

***REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE***

TO: University Senate

FROM: Michael A. Bernstein, Professor of Business, Economics, and History & Provost and Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs

DATE: Monday, October 2, 2017

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***2018 Summer Online Teaching Initiatives***

In order to provide more flexible and accessible instruction for our students and to facilitate faculty efforts to explore new teaching modes, the Office of the Provost introduces the 2018 Summer Online Teaching Initiative. This program encourages faculty to offer online versions of existing courses, especially ones that have strong demand, support timely degree completion, and can serve a large number of students.

Details on the application process, faculty resources, and online course conversion options can be found at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/onlineed/faculty/summer.html>.

At any point, faculty are invited to consult with Associate Provost for Online Education Wendy Tang ([wendy.tang@stonybrook.edu](mailto:wendy.tang@stonybrook.edu)) or Assistant Provost for Enrollment Management Stefan Hyman ([stefan.hyman@stonybrook.edu](mailto:stefan.hyman@stonybrook.edu)).

The deadline to apply is November 13, 2017.

***SoMAS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration***

SoMAS is holding a variety of events in celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On Friday, October 13, SoMAS will host “The Risk of Saying Nothing,” an environmental media conference. Activities include an art exhibit, a poster session, a panel, a presentation from former SoMAS Dean Jerry Schubel, and a reception. On Saturday, October 14, events include a dockside breakfast, a tour of the Seawolf vessel, and a Wolfstock Faculty Lecture from Carl Safina.

For more information, please visit [www.somas.stonybrook.edu/](http://www.somas.stonybrook.edu/).

***October Provost’s Lecture Series***

Taking Ethics Seriously: Why Ethics is an Essential Tool for the Modern Workplace  
*Monday, October 2, 2:30 PM, Wang Center Lecture Hall 1*

John Hooker is T. Jerome Holleran Professor of Business Ethics and Social Responsibility, and Professor of Operations Research, at Carnegie Mellon University. He has also held visiting posts at numerous universities, most recently at the London School of Economics and the State University of Campinas, Brazil. He holds doctoral degrees in philosophy and management science. He brings his extensive background in philosophy, mathematics and logic to the

rigorous analysis of ethical dilemmas, and his background in management to making sure the dilemmas are realistic. He has published more than 170 research articles, eight books, and five edited volumes on ethics, operations research, and cross-cultural issues, including *Business Ethics as Rational Choice*, *Taking Ethics Seriously*, and *Working across Cultures*. Hooker is the founding editor-in-chief of the world's only academic journal dedicated to teaching business ethics and has organized international ethics conferences in China, Europe, the Middle East, and North America. He also has a strong interest in cross-cultural ethics and has lived and worked in 10 countries on 6 continents. He is a Fellow of the Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences and has served on numerous program committees and editorial boards. At Carnegie Mellon, he developed the ethics program in the Tepper School of Business and received a Distinguished Academic Leadership Award, an Award for Sustained Teaching Excellence (one of only two awarded), and the Gerald Thompson Award for Excellence in the Classroom.

*Abstract:* Ethics is no less important to an organization than technology or finance. We need ethics not to decide who is good or bad, but to build social infrastructure that, like physical infrastructure, is indispensable to getting anything done. Simplistic platitudes cannot accomplish this. Only a sophisticated intellectual framework can guide us through the complexities of today's world. This talk illustrates why failures to think analytically about ethics, not bad people, lie behind many ethical lapses in organizations. It presents examples of how ethical dilemmas can be resolved, and sound organizational policies developed, on the basis of rigorous ethical analysis.

This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Integration of Business Education & Humanities and the College of Business.

Science Reporting in the Age of Fake News (AAAS Kavli Science Journalism Award Lecture)  
*Thursday, October 12, 4:00 PM, Wang Center Theater*

Carl Zimmer is a columnist for *The New York Times*, national correspondent for *STAT*, and three-time winner of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Kavli Science Journalism Award. He has written 13 books about biology and medicine and hundreds of features for magazines such as *The Atlantic*, *National Geographic* and *Scientific American*. As one interviewer wrote of Zimmer, "Unlike his literary icon, Herman Melville, he doesn't adorn his writing with ornate flourishes or complicated scaffolding. His approach is simple, elegant, and potent, much like the microscopic lifeforms he so often examines. And, like these microorganisms, he is a marvel of adaptability and innovation." The AAAS Kavli Science Journalism Award lecture series brings winners of the distinguished journalism award to campuses for public lectures and workshops with journalism students. Zimmer won the AAAS Kavli Award twice in the large newspaper category (2012 and 2009) and once in the online category (2004).

*Abstract:* Are humans causing the planet to get hotter? Do vaccines cause autism? Did our species evolve 300,000 years ago? Scientists have answered these questions (yes, no, yes), yet these subjects and many others are now fiercely contested, in some cases by government

officials. This talk will explore the current state of science reporting, including some hopeful innovations that may bring more understanding to the public about how the world works.

This event is co-sponsored by the School of Journalism, the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Kavli Foundation

An Unexpected Journey: A Curious Career in Shape Analysis

*Tuesday, October 24, 4:00 PM, Wang Center Lecture Hall 1*

Dennis E. Slice is a professor in the Department of Scientific Computing at Florida State University and Honorarprofessor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Vienna, Austria. He received his doctorate in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology at the College of Charleston, SC. His work focuses on the development of theoretical and methodological issues in shape analysis, morphometrics, and on their application to real-world problems such as the fit and function of protective equipment and the development of tools and methods for forensic science. He has produced over one hundred scholarly works and is the manager and moderator for MORPHMET, the international mailing list for morphometrics. He has released in excess of twenty computer programs for use by the morphometrics community and has lectured and taught courses and workshops on shape analysis in fourteen countries.

*Abstract:* The field of modern morphometrics grew up around me while in graduate school, and I was most fortunate during this period to be closely associated with the founders and leaders of the field. In this talk, I will indulge myself a bit and summarize some of the people and events that led me to the unlikely position of being in the right place at a propitious time to be part of this growing and increasingly important field. I will discuss some of the developments in shape analysis during my graduate career and the people who were involved and who influenced me. I will conclude with a summary of my post-graduate work in software and methodological development and applications, my outstanding students who are now making important contributions of their own, and speculate just a bit on the short-term advances of which I hope to be a part. Application areas to be visited include ecology and evolution, the analysis of clothing and protective apparel, and computational forensics.

This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, the Department of Ecology and Evolution, and the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics

About the Provost's Lecture Series

The Provost's Lecture Series has become a popular vehicle for supporting distinguished lecture visits to campus. For more information about upcoming lectures, please visit <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/provost/lectures.php>.

### ***Undergraduate College Commons Day: A Conversation with the Author***

The annual Undergraduate College Commons Day is an opportunity for students to hear from or meet with the writers of their first-year reading assignments. This year, the Undergraduate Colleges will be hosting Joshua Davis on Wednesday, October 11. Davis is a writer, film producer, and co-founder of Epic Magazine, an online magazine devoted to extraordinary true stories. His writing has been featured in *The New Yorker*, *GQ*, *Wired*, and *Maxim*. His book, *Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and the Battle for the American Dream*, chronicles the real-life triumphs of a small robotics team that overcame staggering odds. *A Conversation with the Author* will be held at 4:00 PM in the Sidney Gelber Auditorium in the Student Activities Center. A book signing will follow. This event is free and open to the public. To learn more about Joshua Davis, please visit [epicmagazine.com](http://epicmagazine.com) or [joshuadavis.net](http://joshuadavis.net).