On the men's side, the team will compete in the MVC Championships in Wichita, KS this coming weekend with their own hopes of winning the title and advancing to the NCAA Tournament.

Winter Sports

- **Men's Basketball:** **Jeff Boals**, who spent the last seven seasons as an assistant coach at Ohio State, has been named head men's basketball coach. Boals was officially introduced as the 11th head coach in the program's history to the Stony Brook community at a press conference on Monday, April 11 at the Island Federal Credit Union Arena. A member of **Thad Matta's** staff since 2009-10, Boals helped guide Ohio State to seven postseason appearances, including six NCAA Tournaments. The Buckeyes, who won or claimed a share of three Big 10 titles, advanced to the Final Four in 2012. OSU went 193-62 during Boals' time in Columbus.

Seawolves in the Pros

- First team all-American senior football player **Victor Ochi** (Valley Stream, NY/Valley Stream HS) continues to draw attention by team scouts and will hope that his name is called at the end of this week as part of the NFL draft. He is hoping to join former teammate Will Tye '15 as the second Seawolf to earn a spot on an NFL game day roster.
- **Tom Koehler '08** is in his fourth year in the pros and is a starting pitcher for the Miami Marlins. Outfielder **Travis Jankowski '12** and Pitcher **Nick Tropeano '11** both made their debut on starting rosters for major league baseball this year. Jankowski is currently rotating as a center fielder for the San Diego Padres while Tropeano has pitched to a 1-0 start for the Los Angeles Angels.