



Stony Brook
University

CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
Fall 2014

Newsletter



The CIE Social & Annual Photo Day

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

IMSD-MERGE	2
PREVIEW DAY	4
TBL WITH PRESIDENT STANLEY	5
"40 UNDER 40"	8
PROGRAM NEWS	11

On Mentoring and the Value of Community

We all need each other. Exactly 10 years ago this December, I experienced a major turning point in my life upon which I began to articulate my philosophy on the critical issue of mentoring. Over the years, the evolution of this philosophy has not only enhanced my professional development, but has also helped me in my growth as a person. At the core of this personal philosophy is the acknowledgement that good mentoring must recognize we are social beings. As such, we have an intrinsic need for meaningful human relationships. One of the most valuable relationships we experience during the earlier stages of our professional development, especially in graduate school, is with our mentors. Although there is a significant amount of published literature on mentoring, there is no universal rubric for good mentoring. I have seen some mentors who exhibit exceptional attributes with regards to knowledge of content, ability to problem solve and give encouragement and respect for confidentiality. A good mentor can have one or more of these attributes, but the true value of mentoring should be measured by the gift of thoughtful ideas, honesty, consideration and the capacity of the mentor to carefully listen to the unique experience of his/her mentee. If a mentor helps us develop a more confident mindset, or think through the pros and cons of a complex decision, or introduces us to someone in his or her network for a new opportunity, then that mentor has had valuable impact on our professional development.

I have been very fortunate to have different types of mentors in my life. I have a mentor to call on those rare challenging days (that we all experience) because his resolute confidence in me sets a high expectation that refuels my courage whenever I need it. I have mentors who I trust and can bounce ideas off, or share feelings with on a daily basis and others who provide guidance on specific realms in my life. Over the years, I have, depending on the circumstance, determined who, when and how to call on these mentors to actively seek out the guidance and support I need.

As someone who grew up with identifiers such as immigrant, economically disadvantaged, minority woman and ESOL, having good mentors has been paramount in my professional development. I think 2015 would be a good year to explore and expand upon mentoring within the CIE community. We have some of the most inspiring and dedicated mentors right here on the Stony Brook campus. Let's bring mentoring to the forefront of our conversations. Let's exchange good mentoring resources, develop new mentoring initiatives and celebrate people that have been very influential in our lives as mentors. I can certainly nominate some truly amazing and deserving individuals in this respect.



Nina Maung, Director

Is There a Doctor in the House?

Congratulations to our Center for Inclusive Education students who successfully defended their dissertations and master's theses this fall!

Sharonah Fredrick, PhD in Hispanic Languages & Literature
Dissertation: An Unholy Rebellion: Political Ideology and Rebellion in the Mayan Popul Vuh and the Andean Huarochiri Manuscript

Diana Guimet, PhD in Genetics
Dissertation: The Adenovirus L4-22K Protein Serves as the Master Regulator to Coordinate Late Gene Expression and Viral DNA Packaging

Inefta M. Reid, PhD in Physiology & Biophysics
Dissertation: Influence of maturation on hypoxic ventilatory responses in P0-P30 neonatal rats in vivo

Luisa Torres, PhD in Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology
Dissertation: The use of combinatory therapy for the treatment of spinal cord injury and the physiological role of microglia in the healthy central nervous system

Jean Olivier Brutus, MS in Biomedical Engineering

CIE Wins \$1.4 Million NIH Grant to Support Underrepresented Student Researchers

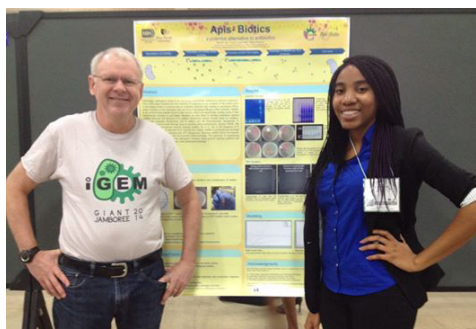
The Center for Inclusive Education was awarded a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for its Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) program. Dr. J. Peter Gergen, Professor of Biochemistry and Director of Undergraduate Biology will serve as Principal Investigator and Project Director. The grant will help increase the number of underrepresented individuals completing undergraduate and doctoral degrees in the biomedical sciences, further supporting SBU's efforts in expanding and diversifying its undergraduate and graduate programs. This grant marks the fifth highly visible and competitive award received by the CIE; totaling \$8.5 million in funds and support for 165 students and postdoctoral scholars.

"The Center's receipt of this \$1.4 million grant from the NIH is indicative of their success in integrating research, education and professional development for underrepresented students in the biomedical sciences," said Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dennis N. Assanis. "It will further enable us to provide the programming and resources necessary for these students to transition through the pipeline and, working with our world-renowned faculty, foster the inter-generational transmission of knowledge and skills needed for ground-breaking research and discovery."

The IMSD project had been named MERGE: Maximizing Excellence in Research and Graduate Education (IMSD-MERGE). Over the next five years IMSD-MERGE will provide direct financial support to 50 scholars in the biomedical sciences: 25 undergraduates and 25 doctoral fellows. In addition to this direct research support, IMSD-MERGE will provide more broadly accessible academic enrichment services, constructive mentoring experiences and rigorous professional development to SBU's academic community.



IMSD-MERGE welcomed its first cohort of undergraduate and graduate scholars this summer



IMSD-MERGE Scholar Maryam Ige with Project PI Dr. J. Peter Gergen

"What sets IMSD-MERGE apart from other projects at Stony Brook is its dual focus on advancing the research and academic talents of both undergraduate and graduate students," said Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD. "With IMSD-MERGE, we are truly reaching across the campus community, including students and faculty alike, giving everyone opportunities to strengthen their skills as scholars, researchers, and mentors."



Undergraduate MERGE scholars presented at the joint summer symposium with CIE REU, URECA and Career Services summer program participants

IMSD-MERGE Welcomes its First Cohort:

IMSD-MERGE 2014 Undergraduate Scholars

Alexandria Dellapenna, Biology
Denise Laspina, Biology
Maryam Ige, Biomedical Engineering
Obiora Egbo, Biochemistry, Minor in Bioengineering
Sarah Georges, Biology, specialization in Bioengineering

IMSD-MERGE 2014 Graduate Scholars

Chantal Adlam, Chemistry
Kellon Belfon, Chemistry
Dominic Moronta, Chemistry
Andreyah Pope, Biochemistry and Structural Biology
Jinelle Wint, Molecular and Cellular Biology

IMSD-MERGE will introduce several new efforts at SBU including:

- Summer Heads Up Program for incoming students to help prepare them for courses required for their programs. This two-week immersion program offers activities that demand critical reading of scientific literature.
- A Bio-Math learning center for undergraduate students to provide academic enrichment support to freshman and sophomore biomedical science majors and bolster their proficiency in calculus prerequisite courses.
- Entering Mentoring workshop for undergraduates, graduates and faculty. They will participate in workshop sessions developing their communication skills, listening ability, and mentoring capacities.

