



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Senate

**FROM:** Maurie McInnis, President

**DATE:** August 30, 2021

**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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### I. LEADERSHIP UPDATES

#### **SHARI MILLER NAMED DEAN OF STONY BROOK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE**

Effective August 1, Shari Miller, associate dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Georgia (UGA) and a clinical social worker focused on innovative interdisciplinary education, became Stony Brook University's Dean of the School of Social Welfare.

Miller is a dedicated and talented educator, and has received multiple awards recognizing her efforts in the classroom at UGA, including four Bachelor's of Social Work Teacher of the Year Awards and the Richard B. Russell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, as well as the Teaching Innovation Award from the Council on Social Work Education and SAGE Publishers. She has mentored and advised many graduate students, serving on about a dozen dissertation and thesis committees.

Her research focuses on educational innovation with implications for reflective practice in a sustainable global society. She has written more than 100 peer-reviewed papers, conference presentations, and other scholarly pieces, and her work has appeared in many of her discipline's prestigious journals. She has been the principal investigator or co-PI on \$4.8 million in grants funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration.

Miller earned her PhD from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, her Master of Social Work from Yeshiva University, and her bachelor's degree in sociology from SUNY Binghamton.

#### **JUSTIN FINCHER, PhD, APPOINTED VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE STONY BROOK FOUNDATION**

Justin Fincher, PhD, former vice president for advancement at The Ohio State University, was appointed vice president for advancement, effective August 23, 2021. Justin will provide leadership for the University's development and alumni relations operations and serve as executive director of the Stony Brook Foundation.

Since 2013, while at The Ohio State University (OSU), he has been responsible for strategy, operations, and resources to mobilize multibillion-dollar campaigns effectively and engage hundreds of thousands of alumni and donors in developing philanthropic support for the institution's mission and goals. In that role, he managed a team of 125 staff and cultivated philanthropic support for academic departments and medicine.

He led the successful conclusion of OSU's previous \$3 billion campaign, one that engaged 750,000 donors, and oversaw the planning and launch of its latest \$4.5 billion campaign. He served as chief operating officer of the OSU Alumni Association and worked closely with its board, and provided interim leadership for the 80-person fundraising team for Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center and Health Science Colleges. Before his work at OSU, Justin held leadership roles at Rutgers University and Johns Hopkins University.

Justin earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Rutgers University. He earned his master's in college student personnel and PhD in higher education administration, both from the University of Maryland. He has taught and advised master's and doctoral students at Maryland and Ohio State.

### **WILLIAM WARREN NAMED VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

William Warren, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at the University of Utah, has been named Vice President for Marketing and Communication. Bill will lead all marketing and communications for the academic and research enterprise, Stony Brook Medicine and the Stony Brook Medicine Healthcare System. His first day will be September 13.

At the University of Utah, Bill built a marketing and communications team that includes crisis communications, issues management, digital strategy, and creative services. Under his leadership the university launched its first overarching marketing campaign. His efforts to ensure better alignment of marketing messaging and brand identity accelerated when he served as interim chief marketing and communications officer for the University of Utah's health care system and health sciences colleges.

Prior to joining the University of Utah, he served as vice president of communications at CA Technologies, one of the largest independent software corporations in the world. There, for eight years, he oversaw a wide range of functions, including government affairs, community relations, corporate philanthropy, executive and internal communications. During his career he has also held senior communications roles at MCI, ARCO, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Bill holds masters' degrees from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Rice University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

### **CEAS PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN JON LONGTIN APPOINTED INTERIM DEAN**

Jon Longtin was appointed interim dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS), effective June 29. Professor Longtin first joined Stony Brook in 1996 as an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Since then he has risen through the ranks to professor in 2012. He served as undergraduate program director in Mechanical Engineering from 2006 to 2011. In November, 2019 he was named associate dean of research and entrepreneurship for CEAS, a new, strategic role designed to grow and support faculty research, expand entrepreneurship, oversee development of facilities to support research and innovation, and expand partnerships with Brookhaven National Lab (BNL) and industry. In this capacity, Jon was pivotal in navigating the college through the COVID-19 crisis last year. As an example, he spearheaded several initiatives during the initial response to the COVID-19 outbreak, including an innovative collaboration with the School of Health Technology and Management to lead a team that engineered a new ventilator from conceptual design to final product in ten days, under high-pressure, crisis conditions.

