



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

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

DATE: April 4, 2016

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. STONY BROOK IS THE NEW HOME TO NSF STEM CIVIC-CENTERED LEARNING PROGRAM

Stony Brook University is the new home to SENCER (Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities), which is housed in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Formerly located at the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, SENCER is a national initiative connecting “the science of learning to the learning of science,” with the goal to expand civic capacity and connect science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) content to real world problems.

Established in 2001 by the National Science Foundation’s Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement national dissemination track, SENCER is the signature program of the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (NCSCE). It is geared toward strengthening undergraduate student learning and interest in the STEM disciplines by connecting course topics to critical issues of local, national and global importance. The move to Stony Brook comes after NCSCE, with support from the NSF’s ICORPS-L program, explored new strategies for achieving larger scale and sustainability for those activities in which NSF has made substantial investments. SENCER offers resources in order to assist educators with creating or modifying courses and programs in a range of disciplines. Its approach to curricular enhancement and faculty development uses the urgency and significance of complex and pressing civic challenges.

II. STARS OF STONY BROOK GALA 2016

This year’s Stars of Stony Brook Gala will be held on **Wednesday, April 20 at Pier Sixty in New York City** and will honor **Glenn Dubin, Dr. Eva Andersson-Dubin and Joe Nathan**. Proceeds from the Stars of Stony Brook Gala will support student scholarships, the Dubin Challenge for the Indoor Training Center and Stony Brook Baseball. For additional information or to purchase tickets, contact Tamara Leuchtenburg at (212) 245-6570 (extension 15) or tamaral@eventassociatesinc.com.

III. FUNDRAISING UPDATE

To date, the Campaign for Stony Brook has raised \$441.3 million toward our goal and our momentum continues to build. Most importantly, the Campaign has already had a significant impact, generating approximately \$24.5 million for student financial aid, \$102.6 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. For additional information about the Campaign, please visit stonybrook.edu/campaign.

IV. UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES

Stony Brook Makes Forbes Top 100 Best Value List

Stony Brook University is in the Top 100 of Forbes Best Value Schools 2016 – ranked at #82. The ranking is based on tuition costs, school quality, graduation success and post-graduate earnings. According to Forbes, “This is our newly reimagined Best Value Colleges ranking, an analysis of the brainiest research universities and leading liberal arts schools, both public and private, that are well worth the investment.”

Stony Brook is National Leader in Physics Teacher Preparation

Stony Brook University received “The 5+ Club” Award from the Physics Teacher Education Coalition (PhysTEC), a flagship education program of the American Physical Society (APS). “The 5+ Club” is an elite group of institutions that has graduated five or more physics teachers in a given year. Stony Brook graduated eight highly qualified physics teachers in the academic year 2014-15. To put this number in perspective, fewer than 20 institutions in the United States graduate five or more physics teachers in most years. PhysTEC aims to improve the education of future physics teachers by transforming physics departments, creating successful models for physics teacher education programs, and disseminating best practices. The PhysTEC program is led by APS in partnership with the American Association of Physics Teachers, with support from the National Science Foundation.

V. FACULTY & STUDENT ACCOLADES

Two Faculty Members Earn NSF CAREER Awards

Jing Chen, PhD, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has received the prestigious Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The award will help to advance her research on mechanism design that has impact on computation and rationality problems in areas such as game theory, economics and social sciences. She will receive nearly \$500,000 over the next five years to support her project, titled “A Theory of Mechanisms with Unstructured Beliefs.” The grant will also enable her to broaden opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, with a special emphasis on encouraging women and underrepresented minorities in coursework and investigation based on the study of the theory of mechanisms.

Jason Trelewicz, PhD, an Assistant Professor of Materials Science and Engineering in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has also received the prestigious Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The award will help to advance his research aimed at transforming applications of high-strength metals. He will receive funding of \$500,000 over the next five years to support his project, titled “Interface Engineered Amorphous Alloys for Thermoplastic Forming of Ductile Bulk Metallic Glasses.” Trelewicz’ research centers on the design, synthesis, and characterization of nanostructured and amorphous metals through computational modeling and materials science experimentation.

The NSF CAREER Award is given to promising young university faculty nationwide who exemplify the role of teacher-scholar through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of both education and research.

Jun Liu Wins James E. Alatis Award for Outstanding Service to TESOL

Dr. Jun Liu, Vice Provost for Global Affairs and Dean of International Academic Programs and Services, is the 2016 recipient of the James E. Alatis Award for Service to Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). The award, given by TESOL International Association, honors outstanding and extended service by TESOL members at international, regional and local levels. Liu was honored for the award at the James E. Alatis Plenary during the 2016 TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo in Baltimore, MD. TESOL International Association is a professional community of educators, researchers, administrators and students committed to advancing excellence in English language teaching for speakers of other languages worldwide.