The program kicked off this summer with its first undergraduate research program as well as the summer Heads Up graduate program.

IMSD Scholar Maryam Ige Wins Travel Award for ABRCMS - *by Maryam Ige*

This year ABRCMS was held in San Antonio, Texas and it was my first time attending. I had heard about ABRCMS over the summer during one of the IMSD meetings, applied for the travel award offered by the conference organizers and was pleasantly surprised to learn that I had been awarded the full scholarship. I was very excited to discover there was much more to ABRCMS than your usual conference. ABRCMS is not just about sharing your scientific discoveries; it also encourages personal and professional development through its workshops, guest speakers and exhibitor booths.

My favorite workshop session was the “MD-PhD – Is it right for me?” I am interested in pursuing a career in both medicine and research. The workshop was informative on how to plan for, prepare and submit a competitive application. The best part was the Q&A, where students were given the option of asking MD-PhD students as well as program directors questions. I presented a poster and remember being very nervous. However, after presenting for a few minutes, I got over my initial jitters and began enjoying myself. Sharing my research with others was fun and my only regret was that I did not get to see any of the other presenters during that time.

All in all, ABRCMS was a success. I enjoyed everything - from the guest speakers, to the school representatives, sharing meals with interesting people, workshops and research presentations. I definitely wish to attend ABRCMS next year.



Julianna Pryor, Content and Publications Writer

Welcome Julianna Pryor

In November, the CIE welcomed Julianna Pryor to our team. Julianna is filling a new research foundation position as the Center’s Content and Publications Writer. In this role she will be assisting the Center team with community outreach, social media, publications and grant proposal writing. Julianna joins us directly from Henry Schein where she worked in conference and special event planning. Prior to her time at Henry Schein, Julianna was the Director of Career Services at Dowling College where she coordinated several projects, including facilitating a NYS Department of Labor grant for placing undergraduates in internship opportunities. Julianna brings with her an undergraduate degree in Public Relations and a master’s degree in Organizational Communication as well as grant and proposal writing experience. Please join us in welcoming her to the Center team!

Lyl Tomlinson Talks Improv in the Chronicle of Higher Ed

In a recent article published in the Chronicle of Higher Education, AGEP-T FRAME Fellow and Neuroscience graduate student, Lyl Tomlinson, discusses how improvisation training helped him communicate his science and led him to win the National FameLab Competition this year. “Universities see theater lessons as a way to better prepare graduate students for jobs both in and out of academe.” Read the original Chronicle of Higher Education article [here](#).



Research Cafe Series Enters its Sixth Year

The CIE continued its Research Café Series by hosting four scholarly talks over the fall semester. Research Cafés provide a forum for CIE students to present their research to the Center and the larger University community. Thank you to all of this semester’s presenters for their presentations! Please visit www.stonybrook.edu/cie to see the calendar of upcoming Research Cafés in the spring.

- **Diana Orozco Guimet**, Genetics - ‘*The Adenovirus L4-22K Protein has Distinct Functions in Post-transcriptional Regulation of Gene Expression and Encapsidation of the Viral Genome*’
- **Miles Hentrup**, Philosophy - ‘*Hegel and Skepticism*’
- **Jennifer Martinez**, Molecular and Cellular Biology - ‘*Bridging the GAP: Investigating the Interaction Between Gap Junction Proteins and Cell Signaling in the Ocular Lens*’
- **Alexis Santana**, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology - ‘*The Interplay of RTA and NF-κB Signaling During Gammaherpesvirus Infection*’

CIE Hosts First Annual Graduate School Preview Day

Over 50 students from various undergraduate institutions attended the inaugural Graduate School Preview Day at the Hilton Garden Inn on November 21st. The CIE hosted this multi-faceted event to provide a unique opportunity for attendees to learn exactly what it means to pursue a PhD at Stony Brook. The day began with an optional walking tour of campus. After a brief Meet/Greet, attendees were invited to kickoff the program with Welcome Remarks by Charles S. Taber, PhD, Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education & Dean of the Graduate School and Nina Maung-Gaona, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion & Director, Center for Inclusive Education.



Stony Brook graduate students and postdocs shared information about their current research as well as personal stories about their experiences during a panel discussion. The Networking Lunch that followed boasted over 30 representatives from 20 graduate programs to meet and mingle with the attendees. After lunch, attendees were presented with information on pursuing graduate education from six distinguished admissions faculty members. Since funding plays an important role in PhD pursuits, Toni Sperzel, CIE Program Manager Program Manager, Dr. W. Burghardt Turner & GEM Fellowship Programs, offered comprehensive descriptions of the CIE funding opportunities and available resources for funding graduate study from external funding organizations. The day concluded with lab tours in Materials Science, the Laufer Center, Psychology, Preventive Medicine, Biomedical Engineering and Chemistry. Attendees were able to choose the lab tour that best matched their interests.

“Graduate School Preview Day was designed to connect prospective graduate students with faculty, postdocs and current graduate students who could shed light onto our programs and the application process.” ***Kathryne Piazzola, Administrator, Center for Inclusive Education.***

The CIE Extends Special Thanks to:

Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Presenters:

Jesse John, Doctoral Student, Geosciences; Cindy Leiton, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anesthesiology; Daphne Meza, Doctoral Student, Biomedical Engineering; Celest Okoli, Doctoral Student, Materials Science; Lyl Tomlinson, Doctoral Student, Neuroscience; and Jasmine Valentin-Albanese, Doctoral Student, Marine & Atmospheric Sciences



Networking Lunch:

Kate Bell, Alejandra Castano, Melissa Cohen, Brittany Daily, Neta Dean, Jennifer DeLeon, Maurizio DelPoeta, Bruce Demple, Martha Furie, Dilip Gersappe, Ryan Kent Giles, David Green, Janet Hearing, Amanda Jacob, Moriah Jacobson, Mark Lang, Crystal Lewis, Tom MacCarthy, Joanie Maniaci, Jennifer Martinez, Anne McElroy, Marvin O’Neal, Erica Robey, Lisa Robison, Rayna Simon, Mary Pat Taveras, William Scott Thorton, David Tonjes, Jac Verbaaschot and Marilyn Wollmuth

Faculty Panelists:

Charles S. Taber, PhD, Dean of the Graduate School, Moderator; H. Reşit Akçakaya, PhD, Professor, Department of Ecology & Evolution; Holly Colognato, PhD, Associate Professor, Pharmacology; Martha B. Furie, PhD, Professor, Pathology, Molecular Genetics & Microbiology; Dilip Gersappe, PhD, Professor, Materials Science & Engineering; Amy C. Marschilok, PhD, Research Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Materials Science & Engineering; David Tonjes, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Technology & Society



Lab Tour Guides:

Jeffrey Chen, Liang Gao, Pratha Katti, Scott Laughlin, Thomas MacCarthy, Natalie Stenzonski, Vaishak Viswanathan and Jennie Williams.

