

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

FROM: Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President

DATE: May 6, 2019

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. 20TH ANNUAL STARS OF STONY BROOK GALA 2019

On April 10, Stony Brook University honored alumna and Simons Foundation President **Dr. Marilyn Hawrys Simons '74, PhD '84**, at Chelsea Piers in Manhattan before a crowd of 800 guests. The 20th Stars of Stony Brook Gala recognized Dr. Simons for her leadership as president of one of the nation's premier philanthropic institutions devoted to driving progress in basic science, as well as her contributions to improving educational opportunities for the underserved at the University and beyond. Dr. Simons' contributions to Stony Brook University are immeasurable. She serves as a board member of the Turkana Basin Institute and is founder and chair of the Stony Brook Women's Leadership Council. Dr. Simons also plays a major role in the continued emphasis on the importance of health and nutrition, by supporting the Walter J. Hawrys Campus Recreation Center, and supporting the scientists of tomorrow through the Simons Summer Research Fellows and the University's Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activities program. Hosted by the Stony Brook Foundation Board of Trustees, the 2019 Stony Brook Gala also proved to be a record-breaker, raising \$28.2 million. The total included \$25 million from Dr. Simons, which will establish a new Center for Applied Economics and Public Policy at the University, along with \$3.2 million for student scholarships. Prior to this year's event, since its inception in 2000, the Stony Brook Foundation Stars of Stony Brook Gala had raised more than \$36 million to support student scholarships and \$21 million for academic programs of excellence.

II. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

On April 30, Stony Brook University launched its first annual "Giving Day." The 24-hour online fundraising drive encouraged our community to support the University's remarkable students, faculty, and staff, and to advance Stony Brook Medicine's mission to provide the highest quality healthcare. In launching Giving Day, Stony Brook joins a successful trend among Association of American Universities institutions, creating a University-specific day to celebrate philanthropy. All gifts were tracked in real time on Stony Brook's Giving Day website. More than 2,050 donors answered the call to participate by giving more than \$170,000 to important initiatives across the institution, far exceeding the initiative's goal of raising \$100,000 from 1,000 donors.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, more than \$53.9 million has been committed from 10,517 donors investing in our students, faculty, staff, and patients. In addition to the money raised at the recent gala, the following are the most recent examples of how our generous donors are investing in our University community:

- \$100,000 for pediatric cancer research
- \$90,000 for scholarships in Physics, Math, and the School of Atmospheric and Marine Sciences (SoMAS)

III. OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION FINANCIAL SEMINAR

Faculty and staff were invited to an Office of Administration financial seminar, which was led by **Kathleen M. Byington**, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration. The session took place on May 1, and took an in-depth look at the University's financial status through the lens of the 2018 financial statements.

IV. NEW INVENTOR PORTAL WILL PROTECT AND FACILITATE FACULTY DISCOVERIES

A new digital portal for inventors, designed to facilitate the protection and disclosure of discoveries by Stony Brook innovators, was launched on April 26 to coincide with World Intellectual Property Day (#WorldIPDay). The online service, provided by the Office of Technology Licensing and Industry Relations (OTLIR), will assist researchers by streamlining the process of licensing inventions. The Online Inventor Portal will allow faculty inventors to:

- Create, route, submit, view status and digitally sign technology invention disclosures online;
- give co-creators rights to review, edit, and approve disclosures before submission;
- access portal functionality from any browser;
- view historical invention disclosures and intellectual property related to inventions; and
- communicate directly with the OTLIR in a "Remarks Section."

Questions about the service should be directed to OTLIR at (631) 632-9009 or sbu_ntd@stonybrook.edu.

V. STONY BROOK'S SUSTAINABLE IMPACT MEASURED IN NEW TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION RANKING

Stony Brook University has been identified as #78 in the world in the new 2019 Times Higher Education Impact Ranking, a global university ranking that aims to measure an institution's impact on society based on its success in delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. These 17 goals – which include providing inclusive and equitable quality education, achieving gender equality and fostering innovation – were adopted by the UN in 2016 and provide a framework for developing the world in a sustainable way. Stony Brook University's top three SDG rankings were in Reduced Inequalities, where it ranked #8; Gender Equality, where it

ranked #44; and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, where it ranked #55. Stony Brook's other notable rankings among the SDGs were #69 Quality Education and #93 Climate Action.

VI. DR. JOEL SALTZ FORMALLY INVESTED AS CHERITH FOUNDATION CHAIR IN BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS

On March 7, **Joel Saltz, MD** was formally invested as the inaugural Cherith Foundation Chair in Biomedical Informatics in the Renaissance School of Medicine. The position, created by a 2013 gift from the Cherith Foundation, will help put Stony Brook at the forefront of developments in the fast-growing field of artificial intelligence and the use of big data to solve complex medical problems for the benefit of patients at Stony Brook Medicine and around the world.

