



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

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

DATE: May 1, 2017

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. 18TH ANNUAL STARS OF STONY BROOK GALA 2017

On April 19, Stony Brook University honored **Joseph R. Biden Jr.**, 47th Vice President of the United States of America, at Chelsea Piers in Manhattan before a record-breaking crowd of 870 guests. Biden was recognized for his dedication to the fight against cancer. As Vice President, he led the White House "Cancer Moonshot" with the mission to double the rate of progress in preventing the disease that leads to more than 8 million deaths worldwide every year. Under his leadership, the Cancer Moonshot Task Force catalyzed novel, innovative and impactful partnerships among 20 government agencies, departments and White House offices, as well as over 70 private sector collaborations. Biden also helped lead the effort to pass the 21st Century Cures Act, which provides \$1.8 billion over seven years for the Cancer Moonshot scientific priorities. Hosted by the Stony Brook Foundation, the Gala generates funds for student financial aid and a select academic area of excellence. This year, the University raised close to \$7 million dollars in gifts and pledges, including \$2,051,000 for scholarships and \$4,895,000 to support the Stony Brook University Cancer Center. Since 2000, the event has raised more than \$50 million. Dollars raised at the Gala count toward the \$600 million Campaign for Stony Brook goal.

II. CAMPAIGN FOR STONY BROOK UPDATE

The Campaign for Stony Brook has secured an additional \$3.5 million in gifts and pledges since the University Senate last met. The new total of \$531.6 million in support has come from more than 42,000 donors. With 14 months until the completion of the Campaign, University Advancement will continue to garner the support of our alumni and donors to raise the remaining \$68.4 million of our \$600 million Campaign goal. A small sample of beneficiaries include:

- \$500,000 for the Center for Hellenic Studies
- Three CEAS faculty members received a total of \$128,500 in research support from Google
- \$50,000 for a Data Transparency Lab Grant to inform users in real time about the relative privacy of visiting a specific website

III. WTC WELLNESS PROGRAM RECEIVES \$60 MILLION FROM NIOSH

Nearly 16 years have passed since the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks, but emergency responders and other victims continue to suffer health consequences. That's why the Stony Brook University WTC Wellness Program, which helps to track and serve nearly 10,000 patients affected by the tragedy, has received a new five-year federal grant totaling more than \$60 million. Awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the grant comes at a time when the WTC Wellness Program continues to expand its medical services to patients and is relocating later this month to a larger clinical space in Stony Brook Medicine's new specialty care facility in Commack, NY. The program is led by **Benjamin Luft, MD**, the Edmund D. Pellegrino Professor of Medicine in the Stony Brook University School of Medicine. As principle investigator of the new NIOSH award, Luft and his team will use the funds to support the operations and infrastructure costs necessary to run a large collaborative medical care model. The NIOSH award will extend support for the program until March 31, 2022.

IV. THOMAS ALLISON WINS 2017 DISCOVERY PRIZE

Thomas Allison, an assistant professor in the Departments of Chemistry and Physics at Stony Brook University, posed this fundamental question on the way to winning the 2017 Discovery Prize: how do electrons move within molecules? In a presentation delivered on April 13 at the Charles B. Wang Center Theatre, Allison convinced a panel of three distinguished judges that his project deserved a \$200,000 cash prize to help fund his postdoctoral research. The award will finance equipment that will help scientists see how molecules move and behave in real time.

The winner was chosen by a distinguished panel of judges, including: 2016 Nobel Laureate in Physics from Princeton University, **F. Duncan Haldane**; Berkeley's Director of the Nuclear Science Division, Professor **Barbara Jacak**; and Chairman of the Simons Foundation and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, **James H. Simons**. Allison was chosen from among four faculty finalists, including: **Gábor Balázs**, associate professor, Laufer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology/Department of Biomedical Engineering; **Matthew Reuter**, assistant professor, Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics/Institute for Advanced Computational Science; and **Neelima Sehgal**, assistant professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy. Each presenter spoke for 10 minutes and then responded to five minutes of questions from the judges. The Discovery Prize was established in 2013 with a generous donation from the Stony Brook Foundation Board of Trustees. The Prize is awarded to an early-career Stony Brook faculty member in the STEM disciplines.

