



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Senate

**FROM:** Michael A. Bernstein  
Interim President

**DATE:** March 2, 2020

**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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**I. APPOINTMENTS & DEPARTURES**

**Carol Gomes Appointed CEO of Stony Brook University Hospital**

**Carol A. Gomes, MS, FACHE, CPHQ**, has been appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Stony Brook University Hospital (SBUH). Carol has been serving as Chief Operating Officer for SBUH for the past six years and recently took on additional responsibilities as Interim Chief Executive Officer. A recognized authority in the healthcare industry, with more than 35 years of experience, Carol has served a majority of that time at Stony Brook University Hospital. Under her leadership, SBUH planned for expansion of its operating rooms and radiology suite, continued the integration of Stony Brook Southampton Hospital and Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital into the Stony Brook Medicine Hospital System, led award-winning sustainability efforts, and achieved the hospital's recent recognition by Healthgrades as one of America's 100 Best Hospitals™ for commitment to quality of care and outstanding clinical outcomes, amongst many other honors. Carol earned two Master's degrees from Stony Brook University in Management and Policy from the Harriman School for Management and Policy and Healthcare Management and Administration from the School of Allied Health Professions.

**Matthew Whelan Named President of Caldwell University**

**Matthew Whelan, EdD**, Vice-President for University Enrollment Strategy and Relationship Development, will head to Caldwell University (Caldwell, New Jersey) to become its 9<sup>th</sup> President at the end of this academic year. Caldwell is a Catholic Dominican institution, and Matt, a New Jersey native, will become the first male lay president in its history. At Stony Brook since 2006, Matt has provided exceptional stewardship of strategic planning, institutional research and effectiveness, enrollment management and admissions, facilities oversight, and intercampus operations. Matt has played a significant role in our efforts to secure improvement in student retention and graduation rates, the socio-economic mobility of our alumni, and the enhancement of the Stony Brook student experience. I wish him every success in his new leadership role.

### **Laura Lindenfeld Appointed Dean of the School of Journalism**

**Laura Lindenfeld, PhD**, Professor of Journalism and Executive Director of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science since 2016, has been appointed Dean of the School of Journalism, effective March 1. Laura has been serving as Interim Dean of the School of Journalism since January 2019. She has demonstrated herself to be a highly effective leader in that time, establishing a comprehensive strategic vision and developing new programmatic opportunities for the School. Dr. Lindenfeld will continue to serve as the Executive Director of the Alda Center. A communication researcher focusing on environmental and sustainability communication, Dr. Lindenfeld's work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Sea Grant Program, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Food and Agriculture. She has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles, chapters, and reviews in a range of journals such as *Science Communication*, *Ecology and Society*, *Environmental Communication*, *Sustainability Science*, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, and *Food and Foodways*.

### **Nicole Sampson Appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences**

**Nicole S. Sampson, PhD**, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, has been appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences effective March 1. Nicole has been serving as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since July 2018. Dr. Sampson has been an indispensable leader serving as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since July 2018. In that time, she has developed a comprehensive vision for the future of CAS, all while stewarding the College into a stronger financial position. Her tireless work to unite members of the College community to elevate the stature and impact of the College is evident through the numerous initiatives already launched, and those in development. Dr. Sampson's research interests span from unraveling the molecular intricacies of mammalian fertilization to finding new treatments for tuberculosis and cholera. She has received more than \$17 million in research support primarily from the NIH and the National Science Foundation. She has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, reviews, and issued patents. Her awards include the Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award and the Pfizer Award in Enzyme Chemistry, both from the American Chemical Society, and she is a Fellow of the American Chemical Society. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Brookhaven Science Associates, the entity that manages Brookhaven National Laboratory.

## **II. UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES**

### **Stony Brook Ranked Ninth Most Diverse University**

Stony Brook was named the ninth most diverse university in the nation by *USA Today* in a February 13 feature article. At Stony Brook, according to the article, "there is at least a 79% chance two randomly selected students will have a different race, ethnicity, or U.S. citizenship status." Across all undergraduates nationwide, such a likelihood is about 69.6%.

### **Stony Brook Named One of America's 100 Best Hospitals for 2020**

Stony Brook University Hospital has been named one of America's 100 Best Hospitals™ for 2020 by Healthgrades – the only hospital on Long Island to receive this achievement for the past two consecutive years and among only five hospitals in New York State this year. The distinction

places Stony Brook University Hospital in the top 2 percent of nearly 4,500 hospitals assessed nationwide for its consistent, year-over-year superior clinical performance as measured by Healthgrades.

