

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

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

DATE: December 5, 2016

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. STONY BROOK LEADS EFFORT TO INCREASE STEM DEGREES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED

Stony Brook University is the lead institution for a new \$4 million five-year National Science Foundation (NSF) grant designed to increase undergraduate and graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in underrepresented minority (UREP) student populations. The grant supports the SUNY Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program, a synergistic collaboration and alliance of 14 SUNY schools with a diverse mix of academic strengths and capabilities.

Stony Brook University will receive \$1.6 million of the \$4 million as the lead school involved in the SUNY LSAMP alliance. Stony Brook and the other SUNY schools will look to expand the alliance and create additional STEM curriculum opportunities for students. Over the next five years, the three leading goals of the project will be to: meet the continuing challenge of preparing UREP students for a successful transition into STEM majors; provide experimental activities that lead to socialization into science; and promote systemic change by broadening participation in research. According to **David Ferguson**, Project Director, Co-Principal Investigator, and SUNY Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Technology and Society in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, "Our alliance will scale up programs that build our momentum to increase student recruitment and retention...we will also focus on improving STEM pathways from community colleges to four-year schools and creating a pipeline to produce global researchers and scholars."

II. NEXT GENERATION ENGINEERING PROGRAMS RECEIVE SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT FROM NATIONAL GRID

National Grid, an international energy delivery company, has awarded a sustainable grant to the Next Generation Engineering Programs at Stony Brook University, which promote engineering among diverse and high needs populations and meet the requirements of the Next Generation Science Standards. This effort, led by **Mónica Bugallo**, Faculty Director of the Women and Science and Engineering (WISE) Program and Associate Professor from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and **Angel Kelly**, Associate Director of the Science Education Program and Associate Professor from the Physics and Astronomy Department, offers

after school hands-on engineering activities for high school students, as well as professional development for in-service teachers on engineering learning and workshops on STEM for school counselors. The program focuses on high needs schools and underrepresented groups. During the academic year 2015-2016, the after school program for students was successfully piloted at Central Islip School District.

III. CAMPAIGN FOR STONY BROOK UPDATE

The Campaign for Stony Brook continues its momentum toward the end of the calendar year. To date, the Campaign has generated \$513.1 million against its goal of securing \$600 million by June 30, 2018, and more than 42,720 donors have participated. Examples of recent philanthropic investments from friends and alumni include:

- \$500,000 for the Staller Center for the Arts Endowment
- \$500,000 for the Cancer Innovation Fund
- \$250,948 for the Ryan Residency Program
- \$50,000 for the Staller Center for the Arts and the Barbara N. Wien Arts and Education Fund
- \$50,000 for the HexLab
- \$50,000 for the Pre-College Summer Institute for the College of Arts and Sciences

For additional updates on the campaign, please visit stonybrook.edu/campaign.

IV. STONY BROOK MAGAZINE

The Fall/Winter issue of the redesigned University Magazine will be released in mid-December, in both print and digital versions. This is the second issue since the FAR BEYOND brand identity was launched. The edition features inspiring stories of the University's work and accomplishments, including:

- cDACT, an interdepartmental consortium at the intersection of the arts and technology
- The Turkana Basin Institute and the Leakey family's contribution to paleoanthropology
- Stony Brook's commitment to preparing futures scientists through undergraduate research and mentorships
- Stony Brook's efforts to advance the third revolution in medicine – the convergence of life sciences with physical sciences, mathematics, big data and engineering

V. FACULTY ACCOLADES

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

- **Anissa Abi-Dargham, MD**, Professor and Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Psychiatry at Stony Brook University, has been elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). Becoming an elected member of NAM is considered one of the highest honors in the field of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service in their field.