## **II. FALL ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

We expect to be at or close to record enrollment in fall 2021 with about 27,000 students:

- Over 18,000 undergraduates
- About 9,000 graduate and professional students

While in fall 2020 more than 12,000 students took all of their courses online, fewer than 3,000 in fall 2021 are taking all of their courses online.

- We have a record number of entering first year students at about 3400.
- For the first time, more than 1 out of every 5 (20.1%) entering first-year students is from an underrepresented race/ethnicity group.
- For the first time since 2005, women comprise a majority (53.3%) of the entering freshman class.

The numbers of out-of-state and international students appear to have stabilized or improved slightly over the last year, although we remain about 1,000 international students below fall 2019 levels.

## **III. UPDATE ON SBU LEADERSHIP IN OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY**

Stony Brook University, in partnership with developers Orsted and Equinor, successfully delivered the first training programs for jobs in the offshore wind industry. Facilitated by the School of Professional Development, faculty from the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, and the College of Business developed and delivered curriculum over the course of three weeks in August for 68 total students in the disciplines of power grid systems and integration, climate change, supply chain management, stakeholder engagement, energy policy, and impacts on coastlines and marine life.

Perspectives from industry-leading wind developers, along with subject-matter-experts from the National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium and the Business Network for Offshore Wind were utilized to provide students with applicable, in-the-field updates on current and future projects. This program is part of The Offshore Wind Training Institute--a partnership between Stony Brook and Farmingdale State College--and one of several initiatives that defines Stony Brook's leadership role in clean, renewable energy.

## **IV. GOVERNORS ISLAND COMPETITION**

New York City and the Trust for Governors Island are hoping to repeat the success of the 2011 Roosevelt Island Applied Science initiative (which became Cornell Tech) with a climate science-related development project on Governors Island.

They are holding a global competition to select a university to anchor the project, helping to make New York an international hub for convening climate science research and solutions. NYC and the Trust want this hub to support equitable climate solutions through research and commercialization. The participants will need to develop the island as a living laboratory and use innovative design for buildings. Community engagement, workforce development, and global and local partnerships will be central to this hub.

This opportunity aligns with Stony Brook's current mission and complements so much of the research and education already happening here. We are working to develop a set of partners and a strong proposal that would develop Stony Brook as a global convener for addressing climate change.

The Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) was released at the end of June. It has an October 13th

deadline for first round proposal submission. We recently sought thoughts and ideas from the campus community and received over 50 idea submissions from faculty, students, staff and alumni for consideration. Further details on the competition are available at this [website](#).

## V. COVID-19 UPDATES

### Vaccinations and Testing

#### Students:

- All residential students were required to be fully vaccinated in order to move in (and remain) in the residence halls.
- As of Monday, August 23rd, with the FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine, all students are required to be fully vaccinated with 35 days (September 27th) absent a documented and accepted medical or religious exemption
- As of August 24th, 89% of all registered students in at least one in-person class and 97% of residential students have submitted the required documentation to indicate that they are vaccinated.
- Student COVID testing protocols are in place, including testing requirements for both vaccinated and unvaccinated students. Student Health Services is offering vaccination PODs over the next several weeks to achieve a 100% student vaccination rate. Student Affairs is managing the student testing and vaccination compliance to ensure the health and safety of the campus community.