### **Stony Brook is Again Recognized for Voter Engagement Efforts**

Stony Brook University has again been nationally recognized for its commitment to student voter engagement and was ranked among 139 schools listed by *Washington Monthly* as top schools for student voting. In 2019, student voter turnout increased by over 600% in local elections.

### **SBU Earns “Tree Campus USA” Designation from Arbor Day Foundation**

Stony Brook University has once again received Tree Campus USA recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation for its dedication to healthy forestry, sustainability and environmental stewardship on campus in 2019. This marks the seventh consecutive year that the University has received this honor. Stony Brook earned its recognition through the implementation of five core standards that promote the health of trees and student involvement to improve campus forests.

## **III. SBU INVESTS NEW ENDOWED MEDICINE FACULTY**

On February 6, Stony Brook University formally invested **Anissa Abi-Dargham, MD**, as the Lourie Endowed Chair in Psychiatry; **Henry Tannous, MD**, as the General Ting Feng Cheng Endowed Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery; and **Ute Moll, MD**, as the Renaissance Endowed Professor in Cancer Biology.

- **Robert Lourie and alumna Ivana Stolnik '16** funded the Lourie Endowed Chair in Psychiatry. The inaugural holder of the chair, Dr. Abi-Dargham, is an internationally recognized leader in molecular imaging of the brain functioning related to schizophrenia and concurrent addiction.
- Stony Brook alumni and Medicine Advisory Board members **Carol Cheng '96, '97 and Eugene Cheng '97** created the General Ting Feng Cheng Endowed Chair in Cardiothoracic Surgery. The clinical practice of the holder, Dr. Henry Tannous, encompasses coronary revascularization and valvular heart surgery, including transcatheter interventions and minimally invasive lung cancer surgery.
- **Stanko and graduate alumna Nicole Barle' 16; Michael and Victoria Bershadsky; Sergey Butkevich and Irina Gulina; Michael and Nina Douglas; Tomislav and graduate alumna Vesna Kundic '05; Robert Lourie and alumna Ivana Stolnik '16; Mark and Jane Metzger; Vladimir and Elena Sadov; and Francesco and Judith Scattone** funded the Renaissance Endowed Professorship in Cancer Biology. The inaugural holder of the professorship, Dr. Ute Moll, is vice chair for experimental pathology at the Renaissance School of Medicine and is internationally recognized for her work in cancer pathogenesis and therapeutics.

## **IV. ERIC HARALSON NAMED INAUGURAL ENDOWED PROFESSOR IN GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP**

At a recent investiture ceremony, Associate Professor of English **Eric Haralson, PhD**, officially became the inaugural holder of the Endowed Professorship in Global Citizenship, funded by the

Empowerment Charitable Trust. Dr. Haralson leads a multi-year project to advance global citizenship, which he founded at Stony Brook in 2015. A multi-disciplinary collaboration with College of Arts and Sciences colleagues, the project helps students confront vital questions about what it means to be a global citizen.

## V. **ADVANCEMENT UPDATE**

Since the beginning of the 2020 fiscal year, more than \$38 million has been pledged or donated by 9,200 donors investing in our students, faculty, staff and patients. Their pledges and contributions include:

- \$1,500,000 toward the Simon Center for Geometry and Physics Endowment
- \$1,000,000 toward an Endowed Professorship in Cardiology and Cardiac Imaging Research
- \$1,000,000 toward the Electrical and Computer Engineering program
- \$600,000 toward the Alda Center for Communicating Science Endowment
- \$325,000 to help address water quality issues on Long Island
- \$300,000 toward student scholarships
- \$250,000 toward an endowed distinguished professorship at the Alda Center
- \$250,000 toward an Endowed Scholarship for Renaissance School of Medicine students
- \$200,000 toward research in Women in STEM Research at the Alda Center

The 2020 Stars of Stony Brook Gala will take place on **Wednesday, March 11** and will honor **Drs. Barry and Bobbi Coller**. Proceeds from this year's Gala will support student scholarships and create an endowed scholarship for students enrolled in the joint MD/MA program.