- **Jason Starr**, a professor in the Department of Mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences, was elected a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society (AMS). Professor Starr is a world-renowned expert in algebraic geometry, the geometric study of solutions of systems of polynomial equations. His most celebrated contributions deal with the question of when such a system of equations has at least one solution. Starr's work has given mathematicians a new way of thinking about such matters.
- The State University of New York Board of Trustees recently appointed five Stony Brook faculty members to the Distinguished Faculty Rank. **Manuel London**, Dean of the College of Business; **Scott Smolka**, Department of Computer Science; and **Yuanyuan Yang**, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering were named Distinguished Professors. **Latha Chandran**, Department of Pediatrics and Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, was named a Distinguished Teaching Professor, and **Perry Goldstein**, Chair of the Department of Music, was named a Distinguished Service Professor.
- **Alexander Orlov**, an associate professor in the Department of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering, has received an educational award from the American Chemical Society (ACS) for Incorporating Sustainability into Chemistry Education. The 2017 ACS-CEI Award, sponsored by the Committee on Environmental Improvement (CEI), selected Orlov for his work, "Incorporation of novel education approaches, including online gaming tools and 3D printing, into graduate and undergraduate courses focused on sustainable materials."
- **Raju Venugopalan**, an adjunct professor at Stony Brook University and a senior physicist at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory, has been awarded a Humboldt Research Award for his remarkable achievements in theoretical nuclear physics. This prestigious international award – issued by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Bonn, Germany – comes with a prize of €60,000 (nearly \$70,000 U.S.) and the opportunity to collaborate with German researchers at Heidelberg University and elsewhere. Venugopalan joins 13 other Brookhaven National Laboratory physicists who have received this award since 1974.

VI. NIKOLAOS PANOU INSTALLED AS TSANTES ENDOWED PROFESSOR

Dr. Nikolaos Panou was installed as the inaugural holder of the Peter V. Tsantes Professor in Greek Literature and Language on November 9. As Assistant Professor of Comparative Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, Panou's current research focuses on the ways in which power and authority were conceptualized and represented in pre-modern philosophical discourse, with particular emphasis on moral and political works written from the 16th to the 18th century. As holder of the professorship, Panou is invested in promoting scholarship, teaching and research in all aspects of Hellenic civilization, from Antiquity to the present.

VII. KAVITA AND LALIT BAHL CENTER FOR METABOLOMICS AND IMAGING OPENS

Pushing the boundaries of high-tech cancer research and treatment, the Stony Brook University Cancer Center opened a new, one-of-a-kind, translational research resource that will harness imaging technology to probe the metabolism of tumors. Made possible by two back-to-back gifts from **Kavita and Lalit Bahl**, totaling \$13.75 million, the new Kavita and Lalit Bahl Center for Metabolomics and Imaging advances the family's vision to elevate Stony Brook Medicine to the cutting-edge of personalized cancer research, diagnostic imaging breakthroughs and evolving

individualized cancer care far beyond the status quo. Metabolomics, an emerging field in cancer investigation, promises breakthroughs in individualized cancer treatment because uncovering metabolic pathways is a key to unlocking their influence on the development and proliferation of cancer cells. Under the guidance of **Yusuf Hannun, MD**, and **Lina Obeid, MD**, the Bahl Center brings together Stony Brook researchers in the fields of metabolomics, cancer biology, medical imaging, and computational oncology.

VIII. FACULTY MENTOR TWO FINALIST TEAMS IN 2016 SIEMENS COMPETITION

Five of the finalists in the 2016 Siemens Competition in Math Science and Technology – the nation’s premier research competition for high school students – were mentored at Stony Brook University. The five high school students make up two teams, both from the University’s Garcia Center Program, which will compete for the grand prize at the national finals in Washington, DC, December 2-6. The teams are:

- **Rose Hong** (California) and **Jasmin Gao** (Georgia), with Stony Brook mentors **Marcia Simon**, Oral Biology and Pathology; **Dennis Galanakis**, Pathology; and **Miriam Rafailovich**, Materials Science and Engineering
- **Katherine Cao** (Wisconsin), **Alice Wu** (New York) and **William Hu** (California), with Stony Brook mentors **Miriam Rafailovich** and **Adriana Pinkas-Sarafova**, Garcia Center

Both teams worked on research related to the use of dental pulp stem cells used for dental regeneration. A Stony Brook-mentored student/team has won the grand prize in the Siemens Competition three times (2009, 2007 and 2001). Since 2005, Stony Brook faculty have mentored a total of 441 Siemens semifinalists.

IX. AMAZON@STONYBROOK BRINGS INNOVATION TO TEXTBOOK BUYING

The nation’s preeminent online bookseller, Amazon, has opened an innovative pickup location on the Stony Brook campus that promises to streamline textbook access for students.