#### Employees:

- Faculty and staff on West Campus, and non-patient-facing staff and faculty at the HSC must be vaccinated or subject to weekly mandatory testing, in accordance with the NYS mandatory vaccine requirement.
- The New York State Department of Health (DOH) has issued an order that all hospitals and nursing homes require all personnel to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with the first dose for current personnel received by September 27, 2021. Accordingly, all employees in the above categories are subject to the DOH order and must comply as a condition of continued employment. The order allows for limited medical and religious exemptions with reasonable accommodations, consistent with applicable law. The DOH will be monitoring any such exemptions.
- As of August 24th, 67.91% of west campus employees have submitted the required documentation to indicate that they were vaccinated. Efforts to collect vaccine status data are continuing. Fully vaccinated employees who have uploaded their vaccination status in SOLAR will be subject to monthly COVID-19 Surveillance testing schedule.
- As of August 24th, 68% of Stony Brook Medicine employees have submitted the required documentation to indicate that they were vaccinated. Efforts to collect vaccine status data are continuing.
- Stony Brook University Hospital continues to offer vaccines for all employees and the Innovation and Discovery Center (IDC), located in the Research and Development (R&D) Park on campus along with the Student Health Service (SHS) has regularly scheduled appointments available for students, faculty and staff.
- Unvaccinated/Unknown Status Employees will be subject to mandatory weekly surveillance testing (this regimen will continue to be required for any person who has a physical presence on campus and who has not been fully vaccinated or who has not uploaded their vaccination status in SOLAR).

## Health Information Line: 631-632-5000

The Health Information Line (HIL) that was implemented at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, continues to be an important resource for employees who identify themselves as having COVID-19 related symptoms, test positive, or have recently been exposed to the virus. Beyond addressing these medical questions, licensed healthcare providers can guide faculty and staff who believe they may be eligible for a leave under FMLA or ADA, or for any other COVID-related ADA accommodation, on next steps using normal, pre-pandemic processes. The Human Resource Professionals that also staff the line, provide general guidance to State and Research Foundation employees including information on the use of accruals and leaves.

### Facilities:

- Until further notice, all faculty, staff, students and visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, must wear face coverings while inside University and Hospital buildings.
- Our residence halls have returned to near full capacity with 9282 of the expected 9512 students moved in as of August 24th (97.58%)
- Athletics and student activities have been restored and all appropriate safety precautions, consistent with state and local guidance, are implemented.
- We remain ready to make additional adjustments as necessary to comply with changing guidance or local campus conditions.
- For the most current COVID guidance and information, please visit the [Stronger Together Update](#) sent on August 20.

## VI. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Since the start of the 2022 fiscal year, \$3.2 million has been generously pledged or contributed by 1,100 donors. Their investments in our students, research, healthcare and campus programs provide critical support, helping to elevate the University.

Generous contributions since the last update include:

- \$950,000 for the Biomedical Imaging PET/CT Equipment Fund;
- \$450,000 pledge toward the Minghua Zhang Faculty Career Catalyst Award in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences;
- \$275,000 for the Laufer Center;
- \$150,000 from the Pritchard Charitable Trust for the University Library's program, *Ready for Success: Improving Research & Information Literacy in Underserved HS*;
- \$125,700 to complete a pledge and fully endow a professorship in Gastroenterology in the Renaissance School of Medicine;
- \$120,000 from Google, LLC for research in *Probabilistic Modeling of Touch Input in Human-Computer Interactions*;
- \$100,000 pledge for an endowed scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students;
- \$100,000 pledge for a Post-Doctoral Scholar in Life Science Commercialization;
- \$100,000 for the Gilbert and Janet Hanson Geosciences Endowment Fund;
- \$50,000 toward a Lab Modernization Project in Electrical and Computer Engineering;
- \$50,000 pledge for an Endowed Scholarship in Medicine.

## VII. UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES

### **STONY BROOK NAMED ONE OF AMERICA'S 100 BEST HOSPITALS FOR 2021**

Stony Brook University Hospital has been named one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for 2021 by Healthgrades – the only hospital on Long Island to receive this distinction for the past three consecutive years.

### **STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY RANKED SEVENTH BY FORBES FOR AMERICA'S BEST EMPLOYERS FOR WOMEN**

Stony Brook University ranked seventh out of 300 employers overall and was the top higher education institution in the Forbes annual ranking of [America's Best Employers for Women](#). The list was compiled by surveying 50,000 Americans, including 30,000 women, working for businesses with at least 1,000 employees. Respondents were asked to rate their organizations on criteria such as working conditions, diversity and how likely they'd be to recommend their employer to others.

Earlier this year, the University made the [Forbes list of Best Employers for Diversity](#).

## VIII. INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES

### **SUNY CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE HONOR 21 FACULTY AND STAFF**

Twenty-one members of Stony Brook University's faculty and staff have received the 2020-2021 State University of New York (SUNY) Chancellor's Awards for Excellence.