## VI. **SPRING ENROLLMENT FINAL SNAPSHOT**

A total of 25,576 students were registered at the end of day 15 in spring 2020 – 569 more students than last year at the same point in the term. Compared to spring 2019, the following changes were observed by area:

- + 302 West Campus Undergraduates
- + 60 Graduate School (includes West Campus, HSC, and Southampton)
- + 40 School of Professional Development
- + 151 East Campus/HSC
- + 13 Southampton

## VII. **HONORARY DEGREE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The Stony Brook University Committee on Honorary Degrees will begin its work leading to the recommendation of candidates for SUNY Honorary Degrees to be awarded in 2021. The chairs of the committee are **Eric Wertheimer**, Dean of the Graduate School, and **Deborah Lowen-Klein**, Interim Vice President for Advancement. The purposes of awarding honorary degrees by the State University of New York are:

- To recognize excellence in the fields of public affairs, the sciences, humanities and the arts, scholarship and education, business and philanthropy, and social services, which exemplify the mission and purposes of the State University of New York;
- To honor meritorious and outstanding service to the University, the State of New York, the United States, or to humanity at large; and
- To recognize persons whose lives serve as examples of the University's aspirations for its students.

Nominations should be sent to **Gianna Juliano-Hooper** via interoffice mail (zip = 4433) or email [gianna.juliano-hooper@stonybrook.edu](mailto:gianna.juliano-hooper@stonybrook.edu). **The deadline for submission is Friday, March 13.**

## VIII. “BEYOND THE EXPECTED” – NEW PODCAST SERIES

Stony Brook has launched its first-ever official podcast, “Beyond the Expected,” highlighting the expertise, discoveries and service of outstanding members of the Stony Brook University community. Brought to you by the University’s Office of Marketing and Communications, the podcast offers compelling interviews and insightful perspectives from members of the Stony Brook community and beyond. For more information, see: <https://news.stonybrook.edu/podcast>.

## IX. FILMMAKER SPIKE LEE TAKES ON POLITICS, PARENTING, AND PROMISES IN PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE

Kicking off Black History Month with a February 5 Presidential Lecture in Stony Brook University’s Staller Center, acclaimed writer, director, producer, actor, author and educator **Spike Lee** joined me for a wide-ranging discussion that touched on politics, parenting and the challenges of growing up as an African-American. For more than four decades, Lee’s award-winning films have focused on race relations, discrimination in the black community, the role of media in contemporary life, urban crime and poverty, and other cutting-edge issues. He revolutionized modern cinema through daring and memorable films such as *She’s Gotta Have It*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Jungle Fever*, *Malcolm X* and *Summer of Sam*. In 2019 he won an Academy Award for best adapted screenplay for his film *Black KKKlansman*.

## X. ATHLETICS UPDATE<sup>1</sup>

### General News

- On February 12, Stony Brook Athletics hosted a panel discussion that brought the athletics and campus communities together to chat about strategies to help advance diversity, equity and inclusion. **Diahann Billings-Burford** of the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality (RISE) moderated a discussion with Stony Brook students **Cameron Avery**, **Maya Brown**, and **TJ Morrison**, as well as university official **Kimberly Joy Dixon** and assistant football coach **Diamond Weaver**. Roughly 100 people attended the discussion.
- For more than three decades, National Girls and Women in Sports Day has been celebrated across the nation during the first week of February. On February 8, sixty-

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<sup>1</sup> As of February 26

three Stony Brook student-athletes volunteered as Stony Brook Athletics hosted nearly 150 local children to celebrate and encourage girls' participation in sports. The children, ranging in age from 2 through 13, rotated among stations to gain exposure to various sports, including baseball, volleyball, soccer, and track. After the clinic, they attended the women's basketball game against New Hampshire.

### Winter Sports

- Women's basketball is in the midst of the best season in program history. The team has an overall record of 25-3, which included a 22-game winning streak that recently ended with an overtime loss at Maine. The team clinched the America East regular season title for the first time in school history and will host the conference tournament beginning on March 4.
- Men's basketball is 18-11 and in sole possession of second place in the America East, despite the loss of leading scorer junior **Elijah Olaniyi** to an ankle injury. Playoffs begin on March 7.

### Spring Sports

- Women's lacrosse is off to an exciting start. The team is up to No. 3 in the national Nike/US Lacrosse poll after defeating No. 4 Syracuse and Ohio State to open their season. The team heads to Gainesville to take on No. 8 Florida on February 29.
- The Softball team is off to its best start since 1991 after beginning the season with a record of 5-0. Junior **Dawn Bodrug** tossed a perfect game against Cornell during season-opening play at the Madeira Beach Tournament in Florida.
- Men's lacrosse is off to a 3-1 start under first-year head coach **Anthony Gilardi**. The team recently defeated Brown University in overtime on February 22.