Amazon@StonyBrook offers a convenient location where students and the campus community can get their textbooks, and other college essentials, ordered through Amazon. The official opening took place November 3 in the Frank Melville Jr. Library. As the first university in New York State and one of only 15 colleges in the United States to offer an Amazon pickup location on campus, Stony Brook University is at the cutting edge of providing innovative services to the students and campus community. For more information, visit: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/fsa/bookstore/>

X. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: UNDERGRADUATE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Nominations are being sought for Stony Brook University’s Undergraduate Recognition Awards for Academic Excellence and Outstanding Achievement. Awards for Academic Excellence are given for academic accomplishments that go beyond the classroom experience. Awards for Outstanding Achievement are presented for excellence in one of three subcategories: Athletics, Leadership or Community Service. The University’s 35th Undergraduate Excellence and Outstanding Achievement Annual Ceremony will be held on April 17, 2017. This ceremony provides an opportunity to publicly honor the outstanding accomplishments of our undergraduate

students and the faculty and staff who mentor them. The deadline for submissions is **February 8, 2017**. Visit <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/du/awards/undergrecog.html> for guidelines and eligibility criteria.

XI. STONY BROOK SET TO CELEBRATE WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Stony Brook will celebrate Winter Commencement on **Thursday, December 22 in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena**. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. and confer bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees for summer 2016 and fall 2016 graduates.

XII. RECENT EVENTS

Annual Windmill Lighting and Festivities at Stony Brook Southampton

The annual holiday Windmill Lighting took place on December 2 on the Southampton Campus. New this year was the "Ice Melodies" showcase, where guests watched an expert carver make a windmill out of ice and listen to carolers sing holiday favorites. The event also featured family friendly activities, including: balloon twisting, hot cocoa and holiday treats, a photo booth, and guided tours of the Windmill. The night ended with a lecture by **Chris Paparo** of the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, entitled: "From Plankton to Whales: Just a few Reasons Why Our Local Waters Are Worth Protecting."

Town Hall Meeting on Stony Brook University's Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Initiative

On November 30, approximately 300 students, faculty and staff attended the first Town Hall meeting on Stony Brook University's Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Initiative. I briefed the audience on the significance of implementing the plan, discussed the plan's overarching goals and some of the accomplishments that have been realized since the plan was released in May. Audience members were then informed about the implementation structure, the work of four of the eight working groups, **Robbye Kinkade's** Responding to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (R.E.D.I.) Project, and heard from student leaders and advisory council members **Dwayne Moore** and **Sydney Gaglio**. A question and answer period concluded the session.

Concert for Children's Hunger Awareness Held at Staller Center

Long Island Cares – The Harry Chapin Food Bank hosted students from Long Island school districts on November 3. Seven hundred children, ranging from grades 1-4, came to the Staller Center for the Arts for a free concert. Thirty-one buses brought children from five school districts to attend the concert by Tom Chapin and Friends. The effort helped to raise awareness of children's hunger and food insecurity on Long Island and also collected donations of kid-friendly, non-perishable food.

XIII. UPCOMING EVENTS

Stony Brook to Host HeForShe Ideathon to Help End Gender-Based Violence

As part of Stony Brook's role as a HeForShe IMPACT University Champion, the University is hosting an Ideathon to generate solutions to help end gender-based violence. The student-run event

will be held on **Tuesday, December 6 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the LDS Center**. All students — undergraduate and graduate — are encouraged to attend and brainstorm ideas. Faculty and staff are also invited to participate and help facilitate discussions. For more information, visit stonybrook.edu/heforshe.

16th Annual Festival of Lights Ushers in Holiday Season

The Stony Brook campus community will come together to participate in the 16th Annual Festival of Lights on **Wednesday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Student Activities Center’s Sidney Gelber Auditorium. The festival is an intercultural program that celebrates the diversity of religions through holiday traditions. Participants can make a variety of holiday crafts as part of the Festival’s “Make It, Take It” activities. The focus will then turn to the main stage, with several presentations and cultural performances in song, dance, poetry and music.