CIE Proudly Welcomes President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD to Speak at Topic Based Lunch

Stony Brook University President, Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD, presented his “Thoughts on Effective Leadership” exclusively to CIE scholars during a Topic Based Lunch Series on December 2nd.

In keeping with the goal of the Topic Based Lunch Series to offer CIE scholars a glimpse into the professional pathway of our senior University leaders, Dr. Stanley was a welcomed guest. A high priority for Dr. Stanley throughout his five year tenure has been support for broadening the participation of underrepresented or disadvantaged groups in higher education. Dr. Stanley has committed a considerable amount of institutional funds towards increasing the pool of students engaged in highly successful initiatives such as the EOP/AIM program and the Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship Program.

Dr. Stanley presented four conclusions about leadership that he has employed since becoming the fifth president of Stony Brook University on July 1, 2009.

- **Do the right thing** It is imperative to create goals, establish vision, raise money, maintain integrity and be in compliance. “At Stony Brook, we want to be known for our excellence,” said Dr. Stanley.
- **Leadership is very much about service** “My job isn’t about me, it is about Stony Brook University,” added Dr. Stanley. “I must first be concerned with the students and faculty. My efforts and decisions must be focused on obtaining the resources they need.”
- **Assemble the right team to work with you** Surround yourself with interested, ambitious colleagues who are able to express their opinions and speak their mind. It is most important to trust your team and to have confidence to delegate. “The people I recruit will be my legacy,” said Dr. Stanley. “The rest is just brick and mortar.”
- **Be able to multi-task, but be prepared to focus** The team you assemble will assist with the management of tasks and execution of plans. It is impossible to do it all on your own. “Don’t spend too much time making decisions,” said Dr. Stanley. “Take the different options into consideration and make a decision. If you get it wrong, admit it and make a change.”

Dr. David Ferguson, Distinguished Service Professor; Chair, Department of Technology & Society; Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion, hosted this event and facilitated the Q&A portion that followed Dr. Stanley’s presentation. CIE scholars asked Dr. Stanley to expand upon his leadership conclusions with advice for assembling the right team, how to become more attractive candidates for future faculty positions, and how to transfer leadership skills from postdoctoral positions into their careers.

The final question was posed by Jesse John, a doctoral student in Geosciences, “if you could enter a time capsule to see a younger Dr. Stanley, what advice would you give him?” Dr. Stanley confidently replied, “always have a sense of perspective and recognize what is most important.” Stony Brook University students work hard and should be proud of their accomplishments. “While having a career that you are passionate about is rewarding, you still need a good work/life balance,” added Dr. Stanley.

We thank Dr. Stanley for taking the time to meet with CIE scholars to discuss diversity, leadership and professional development pertaining to academic excellence at Stony Brook University and beyond to their future careers.



President Stanley's Topic Based Lunch was his first visit to the Center

Community of Student Mentors 2014

The Community of Student Mentors Program (CSM) is a key component of the Center for Inclusive Education programming for graduate scholars. CSM was established by the Center more than ten years ago and has continuously run since its inception. The program, which is open to all CIE graduate scholars in both STEM and non-STEM disciplines, experienced significant growth this year in both participation and

programming. CSM matched 24 advanced CIE students with first- or second-year students as peer mentors, assisting with successfully transitioning to the rigors of graduate school life.

CSM participants were provided with a thorough orientation, outlining not only the program guidelines, but also covering the history of mentoring, the best ways to prepare for their first interactions, ways to

frame questions that foster conversation and ways to create an environment of trust. Establishing comfortable boundaries and ground rules for respecting and maintaining confidentiality are also addressed. Following the orientation, mentors and mentees were invited to attend the annual kickoff event off at AMF Smithtown Lanes on September 20th.

Writing to Win with Dr. Cindy Leiton

During the “Writing to Win” workshop held on September 9th, Dr. Cindy Leiton presented tips to help graduate students prepare a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP) application. This prestigious fellowship recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master’s and doctoral degrees at accredited United States institutions. Dr. Leiton was awarded a NSF GRFP grant in 2010.

“My application was not successful the first time I applied (as a first year student) because I did not have ample research experience and I did not have publications,” said Dr. Leiton. “But the reviews that I received were very positive and sounded encouraging enough for me to apply as a second year student.” Dr. Leiton approached her second application differently since she had time to build upon her technical preparation and make some important changes to her proposal. “I think the tipping

point for me was that our lab published a paper in which my work as a summer student played a role in the advancement of the project,” said Dr. Leiton. “And the quality of my reference letters improved. Both of these factors were lauded in the reviews when I was awarded.”

Once awarded the NSF GRFP grant, Dr. Leiton was placed on the NSF listserv of past awardees. She soon found herself being contacted by Stony Brook undergraduate and graduate students in life science disciplines to assist them with the application process. Upon working directly with the CIE; however, the inquiries expanded beyond life science applicants. Dr. Leiton now meets one-on-one with students to learn more in-depth about their research experiences, asks students about how they envision their role as STEM leaders and explores how their education at Stony Brook can be enriched through their involvement in existing programs.

“My first piece of advice to any applicant is to think strategically about how the application criteria will be met and how the



Dr. Cindy Leiton speaking at the CIE’s recent Preview Day

reviewer will perceive it,” said Dr. Leiton. “Doing this early on primes the student to have a clear idea of the components of the essays and how they will be written.”

Dr. Leiton worked directly with five CIE students and three non-CIE Stony Brook students who applied for the 2015 NSF GRFP. The NSF will publish lists of Fellowship and Honorable Mention recipients on the GRFP website (<http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/>) in early April 2015.

Keeping it Real

The Keeping it Real Series promotes informal discussions, facilitated by CIE staff member, Dr. Angel Gonzalez, in which graduate students talk about many of the issues that, although not directly related to academics, nevertheless impact their day-to-day lives. Coping with these types of challenges, along with being a successful academic, can be difficult to manage. Talking with fellow graduate students fosters social support and provides insight into different ways to deal with these issues. This semester, the topics included “Social Life While in Graduate School” on September 17th and “Family and Cultural Pressure” on November 24th.

