



Stony Brook University

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

TO: University Senate
FROM: Dennis N. Assanis, Provost
DATE: February 6, 2012

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

DR. LAWRENCE MARTIN APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF TURKANA BASIN INSTITUTE

Dr. Lawrence Martin has agreed to serve, on a full-time basis, as Director of the Turkana Basin Institute (TBI), an initiative with vast potential to establish Stony Brook as a leading force in research in Africa. With the assumption of these expanded responsibilities at TBI, Lawrence stepped aside from his positions as Dean of the Graduate School and as Associate Provost, effective January 19, 2012. President Stanley and I consider the full development of TBI to be integral to the establishment of Stony Brook as a research university of international renown. With the completion of state-of-the-art field stations at TBI-Turkwel and TBI-Ileret, Stony Brook is in a position to lead the world in field and laboratory studies of primate and human evolution and to be a host of very broadly conceived human-related fields such as Climate Science, Ecology, Geology, Linguistics, and Paleontology. President Stanley and I are grateful to Lawrence Martin for his support as Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost, and for his enthusiasm to take on a critical initiative to support Stony Brook's aspirations to become one of the nation's top research universities.

DR. CHARLES TABER APPOINTED AS INTERIM DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Dr. Charles Taber has agreed to serve as Interim Dean of the Graduate School, effective January 19, 2012. During his 23 years at Stony Brook, Chuck has served in many roles. He has been on the faculty at Stony Brook University since 1989, and is currently a Professor of Political Science and Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Chuck has served as undergraduate director and graduate director for the department of political science, as chair of the University Graduate Council, the President's Task Force on Graduate and Professional Student Housing, the Provost's Task Force on Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship, and the Senate Subcommittee on the Masters Initiative. As Associate Dean, Chuck has been responsible for the development of new graduate programs, curricular changes to existing graduate programs, the Provost's Graduate Student Lecture Series, China Interviews, new graduate student orientations, postdoctoral affairs, and he is currently working with the Graduate Council to update Graduate Policies. The President and I look forward to working with Chuck and all of the members of the School to further build along the trajectory of excellence established by Lawrence Martin.

STONY BROOK NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION ON JANUARY, 22, 2012

On January 22, 2012, we held a New Student Convocation at the Staller Center. This spring, we welcomed 750 new students to Stony Brook. The vast majority of these new students attended Convocation, as part of the Welcome and Orientation activities held this month, designed to give students a sense of all the possibilities on campus, what support services we have to help them succeed, an introduction to our many extracurricular activities, and also some tips on how to get the most out of their Stony Brook experience.

FEBRUARY 2012 PROVOST'S LECTURE SERIES

The spring 2012 Provost's Lecture Series will begin with a lecture by Aldon Morris entitled "W.E.B. Du Bois: The Unforgotten Founder of American Sociology" on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the Humanities Building, Room 1006. Aldon Morris is the Leon Forrest Professor of Sociology and African American Studies at Northwestern University and author of the award-winning book, *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement*. The American Sociological Association awarded Morris the Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award in 2009 for a lifetime of research, scholarship, and teaching. In this co-sponsored lecture by the Department of Sociology and the Humanities Institute, Morris will draw on evidence from his forthcoming book demonstrating that Du Bois was the founding father of scientific sociology in the United States, and will explore the methods Du Bois pioneered that laid the foundations for subsequent sociological analysis.

The Provost's Lecture Series is pleased to co-host with the Center for Communicating Science, the Department of Ecology and Evolution, the Department of Anatomical Sciences and the Living World Lecture Series, Stony Brook University's Darwin Day 2012 keynote speaker, Mark Norell, Curator and Chair of the Division of Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Norell will present his lecture entitled "How Fossils Reveal the Evolution of Birds from Other Dinosaurs" on Friday, February 10, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Earth and Space Sciences Building, Room 001. Norell's research includes naming new dinosaurs, deciphering growth patterns in dinosaurs, studying the relationships of small carnivorous dinosaurs to modern birds, and developing ways of looking at fossils using CT scans and imaging computers. He has published more than 150 articles, and his work has been listed repeatedly among the top 10 yearly science stories by *Time*, *Discover*, and *Scientific American*. Norell's lecture will focus on how a combination of new fossil discoveries, instruments, and methodologies has changed the way we view birds, which are now considered to be a contemporary group of living dinosaurs, whose non-avian relatives share many of their attributes.

On Thursday, February 16, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. in the Charles B. Wang Center Theater, the Provost's Lecture Series is honored to be co-hosting a lecture by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury with the Career Center, the Department of Sociology, Girls Learn International, the Jewish Foundation for the Education of Women, the Stony Brook Institute for Global Studies, and Women in Science and Engineering. Anwarul Chowdhury has been an inspirational champion of sustainable peace and development for many years, ardently advancing the cause of the global movement for the Culture of Peace. From 2002 to 2007 he served as the under-secretary-general and high representative of the United Nations, responsible for the most vulnerable countries of the world. He also served as ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations and as president of the Security Council. In 2000, his initiative as president of the Security Council led to the adoption of the groundbreaking UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security. This resolution brought global attention to the undervalued contribution women have made to engaging societies to live harmoniously. In his

lecture, Ambassador Chowdhury, a recipient of the U Thant Peace Award and UNESCO Gandhi Gold Medal for Culture of Peace, will speak on the essential role of women in the international community's efforts toward building sustainable peace.

