

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

FROM: Michael A. Bernstein
Interim President

DATE: November 4, 2019

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. 2019 STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

It was an honor and a pleasure to deliver the annual State of the University address on October 16 at the Staller Center's Main Stage. As I said on that day, our University demonstrates the best of what American higher education has to offer. We are well poised to do cutting-edge research, scholarship, and art-making in all areas of concern in our world precisely because of who we are. In telling our story, I spoke on a number of topics, including: the importance of shared governance; facilitating the success, accomplishment, and advancement of faculty, staff, and students; promoting diversity and inclusive excellence; demonstrating prudent stewardship of all resources – human, financial, and environmental; enhancing economic development; and national rankings and recognition. It was also a pleasure to welcome newly hired faculty and members of the leadership team, while recognizing the impressive roster of prestigious awards and honors granted to faculty and students during the previous year. A recording of my remarks is available here: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/pres/vision/sou.php>.

II. PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH UPDATE

Presidential Search Committee Chair, **Kevin Law**, recently wrote an update to the University community about the search for the University's next president. His message indicated that the committee met at the end of September to receive the charge from **Chancellor Kristina Johnson**. He went on to say that the committee also met with the Isaacson, Miller search consultants to outline the search schedule, key qualities desired in the next president, and important elements to include in the position profile. This [profile](#) has been finalized and is now available on the search [website](#). All are encouraged to share the profile so that we may cast as wide a net as possible. [Nominations](#) are being accepted at the Isaacson, Miller website. The position is also posted on a number of platforms, including: Higher Ed Jobs, Inside Higher Education, Diverse Jobs in Higher Education, Hispanic Outlook, Women in Higher Education, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and the New York Times. Comments and suggestions may also be submitted to: PresidentialSearch@stonybrook.edu.

III. NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT & TITLE IX NOTICE

I wanted to take a moment to remind you about Stony Brook University's commitment to creating and fostering a learning, working, and living environment that is free from discrimination and sexual harassment. Stony Brook University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, disability, marital status, familial status, pregnancy, genetic predisposition, criminal convictions, domestic violence victim status, and veteran or military status, and all other protected classes under federal or state laws. It is important that we all familiarize ourselves with the policies that affect our daily interactions with others on campus, whether it be students, faculty, staff, visitors or patients in our care.

Please take time to review the University's Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy ([P105](#)) and Sexual Misconduct and Reporting Policy ([P106](#)). Both policies are vital to creating and maintaining a community where our diverse population can live, work, study, and recreate in an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, equity, with equal employment opportunity, and respect for every individual. To [report](#) a discrimination or sexual misconduct matter, please contact the Sr. Director of the Office of Institutional Diversity & Equity ([OIDE](#)) and Title IX & ADA Coordinator, **Marjolie Leonard**, at Marjolie.Leonard@stonybrook.edu.

IV. STONY BROOK MEDICINE NEWS

Celebrating the New Stony Brook Children's Hospital

Last month, we held a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the new Stony Brook Children's Hospital. Stony Brook Children's offers the most advanced pediatric specialty care in the region. With 114 beds and more than 180 pediatric specialists, Stony Brook Children's will meet the growing healthcare needs of children and their families across Long Island, while providing cutting-edge research, technological innovations, clinical trials, and breakthrough techniques to benefit our patients. It serves as Suffolk County's only Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Level I Pediatric Trauma Center, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), state-designated Burn Center, inpatient pediatric psychiatric unit, and pediatric oncology unit. It is also home to the tristate area's only Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Comprehensive Care Center. Stony Brook Children's Hospital will officially open in conjunction with a new 10-story, 150-bed Hospital Pavilion. We are pleased to celebrate this milestone occasion to advance our mission in providing clinical care, medical research, and education for Long Island and beyond.

Stony Brook University Hospital Named America's 100 Best for Cardiac Care, Coronary Intervention, and Stroke Care

Stony Brook University Hospital is one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care™ for the sixth consecutive year, one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention™ for five consecutive years, and one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care™ for five consecutive years, according to a national study by Healthgrades – the leading online resource for information about physicians and hospitals. These achievements are part of the findings released in the Healthgrades 2020 Report to the Nation.

V. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Since the beginning of the 2020 fiscal year, more than \$16.5 million has been generously given by 3,500 donors investing in our students, faculty, staff and patients. Their contributions include:

- \$1,775,000 toward an Endowed Chair in Physics
- \$1,000,000 bequest toward student support
- \$126,500 toward AI research
- \$60,000 toward expanding Pediatric Emergency Services
- \$50,000 toward breast and gynecological cancer research

The 2020 Stars of Stony Brook Gala will be held on **Wednesday, March 11** and will honor **Drs. Barry and Bobbi Collier**.

VI. PATRICIA WRIGHT INSTALLED AS HERRNSTEIN FAMILY ENDOWED CHAIR IN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

On October 18, esteemed Stony Brook anthropologist **Dr. Patricia Wright** was formally installed as the Herrnstein Family Endowed Chair in Conservation Biology in the College of Arts and Sciences. Patricia Wright has made major contributions in her research of the biology, ecology, conservation, and behavior of living primates. Her broad interests include biodiversity assessments, conservation biology, population ecology, and genetic and primate microbiomes and parasites. The ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to recognize Professor Wright's academic and research excellence, and pay tribute to the extraordinary generosity of the Herrnstein Family.