The Center for Inclusive Education Presents

Keeping It Real

Integrating Family and Culture into Your Academic Life

The “Keeping It Real” series is the Center for Inclusive Education’s forum where students have candid conversations about non-academic issues that impact their lives. Join us as we discuss dealing with familial and cultural demands. Family obligations and cultural expectations can often come in conflict with the scholarly pursuits of graduate students. We invite both junior and senior graduate students to share their experiences and gain some insight on how to fulfil family commitments and respect cultural traditions while establishing an academic career.

Monday, November 24, 2014 at 12:00pm
Graduate School Conference Room - 2401 Computer Science Building
Lunch will be provided.
For a disability related accommodation, please call 2-1387.

Stony Brook University

The Center for Inclusive Education Presents

Keeping It Real

Upgrade Your Down Time:
Having a Life Outside of Academia

The “Keeping It Real” series is the Center for Inclusive Education’s forum where students have candid conversations about non-academic issues that impact their lives. This month, we will be discussing the importance of developing a life outside of graduate school to increase your productivity and protect your well-being. Learn how to maintain a social life and pursue personal interests while successfully managing your academic responsibilities. For incoming and junior students, this is a great opportunity to connect with advanced students to discover the various options for leisurely activities in the area.

Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 1:00pm
Graduate School Conference Room - 2401 Computer Science Building
Lunch will be provided.
For a disability related accommodation, please call 2-1387.

Stony Brook University

Grantsmanship Workshop

This fall, the CIE hosted a three-session Grantsmanship Workshop Series on strategies, tactics and writing tips to prepare individual research grant proposals. Grant writing consultant Beth Schachter offered participants valuable insight into the creative, scientific and organizational aspects of preparing a highly competitive research grant application. Participants were also given the opportunity to draft a preliminary scientific plan for their own proposal as well as develop an action plan for completing the project. A select group of attendees received one-on-one consulting with Ms. Schachter on a proposal in progress after the series.



Graduate students and Postdocs at the Grantsmanship Workshop

Practical Professional Skills Series Launches

The Center for Inclusive Education, Graduate School and The Office for the Integration of Research, Education and Professional Development (IREP) have joined together to present a four-part Practical Professional Skills Series to Stony Brook graduate students and postdocs. The interactive series is designed to promote dialogue around key issues affecting today's professionals.

The series launched with a "Navigating Complex Organizations" workshop presented by Dennis Lazarus on October 9th. Drawing upon his 25 year career in international development in various capacities within the United Nations Development Programme (UNP), Lazarus reviewed the general structure of most organizations and provided some strategies for navigating bureaucracy. Additionally, he shared why more and more organizations value adaptability as a key skill in their employees and how to make meaningful contributions in any work environment. Some of the "lessons learned"

included: follow your passion, build on your experiences, remember change provides opportunity, know the big picture (be observant), don't overanalyze and learn from your mistakes. He closed with a quote from JFK... "Things don't just happen, they are made to happen!"

On December 8th, the series continued with an interactive discussion on "Giving and Receiving Constructive Feedback". Speakers Mary Eisenstein, *Communications Coach and Training Expert, Melmar Enterprises*, and Nina Maung-Gaona, *Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion & Director, Center for Inclusive Education*, led participants through discussions and role play activities in small groups. They also addressed the impact of communication styles as well as the physiological, social and psychological processes involved.

Two topics remain to be explored - "Peak Performance" and "Strategic Professional Growth". Event details are forthcoming in the New Year.



Practical Professional Series attendees



Practical Professional speaker Dennis Lazarus

CIE Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Participants danced their way through the month of October to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Stony Brook University's Hispanic Heritage Month. In honor of this milestone, the CIE co-sponsored the HHM Dance Series that included instructions and demonstrations of flamenco, tango, bomba y plena, campo dances, salsa, palos, merengue and bachata. We wish to extend our congratulations to two CIE scholars, Luisa Torres (Pharmacology and Flamenco Dancer) and Sophia Basaldua (Cultural Analysis & Theory and Argentine Tango Dancer) who coordinated and performed in two of the three dance series events.

Keep Calm and Write On

This summer, the AGEP-T FRAME program launched its first interactive "Keep Calm and Write On" Dissertation Writing Workshop to provide students with practical tips and much needed motivation to complete their dissertation. The workshop served as the kickoff to the Writing Boot Camp - an exclusive opportunity for doctoral students to engage in structured writing time for their dissertation, articles for publication or course writing assignments. Eight weekly three-hour sessions were held in the Center for Inclusive Education and FRAME Postdoctoral Fellows provided mentorship and guidance as requested.

Special thanks to our guest speakers - IRACDA NY-CAPS Scholars, Dr. Javier Monzón & Dr. Taylor Shoberle and AGEP-T FRAME Fellow, Dr. Maria Rodolis.

The Dissertation Writing Workshop will continue this winter during intercession with four Friday sessions that will meet in the CIE. To sign up, please check the CIE home page at www.stonybrook.edu/cie under "upcoming events".



Teatro Rodante performs as part of HHM

The CIE Celebrates Stony Brook's Inaugural "40 under 40" Awards!

In October, the CIE learned that five Center scholars had been nominated and two selected as recipients of Stony Brook's inaugural "40 under 40" awards. Joining the first class of award recipients were Dr. Arthur James Goff III and Dr. Mireya Mayor. Among the nominees were also Dr. Julio Carrion, Joel R. Jimenez, and Briana Locicero. The award, a collaboration between the offices of Advancement and Alumni Relations, sought to recognize the achievements of Stony Brook University graduates under the age of 40. We had the opportunity to speak with Matthew Colson, Stony Brook's Executive Director of Alumni Relations, to learn firsthand about the award.

"Stony Brook University has over 20,000 alumni currently under the age of 40. A recent survey we conducted with the alumni community showed that Stony Brook is doing an outstanding job sharing the great news of the University, but our alumni were eager to hear more about their peer community. We established this award in response to that sentiment, to do the best job of celebrating and promoting the accomplishments of our alumni."

And they succeeded in doing so. The "40 under 40" award took about one year to develop from concept to execution. "This was an all hands on deck effort," said Mr. Colson about the collaboration between Advancement, Alumni Relations and Communications and Data Services. This first award call received 500 nominations which were pared down to the 150 strongest candidates. A dual layer panel of reviewers, including Stony Brook faculty, leaders and alumni reviewed all of the nominees and worked collaboratively to select this year's winners. The inaugural award recipients are reflective of the alumni body- representing the under 40 Stony Brook alumni community by ethnicity, gender, discipline, geographic region and career fields. Congratulations to all 40 members of the inaugural class including awardees Dr. Goff and Dr. Mayor, and to Dr. Carrion, Briana and Joel who were nominated for consideration!