FACULTY AWARDS

Four Stony Brook University professors – Benjamin Hsiao, Ph.D., Lorna Role, Ph.D., Peter Stephens, Ph.D., and George Sterman, Ph.D., were named 2011 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellows, and will be recognized for their contributions to science at the Fellows Forum to be held on February 18, 2012 during their annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. In November 2011, the AAAS Council elected only 539 of its more than 125,000 members to this elevated rank because of their efforts toward advancing science applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished.

Benjamin S. Hsiao, Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry at Stony Brook University, has been named a Fellow of the prestigious AAAS for his distinguished contributions to the fields of polymer sciences and water purification, as well as to chemical research and education at Stony Brook University. Ben Hsiao's research interests are focused on the use of nanostructured polymers for medical, environmental and energy applications. Dr. Hsiao has published more than 355 peer-reviewed scientific papers, has written 37 reviews and chapters in books and encyclopedias, has 14 issued and 18 pending patents, and has edited two books. In addition to being elected a 2011 AAAS Fellow, he was elected as Fellow of the American Physical Society in 2002 and Fellow of the American Chemical Society in 2011.

Lorna Role, Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurobiology & Behavior, Co-Director of the Institute for Advanced Neurosciences and member of the Central Nervous System Disorders Center in the Centers for Molecular Medicine, has been named a Fellow of the prestigious AAAS for her distinguished contributions in neuroscience. Additionally, past honors include: election to the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP) in 2001; earning the rank of ACNP Fellow in 2009; and two Sidney R. Baer Jr. Prizes for Innovative Schizophrenia Research. In 2010, Lorna Role also received the NIH Directors Pioneer Award. Dr. Role and her colleagues are using the Pioneer Award to investigate new approaches to dealing with cognitive deficits in neurodegenerative disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease.

Peter W. Stephens, Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Stony Brook University, has been named a Fellow of the prestigious AAAS for his distinguished contributions in developing and promoting high-resolution powder x-ray diffraction as a technique in solid-state physics and chemistry. Dr. Stephens' current research is mostly on crystallography, namely determining the atomic structure of various materials using x-rays, based at the National Synchrotron Light Source at Brookhaven National Laboratory. The techniques he employs can be applied to minerals, magnets, superconductors, batteries and pharmaceuticals. Additional honors received by Dr. Stephens include being named a 1999 Fellow of the American Physical Society, as well as a Chaim Weizmann Postdoctoral Fellow (1978-1980) and a Karl Taylor Compton Fellow (1973-1976) at MIT.

George Sterman, Director of the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics at Stony Brook University, has been named a Fellow of the prestigious AAAS for his advances in quantum field theory that helped establish the current understanding of strong interactions which facilitate the analysis of high energy particle experiments. In addition to being elected as a 2011 AAAS Fellow, Dr. Sterman received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1985, the J.J. Sakurai Prize for Elementary Particle Theory in 2003 and was named a Distinguished Professor in 2004. He is also a Fellow of the American Physical Society, served as

an Associate Editor for *Physical Review Letters* and authored the graduate-level textbook, *An Introduction to Quantum Field Theory*.

2012 SBU-BNL SEED GRANT PROGRAM

The SBU-BNL Seed Grant program serves to foster and build collaborative efforts between the University and BNL. It is a key element for developing synergistic activities that will grow joint research programs aligned with the strategic plans of both institutions. Current strategic initiatives are in Energy (Smart Grid, Energy Storage), High-Performance Computing, the Joint Photon Science Institute, and Bio-Imaging. Proposals that enhance other BNL-SBU collaborations are also welcome.

For this 14th year, a pool of approximately \$150,000 will be distributed to proposals submitted jointly by SBU and BNL scientists. BNL matching funds may be available for proposals of special interest to the Laboratory. Typical awarded budgets range between \$10,000 and \$50,000 per project. The deadline for submission of proposals is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012. Selection of winning proposals will be announced by April 27, 2012, and funds will be available in June 2012.

The Office of the VP for Brookhaven Affairs handles proposals and oversees decisions on awards. Recommendations for awards will be made by an ad-hoc committee of SBU and BNL science administrators. Proposals should clearly elucidate the significance of the work to non-experts and explain the strategic contribution of an award to the research missions of both institutions. Proposal application forms are available at www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/bnl/seedgrants.html Completed proposal packages should be emailed to Laura Lyons, Assistant Vice-President for Brookhaven Affairs, at laura.lyons@stonybrook.edu. The Conflict of Interest Form, with appropriate signatures, should be mailed to Laura Lyons, Office of the Provost, Stony Brook University, Administration Building, Suite 407, Stony Brook, NY 11794-1401. Inquiries should be addressed to Laura Lyons at (631) 632-4297.