Katherine Aubrecht Awarded for Incorporating Sustainability into Chemistry Education

Dr. Katherine Aubrecht, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry, is a recipient of the 2016 ACS-CEI Award for Incorporating Sustainability into Chemistry Education, sponsored by the American Chemical Society’s Committee on Environmental Improvement. She was chosen based on her work, “Connecting Chemistry to Sustainability for both Science Majors and Non-Science Majors.” The award program recognizes individuals and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to the incorporation of sustainability into chemical education. Aubrecht was honored for her accomplishments in March at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in San Diego. Aubrecht is also a faculty member in Stony Brook’s Sustainability Studies Program as a chemist whose research and teaching interests include the development of learning materials about sustainability for the chemistry curriculum, context-based approaches in chemical education, biodegradable and biorenewable polymers, and environmentally benign synthetic methodology.

Ruchi Shah Receives National Recognition for Cancer Research

A presentation by Stony Brook senior **Ruchi Shah** received first place among all undergraduate and graduate students in the category Medicine and Public Health at the 2016 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting. Shah, a biology major minoring in journalism, presented her project “Keratin 17 Maintains Proliferation by Binding p27KIP1 and Facilitating its Nuclear Export” at the AAAS meeting in Washington D.C. in February. She was awarded for research on keratin 17 expression in cancer based on her work with pharmacology graduate student **Luisa Escobar-Hoyos** in the laboratory of **Dr. Kenneth Shroyer**, chair of Stony Brook’s Department of Pathology.

Shah, a native of Ronkonkoma, NY, is in the highly selective Scholars for Medicine (BS/MD) program at Stony Brook. She invented an all-natural, low-cost mosquito repellent that has been recognized by Forbes, Intel ISEF and the AXA Achievement Award. Shah conducts cervical cancer research, was a fellow at the Jackson Laboratories and was selected by the American Association for Cancer Research as one of the top ten college cancer researchers.

VI. ALL-GENDER RESTROOMS EXPANDED AT THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER

As part of our efforts to enhance our campus community and create public spaces available to all, all-gender restrooms are now available at the Student Activities Center (SAC). All-gender restrooms are facilities that can be used by anyone regardless of gender identity or expression. Since the SAC is the main hub of student activity on campus, increasing the availability of all-gender restrooms will allow all members of our campus community to feel more welcomed and included. We are proud to be the first SUNY campus to offer multiple occupancy all-gender restrooms on campus.

VII. ATHLETICS UPDATE¹

Winter Sports

- **Men’s Basketball:** For the first time in our Division I history, the men's basketball team won the America East Conference Tournament and advanced to the NCAA Tournament. As a #13 seed, the Seawolves were selected to play in the Des Moines, IA Regional and matched up against #4 seed Kentucky. Following a tough battle on national television, the team fell 85-57. It was a magical run for the team, led by Seniors **Jameel Warney**, **Carson Puriefoy** and **Rayshaun McGrew**, and provided a fantastic experience and excellent exposure for the University community and fans. Following the many accolades that were received by the team, Jameel Warney was also most recently recognized as AP honorable mention all-America. Warney finished his career as Stony Brook's all-time leader in points (2,132), rebounds (1,275), blocks (276) and games played (135). The Department of Athletics is in the middle of a search for a new head coach following the departure of 11 year Head Coach **Steve Pikiell** who took the same position at Rutgers University.

¹ As of April 1

Spring Sports

- **Women's Lacrosse:** The team is currently ranked #11 in the country. The first half of their schedule was very competitive and included games against four top-20 teams (Florida, Northwestern, USC and Stanford). The team is looking to defend their three year streak of America East Conference titles and NCAA appearances, as they begin league play this weekend against the University of Vermont.
- **Men's Lacrosse:** The team is ranked #12 in the nation, behind a 7-2 record and impressive wins over #16 Rutgers (15-6) and #12 Hofstra (13-5). The team is looking to win the America East Conference title and a berth in the NCAA Tournament. The Seawolves are currently 1-1 in league play after beating UMBC but falling to #11 Albany. The America East Championship will be played May 5 & 7 at the site of the highest seed.
- **Track and Field:** Three members of the Indoor Track and Field team were named America East All-Academic team selections following the completion of their season. **Joe Clark**, an Applied Math & Statistics/Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences double major, has a 3.73 GPA and scored in both the DMR and the mile at the America East Championships in February. **Christina Melian**, a Biology/Health Sciences double major, holds a 3.91 GPA. Melian qualified for the NCAA Championships in the 5000m in March and won the 3000m at the America East Championships in February. **Kate Pouder**, who is pursuing a Master of Arts, Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care & Bioethics, holds a 4.0 GPA. Pouder scored in the mile and in the DMR at the America East Championships in February.
- **Men's and Women's Tennis:** Head Coach **Gary Glassman** has both the men's and women's tennis teams off to solid starts to their spring seasons. The women are currently 7-4 overall, while the men are 5-4. Both squads won their recent matches over Long Island rival Hofstra and both beat UMBC in their first conference matches of the season.