V. KRISTINA JOHNSON NAMED SUNY CHANCELLOR

Kristina M. Johnson has been named as 13th chancellor of SUNY, the State University of New York Board of Trustees announced on April 24. Dr. Johnson is the current founder and Chief Executive Officer of Cube Hydro Partners, LLC, which develops hydroelectric generation facilities that provide clean energy to communities and businesses throughout the country. She was appointed by former president **Barack Obama** as U.S. Under Secretary of Energy and served as Johns Hopkins University provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, dean of the Pratt School of Engineering at Duke University, and professor at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Dr. Johnson is an inventor and entrepreneur who holds 118 U.S. and

international patents. She became a member of the National Academy of Inventors and the National Academy of Engineering in 2016, and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, together with Gary Sharp, in 2015, for the development of polarization-control technologies that enabled high quality 3D movies and TV. Current Chancellor **Nancy Zimpher** will step down from the position in June 2017 after an eight-year term.

VI. FACULTY & STUDENT ACCOLADES

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

- **Jared Farmer, PhD**, has been named a 2017 Andrew Carnegie Fellow. Farmer, an associate professor of History in the College of Arts and Sciences, will use this prestigious fellowship and award of \$200,000 to complete a creative non-fiction book on the human relationship with long-lived trees and our larger relationship with nature in a time of climate change. The philanthropic program, in its third year, recognizes an exceptional group of established and emerging humanities scholars with the goal of strengthening U.S. democracy, driving technological and cultural creativity, exploring global connections and global ruptures, and improving natural and human environments.
- **Long Lu, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has received a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award for his research in rethinking mobile security in today's app-as-a-platform environment. He will receive \$500,000 over the next five years to conduct research covered by the CAREER award. This is Dr. Lu's fourth NSF award and eighth research grant, securing him more than \$3 million dollars in research grants.
- Undergraduate students **Ann Lin '18** and **Christopher Giulian '18** were honored with prestigious 2017 Goldwater Scholarships. The pair of juniors, who partner in the same laboratory, are among the 204 students selected nationally as Goldwater Scholars. They performed cancer-related research in the Cold Spring Harbor Lab under the guidance of Professor **Jason Sheltzer**. The Goldwater researchers investigated the role of Maternal Embryonic Leucine Zipper Kinase (MELK) in cancer. Using a new gene-editing technique called CRISPR, Lin and Giuliano removed MELK activity and discovered that it did not affect cancer cell growth, contrary to what past literature stated. The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program annually honors highly qualified scientists, mathematicians and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue research careers in these fields.
- Fifteen Stony Brook University students received the 2017 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 award: **Taylor Brant, Megan Cooney, Bella Gurevich, Sonia Joshi, Gabrielle Khalife, Joel Kovoov, Cole Lee, Rima Madan, Naveen Mallangada, Janki Pate, Krista Pullen, Ioana Soaita, Joseph Sweeney, Joselin Vargas, and James Vassallo.**

VII. DIVERSITY TOWN HALLS

Stony Brook University began its second tour of Diversity Town Hall events on April 12 at the Charles B. Wang Center. Students, faculty and staff were invited to voice their questions, comments and concerns regarding diversity on campus as part of implementing, and continuing to improve, Stony Brook's Plan for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity. After providing a brief update about campus-wide progress since the prior Diversity Town Halls were held in December, and outlining the recently released 2017 Implementation Work Plan, Chief Deputy to the President **Judith Greiman** led a panel of University administrators in answering questions submitted before the event and asked live by attendees. Along with Greiman, the panel included **Marjolie Leonard**, Director for Title IX and Risk Management; **Lynn Johnson**, Vice President of Human Resource Services; **Braden Hosch**, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness; **Jerry Stein**, Interim Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; **Robbye Kinkade**, Director of the Recognizing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (R.E.D.I) Project; **Michael Bernstein**, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; and **Rodney Morrison**, Associate Provost for Enrollment & Retention Management.

Several questions were submitted before the event and were posed from the floor by participants. They covered topics including under-represented minority student recruitment, resources and funding for students with disabilities, the inclusion of diversity in course curricula, LGBTQ* inclusion efforts and details regarding bias related incidents on campus. The event is available on YouTube in its entirety. A similar Town Hall session took place on April 24 at the Southampton Campus. The last session will take place on **Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 2:30 pm in the Health Sciences Lecture Hall 2** (to submit questions, click [here](#)).