Arthur James Goff III, PhD - AGEP & Turner Alumnus, Genetics



Dr. Arthur James Goff, 40 under 40 Awardee

Dr. Arthur James (Jay) Goff III graduated from the doctoral program in Genetics in 2004. Under the advisement of Professor Carol Carter, Dr. Goff's dissertation research investigated Tsg101, a human gene that encodes for a cellular protein of the same name, and its control of HIV-1 gag trafficking and release. Before arriving at Stony Brook, Dr. Goff completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Recombinant Gene Technology at the State University of New York at Fredonia. At Stony Brook, he was selected as a recipient of the Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship and was an active scholar in the Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate program.

Dr. Goff is a Principal Investigator and Supervisory Microbiologist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. As a lead investigator at the premier infectious disease research facility, he runs a multidisciplinary research team that is focused on developing pathogenesis models for Category A viral agents, such as Marburg and Ebola virus. In addition to developing the pathogenesis models, Dr. Goff's group also develops medical countermeasures that might combat such viruses.

"I am very humbled and thankful to have been nominated and selected for the '40 under 40' award. It is very special to be recognized among a group of such highly accomplished individuals. I cannot take full credit for this award because it would not have been possible without the outstanding mentorship provided to me by my advisor Dr. Carol Carter, and the tremendous support I received from Nina Maung and her staff at the Alliance for Graduate Education in the Professoriate. I can say wholeheartedly that I would not be where I am today without either of those two influences. Thank you Carol, thank you Nina, and thank you Stony Brook."

***"Jay exemplifies the spirit of Stony Brook, including commitment, passion, leadership and the pursuit of excellence...His work with agents perceived as potential threats to national security or national public health contribute to the welfare of both our nation and the world at large."* - Dr. Carol Carter, Professor of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology**

Mireya Mayor, PhD - Turner Alumna, Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences

A Fulbright Scholar, National Science Foundation Fellow, television star, wildlife correspondent, adventurer, anthropologist, primatologist, conservationist, inspirational speaker, lecturer, author and mother of four, Dr. Mayor has many titles. Through it all, her work helps call attention to and do something about the very real issues facing our planet and the creatures with which we share it.

For several years, Dr. Mayor conducted research in Madagascar, completing the first ever long-term genetic studies of two of the most

endangered primates in the world, Perrier's sifaka and the Silky sifaka. She also co-discovered a new species of mouse lemur in Madagascar and was able to convince leaders there to declare this new species' habitat a national park, helping to conserve the previously unknown species. While researching in Madagascar, Dr. Mayor first worked with National Geographic- they interviewed her as part of a documentary on the fossa, a predator of the lemur. She was hired soon after as a wildlife correspondent covering stories all over the world. She has now been reporting on wildlife and habitat issues to audiences worldwide for more than a decade, winning considerable acclaim along the way, including two Emmy Award nominations, being named "Emerging Explorer" by the National Geographic Society in 2007 and hosting her own show, *Wild Nights with Mireya Mayor*, on National Geographic's channel Wild! In 2011, she wrote her memoir, *Pink Boots and a Machete: My Journey from NFL Cheerleader to National Geographic Explorer*, which was selected to be the 2014 Stony Brook first year freshman read; a required reading assigned to freshmen during summer orientation to provide a head start in academic studies before the start of classes.



Dr. Mireya Mayor, 40 under 40 Awardee

***"Collectively, this group of 40 are carrying out the mission of Stony Brook. What we set out to accomplish 57 years ago when the institution was established, these young scholars continue to achieve today."* - Matthew Colson, Executive Director of Alumni Relations**

Julio Carrion, DMD, PhD - AGEP Alumnus, Oral Biology



Dr. Julio Carrion, 40 under 40 Nominee

When Dr. Carrion came to Stony Brook in 2004, he did not know he would still find himself here a decade later. "I had originally planned on returning home to Puerto Rico, but opportunities to grow and advance as part of the Stony Brook community kept presenting themselves." Dr. Carrion had received his Doctor of Dental Medicine Degree in 2004 from the University of Puerto Rico, coming to Stony Brook that same year to complete his general practice residency. It was during this time that he learned about the PhD program in Oral Biology and Pathology. He applied for and was admitted to the doctoral program. "I was able to simultaneously pursue the PhD in conjunction with the advanced Specialty Education Program in Periodontics." In 2008, Dr. Carrion also completed the NIH funded Clinical Research Training Program under the direction of Dr. Marie Gelato in the School of Medicine. After obtaining his PhD in 2012, Dr. Carrion joined the faculty here at Stony Brook as a tenure track Assistant Professor in the School of Dental Medicine. Today, Dr. Carrion is the Director of Periodontal Research in the Department of Periodontology in the School of Dental Medicine. "It is a great honor to have been nominated for this award and for the opportunities that coming to Stony Brook has offered."

Joel R. Jimenez, MSW - Turner Alumnus, School of Social Welfare



Joel R. Jimenez, 40 under 40 Nominee

Joel's passion for undergraduate student affairs began early on as a bachelor's student at Stony Brook University. As a freshman, he began work as a technician in the Student Activities Center. "Dean Stein was the Dean of Students. He gave us so much trust and responsibility for preparing the campus for events. It was the first time someone was trusting me at such a high level." From there, Joel took on additional opportunities in Student Affairs and served as a Quad Assistant in Campus Residences. "I saw Stony Brook as an opportunity center for people coming from different backgrounds. It really showed me how unique a career in higher education could be."

After completing his bachelor's, Joel went on to the MSW program as a Turner Fellow. He has always been interested in issues of policy and access to higher education, and even considered at one point pursuing his JD. Then, during his post-graduate work with The Retreat, a Suffolk County Fatherhood Initiative that focuses on building healthy relationships and effective programs to developing parenting skills in families that have experienced domestic abuse, his attention steered back to the non-profit side of policy and how higher education could help to strengthen scholars and communities.

Now an undergraduate college advisor in the Human Development Undergraduate Colleges at Stony Brook, Joel is also pursuing his EdD at Dowling. While he is in the early stages of developing his dissertation thesis, he is interested in investigating best practices for serving diverse student populations, specifically focusing on how faculty/student contact and engagement can foster retention and advancement of underrepresented scholars in undergraduate study.