VII. MICHAEL LOEB ENDOWS A VISITING PROFESSORSHIP IN THE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

Michael Loeb has endowed a visiting professorship in The School of Journalism in memory of his father, renowned financial journalist **Marshall R. Loeb**. The new Marshall R. Loeb Visiting Professorship at Stony Brook University will help students in the School of Journalism to navigate the ever-shifting digital media landscape.

VIII. IL MEMMING PARK WINS 2019 DISCOVERY PRIZE

Dr. Il Memming Park, Dr. Melanie Chiu, Dr. Sandeep Mallipattu, MD, and Dr. Ming-Yu Ngai recently presented their high-risk, high-reward concepts to a panel of prestigious judges at the 2019 Stony Brook Discovery Prize competition. **Dr. Park**, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior in the College of Arts and Sciences and Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, emerged as the winner for his project that uses neurotechnologies and machine learning methods to better understand the brain trapped in unconscious states. The prestigious award comes with \$200,000 in new funding, which is meant to spur future funding for Park's research.

IX. FACULTY, ADMINISTRATOR, AND STUDENT ACCOLADES

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

- Distinguished Professor of Chemistry **Ken A. Dill**, Director of the Laufer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology at Stony Brook University, has been awarded the 2019 Raymond and Beverly Sackler International Prize in Biophysics for his research in the field of Physical Principles of Biological Systems. Dill is the Louis & Beatrice Laufer Endowed Chair in Physical and Quantitative Biology.
- **Liliana Dávalos** will be studying the phenomenal capabilities of the shrew after being named one of the international recipients of the Human Frontier Science Program's (HFSP) 2019 collaborative research grants. Dávalos, PhD, Professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution in the College of Arts and Sciences at Stony Brook University, will receive \$330,000 in funding over three years for research that may shed light on the processes of neurological degeneration and regeneration in mammals, and thus provide keys how to treat degenerative illnesses such as multiple sclerosis or Alzheimer's disease.

- On the heels of being named a rising star in computer networking, Computer Science Professor **Aruna Balasubramanian** has been awarded a highly selective VMware Early-Career Faculty Grant, which is given to recently appointed faculty whose research interests and accomplishments seem poised to have significant impact within the industry and academia.
- Senior Vice President for University Advancement **Dexter A. Bailey Jr.**, received a Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Commonfund Institutionally Related Foundation Award at CASE's Annual Conference for Institutionally Related Foundations.
- Stony Brook University MD/PhD student **Tyler Guinn** has been selected for a highly competitive National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship. Guinn is in the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) dual-degree track in the Renaissance School of Medicine and the Biomedical Engineering PhD graduate program.
- **Jiajie Cen**, a doctoral student in the Department of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, is the recipient of an American Chemical Society 2019 Graduate Student Award in Environmental Chemistry for his research analyzing and developing new materials to generate sustainable energy.
- In a record-tying performance, 11 Stony Brook students – including nine women – have been awarded prestigious Graduate Research Fellowships (NSF GRFP) by the National Science Foundation. Another six SBU students earned Honorable Mentions. Students honored with fellowships include, in alphabetical order: **Hindy Drillick** (Mathematics), **Stephanie Johnson** (Anthropology and Africana Studies), **Savannah LaBua** (Marine Vertebrate Biology), **Ann Lin** (Biochemistry and Economics) and **Katherine Lo** (Biochemistry & Cell Biology). Also named Fellows were **Diana Lutz** (Chemistry), **Jessica Maghakian** (Applied Mathematics and Statistics), **Gabrielle Paniccia** (Biochemistry), **T.J. Sullivan** (Clinical Psychology), **Christopher Tang** (Materials Science and Chemical Engineering) and **Daneele Thorpe** (Clinical Psychology). Stony Brook students winning Honorable Mentions were: **Jacob Crosser**, **Kenneth Davidson**, **James Glazar**, **Elizabeth Inman**, **Evan Lammertse** and **Hannah Morales Hernandez**.
- Fourteen Stony Brook University students received the 2019 Chancellor's Award for Academic Excellence and Leadership at a ceremony in Albany on April 24. The following Stony Brook students received the award: **Peter Alsaloum**, **Abigail Bishop**, **Carolyn Carrera**, **Ana Maria Carrion Rodriguez**, **Janie Choi**, **Thor Hawrey**, **Maitreyee Kale**, **Ryan Kawalerski**, **Jamie Kunzmann**, **Annet Kuruvilla**, **Ashley Schuette**, **Nicole Soder**, **Kevin Tan**, and **Xicheng Zhou**.
- **Rebecca Liebson**, a graduating senior in the Stony Brook University School of Journalism, has been named a 2019 New York Times Fellow.

