



Stony Brook  
University

CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION  
in the Graduate School

# Newsletter

Spring 2016



Speaker Series with former Turner Fellowship Director, Olufemi Vaughan, PhD

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## Transition & Change

Another academic year is about to end here at Stony Brook University. The CIE is busy preparing to celebrate not only its completion, but also the commencement of new beginnings for many of our CIE scholars who will be walking in this year's graduation ceremonies and doctoral hooding and moving onto new endeavors. I find this time of year, as the campus quiets a bit and the pace of our efforts slow (even if for only a brief moment), to be the perfect opportunity to reflect and consider the experiences that we as the CIE have shared over the past ten months.

Without a doubt, the 2015-2016 CIE academic year could be best summed up using two words: Transition and Change. Several members of the CIE, staff and scholars alike, experienced both expected and unexpected life-changing moments in their academic and personal lives. From new career opportunities, to research endeavors and unexpected opportunities to engage with national and international academic communities, to the growth of our families and friendship communities in all of their various forms, the year has brought transition or change in some way to all of us.

When Nina declared 2016 to be the CIE's "Year of Community" this past February, I believe she did so as a call to all of us to remember the importance of remaining connected to your communities during times of transition and change. Oftentimes when we face a challenging situation or an opportunity to change courses, be they planned or unexpected, our first reaction is

to close ourselves off from the people around us; to separate ourselves in hopes of having time to consider the transition on-hand and decide on a best course of action to make in approaching that change. While it is important to think deeply about transition and change, using our past experiences and self-understanding to make the best choice in how to move forward, it is equally important to engage the communities that support us before, during and after such transitions. It is our communities and supporters who feed our ability to adapt to change and empower us to be flexible in managing the instability and unexpected outcomes of transition. Our communities serve to bolster our confidence and reduce our feelings of fear and insecurity, changing our mindset from wondering "Can I do this?" to proclaiming "I CAN do this!"

Inside this semester's newsletter you will find many examples of the transitions and changes that we, the CIE community, have experienced in 2015-2016. From staff transitions, to staff additions, to degree completions and alumni accomplishments, we have all experienced change in some way. I thank you all for continuing to be a part of our community and supporting one another through these experiences. We wish you a happy, healthy summer and will see you when the leaves change!

Toni Sperzel, Interim Director

# Is There a Doctor in the House?

**Dex-Ann Brown-Grant**, PhD in Pharmacology

*Dissertation:* Characterization of the Birt-Hogg-Dube Syndrome associated protein Folliculin (FLCN)

**Peter J. Fernandez**, PhD in Anthropological Sciences

*Dissertation:* Form and Function of the Anthropoid Forefoot

**Ramón Emilio Fernández**, PhD in Technology, Policy & Innovation

*Dissertation:* A quantitative policy analysis of Bronx County public high school students' high school mathematics course-completion

**Lori Gallegos de Castillo**, PhD in Philosophy

*Dissertation:* Empathy's Contribution to Moral Knowledge: Cultivating Agency under Conditions of Social Inequality

**Kevin E. Hauser**, PhD in Chemistry

*Dissertation:* A dynamic protein-DNA binding and recognition mechanism

**Crystal S. Lewis**, PhD in Chemistry

*Dissertation:* Green Synthesis, Characterization, and Application of Metal based Nanomaterials

**Joe S. Matarlo**, PhD in Biochemistry & Structural Biology

*Dissertation:* Mechanistic Studies of Novel Inhibitors Targeting the Bacterial Menaquinone Biosynthesis Pathway

**Raquel A. Otheguy**, PhD in History

*Dissertation:* Education in Empire, Nation, and Diaspora: Afro-Cubans' Struggle for Schooling, 1850-1910

**Sasha Maria Rodriguez**, PhD in Sociology

*Dissertation:* At the Juncture of Homonationalism and Homophobic Nationalism: Sexual Justice Organizing in Uganda and the Paradox of Transnational Advocacy