VIII. COMMENCEMENT & HONORS PROGRAMS SET FOR THIS MONTH

Stony Brook University will celebrate its 57th Commencement Ceremony on **Friday, May 19 at 11:00 a.m.** in the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. The Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony is scheduled for **Thursday, May 18 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena. A Baccalaureate Honors Convocation will also take place on **May 18 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 the following five distinguished individuals:

- Actor and philanthropist **Michael J. Fox** will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, recognizing a career that has brought international acclaim with many honors and awards, and establishment of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.
- Conservationist and anthropologist **Prince Emmanuel de Merode** will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters for his service as director and chief warden of Virunga National Park where he has worked on the frontlines of conservation during periods of conflict as well as bringing in significant funding, local enterprise and tourism development.

- Programmer, photographer, serial entrepreneur, Stony Brook University alum, and founder and CEO of Shutterstock, **Jonathan Oringer** ('96) will receive a Doctor of Science for his contribution to the tech industry for the invention of one of the web's first pop-up blockers and for creating and building Shutterstock, the global technology company which disrupted the image licensing industry.
- Leading psychology, neurosciences researcher and Stony Brook alumnus **Dr. Arthur "Art" Kramer** ('75) will receive a Doctor of Science for his research and leadership in the areas of cognitive neuroscience and psychology, the aging mind, brain plasticity and human factors.
- Astrophysicist, astronomer, professor and author **Dr. Frank Shu** will receive a Doctor of Science for his pioneering theoretical work in astrophysics. As a leader in his field, Dr. Shu has provided the world of science with many advances in how the stars are viewed and his ability to look at the galaxies for more than their beauty alone has impacted students and inspired scholars around the world.

IX. RECENT EVENTS

Earthstock 2017

Stony Brook Earthstock, the annual week-long campus celebration of Earth Day, took place the week of April 17. The week featured a number of environmental programs, including various talks, the Earthstock Festival, walks, and a Keynote Lecture – "Roadshow of Resistance: Saving the Planet, Indigenous Rights and Standing Rock."

Stony Brook Celebrates the Opening of Advanced Specialty Care

On April 18, Stony Brook Medicine celebrated the opening of Advanced Specialty Care – its new, multi-specialty care center located in Commack. The center provides advanced care in more than 30 different specialties and subspecialties, including internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, dermatology, orthopedics, neurosurgery, surgery, urology and radiology/imaging. The facility includes an on-site imaging center to provide x-rays, mammograms, ultrasounds, bone densitometry, CTs and MRIs. It also serves as the new home of the Stony Brook World Trade Center Wellness Program, which recently received a five-year federal grant totaling more than \$60 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

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 352 people achieved recognized levels of service in 2016: 176 celebrated 25 years, 101 reached 30 years, 57 reached 35 years, ten reached 40 years, four reached 45 years, and four reached 50 years of service.

X. ATHLETICS UPDATE¹

Spring Sports

- **Women's Lacrosse:** The team is currently ranked #4 in the nation and is on a 9 game win streak following last week's conference wins over Vermont and UMBC. The Seawolves are currently 14-1 overall and are in first place in the America East Conference. The team will finish up its regular season with games against Hofstra and UMass Lowell. The team will then enter the America East Conference Tournament on May 5 against the University of New Hampshire at home. The team will look to repeat as champions and advance to the NCAA tournament for the 5th straight year. Junior **Kylie Ohlmiller** (Islip, N.Y.) leads the nation with 112 points.
- **Men's Lacrosse:** The team currently stands at 7-5 overall and are 3-2 in conference play. They will wrap up the regular season against Binghamton on April 28. Stony Brook and Binghamton are currently tied for third in the conference heading into their final America East game of the 2017 season. The top four teams in the league qualify for the America East Championships, which will be hosted this year by top seeded Albany. A win for the Seawolves secures them a spot in the championships. In the event of a loss, a win by Albany (vs. Hartford) or UMBC (vs. Vermont) also keeps Stony Brook in contention.
- **Softball:** The team is in the midst of its conference schedule and currently has a 7-7 record in league play. The team will end its regular season schedule against Binghamton on May 5 and 6. The team is currently ranked fourth in the conference.
- **Baseball:** The team is in the heart of conference play, with upcoming games against Maine, Albany, Binghamton, and UMBC. The America East tournament is scheduled for May 24-28 in Lowell, Massachusetts.
- **Men's and Women's Tennis:** The Stony Brook women's tennis team will travel to Normal, Ill. for their first Missouri Valley Conference Championships. The Seawolves are coming into the tournament 6-10 on the year. The men's team will also compete at this tournament and enter the championships at 9-5. Senior **Raphael Termat** (Nice, France) is 10-1 at the No.1 and is currently ranked 121st in the ITA National Rankings.

¹ As of April 27