



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Senate  
**FROM:** Michael A. Bernstein  
Interim President  
**DATE:** October 7, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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**I. APPOINTMENTS & DEPARTURES**

**Melissa Woo Stepping Down**

**Dr. Melissa Z.Y. Woo**, Senior Vice President for Information Technology & Enterprise and Chief Information Officer, has accepted a position at Michigan State University. She will depart from her current role on November 1. In the coming weeks, we will work to identify an Interim Chief Information Officer and determine a plan for the search for a permanent replacement.

**Stacy Jaffee Gropack Named Dean of the School of Health Technology and Management**

**Dr. Stacy Jaffee Gropack** joined Stony Brook University as Dean of the School of Health Technology and Management, effective October 1. Stacy comes to us from Long Island University, Brooklyn, where she served as Dean of the School of Health Professions, and just before that, as Dean of the School of Health Professions and Nursing at Long Island University, Post. Stacy received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Physical Therapy degrees from Long Island University and her PhD in Higher Education from New York University.

**II. SEARCH UPDATES**

**Presidential Search Update**

The search for Stony Brook University's next president is underway. In accordance with SUNY policy and guidelines, we have completed the required processes to select a search committee and a search firm. The Search Committee members are committed to conducting a search that will yield an accomplished, visionary and inspirational president to lead Stony Brook University, as it continues its forward trajectory as one of the top public research universities in the United States. Search Committee members include:

- **Linda Armyn**, Stony Brook Council
- **Mark Aronoff**, Faculty Representative (Linguistics)

- **Kimberly Joy Dixon**, Member of the Professional/Support Staff (Career Center)
- **Axel Drees**, Faculty Representative (Physics & Astronomy)
- **Joshua Dubnau**, Faculty Representative (Anesthesiology)
- **Brooke Ellison PhD '12**, Faculty Representative (Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)
- **Richard L. Gelfond '76, Hon. '04**, Stony Brook Foundation
- **Christopher Hahn**, Stony Brook Council
- **Shaheer Kahn**, Undergraduate Student Representative
- **Father Alex Karloutsos**, Stony Brook Council
- **Kevin S. Law '82**, Stony Brook Council and Search Committee Chair
- **Celia Marshik**, Faculty Representative (English)
- **I. Memming Park**, Faculty Representative (Neurobiology & Behavior)
- **Clint Rubin**, Faculty Representative (Biomedical Engineering)
- **Nicole Sampson**, Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
- **James H. Simons, Hon. '92**, Stony Brook Foundation
- **President Harvey Stenger**, Binghamton University, Chancellor's Designee
- **Christina Vargas '90, MA '93**, Alumni Representative
- **Xiaoqing Zhang**, Graduate Student Representative

We have hired the firm of **Isaacson, Miller** to aid in our search. **Michael Baer** is our lead search consultant, and he will be assisted by **Ernest Brooks**. **Chancellor Kristina Johnson** chaired the committee at its first meeting on September 27.

### III. UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES

#### **Stony Brook Ranked in Top 100 by U.S. News & World Report**

Stony Brook University is once again ranked within the top 100 among U.S. colleges and universities (No. 91) and ranks as No. 39 among public universities, according to U.S. News & World Report's 2020 Best Colleges. The University was ranked No. 38 in ethnic diversity and No. 24 in the new category of social mobility.

#### **Stony Brook Jumps in Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education Rankings**

Stony Brook has been ranked No. 25 among public universities in the prestigious Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education U.S. College Rankings for 2020, representing an increase of five places over last year. Stony Brook is the highest ranked state institution in New York State. Stony Brook has also been ranked No. 105 among all U.S. universities, representing an increase of 30 places over last year. This ranking is based on 15 individual performance metrics, grouped into four pillars representing resources (30%), engagement (20%), outcomes (40%) and environment (10%).

#### **Stony Brook Offers Path to American Dream**

Stony Brook University is showcased as a university that “helps low-income kids move into the middle class and beyond” in an op-ed published September 20 in Marketwatch. “There’s something special going on at SUNY Stony Brook,” says John Friedman, co-author of a study

identifying the U.S. colleges and universities that best promote upward mobility, who is quoted in the article. The *Marketwatch* article is available [here](#).