**Lawrence Buckley**, MS in Applied Mathematics & Statistics

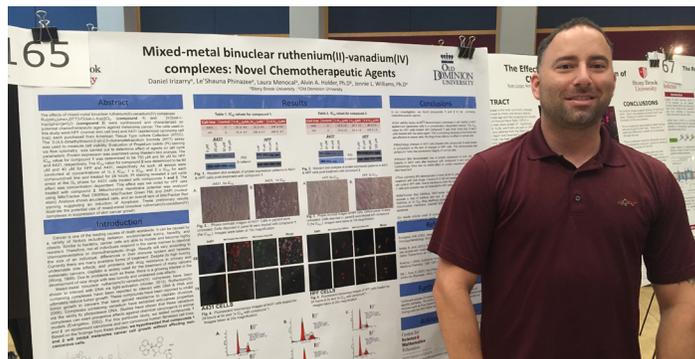
## IMSD-MERGE Undergraduate Scholars

**Stephanie Fiorella**, BS in Biochemistry

**Maryam Ige**, BE in Biomedical Engineering

**Daniel M. Irizarry**, BS in Biology

Congratulations to all  
of our CIE Scholars  
graduating this spring  
and summer!



Daniel Irizarry presenting his poster at the Annual URECA Symposium

## IMSD-MERGE Scholar and mSI Leader Receive SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

IMSD-MERGE Scholar, Maryam Ige (Biomedical Engineering) and mSI Leader, Robert Maloney (Mathematics) were among the 13 Stony Brook University students who received the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence in a ceremony at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany on April 5. "The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence was created in 1997 to recognize students who have best demonstrated, and have been recognized for, the integration of academic excellence with accomplishments in the areas of leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, campus involvement, or career achievement."

The SBU Happenings article featuring the 13 Stony Brook student award winners can be found [here](#).

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# Congratulations Corner

**Kevin Hauser** (AGEP-T FRAME & Bridge to the Doctorate Fellow) had an article “A human transcription factor in search mode” published in the journal *Nucleic Acids Research*.

AGEP-T FRAME & Turner Fellow, **Peter J. Fernandez** submitted a paper to *Nature Communications*.

**Nicole Bender** (AGEP-T FRAME Scholar & Turner Fellow) had her first paper accepted for publication in *Antarctic Science*. It is entitled “Patterns of tourism in the Antarctic Peninsula Region: a 20- year analysis”.

**Benedette Adewale** (AGEP-T FRAME & Turner Fellow) won a SETAC/ACS Exchange Award in the last SETAC Conference.

**Crystal S. Lewis** (AGEP-T FRAME & Turner Fellow) had a paper accepted in the *Toxicology Research Journal*.

IRACDA NY-CAPS Scholar, **Taylor Schoeberle, PhD** gave birth to David Vernon on February 22.

IMSD-MERGE Undergraduate Scholar, **Dan Irizarry** was accepted into Genetics PhD program at Stony Brook and will transition to an IMSD-MERGE Graduate Scholar. Dan and his wife Meagan welcomed their son Daniel on May 7.

IRACDA NY-CAPS Scholar, **Sarah Alaei, PhD** gave birth to Omeed Gamel on March 17.

IRACDA NY-CAPS Scholar, **Elizabeth Atkinson, PhD** had a paper, “Evolutionary and developmental implications of asymmetric brain folding in a large primate pedigree,” published in the journal *Evolution*.

**Ramón Emilio Fernández, PhD** (AGEP-T FRAME & Turner Fellow) accepted a tenure-track position at Pace University. He will begin this fall as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Mathematics Education.

IMSD-MERGE Undergraduate Scholar, **Stephanie Fiorella** was accepted into the Pharmacology PhD program at Stony Brook University.

As a graduating senior, IMSD-MERGE Undergraduate Scholar, **Maryam Ige** was awarded the Provost’s Award for Academic Excellence for her academic excellence beyond the classroom. She has been accepted into six medical schools (Brown, Dartmouth, Johns Hopkins, Stony Brook, SUNY Downstate and Yale) and will soon make a final decision.

**Selvin Rose** (IMSD-MERGE Undergraduate Scholar) received the Colbert Full Tuition Scholarship from Undergraduate Biology at Stony Brook University.

**Kathryne Piazzola**, former CIE Administrator, was selected to receive the 2015-2016 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service for her outstanding service to Stony Brook and the State University of New York.

Former AGEP-T FRAME & Turner Fellow, **James Herrera, PhD** was featured by numerous [media outlets](#) for his research with Professor Liliana Dávalos which reveals how the most complete lemur family tree ever constructed can begin to help these iconic creatures. Dr. Herrera is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the American Museum of Natural History.

