



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

TO: University Senate

FROM: Robert L. McGrath,
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: April 9, 2007

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

RECENT FACULTY/STUDENT AWARDS AND HONORS

Congratulations to Professor Gary Marker in the Department of History, who has won a 2007 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. These prestigious fellowships are granted based on the recommendations of hundreds of expert advisors and are approved by the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment. Dr. Marker has won his award for the "idea of "Russia" in clerical discourse."

It is my pleasure to congratulate Professors Scott Stoller, R. Sekar and C.R. Ramakrishnan of the Computer Science Department who have been awarded a \$1.2 million grant for three years from the Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI) 2007 competition. This competition is sponsored by the Army Research Office (ARO), the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR). It should be noted that of the 36 awards granted, only Stony Brook's was from a single institution!

It is also my pleasure to inform the Senate that Professor Peniel Joseph, of the Department of Africana Studies and a Stony Brook alum was named a Lukas Book Prize finalist for his book *Waiting til the Midnight Hour*. The Lukas Prizes were established by the Neiman Foundation at Harvard University to recognize excellence in nonfiction writing, works that exemplify the literary grace, and a commitment to serious research and social concern.

Congratulations to student Rebecca Kaufman who was awarded a \$25,000 scholarship for her success as national 5th place winner in the Intel Science Talent Search Competition. Congratulations also to Dr. Mary Kritzer of the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior who guided Rebecca in her work on the winning "Androgen Modulation of Cognitive Functions Relevant to Schizophrenia in *Rats*."

I am also gratified to have three students win awards in the 2007 Goldwater Scholars Program. There were 1,110 students were nominated nationwide and 317 scholarships awarded. Ujas Shah, a student in the Biomedical Engineering program mentored by Professor Emilia Entcheva was named a Goldwater Scholar. Students Suraj H. Rambhia also in the Biomedical Engineering mentored by Wadie Bahou and Rohit T. Repala in the Biochemistry program mentored by Professor Iwao Ojima were given honorable mentions.

UPDATE ON THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS DEAN'S SEARCH

The search continues for the College of Business Dean, ads have been placed in the NY Times, the Chronicle of Higher Education, as well as with the Association to Advance Colleges and Schools of Business (AACSB). To date, twenty-four candidates are under consideration. The search committee, who has just added Professor Mario Mignone as a Senate Representative, will meet next week to decide upon a pool of candidates to bring to campus for interview. The committee hopes to complete initial interviews by the end of this semester.

EMPIRE INNOVATION PROGRAM

In this second year of the Empire Innovation Program, the NYS Legislature has allocated \$6 million to SUNY to be used in attracting star faculty. The Empire Innovation Program is intended to add cutting-edge intellectual talent to the research campuses, providing the basis for even more research innovation and competitive professional and graduate education. The program is a targeted, results-oriented plan for boosting economic development across New York State, through increased research at SUNY's university centers and doctoral campuses. Stony Brook has received \$1.4 million towards this effort. In the coming weeks, I will be working with the Deans to determine specific areas in which to target and recruit star hires.

THE HONORS COLLEGE DIRECTORSHIP

I announced to all faculty on March 30th that Geoscientist Daniel Davis will complete three-years as the faculty director of the Honors College this summer. Professor Davis has set a wonderful standard as the director, and his leadership will be greatly missed by both the students and faculty of the College. In the past three years, the number of applications to our Honors College has risen dramatically as has the quality of its students. Stony Brook's recruiting materials sometimes compare the experience of being part of our Honors College to being part of a liberal arts college set within a larger research university context. I think its interesting that our Honors College selectivity measures would indeed put us in the top echelon of highly selective liberal arts colleges

anywhere in the nation. Faculty who have been involved with the college over the years have invariably found it a very rewarding experience.

On behalf of the university I thank Dan for his outstanding service. I invite nominations and suggestions for his successor as director. My colleague Associate Provost Mark Aronoff or I will be happy to answer questions about the nature of the position or to entertain ideas for candidates for the position.

UPDATE ON THE UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES

As I announced in an email on April 2, 2007, the establishment of the Undergraduate Colleges began in 2002; they have quickly become a cornerstone of the undergraduate experience at Stony Brook and a major factor in the increasing attractiveness of Stony Brook to prospective students and to the success of students once they are here.

The commitment and creativity of the faculty who agreed to be founding college directors has been key to getting the colleges off to such a strong start. Three in this group are finishing their service as directors at the end of this academic year: Perry Goldstein, Associate Professor of Music, who directed the College of Arts, Culture, and Humanities for four years; Jeffrey Levinton, Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolution, who directed the College of Science and Society for four years; Michael Schwartz, Professor of Sociology, who directed the College of Global Studies for three years. On behalf of the university I thank them for their service, but more personally I confess to being awed by their ability to construct the vision and fabric of these colleges more or less out of the ether.

I am pleased to announce that Femi Vaughan, Professor of History and African Studies, has agreed to become faculty director of the College of Global Studies. This will commence in September when he completes his work in the Provost's Office where he has led FAHSS and other projects.