***"The most rewarding thing is meeting students where they are, really getting to know them and being able to connect them to the resources they need on campus. Getting them connected to faculty, administrators and building their confidence in engaging these groups."* - Joel Jimenez**

Briana Locicero, BA, Philosophy - Current Turner Fellow, School of Medicine

Briana is the only CIE scholar to have been nominated for the "40 under 40" award who is currently enrolled in a graduate degree program at Stony Brook. Briana was nominated by Kathleen Valerio, a health educator in the Center for Prevention and Outreach (CPO) here at Stony Brook. Kathleen served as Briana's mentor and advisor during her undergraduate internship in CPO. "My minor in health and wellness required completion of a two semester internship. My interest in creating healthy environments for students led me to complete the requirement through the *CHILL*. peer education program coordinated by CPO." *CHILL*. is an experiential learning peer-focused internship that trains advanced level undergraduates to support campus professionals and outreach efforts by linking peers to support services and resources supporting mental health and wellness. As a *CHILL*. Educator, Briana developed a social media network called '*CHILL*. Friends' by creating a Facebook© page and challenging her peers in the undergraduate community to be compassionate towards one another through student organization outreach and meetings to improve the health and wellness of the campus community." *CHILL*. Friends started off as one interaction. "That interaction inspired me to start speaking with campus organizations and urging my fellow students to become community builders. Even the smallest outreach of compassion can transform a peer's experience in college." As a result of Briana's efforts, the *CHILL*. Friends gmail account received many more responses from students who were challenging themselves to make a meaningful difference in our Stony Brook community!



Briana Locicero, 40 under 40 Nominee

Karian Wright Honored as part of Caribbean Life News "40 under 40" Awards

Our CIE scholars are not the only ones being recognized for their outstanding achievements as young professionals! This November, AGEP-T FRAME and IRACDA NY-CAPS Program Manager Karian Wright was selected by Caribbean Life News as a recipient of their 2014 "40 under 40" award.

Karian, who was born in Jamaica and currently lives with her family in Massapequa Park, was one of 40 honorees recognized in a ceremony and gala celebration held on November 26th in Dyker Heights, Brooklyn. The award celebrates the achievements of professionals born in or with roots in Caribbean nations. 2014 marked the second year of the awards ceremony.

Karian was recognized for her long history of work with underrepresented postsecondary scholars, including six years as an advisor,

adjunct faculty member, and Assistant Director of Graduate Student Recruitment at Monroe College, her work since 2013 with the Center for Inclusive Education and her service and volunteerism with the community as a reverend and minister.

Karian completed her MBA in 2011 in the King Graduate School of Business at Monroe College. When asked by Caribbean Life News to whom she looks up to as a mentor, she responded that it was her father. "He is one of the kindest, most affectionate individuals I have ever known. He has always been my biggest supporter and encouraged me to do my best at all times."

You can read the entire list and profiles of Caribbean Life News' "40 under 40" awardees



Congratulations Karian Wright

[here](#). Congratulations Karian! The CIE is proud of all you have done and all you will accomplish in the future!

Terrence Buck Recognized as "Diversity Champion" for Work with STEM Students

Brookhaven National Laboratory's (BNL) Terrence Buck was chosen to receive the 2013/2014 Diversity Champion Award from the Career Center at Stony Brook University. Buck wears several hats on behalf of BNL - Principal Human Resources Representative in the Human Resources Division, Diversity Specialist in the Diversity Office and BNL Program Manager for AGEP-T FRAME in the Office of Educational Programs. Buck was honored for his work connecting traditionally underrepresented Stony Brook University students with mentors who might lead them to job prospects at BNL.



Congratulations to Terrence Buck

Welcome New IRACDA Postdocs

- **Dr. Sarah Alaei** completed her PhD at Columbia University where she studied the role of acetylation as a regulator of gap junction protein stability and function. Sarah joined Dr. David Thanassi's lab in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, which is broadly interested in the underlying mechanisms of virulence protein secretion employed by diverse bacterial species. Dr. Alaei's project will be focused upon characterizing the unusual pilus biogenesis pathways utilized by *P. gingivalis* in order to adhere to host cells and other microbes.
- **Dr. Elizabeth Atkinson** completed her PhD in Evolution, Ecology, and Population Biology at Washington University. Dr. Atkinson conducted an interdisciplinary project examining the genetic architecture and evolvability of brain traits in primates. She joined Dr. Benna Henn's lab in the Department of Ecology & Evolution where she will be working on biomedical and evolution-oriented projects utilizing the lab's extensive dataset from the African Genome Variation Project.
- **Dr. Jillian Cypser Nissen** completed her PhD in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology at Stony Brook University. Dr. Nissen joined Dr. Stella Tsirka's lab in the Department of Pharmacology, which broadly focuses on the role of the resident immune cell of the brain and spinal cord, the microglia, in various central nervous system diseases. Her research primarily focuses on how microglia are responsible for mediating neuronal survival in multiple sclerosis.



My SREB Experience: A Scholar's Perspective - *with Jennifer Martinez, PhD candidate*

In October, CIE staff and scholars traveled to the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) conference in Atlanta, GA. The program's goal is to produce more minority PhD students who seek careers as faculty on college campuses. The general session speakers motivate and inspire attendees to maintain a positive perspective despite obstacles faced when pursuing their PhD. Breakout meetings and recruiting sessions provide opportunities for attendees to focus on their personal goals and enhance their job search skills.

Jennifer Martinez, a CIE scholar, shared her unique experience at SREB this year. During a recruiting session, Martinez made her way to the Metropolitan State University of Denver representatives because there appeared to be little traffic at their table. The conversation began quite casually. The representatives shared information about the campus location, weather and programs. As Martinez began to discuss her degree and what she is looking for in a faculty position, the representatives asked if she would be willing to participate in a group interview via skype – within the hour – with the Chairperson of the biology department. Martinez hurried back to her room to prepare.

The group interview included seven candidates from different disciplines (materials science, marine biology, cellular biology, etc.) and three Chairpersons from the Metropolitan State University of Denver. "It was interesting to see how other students interviewed," said Martinez. The Chairpersons introduced themselves and the available positions. Then, the candidates described themselves and answered 1:1 questions directly. There was time set aside for Q&A and the group interview concluded with directions to apply for the available positions immediately. "I completed the online application as quickly as possible, which included my CV, teaching statement, research interest statement, transcripts and three references," said Martinez. "This forced me to write my statements and really think through my goals."

When asked to share some advice for students attending SREB next year, Martinez stressed the importance of "attending as many sessions as you possibly can." She encourages students to go to the networking and faculty recruiting sessions and to be prepared to speak with representatives – even those you may not initially be interested in. "Use the business cards that the conference makes for you and come prepared with copies of your CV. Talk with other students in different fields and build your network. An opportunity may present itself when you least expect it."