**Melissa Sims** (AGEP-T FRAME, BD & Turner Fellow) was selected to be part of the SBU Far Beyond campaign.

IRACDA NY-CAPS Scholar, **Jillian Nissen, PhD** gave birth to her daughter, Eleanor Erin, on May 14.

**Francisco Delgado**, PhD student in English, won the Joyce Turner Dissertation Fellowship Award.

**Michael Cortes**, PhD student in Applied Mathematics & Statistics, worked with Professor Gabor Balazsi over the summer 2015 intersession via a Turner Summer Research Grant. “While working with him I was able to become a permanent member of his lab and I am now writing two research papers and collaborating with experimentalists. So I am very thankful for being selected for the TSRG.”

Turner alumna, **Sasha M. Rodriguez, PhD** accepted a tenure-track assistant professor position in sociology at Hofstra University which she will begin in the fall.

**Hollisa Rosa**, MD student, will be traveling to Peru this summer to participate in a medical mission with A Promise to Peru, Inc.

**Dewayne Wrencher**, MFA student in Studio Art, led a workshop designed for young men of color in the EOP and performed a spoken word piece. Wrencher was also selected to attend a gathering at President Stanley’s home after one of his works was selected in the Sunwood Call for Artist. Wrencher’s solo exhibition opened on Monday, February 29 in the Alloway gallery called “Do You Remember Me?”

# Faculty Career Week Returns



Attendees at the “Lab Management” workshop on April 5

This spring, the Center for Inclusive Education hosted its third annual Faculty Career Week, a series of workshops and panels designed to address a wide variety of topics related to pursuing a faculty career. The events were held in the CIE, but remained open to the entire SBU community. Attendees ranged from graduate students to postdocs - each with the goal of obtaining more information about “Lab Management”, “Preparing for Your Job Talk” and “Preparing for Your Teaching Talk”, respectively.

The series kicked-off on Tuesday, April 5 with Drs. Tom MacCarthy, Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Mathematics & Statistics and David Q. Matus, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology, who provided tips and tools for setting up a lab and becoming an effective lab manager. They answered questions specifically pertaining to staffing, funding, equipping and managing a lab. “Good labs recruit good people,” said Dr. MacCarthy.

“Try to keep an open mind when you are new to an institution. There should be some excitement about your arrival because you were recruited.”

Drs. MacCarthy and Matus addressed the nuances of recruiting graduate students, postdocs and techs, as per the attendees’ requests. “The staffing in your lab is definitely institution-dependent,” said Dr. Matus. “There are some variables that may be outside your control, but keep in mind that as your lab grows, it will take on a personality that will impact all future hires you make.” The common thread throughout all aspects of setting up and managing a lab is that “YOU are responsible.” It is wise to have an idea about how you want your lab to be run and the people you want to work with to achieve your research goals.

The second workshop in the series was moderated by Dr. Arthur Samuel, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology. Panelists, Drs. Maricedes Acosta-Martinez, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology & Biophysics; Benjamin L. Martin, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology; and Clinton T. Rubin, SUNY Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, provided insight into how faculty search committees operate and what they look for in successful candidates. Together, they answered questions and shared tips about “Preparing for Your Job Talk”.

“Don’t let any question someone asks you during your job talk be the first time you ever thought about it.”

- Clinton T. Rubin, PhD



“Preparing for Your Job Talk” panel

“Practice, practice, practice” was a reoccurring theme throughout the workshop. “You need to think a lot about how to best present yourself and to sell yourself as unique,” said Dr. Martin. To which Dr. Acosta-Martinez added, “You need to understand what type of institution you are applying for (funding/research or teaching/communication) and prepare a personal package. These are the ways that you will be invited to do a job talk.” Dr. Rubin stressed the importance of communicating how you are synergistic with colleagues in the particular department and the resources at that particular institution. “You have to be ready to advocate for yourself,” he said. “Don’t let any question someone asks you during your job talk be the first time you ever thought about it.”

According to the panelists, you should consider the following when preparing your job talk:

- Know your audience and the amount of time you will be given.
- Watch the amount of details you incorporate. “Don’t lose the audience,” said Dr. Rubin. “There will be other opportunities to discuss your work in more detail. You just have to wait until the right time.”
- Show that you are aware of the currency of academia and pathway to funding.
- Don’t criticize the work of people currently at the institution.