The awards acknowledge the dedication and accomplishments of instructional faculty, librarians, and professional staff across SUNY campuses and encourage the ongoing pursuit of excellence. These programs underscore SUNY's commitment to sustaining intellectual vibrancy, advancing the boundaries of knowledge, providing the highest quality of instruction, and serving the public good.

The following are the honorees from Stony Brook:

#### Scholarship & Creative Activities

Leonie Huddy, department chair and professor, Political Science

#### Faculty Service

Jennifer Albanese, director, The Writing Center

Celia Marshik, professor, English

Ghanashyam (Shyam) Sharma, graduate program director and associate professor, Program in Writing and Rhetoric

Markus Seeliger, associate professor, Pharmacological Sciences

#### Teaching

Elyse Graham, associate professor, English

Sarah Jourdain, department chair and associate professor, European Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Kevin McDonnell, undergraduate program director and associate professor, Computer Science

Eriko Sato, director of undergraduate studies and associate professor, Asian & Asian American Studies

Lorena Salcedo-Watson, director of undergraduate studies and lecturer, Art

### Professional

John Fogarty, director of Capital Planning

Cynthia Forman, assistant to the chair, Psychology

Erin Giuliano, assistant to the chair, Civil Engineering

Helen Harrison, director, Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center

Melissa Hogarty, director of Business

Mark Lang, computer support specialist, School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences

Amy Milligan, assistant dean for Curriculum, Accreditation and Student Services, College of Business

Theresa Spadola, graduate program coordinator, English

Diana Voss, director of academic technologies, Division of Information Technology

### Librarianship

Chris Kretz, head of academic engagement, University Libraries

Jamie Saragossi, head of Health Science Library

### **QUANTUM THEORY AND INFORMATION EXPERT ELECTED TO THE ACADEMY OF EUROPE**

**Dmitri Kharzeev**, PhD, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Center for Nuclear Theory in the Department of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Arts and Sciences at Stony Brook University, has been elected a Foreign Member of The Academy of Europe. Professor Kharzeev, who also has a joint appointment at Brookhaven National Laboratory, was elected for his groundbreaking work on quantum phenomena that are similar to superconductivity but exist at much higher temperatures.

### **STANISLAUS WONG NAMED 2021 AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY\_FELLOW**

The American Chemical Society (ACS) has named **Stanislaus S. Wong**, PhD, a distinguished professor in the College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Chemistry, to the 2021 class of ACS Fellows, which includes scientists who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in chemistry and have made important contributions to ACS, the world's largest scientific society.

### **CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON AWARDED \$750K FROM DOE EARLY CAREER RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**Christopher Johnson**, an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences, is one of 83 scientists who have been selected to receive a total of \$100 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Early Career Research Program. Johnson will receive \$150,000 a year over five years for his research, "Tracking the Mechanisms of Catalytic Reactions on LigandProtected Gold Nanoclusters."

### **KEVIN HOLT RECEIVES FELLOWSHIP TO ADDRESS UNDERREPRESENTATION IN MUSIC FACULTY**

**Kevin C. Holt**, assistant professor of ethnomusicology, has been selected for the Cleveland Institute of Music's Future of Music Faculty Fellowship. Funded by a grant from the Sphinx Venture Fund, this first-of-its-kind career development initiative will engage 35 Black and Latinx music professionals who are pursuing or considering academic careers, preparing them with the skills, insights and networks to flourish professionally and influence generations of musicians.

### **GEOSCIENCES PhD CANDIDATE RECEIVES NASA FELLOWSHIP**

**Victoria Rivera Banuchi**, PhD candidate in the Department of Geosciences, received a NASA Future Investigators in NASA Earth and Space Science and Technology (FINESST) fellowship for her proposal, "Experimental constraints on ultraviolet-light driven iron oxidation processes on early Mars."

## **EIGHT SBU STUDENTS EARN FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS**

Eight Stony Brook University students have been recognized by the Department of State's Fulbright U.S. Student Program, a highly competitive scholarship opportunity that provides funding for American students to conduct research or teach English in more than 140 countries overseas. The Fulbright Program, which was created by U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright in 1946, provides grants annually for international research and teaching to foster global partnership and cultural exchange.