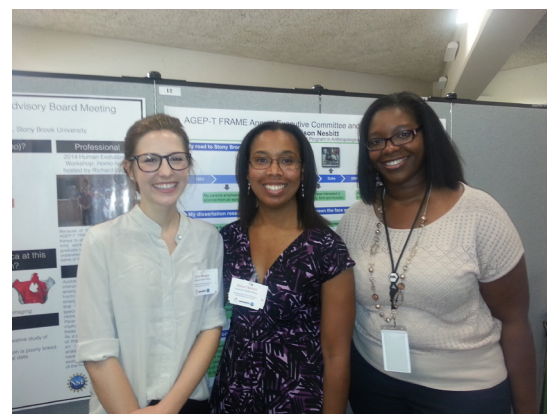
CIE Scholars and staff recruiting at the SREB Compact for Faculty Diversity in Atlanta, GA

Welcome New AGEP-T FRAME Fellows and Scholars

- **Dr. Cindy V. Leiton** completed her PhD in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology at Stony Brook University where she focused on understanding how metallo-enzymes known as the Matrix Metalloproteases are involved in brain development, particularly in the cells that generate the brain's white matter, the oligodendrocytes. Dr. Leiton began her AGEP-T funded postdoctoral research in June 2014, under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Floyd in the Department of Anesthesiology. Her research is focused on understanding how the brain copes with oxygen deprivation and which cells may be targeted to circumvent such an event which can occur upon stroke, traumatic brain injury and other types of trauma.
- **Dr. Paulo Castillo** completed his PhD in Electrical Engineering at The City College of New York where he worked on optical remote sensing focused on infrared technology, optical instrumentation and atmospheric monitoring. Dr. Castillo began his AGEP-T funded postdoctoral research in August 2014, under the leadership of Dr. Arthur Sedlacek, III, an Atmospheric Chemist within the Environmental and Climate Sciences Department, on Aerosol Chemistry and Microphysics at Brookhaven National Laboratory. His research is focused on the optimization, calibration and testing of the novel instrument photothermal interferometer (PTI) to directly measure aerosol absorption based on the thermal dissipation of the spectrally absorbed energy through interferometry.
- **Azeez Aranmolate**, Molecular and Cellular Biology advised by Dr. Holly Colognato
- **Patricia Enmore**, Neuroscience advised by Dr. Craig Evinger
- **Pedro (Peter) Fernandez**, Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS) advised by Dr. William L. Jungers
- **R. Emilio Fernandez**, Technology, Policy, and Innovation advised by Dr. David Ferguson
- **Diana Guimet**, Genetics advised by Dr. Patrick Hearing
- **James Herrera**, Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS) advised by Dr. Patricia Wright
- **Jesse John**, Geosciences advised by Dr. John Parise
- **Daphne Meza**, Biomedical Engineering advised by Dr. Wei Yin
- **Carrie Mongle**, Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS) advised by Dr. Fred Grine
- **Allison Nesbitt**, Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS) advised by Dr. Karen Baab & Dr. William Jungers
- **Jason Quinones**, Molecular & Cellular Biology advised by Dr. Bruce Demple
- **Steve Tsotras**, Biochemistry and Cell Biology advised by Dr. Benjamin Martin



The AGEP-T FRAME team at Brookhaven National Laboratory for their annual meeting



Left to right: AGEP-T FRAME fellows Carrie Mongler and Allison Nesbitt with Program Manager Karian Wright at the annual meeting poster presentation

Conflict Resolution Workshop held for CIE Postdocs

On Tuesday, July 22nd, AGEP-T FRAME Fellows and IRACDA NY-CAPS Scholars participated in our first conflict resolution workshop led by Mary Eisenstein, a communications expert and conflict management consultant. This program provided instruction in conflict management, emotional literacy and effective communication skills. Participants were also led through a series of role play activities to practice the techniques they learned.

Recruitment is currently in progress for postdoctoral opportunities with IRACDA NY-CAPS and AGEP-T FRAME. For information on applying please visit <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/cie/programs.html>

REU News



The REU In Nanotechnology for Health, Energy and the Environment was re-funded for an additional three years

In accordance with the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU): Nanotechnology for Health, Energy and the Environment funding proposal, the CIE organized and hosted the fourth residential summer program under the direction of PI Gary Halada. Ten interns from nine different undergraduate institutions plus two Research Experience for Teachers (RET) science instructors, from both Babylon and Mt. Sinai high schools, participated in the program. In addition to receiving stipend support and extensive exposure to mentored research in the lab; the program included a tour of Brookhaven National Laboratory, classes on Graduate School Preparedness and Research Methods, an e-portfolio component and a final Research Symposium/Poster session. With the addition of the IMSD MERGE program to the Center's dossier of undergraduate research programs, the summer symposium was expanded to become a collaborative effort between the CIE, the URECA office and Career Services. As a result, the research of students in both the CIE programs and summer scholars from other campus programs were highlighted.

2014 REU Summer Interns

Steven Hall- CUNY Hunter College. Advised by Dr. Gary Halada, Materials Science and Engineering

Rudy Haluza- Penn State. Advised by Dr. Jason Trelewicz, Materials Science and Engineering

Leigha Jarett- SUNY Binghamton. Advised by Dr. Yizhi Meng, Biomedical Engineering

Natalie Jean-Philippe-Suffolk County Community College. Advised by

Dr. Gary Halada, Materials Science and Engineering

Samantha Jones- CUNY City College. Advised by Dr. Molly Frame, Biomedical Engineering

Steven Kahn-University at Buffalo. Advised by Dr. Tadanori Koga, Materials Science and

Engineering

Raghav Malik-Stony Brook University. Advised by Dr. Yizhi Meng, Biomedical Engineering

Justin Morena- University of Pennsylvania. Advised by Dr. Peter Tonge, Chemistry

Ann O'Brien- SUNY New Paltz. Advised by Dr. Gary Halada, Materials Science and Engineering

Zachary Wong- SUNY Buffalo. Advised by Dr. Taejin Kim, Materials Science and Engineering

Congratulations Corner

Dr. Alfreda S. James who was selected to receive the Division of Student Affairs' Distinguished Service Award for Student Development.

Kayode Ekwunife-Orakwue on publication of the Rubric he helped to create as part of his volunteer service with The North East Comprehensive Center Center on Innovations in Learning. The Rubric, a K-12 Virtual Learning Program, will be adopted by NYSED, the Rhode Island Department of Education and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

IMSD-MERGE undergraduate scholars **Sarah Georges**, **Maryam Ige** and **Denise Laspina** presented their research at the 2014 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in San Antonio, TX.

IMSD-MERGE undergraduate scholar **Maryam Ige** (along with the **SBU iGEM Team**) presented at the 2014 International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition (iGEM) in Boston, MA and was awarded a bronze medal.

PhD candidate **Alexis Santana**, Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, who was engaged to Alex Cortes on December 4th.

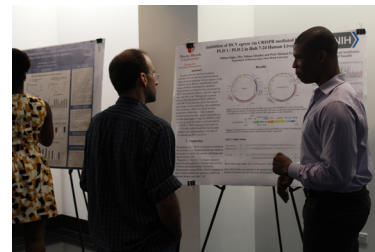
REU in Nanotechnology Instructor **Katherine Miscaviage** and partner Joseph Miscaviage on the birth of their daughter, Lucy, on September 1, 2014.