“What is the purpose of a job talk?” asked Dr. Samuel. “This is a trick question that most people get wrong. The purpose is to get a job. Make sure you get feedback from mentors. Find people willing to listen and beat you up



mercilessly until it is right.” The workshop concluded with a charge to the attendees to do good work, prepare and practice your talk and have resources left to engage with people further about your research.

“Preparing for Your Teaching Talk”, the final workshop in the series, was led by Drs. William Gillis, former IRACDA NY-CAPS Scholar and now Assistant Professor of Biology at SUNY Old Westbury, and Janet Haff, Professor and Academic Chair of the Department of Natural Sciences

at Suffolk County Community College - Grant Campus. “The first step to prepare for a teaching talk is to develop your teaching philosophy,” said Dr. Gillis. “Read literature and get an understanding of the field; attend conferences and seminars; and get training and experience in these techniques.” Dr. Haff added, “I want a sense of you and who you will be when you get into the classroom.” The teaching philosophy, she noted, is an important first step that would lead to the actual talk.

Through her personal experiences with hiring adjunct professors, Dr. Haff has developed the following guidelines to consider when preparing a teaching talk:

- Prepare the talk for 30-60 minutes, but confirm the exact time expectations.
- Do not give a full lecture - just show you can get your point across clearly.
- Make sure you focus on the students.
- Find ways to ask effective questions and stimulate conversations to make the talk interactive.
- Maintain eye contact and continually address the entire room.



“Preparing for Your Teaching Talk” panel

Dr. Gillis reiterated the importance of always being prepared.

“The audience will know if you do not care,” he said. “If you are teaching, it is your responsibility to make it a good experience.” The effort you put into the preparation will correlate with your confidence level the day of the talk and show in your presentation.

The CIE team would like to extend our gratitude to each speaker who contributed to valuable content shared during the 2016 Faculty Career Week. We are confident that the information and resources will help attendees as they prepare their applications for future faculty positions.

## Thoughts on the Third Annual AAAS CASE Workshop - by AGEP-T FRAME & Turner Fellow, Kayode Adebowale



Kayode Adebowale (fifth from left) with other workshop attendees

“My experience at AAAS CASE was transformative with respect to providing a guide towards a career path in science and technology policy. First, I would like to thank Toni, the CIE, and Dean Charles Taber for nominating me. One of the highlights of the workshop was visiting the offices of New York Senator Schumer, Congressman Zeldin and Senator Gillibrand at Capitol Hill. Speaking to each of their staff members showed how passionate each Senator is for education-related policies. They are always eager to hear from their constituents.

Every workshop and speaker at AAAS CASE revealed the need for more science and technology policy scientists to serve in the field of politics and assist politicians to make informed decisions. The role of politicians is not to make laws, but to avoid bad laws from being enacted, according to Judy

Schneider, Specialist on the Congress, Government and Finance Division. Vote for policy and not politicians. AAAS CASE alumni were also speakers at this workshop. Each alumnus was involved in shaping policies by serving as a policy advocate at his/her campus, and more importantly collaborating with other campuses to form student policy advocates on each campus. I am pleased that Stony Brook University now has a science policy club. I look forward to continuing the network we established, and contributing more often towards shaping science and technology policy at the local, state, and national levels.”

**Kayode’s participation in the 2016 AAAS CASE Workshop was sponsored by the Stony Brook University Office of Government Relations. The workshop was held on April 17-20 in Washington, DC. More information about AAAS CASE can be found on their [website](#).**

# CIE Exclusive Breakfast with Richard Tapia, PhD

The Center for Inclusive Education hosted an exclusive breakfast with visiting speaker Richard Tapia, PhD on Monday, April 18. Dr. Tapia is a national expert in the area of increasing participation of underrepresented scholars in STEM, particularly growing the participation and improving the outcomes for URM scholars in mathematics. Dr. Tapia, along with CIE staff and scholars, shared candid thoughts and personal insights about inclusion in higher education and the implications of underrepresentation across cultures. When reflecting upon his current approach, Dr. Tapia said, “we have three goals - community, belonging and confidence. We build understanding and know we are in this together.”