X. COMMENCEMENT & HONORS PROGRAMS SET FOR THIS MONTH

Stony Brook University will celebrate its 59th Commencement Ceremony on **Friday, May 24 at 11:00 a.m.** in the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. The Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony is scheduled for **Thursday, May 23 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena. A Baccalaureate Honors Convocation will also take place on **May 23 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena. This ceremony will recognize candidates graduating with

distinctions of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude, as well as members of Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi and recipients of the Chancellor's and Provost's awards.

Having received approval from the SUNY Board of Trustees, Stony Brook University will confer honorary degrees this year upon the following distinguished individuals:

- **Alan Alda** is an award-winning actor, director, screenwriter, author, and advocate for science communication and women's rights. He has earned international recognition for his multitude of accomplishments, has earned seven Emmy awards, and appeared in many well-known television series and films. In addition to Alda's achievements in the performing arts, he is an active women's rights advocate and has a great passion for science communication. This includes hosting the PBS award winning series, Scientific American Frontiers and running the international Flame Challenge. In 2009, Alda brought his experience and passion for science to Stony Brook University, helping to found the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, which has become a global leader in communication training and research and has trained more than 12,000 scientists and health professionals.
- **Tarana Burke** is a civil rights activist who is widely known for starting the "Me Too" movement to raise public awareness of sexual abuse. She began this movement more than ten years ago to help underprivileged women of color who may have been affected by sexual abuse. In 2017, the popular hashtag #MeToo quickly went viral over social media, following a worldwide response to the flood of sexual misconduct allegations in the entertainment industry. As part of Burke's activism, she also serves as the Senior Director of the Girls for Gender Equity (GGE) in Brooklyn, which strives to help young girls and women of color, ranging from ages 8-19, increase their cognitive and social development through focused interventions. GGE offers programs that improve strength, skills, and self-sufficiency in girls to help guide them in making meaningful choices in their lives.
- **Greg Marshall** is known all over the world as a leading animal conservationist, serving as a National Geographic Research Associate. Marshall earned his master's degree in Marine Science from Stony Brook University in 1988. During the course of his career, Marshall inspired millions of people worldwide through his 1986 invention of the Crittercam, which is a small, lightweight camera that is mounted directly on an animal in the wild. This non-invasive camera allows for humans to experience the world through the animal's perspective. Marshall is a two-time Emmy Award winner. He has developed, produced, or otherwise been closely involved in more than 70 National Geographic documentaries that include the observation of sea lions, sharks, bears, penguins, turtles, lions, monkeys, and more. Additional contributions include more than 60 short films airing on PBS. Marshall's films are known to be visually engaging while communicating fundamental principles of biology and a strong conservation message.

XI. RECENT EVENTS

Earthstock 2019

Stony Brook Earthstock, the annual week-long campus celebration of Earth Day, took place the week of April 15. The week featured a number of environmental programs, including various talks, the Earthstock Festival, walks, and a featured presentation by **Dr. Michael Mann** – "Return

to the Madhouse: Climate Denial in the Age of Trump."

MLK Associate Clarence Jones Delivers Presidential Lecture

"What kind of nation are we going to be in the 21st century?" Civil rights luminary **Clarence Jones** posed this and other challenging questions as he delivered the Presidential Lecture on May 1 at Stony Brook University's Student Activities Center. Recalling the words and deeds of **Martin Luther King Jr.**, his associate during the civil rights movement, Jones outlined a "struggle for the soul of America" and challenged listeners to understand the institution of slavery and its legacy. Jones is an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco and a scholar-in-residence at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University.

XII. ATHLETICS UPDATE¹

Stony Brook leads the America East Commissioner's Cup standings following the winter season. It is the first time since 2012 that a school other than Albany leads this far into the year. The Seawolves are seeking their first-ever Commissioner's Cup, which annually recognizes the strongest athletic program in the America East, as determined by a scoring system that rewards a school for success during both the regular season and championship competition in the conference's 18 sports. Here's a snapshot of where some of our players and sports teams stand:

- Women's Lacrosse and Men's Lacrosse both won America East regular season titles and hosted their respective conference tournaments at LaValle Stadium recently. The women are ranked No. 17 and have won nine straight games, while the men have won six of their last seven games. **Jim Nagle** was named America East Coach of the Year.
- A school-record seven Stony Brook football players were invited to NFL camps. These players are: RB **Donald Liotine** (Minnesota Vikings), LB **Shayne Lawless** (Chicago Bears), RB **Jordan Gowins** (New York Giants), WR **Julius Wingate** (Kansas City Chiefs), WR **Marshall Ellick** (Buffalo Bills), TE **Cal Daniels** (Washington Redskins) and G **Jonathan Haynes** (Baltimore Ravens).
- Baseball currently leads the America East with a conference record of 13-5.

¹ As of May 3