Town Hall Meeting on Stony Brook University’s Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Initiative

The second Town Hall meeting on Stony Brook University’s Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Initiative will take place on **Wednesday, December 14 at 1:00 pm in the Hospital Lobby Conference Room**. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend this session to hear an update on the University’s Diversity Plan. To read more about this important effort, please visit: stonybrook.edu/diversityplan.

XIV. ATHLETICS UPDATE

Stony Brook Sports Rank Among the NCAA’s Best in Graduation Success Rate

Stony Brook’s student-athletes continue to distinguish themselves in the classroom, with six sports graduating at rates above the national average, according to information released by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The annual report revealed that six of Stony Brook’s sports registered a Graduation Success Rate (GSR) higher than the NCAA Division I institutions national average. Men’s and women’s cross country/track and field and men’s basketball each compiled a perfect 100 percent graduation success rate. The baseball program’s rate of 83 percent came in higher than the national average of 74 percent, while the women’s basketball program’s rate of 88 percent is a point higher than the national average. The football team’s rate of 79 percent is 6 points higher than the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) national average. The GSR measures those student-athletes who enrolled in 2009 and graduated within six years. Overall, the GSR for the 2009 cohort at Stony Brook was at 84 percent – up three points from the 2008 cohort and the highest rate in the school’s history since the NCAA began collecting official GSR data.

Annual “Stuff-A-Bus” Toy Drive

The Seawolves Student-Athlete “Stuff-A-Bus” Toy Drive is an Athletics holiday tradition. Each December, Seawolves student-athletes visit the Stony Brook Pediatric Oncology Center to deliver donated toys. If you would like to participate, please drop off a new, unwrapped toy to the Seawolves Ticket Office, located in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena lobby, during their normal business hours: Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The deadline is December 19. Toys can also be dropped off at any of the following Stony Brook basketball games:

- Saturday, December 3 at 6 p.m. – Stony Brook Men's Basketball vs. Northeastern
- Tuesday, December 6 at 7 p.m. – Stony Brook Men's Basketball vs. Lehigh
- Saturday, December 10 at 7 p.m. – Stony Brook Men's Basketball vs. Rutgers
- Friday, December 16 at 7 p.m. – Stony Brook Women's Basketball vs. Molloy

Team Updates¹

- **Women's Cross Country:** Senior **Christina Melian** (Staten Island, N.Y.) completed her cross country career at the NCAA Cross Country Championships at LaVern Gibson Championship Course in Indiana on November 19. Melian finished in the top 100 in the 6K with a time of 20:50.1. This was Melian's third appearance in an NCAA Championship in the past 12 months. Melian ran in the NCAA Cross Country and Indoor Track & Field Championships during her junior campaign.
- **Men's Soccer:** The team finished the 2016 season with an overall record of 9-6-3. After earning a bye in the first round of the conference tournament, the team battled in the semifinal game but suffered a tough 2-1 loss to Hartford. Stony Brook's nine wins were the most it had since 2012, and their 7 shutouts were the most since 2010.
- **Football:** The team ended the 2016 season with an overall record just under .500 (5-6). Nine players earned CAA Football All-Conference Honors. **Timon Parris** (Floral Park, N.Y.) was selected to the first team. **Ray Bolden** (Eules, T.X.), **Ousmane Camara** (Bay Shore, N.Y.), **Shane Lawless** (Moorestown, N.J.), **Tyrice Beverette** (Lakewood, N.J.), and **Jaheem Woods** (Neptune, N.J.) all earned a spot on the second team. **Stacey Bedell** (Mastic Beach, N.Y.), **John Haggart** (Sayville, N.Y.) and **Darin Peart** (Brooklyn, N.Y.) were named to the third team.
- **Men's Basketball:** Under new head coach **Jeff Boals**, the team registered its first win of the season against Hampton, winning 76-66 during the Thanksgiving holiday break. The team will play Northeastern, Lehigh, Rutgers, Hofstra, Saint Francis, NJIT, and Brown this month.
- **Women's Basketball:** Head coach **Caroline McCombs** and the women's basketball team are off to a 2-4 start, with wins over Columbia and Manhattan. The team has a tough schedule in December, including contests against: LIU Brooklyn, Central Connecticut, Molloy, Florida A&M, Indiana, Cornell and the University of Missouri - Kansas City. Conference play opens on January 4 at the University of New Hampshire.

¹ As of December 1