## Drawing Diversity to Academia Panel

Interim Assistant Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, Toni Sperzel served as one of eight panelists for the Drawing Diversity to Academia panel session held with visiting speaker Richard Tapia. The session, which was cosponsored by the Center for Inclusive Education and the Institute for Advanced Computational Science (IACS), was designed to discuss opportunities, best practices and novel ideas for increasing the participation and success of underrepresented minorities in the STEM fields.

The distinguished panel was moderated by Robert Harrison, Director, IACS and included:

- Dennis Assanis, Provost, Stony Brook University
- Noel Blackburn, Manager, University Relations and DOE Programs, Brookhaven National Laboratory
- Frances Brisbane, Vice President for Health Sciences Workforce Diversity, Stony Brook University
- Carlos Medina, Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, SUNY
- Charles Robbins, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of the Undergraduate Colleges, Stony Brook University
- Toni Sperzel, Interim Assistant Dean, Center for Inclusive Education
- Charles Taber, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Stony Brook University
- Richard Tapia, Professor & Director, Center for Excellence and Equity in Education, Rice University

Tapia kicked-off the discussion with the notion that while it used to be “morally and ethically correct to improve reputation with regards to diversity, it is now so much more. The health of the nation needs to be considered as large segments of the population cannot be left uneducated.” Topics ranged from social justice to current

population imperatives to quality of life, specifically as they pertain to diversity in academia. Sperzel addressed the goal of the Center for Inclusive Education to support graduate students and postdocs at Stony Brook in their degree pursuits, while emphasizing the significance and impact of the CIE’s unique community. Dean Taber added that “the strong community that exists within the CIE needs to be replicated across campus. We need to determine how to broaden the effective strategies to reach many groups comprised of smaller numbers of participants.”

On a more practical-level, suggestions were made to create programs that have been proven to be successful, particularly with the support of top-level leadership commitments. Medina stressed the importance of “inclusion by excellence” in programming and policy, to which Blackburn added, “also quality mentoring and advising.” As the panel concluded, the final thoughts focused on relationships and visualizing success. “The common thread that binds us all on this panel and in the audience is passion,” said Blackburn. “Let us model our passion and allow it to become contagious.”



## CIE Exclusive Breakfast with Vivienne Ming, PhD

On Friday, April 15, the CIE hosted an exclusive breakfast with Provost Lecture Series Speaker Vivienne Ming, PhD. Scholars were given a unique opportunity to learn more about Dr. Ming’s research and the myriad of projects she has worked on. She shared her thoughts on issues of diversity as well as her work in theoretical neuroscience and neuroprosthetics.

# Former Turner Fellowship Director Returns to CIE for Speaker Series Talk



This April, former Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Turner Fellowship program Director, Olufemi Vaughan, PhD returned to the Center for Inclusive Education to give a talk as part of the Speaker Series. Dr. Vaughan is currently the Geoffrey Canada Professor of Africana Studies and History at Bowdoin College and the recipient of several professional awards including a Wilson Fellowship and a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Prior to his appointment at Bowdoin, Dr. Vaughan served in several leadership roles at Stony Brook. In many ways, he helped build the Turner program into the wonderful community it is today.

As Dr. Vaughan reflected upon his time at Stony Brook, he emphasized the importance of doing something that is meaningful, but understanding that it will take hard work. To Dr. Vaughan, diversity is not about numbers of people, but of quality. He expanded upon this notion when a scholar asked him to clarify what quantity vs. quality looks like in academia. "It is imperative that you take your own individuality very seriously," said Dr. Vaughan. "All your opportunities come from a long struggle. Be good at what you do. Learn the culture and how to survive and thrive within it." He added that if each scholar were to be true to him/herself, while remembering and honoring the past, we would see the community strengthened and empowered.

**"It is imperative that you take your own individuality very seriously. All your opportunities come from a long struggle. Be good at what you do. Learn the culture and how to survive and thrive within it."**

- Dr. Vaughan

Diversity is fluid. "You have to remain in constant conversation with yourself," said Dr. Vaughan. "Our nation is rapidly changing, so remember to be in the present with a good sense of the past." He encouraged attendees to be cognizant that quality of diversity will always be found within their personal journey.