We are seeking nominations and applications for the faculty director positions for the other two colleges (Arts, Culture, and Humanities, and Science and Society). Please contact me or Associate Provost Mark Aronoff for further information or discussion about these openings.

TURKANA BASIN INSTITUTE

After conferring with the Senate, on April 2, 2007 I announced a new institute established at Stony Brook University, dedicated to research and education in paleontology, archeology, and geology in the Turkana Basin of East Africa.

A joint venture with Richard, Meave and Louise Leakey, the new Turkana Basin Institute draws on the outstanding strengths of our faculty in the Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences, as well as Anatomical Sciences, Anthropology, Ecology and Evolution, and Geosciences. The Institute will also build on the amazing discoveries that the Leakey family has made in the Turkana region and global attention they have brought to the history of human origins. Professor John Fleagle, Distinguished Professor in the Department

of Anatomical Sciences has accepted the role of Director for the Institute. John has been with Stony Brook University since 1975 and has earned international acclaim for his work in evolutionary biology and anatomy, particularly in humans and primates.

Despite decades of dedicated research, there are large gaps in our understanding of human origins and evolution. Greater progress in this research requires a focused multidisciplinary approach that not only builds on the academic excellence of our University, but partners with young African scientists and academic institutions in the developing world.

The institute will have its academic home at Stony Brook University and three field research facilities in eastern Africa surrounding Lake Turkana. In addition to the unique field opportunities for faculty, graduate students and undergraduates offered by the TBI, the Institute will develop lecture series, symposia, college courses, graduate fellowships and postdoctoral fellowships as well as global internet-based educational offerings with various other international institutions, including the National Geographic Society.

I would encourage any faculty who wished to be involved in this new Institute to contact Professor Fleagle.

SUNY NANJING UNIVERSITY

On March 7-10, 2007, we hosted a delegation from Nanjing University to finalize plans for a pilot project offering a dual bachelor degree program between Stony Brook University and Nanjing University in China. Stony Brook has been asked by SUNY to be the lead campus in this initiative, though it is a SUNY-wide project. The current plan is to recruit 20 to 30 Nanjing University students this year into the dual degree bachelor's program in biology or materials science. The Nanjing students would study for the first two years at Nanjing, then the second two years at Stony Brook. We will also coordinate SUNY study abroad programs for students seeking to study Chinese history, art and literature at Nanjing.

In addition, my office will work with faculty to create faculty exchanges between our universities and to develop a shared general education curriculum.

PROFESSOR PAUL LAUTERBUR

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Professor Paul Lauterbur, formerly of our Department of Chemistry, has passed away. The following is his obituary crafted by Patrick Calabria, Director of Media Relations.

Paul Lauterbur, Ph.D., who shared the 2003 Nobel Prize for his work to develop magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technology while a member of the Stony Brook University faculty in the 1970s and 80s, died yesterday at his home in Urbana, Ill. He was 77.

Dr. Lauterbur was a Professor of Chemistry and a Professor of Radiology at Stony Brook when he began using magnetic resonance spectroscopy to study living organisms. He eventually learned that, by placing an organism inside a constant magnetic field then applying a second magnetic field of varying strength, he could produce sharper images of the different tissues in the organism than previously possible. He first experimented with a clam found by his daughter, Sharyn, in local Stony Brook waters.

The MRI went on to revolutionize diagnostic medicine in the latter quarter of the 20th Century and remains one of the most important developments in medical technology. Lauterbur received the Nobel for Medicine and returned to Stony Brook with his Nobel Medal in September 2004 to deliver a lecture and meet with students. He was honored in a campus ceremony attended by many of his early colleagues.

His original MRI device remains on display in the University's Chemistry Building along with a replica of his Nobel Medal-the first one ever awarded to a faculty member for research conducted while at Stony Brook (Robert Aumann won a second Nobel for Stony Brook, for Economics in 2005). "Stony Brook is rightfully known as the birthplace of the MRI," said Stony Brook President Shirley Strum Kenny. "It was an extraordinary step forward in technology, and Paul Lauterbur was a gifted researcher-one who changed lives and changed diagnostic medicine forever. Anyone who has ever had the benefit of an MRI in their treatment can thank Paul Lauterbur. We will miss him."

Lauterbur died of kidney disease, according to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where Lauterbur taught after leaving Stony Brook in 1985.

Lauterbur's breakthrough was in realizing that by varying the strength of the magnetic field and analyzing the frequency of resulting radio signals, he could use nuclear magnetic resonance to create a two or three-dimensional picture. This laid the foundation for what eventually became the MRI.

The research began in 1971 when Lauterbur watched as colleagues used nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) to examine tissue from a cancerous tumor. Two years later, in 1973, the British scientific journal *Nature* published an article by Lauterbur describing an NMR technique for taking three dimensional pictures of body organs and vessels, without the use of ionized radiation or toxic dyes. It was this technique that was used as the basis for MRI equipment.

Besides his daughter, Sharyn Lauterbur-DiGeronimo of Stony Brook, Lauterbur is also survived by his wife, Joan Dawson, a professor at Illinois, a daughter, Elise Lauterbur, and a son, Daniel.