#### IV. ADVANCEMENT UPDATES

Since the beginning of the 2020 fiscal year, more than \$12.8 million has been generously given by 2,300 donors investing in our students, faculty, staff, and patients. Their contributions include:

- \$275,000 toward scholarships for undergraduate engineering students
- \$225,000 toward an Endowed Chair in Physics
- \$150,000 for an endowed lecture series in Surgery

#### V. FACULTY AND STUDENT ACCOLADES

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

- The International Center for Diffraction Data (ICDD) has named Department of Physics and Astronomy Professor **Peter Stephens** the 18<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Barrett Award, a biennial award that recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of powder diffraction.
- Eleven Stony Brook students are among a select group from 69 colleges around the globe chosen for the Millennium Fellowship, a partnership between the Millennium Campus Network and the United Nations Academic Impact initiative. The students are working on projects that focus on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Chosen from a record 7,020 applications from students on 1,209 campuses across 135 nations, the Stony Brook students chosen are: **Myra Arshad, Isabella Bouklas, Erin Byers, Sabrina Duquesnay, Alexandra Eck, Lakshita Kundal, Husbaan Sheikh, Agam Singh, Allison Strauss, Nayarit Tineo, and Kelly Wang.**

#### VI. WISE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTED IN #HEFORSHE REPORT

Marking the fifth anniversary of the HeForShe movement, the United Nations has released its [2019 Impact Report](#) charting progress in gender equality worldwide. An update on Stony Brook's progress towards completion of its gender equity goals as a HeForShe Impact 10x10x10 Champion is included in the report. It also features recent SBU graduate **Kerris Moore**, who describes how Stony Brook's [Women in Science and Engineering](#) program opens doors for women in the STEM fields.. Stony Brook is one of 10 universities, 10 countries and 10 corporations that have committed to working together and within their sectors to take action around improving gender equality.

#### VII. PARKING UPDATE

Recently, the Stony Brook Department of Transportation and Parking announced its pledge to continue to make improvements to the University's parking and transportation infrastructure. They are currently going through the RFP process to hire a parking consultant to help identify both current and future parking needs and strategies. In the meantime, several transportation and

parking improvements were completed this summer. These include the reassignment of several underutilized parking spaces, development of an additional bus stop on Circle Road, improvement in roadways and curbs/ramps, and maintenance to the Administration Building parking garage. For additional information on parking and transportation services at Stony Brook University, please visit the parking services website at: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/transportation-and-parking/parking-services/index.php>.

## **VIII. FALL ENROLLMENT**

A total of 26,814 students were registered at the end of Day 15 in fall 2019, 558 more than last year at the same point in the term. Enrollment counts for 2019 represent record levels for undergraduate and graduate students. Compared to fall 2018, the following changes were observed by area:

- + 311 West Campus undergraduates
- + 30 Graduate School (West, HSC, Southampton)
- + 27 School of Professional Development
- + 175 East Campus/HSC
- + 15 Southampton location

## **IX. UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration**

Hispanic Heritage Month is underway at Stony Brook. This year's theme is: "Thirty Years of Latino Excellence at Stony Brook University; Treinta Años de Excelencia Latina en La Universidad de Stony Brook." The month-long celebration's opening ceremony will take place on **Wednesday, October 9** in the Student Activities Center Ballroom A from 1:00 - 2:20 p.m. For more information, visit: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/hispanic-heritage/index.php>.

### **Save the Date: State of the University Address**

The annual State of the University presentation will take place in the Staller Center on **Wednesday, October 16 at 1:00 p.m.** All members of the University community are encouraged to attend.

## **X. RECENT EVENTS**

### **Wolfstock 2019**

Stony Brook celebrated Wolfstock 2019 on Saturday, October 5, prior to the homecoming football game against James Madison. This greatly anticipated tradition featured family-friendly events for students, alumni, and friends.

## CommUniversity Day Celebrates the Best of Stony Brook

More than 4,000 members of the campus and surrounding community enjoyed a beautiful day full of fun, learning and discovery at CommUniversity Day on September 21. The free festival, now in its third year, showcased the best of the University and Hospital through more than 100 interactive, hands-on activities and performances coordinated by more than 350 student and employee volunteers. As has been tradition, CommUniversity Day ended with songs from the OLLI Choir, the ice cream social, a performance by the Spirit of Stony Brook Marching Band, and the rubber duck race. CommUniversity Day was created and directed by the Office of Community Relations. The event was funded through the Stony Brook University Plan for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity. For more about CommUniversity Day, please visit: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/communiversity/>.

## XI. ATHLETICS<sup>1</sup>

### Team Updates

- **Football:** Stony Brook's football team returned to the national top 25 polls after the Seawolves' third straight victory of the season this past Saturday at Rhode Island. Junior quarterback **Tyquell Field** ran 50 yards for a touchdown on fourth down with 11 seconds left to secure the victory. The play was featured on ESPN's SportsCenter and other national media outlets. The team sits at 24<sup>th</sup> in both the AFCA coaches poll and the FCS STATS poll.
- **Women's Soccer:** The team began the year with six non-conference wins – the most since 2012. Led by first-year head coach **Tobi Bischof**, the team has an overall record of 7-4, and has won its sole conference match against Maine.
- **Cross Country:** The men's cross-country team impressed at its first big test of the season, taking third overall (129 points) as a team out of 21 at the Coast-to-Coast Battle in Beantown on September 20. The Seawolves topped nationally-ranked squads Washington and Arkansas, and finished in front of conference rivals UAlbany, UMass Lowell, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

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<sup>1</sup> As of September 30