## Four CIE Scholars Present for Research Café Series

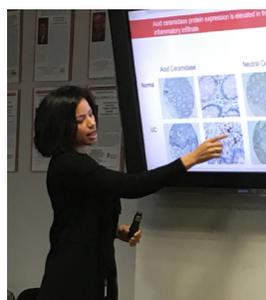
The Research Café Series is a core program within the CIE's suite of activities geared toward the engagement and advancement of our scholars. The series was created and continues to give participating scholars an opportunity to share their research with the community and engage in interdisciplinary conversations; with the hope of being challenged to consider new techniques and perspectives. Four scholars were invited to present their talks in the spring 2016 semester.



**February**

**Crystal S. Lewis**  
*Chemistry*

'Probing the Potential Use and Cytotoxicity of Iron Oxide ( $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) Nanorhombhedra for CNS Therapy'



**March**

**Mel Pilar Espailat**  
*Molecular Genetics & Microbiology*

'The Lipids in your Gut: Defining the Role of Sphingolipids in Inflammatory Bowel Disease'



**April**

**Allison Nesbitt**  
*Anthropological Sciences*

'Morphological integration between the face and dentition in humans and chimpanzees'



**May**

**Benedette Adewale**  
*Chemistry*

'Chemical characterization and sediment sorption properties of surfactants found in the dispersants used to mitigate the effects of the Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico'

# Four CIE Scholars Awarded the Prestigious 2016 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships Program

The Center for Inclusive Education proudly recognizes four scholars, Nicole Bender (Turner, Ecology & Evolution), Emilie Bouda (IMSD-MERGE, Pharmacology), Tanya Victor (IMSD-MERGE, Pharmacology) and Anthony Stapon (IMSD-MERGE, Pharmacology), on their selection as recipients of this year's NSF-GRFP award. "This is wonderful news and a job well done for the CIE, Turner, IMSD-MERGE and Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology," said Dr. J. Peter Gergen, Professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology and PI of the IMSD-MERGE program. "I was pleased to also see a number of SBU undergrads get Honorable Mention."

In addition to our four CIE awardees, three of the other eight Stony Brook recipients were students who participated in the open-to-all *Writing to Win* panel held during the fall semester on September 10, 2015. "I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to Ashleigh Lussenden (Turner & AGEP-T FRAME, Neuroscience), Jesse Brizzi (Turner, AGEP-T FRAME, Computer Science), Dr. Miguel Garcia-Diaz (Associate Professor and Director of the Molecular & Cellular Pharmacology Graduate Program) and Dr. Anne McElroy (Professor in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences) for their participation on the *Writing to Win* panel," said Interim Assistant Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, Toni Sperzel. "I would like to especially thank 2015 winners and CIE Scholars Lussenden and Brizzi who, in addition to their panel participation, committed time to mentor and support Bender, Bouda and Victor in their application preparation as part of the CIE's supplementary one-on-one *Writing to Win* support effort."



**Nicole Bender**

*PhD student in Ecology & Evolution  
AGEP-T FRAME Scholar; Turner Fellow*

Research: My research will focus on understanding the spatial ecology of penguin colonies on the Antarctic Peninsula through the analysis of satellite imagery.

Award Recipient



**Emilie Bouda**

*PhD student in Structural Biology  
Bridge to the Doctorate Fellow; IMSD-MERGE Scholar*

Research: The binding of small molecule ligands to proteins is fundamental for the essential functions of every living system.

Award Recipient



**Anthony Stapon**

*PhD student in Structural Biology  
IMSD-MERGE Scholar*

Research: My research interests combine organic synthesis, biochemistry and pharmacology knowledge to create better medicines.

Award Recipient



**Tanya Victor**

*PhD student in Cell Biology  
IMSD-MERGE Scholar*

Research: My research focuses on studying the effects of cannabidiol on microglial activation and identifying the underlying mechanism of how cannabidiol can lessen the severity of seizures in epilepsy.

Award Recipient

## Future Opportunities to Apply for the NSF-GRFP

The NSF-GRFP awards provide three years of full-support and tuition funding to promising scholars in STEM and science education programs. Anne McElroy, PhD Professor of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, would like to encourage CIE students to consider applying for the NSF-GRFP this coming year and to take advantage of the institutionally-supported GRFP support program she coordinates to assist all Stony Brook students interested in preparing competitive proposals. The deadline is in late October, and she will begin posting materials to help applicants begin working on their proposals soon.

Anyone interested in being part of the seminar, or who would like nominate students to be invited to join the seminar, should contact Professor McElroy at [Anne.McElroy@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Anne.McElroy@stonybrook.edu).