This year's Fulbright honorees are: Taylor Esposito, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, Estonia; Kenneth Ferraro, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, Taiwan; Tye Haynes Bustos, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, Brazil; Michael Incardona, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, Spain; Delicia Kamins, Fulbright Research Award, Germany; Nasir Stovall, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, Taiwan; Perri Zilberman, Fulbright Research Award, Germany; and Niko Ziozis, Fulbright Research Award, India. Esposito, Incardona, and Haynes are the first-ever recipients of English Teaching Assistant Awards to their respective countries.

Alternates are: Amelia Camino, Fulbright Research Award, Sweden; Jamila Khanfri, Fulbright Research Award, Belgium; Lily Liu, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, South Korea; Claudia Motley, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, South Korea; Sachin Patnaik, Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, Taiwan; and Ajmain Yamin, Fulbright Research Award Hungary.

## **IX. RECENT EVENTS**

On June 10, Stony Brook University formally installed **Stan Uryasev, PhD**, as the *Frey Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Quantitative Finance* and celebrated the friendship and philanthropy of alumnus **Robert Frey, BS '80, PhD '87 and his wife, Kathy**. Devoted supporters of Stony Brook since 1987, Robert and Kathy Frey's influence is evident campus-wide. They have generously supported a vast number of programs at Stony Brook, ranging from student scholarships and research to athletics and the Staller Center for the Arts.

The **26th Annual Stony Brook Film Festival** made its long-awaited return to the Staller Center for the Arts with live, in-person screenings from July 22-31

The **Renaissance School of Medicine** welcomed its incoming 2021 class of 136 students at the annual White Coat Ceremony on August 15.

New Student Programs, Student Affairs, and several campus partners hosted a successful **Welcome Week** for new students. Several new programs and events were added, including a class photo, a community service day, a class dinner, and several hundred social and educational workshops and programs to strengthen connection and belonging among our new students.

## **X. UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **CONNECTIONS RIBBON CUTTING**

A ribbon cutting will be held on September 9 in the new faculty/staff lounge at the Charles B. Wang Center.

### **CELEBRATING 2020 GRADUATES**

On September 10 at 4:00PM the University will host an in-person commencement ceremony for our



2020 alumni at LaValle Stadium.

### **PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION / INAUGURATION WEEK EVENTS**

An Inauguration Week schedule of events will be made available soon, with details about activities taking place from Monday, October 18, through Saturday October 23.

### **HOMECOMING 2021**

Join family, friends, alumni and students for Stony Brook's annual homecoming celebration on Saturday, October 23. The Seawolves will take on the Richmond Spiders.

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

- Stony Brook student-athletes earned the highest cumulative GPA in school history with a 3.25 GPA for the 2020-21 academic year.
- Stony Brook claimed the Stuart P. Haskell, Jr. Commissioner's Cup for the second straight year, earning the recognition as the strongest athletic program in the America East Conference. The annual winner of the Commissioner's Cup is determined by a scoring system which rewards a school for success both during the regular season and championship competition in the conference's 18 sports. Stony Brook had finished second seven years in a row prior to winning the first Commissioner's Cup in school history in 2018-19.
- Ashley Langford was named the 10th women's basketball head coach in school history on May 7. She comes to Stony Brook after serving most recently as the Associate Head Coach at James Madison University.
- Women's Lacrosse finished the 2021 season ranked No. 5 in the nation with a record of 16-3. The team won its eighth straight America East title and reached the NCAA quarterfinals, falling just short in a 14-11 loss to No. 1 North Carolina.
- Seven Seawolves earned America East Presidential Scholar-Athlete honors as spring graduates who achieved a minimum 3.75 cumulative GPA. Women's soccer's Kimmy Chavkin, Chelsie DePonte, Fanny Götesson and Anna Slang as well as Kyle Hebert of men's lacrosse, Siobhan Rafferty of women's lacrosse and Margaret Ross of women's cross country and track and field were the recipients.
- Football will kick off the season at home on Thursday, Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. against New Hampshire in LaValle Stadium.

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<sup>1</sup> As of August 23, 2021