Turner Fellow **Raquel Otheguy** on the birth of her son, Gabriel Andrés Pierpont, on September 21, 2014.

CIE Alumna **Dr. Onika Murray** on the birth of her son, Christopher Anthony Rennocks, on December 1, 2014.



REU Intern Jason Hall at Closing Ceremony and Symposium



IMSD MERGE Scholar Obiora Egbo at Closing Ceremony and Symposium

LSAMP-BD Welcomes New Fellow, Edward Turner

Edward is a MS Student in the Department of Applied Mathematics & Statistics. Originally from Queens, NY, he completed this undergraduate work at Stony Brook University, where he was awarded a LSAMP scholarship. Currently, he is studying how to address mathematical and engineering problems by using computational methods and how these computational methods may be optimized. His goal is to pursue a PhD in Mathematics so that he can study various deterministic and stochastic processes, develop computational methods to analyze these processes and optimize these methods. Outside of his studies, his hobbies include exercising and playing the guitar.



Welcome New GEM Fellow, Ammar Morgan

Ammar is completing the five year BE/MS combined degree program in Mechanical Engineering here at Stony Brook and will be participating in two industry internships with Brookhaven National Laboratory. As an undergraduate, Ammar was a SULI intern at BNL where he worked on the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider project and designs for upgrades to the sPhenix project. He was a CSTEP scholar and advisory board member, and served as president of the Muslim Student Association. Ammar is the fourth GEM Fellow to be sponsored at Stony Brook University and is joined in being funded this year via GEM by Daphne Meza, PhD scholar in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. Daphne received the GEM Fellowship in 2012 but was able to defer her funding until 2014 as the result of her selection as a LSAMP-BD Fellow as well.



Getting Ready for Advanced Degrees with GEM

On October 18, CIE staff member Toni Sperzel traveled with three Stony Brook undergraduate and master's scholars to the annual New York Metro area GEM GRAD Lab (Getting Ready for Advanced Degrees). This one-day seminar offered workshops and panels on deciding if graduate school is right for you, preparing a competitive application, finding funding and making the most of your graduate studies.

In 2015, the CIE will host the first GEM GRAD Lab to be held at Stony Brook University. We look forward to coordinating what will be a spectacular event for underrepresented undergraduate students in STEM disciplines who want to learn more about graduate school. The National GEM Consortium is a unique and powerful connection to a national network of universities and employers. This partnership promotes the participation of underrepresented groups in post-graduate science and engineering education and the technical workforce.

Stony Brook Scholar Selected for Diversity Fellowship in STEM

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI), which reports to the Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor, was established in part to “increase the number of underrepresented graduate and undergraduate students applying for admission to and attending the University.” The Doctoral Diversity Fellowship is one among a number of initiatives that are intended to achieve this goal. Moreover, this initiative contributes to SUNY’s mission “to provide the people of New York educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access representative of all segments of the population. Ms. Spencer Saraf was one of only two SUNY scholars selected to receive the 2014-2015 award.



Turner Fellowship Welcomes its Largest Incoming Cohort

As a result of the substantial contribution announced by President Stanley at last year's State of the University Address, the Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship was able to recruit this year its largest incoming cohort of Fellows in what appears to be the history of the fellowship program. With 24 new first year Fellows and three dissertation fellowship recipients, the incoming class of 27 represents a wide variety of scholars across the graduate disciplines.

The Hilton Garden Inn served as the location for this year's Turner Welcome Dinner, which took place on September 30th. Joined by over 110 CIE scholars, campus leaders, faculty, administrators and members of the Turner family, the event provided an elegant opportunity to welcome the new fellows to the Turner Fellowship 'family'. Guest speakers included Turner Fellow and FameLab competition winner Lyl Tomlinson from the doctoral program in Neuroscience, SUNY

Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Carlos Medina, Joyce Turner and recently retired SBU faculty member Dr. Robert Liebermann from the Geosciences Department. Rather than giving individual speeches, Joyce and Robert, whose families lived on the same block in Patchogue when the Turner family was on Long Island, took the opportunity to use their presentation time to engage in a live interview and discussion reflecting on the Turner family's experience as members of the Stony Brook community and discussing what their lives were like growing up in Patchogue amidst the Civil Rights movement. Together, they shared their own poignant memories and recollections of challenges in the fight against racism and segregation being fought across the nation during that time. They also discussed the importance of efforts like those out of the CIE and the Geosciences Department striving to increase the number of



Director Nina Maung with Keynote Speaker and honored guest, Joyce Turner

underrepresented minority scholars pursuing graduate degrees and advanced studies.

2014 marks the 27th year of the Turner Fellowship program. Known as the Graduate Diversity Fellowship Program (GDFF) across the SUNY System, the Turner Fellowship is one of 24 GDFF programs funded by the State University of New York's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. We are looking forward to this year's nomination cycle which will begin in January and hope to be able to continue funding for many underrepresented scholars pursuing their terminal degrees here at Stony Brook.

Welcome New Turner Fellows!

Owen Abe, PhD in Materials Science and Engineering
Benedette Adewale, PhD in Chemistry
Chantal Adlam, PhD in Chemistry
Jordi Alonso, MFA in Creative Writing
Sarah Bannon, PhD in Psychology
Kellon Belfon, PhD in Chemistry
Nicole Bender, PhD in Ecology and Evolution
Elizabeth Berrigan, PhD in Physics and Astronomy
Ernesto Blanes-Martinez, PhD in Philosophy
Laura Bray, PhD in Hispanic Languages and Literature
Jesse Brizzi, PhD in Computer Science Engineering

Dex-Ann Brown, PhD in Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology
Marcus Brown, PhD in Philosophy
Michael Cortes, PhD in Applied Mathematics and Statistics
Cortney Crespo, MD
Nicole Cronin, PhD in Physics and Astronomy
Daniel DeDora, PhD in Biomedical Engineering
Nicole Georgopulous, PhD in Art History
Ashley Greene, PhD in Psychology
Moises Guardado, PhD in Genetics
Diana Mendez, PhD in Hispanic Languages and Literature
Johnathan Nieves, MD
Ricardo Raudales, PhD in Neuroscience
Mariana Rius, PhD in Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
Melissa Sims, PhD in Geosciences
Steve Tsotras, PhD in Genetics
Dewayne Wrencher, MFA in Studio Art



The 2014 incoming class of Turner Fellows



Robert Liebermann and Joyce Turner interview one another about diversity in graduate education

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To learn more about the Center and its hosted
programs please visit our website at:
www.stonybrook.edu/CIE

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THE CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IS A DIVISION OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND AFFILIATED WITH
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