# Suffolk County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission Honored Award Recipients



CIE & SBU staff with awardee, Dr. Medina



CIE staff with awardee, Dr. Carter



Awardee, Dr. Jerome accepting his award

On Friday, January 15, the Suffolk County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission honored Carlos N. Medina, PhD, SUNY's Chief Diversity Officer & Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; and Stony Brook's very own Carol A. Carter, PhD, Professor in the Department of Microbiology, and Luckner John Jerome, PhD, AGEP alum. At the Annual Award Luncheon, honorees were recognized for their work that exemplifies the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Medina oversees the Turner Fellowship program on behalf of SUNY Central. He has worked with the CIE for many years on this prestigious program that supports eligible underrepresented students whose immediate academic plans include obtaining graduate or professional degrees in a variety of disciplines at Stony Brook University. Dr. Medina was recognized for his leadership efforts within SUNY to promote and advance the University's diversity goals and ensure that they are properly captured within all policies and procedures.

Dr. Carter is a long-time supporter of the Center for

Inclusive Education and has advised and mentored many of our scholars. The story of her career progression was recently featured in the May 2015 issue of *The Scientist*, a professional magazine intended for life sciences. Her research on the human immunodeficiency virus is currently supported by funding from the NIH and the SBU Long Island Biotechnology Hub, a Bench to Bedside initiative.

Dr. Jerome received his doctorate in Polymer Chemistry from Stony Brook in May 2005 and was an active scholar within the AGEP program. He continues to mentor many students at the Suffolk County Community College Grant Campus and at Stony Brook.

CIE staff and scholars attended the event to support these three individuals who have contributed greatly to Stony Brook and the CIE community. AGEP-T FRAME and IRACDA NYS-CAPS Program Manager, Karian Wright reflected that, "it was so inspiring to see the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. live on through the contributions of these exceptional awardees."

## CIE Alumnus Chosen as one of SBU's 40 Under 40



Dr. Jaime-Vasquez accepting his award from SBU President, Samuel Stanley

Former CIE Director, Nina Maung-Gaona and CIE Administrator, Kathyne Piazzola, along with Interim Assistant Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, Toni Sperzel attended Stony Brook's 40 Under 40 event on January 26 at the Edison Ballroom in New York City. Former AGEP Fellow and Turner Postdoctoral Trainee, Marvin Jaime-Vasquez, PhD was selected as a 2015 recipient of the award and joined the ranks of fellow CIE alumni Dr. Arthur James Goff III and Dr. Mireya Mayor who were recognized as part of the 2014 inaugural recipients. Dr. Jaime-Vasquez's graduate advisor, Clive Clayton, PhD, Leading Professor of the Department of Materials Science & Engineering, also attended the event.

A complete list of the 2015 awardees can be found on the [Office of Alumni Relations website](#).



Left to right: Toni Sperzel, Cheryl Hamilton (EOP/AIM Director), Dr. Clayton, Dr. Jaime-Vasquez, Nina Maung-Gaona, Yersson Gaona, Kathyne Piazzola

***"I have known Marvin since he was an undergraduate research assistant in my Laboratory when he became very motivated to pursue applied surface science. He went on to become one of the most productive and creative PhD-level graduate research students that I had the pleasure to work with. Marvin is a great friend and very dedicated alum who is always happy to help Stony Brook students. I was delighted see him honored at the 40 Under 40 awards evening - he greatly deserved it."***  
- Dr. Clayton

# The Value of Community within the CIE

The Center for Inclusive Education has been through some transitions in 2016, but one thing remains - the strength of our community. CIE scholars and alumni continue to excel in their research and career pursuits, our events have boasted record attendance and our mentoring programs have generated more participants and successful pairings than ever before. Former Director, Nina Maung-Gaona declared 2016 to be the “Year of Community” and we are honored to watch this unfold in our programs and the lives of our scholars.