VII. FACULTY ACCOLADES

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

- Stony Brook University Distinguished Professor of Mathematics **Mikhail Lyubich** has been honored with membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS), which recognizes the outstanding achievements of individuals in academia, the arts, business, government and public affairs. A leader in the field of dynamical systems, Lyubich is Director of the Institute for Mathematical Sciences at Stony Brook. He is one of the founders of modern real and complex one-dimensional dynamics, having in many ways shaped the development of the field.
- **Krishna R. Veeramah** will be continuing his pioneering research into ancient DNA with funding from a \$10 million grant awarded to a team of scientists by the European Research Council (ERC). Veeramah, an assistant professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution in the College of Arts and Sciences, specializes in paleogenomics. More than \$2 million of the grant will be allocated to Veeramah's lab at Stony Brook, which will lead the genome sequencing, bioinformatics, and population genetics for a multidisciplinary study of more than 100 ancient medieval cemeteries across Central Europe aimed at illuminating the history of ancient migration and mobility in the Carpathian Basin.
- The Psychonomic Society has named **Suparna Rajaram** a recipient of the 2019 Clifford T. Morgan Distinguished Leadership Award, which honors individuals for their significant

contributions to the field of cognitive psychology. Dr. Rajaram, a Distinguished Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Psychology, focuses her research on the experimental study of social transmission of memory and emergence of collective memory.

- **Paul Shepson**, Dean of the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, has received a \$1.1 million award from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for his project, “Observations, Analysis, and Modeling Applied to Determination of CO₂ and CH₄ Emission Rates Along the U.S. East Coast,” which will contribute to the global need for quantitative and precise measurements of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission rates in the interest of stimulating and supporting efforts at GHG emission reduction approaches.

VIII. WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Stony Brook will celebrate Winter Commencement on **Friday, December 20 in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena**. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. and confer bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees for summer 2019 and fall 2019 graduates. Faculty are invited to attend.

IX. RECENT EVENTS

Presidential Lecture Series Features Jelani Cobb

Grappling with the challenges of diversity and inclusion on college campuses and throughout the nation, author and *New Yorker* staff writer **Jelani Cobb** delivered a Presidential Lecture to an engaged and enthusiastic crowd on October 29. In a talk entitled “Microaggressions and the Pursuit of Equity,” Cobb delved into the issues raised by commonplace daily exchanges that – intentionally or unintentionally – communicate hostile, derogatory or negative prejudicial attitudes toward marginalized groups. He provided insight, tools and suggestions for how best to handle microaggressions.

Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated its 30th year at Stony Brook this October. This year's theme was, "Thirty Years of Latino Excellence at Stony Brook University; Treinta Años de Excelencia Latina en La Universidad de Stony Brook." The month opened with a ceremony that featured keynote speaker and Stony Brook alumna, **Christina Vargas** (Chief Diversity Officer at Suffolk County Community College). There were various activities and events throughout the month, including an Open House that featured celebrity chef **Kelvin Fernandez** and the annual closing ceremony that recognized the achievements of Stony Brook faculty, staff and students.

X. UPCOMING EVENTS

Veterans Day Ceremony

This year’s Veterans Day Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, **November 6 at 1 pm in the Student Activities Center (SAC), Sidney Gelber Auditorium**. The ceremony will honor all students, alumni, faculty, staff, and families who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces – especially those students who have postponed their education to serve in

moments of need. A reception will follow the program. To RSVP, click [here](#). This ceremony is part of a month of programming in honor of Military Appreciation Month. Please visit <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/studentaffairs/vets/> for more information.

XI. ATHLETICS UPDATE¹

- As part of its comprehensive Life Skills program, Stony Brook Athletics hosted Mock Interview Week for student-athletes on October 28-30. Eight companies conducted interviews with more than 60 current student-athletes.
- **Football:** The team climbed to No. 20 in the national rankings after defeating No. 5 Villanova by a score of 36-35. Senior **Nick Courtney** made a 22-yard field goal as time expired to lift the Seawolves to victory. Quarterback **Tyquell Fields** was named CAA Offensive Player of the Week, while freshman running back **Ty Son Lawton** earned CAA Rookie of the Week honors.
- **Women's Soccer:** The team currently leads the America East standings with a record of 6-1. Recently, junior **Sofia Manner** was named the America East Defensive Player of the Week for the second time this season. Stony Brook looks to earn its second consecutive America East Regular Season trophy on Halloween. Their playoff journey will then begin either November 3 or November 7 at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.
- **Men's & Women's Cross Country:** Both teams are gearing up to head into the America East Championship, which is slated for November 2 at UAlbany.
- **Men's & Women's Basketball:** Both teams will compete in their respective season openers on **Tuesday, Nov. 5 at 7:00 PM**. The men host Yale at the Island Federal Arena, while the women travel to St. Francis Brooklyn.

¹ As of October 29