## Looking Back to the CIE Community Through the Years



Community of Student Mentors - Bowling Kickoff Event, 2006



Scholars at Jorge Cham’s “Piled Higher and Deeper” event, 2008



Nina Maung-Gaona and Dave Ferguson, PhD at the Center for Inclusive Education’s Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, 2002



Turner/AGEP Holiday Party, 2003



Scholars at a CIE Monthly Social, 2007



Scholars at a CIE Monthly Social, 2016



Scholars and Program Manager, Toni Sperzel at the Welcome Back BBQ, 2007



Members of the Turner family with Toni Sperzel and Nina Maung-Gaona at an Annual Turner Dinner, 2009



PhD Path to Success Participants, 2010



IRACDA NY-CAPS Scholars at the Suffolk County Community College site visit, 2016



Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, 2010

Our communities serve to bolster our confidence and reduce our feelings of fear and insecurity, changing our mindset from wondering “Can I do this?” to proclaiming “I CAN do this!”  
- Toni Sperzel



CIE staff and scholars on their way to General Electric, 2015



Scholars at the End of Year Celebration, 2005



Topic Based Lunches with Senior Leadership with Dexter A. Bailey, 2012



REU in Nanotechnology participants, 2013

## CIE Staff Transitions

The spring heralded in several changes to the CIE team, and over the course of this semester our staff, scholars and collaborators joined us in both wishing good luck to members of the team moving onto new opportunities.

Nina Maung-Gaona accepted the position of [Associate Vice President for Research](#) in the Office of the Vice President for Research. Nina came to Stony Brook University in 2000 as part of the original NSF SUNY AGEP team. During her time as Assistant Dean for Diversity and Director of the CIE, Nina has been a key member of the senior staff in the Graduate School and a tireless advocate for diversity in graduate education at Stony Brook. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Center for Inclusive Education and the building of our robust community and suite of scholar support programs. In her new role in OPR Nina will be establishing Stony Brook’s Office of Proposal Development, which will assist in the preparation of large scale multidisciplinary research proposals and assist early career faculty in the submission of proposals to external funding agencies.

CIE Administrator, Kathyne Piazzola accepted the position of Research Advancement Specialist in the new Office of Proposal

Development, under the direction of the Associate Vice President for Research. Kathyne joined Stony Brook University in 2000 as an administrative staff member on the original NSF SUNY AGEP project and spent the next 15 years in the CIE developing and managing key grants and core programs. In her new role within the Office of Proposal Development Kathyne is supporting the office’s mission of providing greater institutional assistance in the submission of large-scale, multidisciplinary proposals and early career grants.

Former Postdoctoral Associate, Sheri Clark, PhD accepted the position of Proposal Development Specialist in the new Office of Proposal Development. Dr. Clark has been a tremendous contributor to the success of the CIE, and has played a significant role in the investigation and findings of the NSF AGEP-T FRAME social science research project.

Program Manager (Turner & GEM Fellowships), Toni Sperzel accepted the position of Interim Assistant Dean for Diversity & Inclusion and Director of the Center for Inclusive Education. The experiences and knowledge she has garnered over the past nine years working with the CIE community have helped ensure a seamless transition.

# Congratulations to the Winners of the 2016 Faculty and Scholar Awards for Excellence

The Center for Inclusive Education is proud to announce the winners of our second annual call for nominations for the Faculty and Scholar Awards for Excellence. Two scholars and two faculty members were recognized at the May Graduation Celebration and Awards Ceremony held on Wednesday, May 18 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Awardees were honored for their mentoring, leadership, service and commitment to the CIE. Each has made an outstanding impact on the quality of diversity and/or mentoring at Stony Brook and in our community.

## Center for Inclusive Education Scholars



### Jennifer DeLeon

“I will never forget the enthusiasm and passion for science that Jennifer radiated when she first stepped through the doors of the CIE in 2010 as an AGEP SRI Scholar,” recalls then SUNY AGEP Program Coordinator, Kathyne Piazzola. “She was fascinated by science not only because of the potential for discovery, but, more importantly, for the opportunity to question, re-question, and think critically about that discovery even when it presents itself.” After joining the graduate program in molecular and cellular biology in January 2011, Jennifer continued her engagement with the CIE as an AGEP scholar, taking advantage of the many opportunities for support and professional development including service as both a mentor and a mentee in the Community of Student Mentors program. She was also a strong supporter of her fellow CIE Scholars, coming to many of the Research Cafés, social events and professional development workshops; oftentimes bringing with her CIE and non-CIE scholars to encourage them to also branch out and connect with the community.

As she advanced in her studies, Jennifer wanted to find new ways to give back to the CIE community. She began teaching as a Research Methods instructor for the summer REU in Nanotechnology program and served as a participant on several recruitment panels held by the CIE to encourage underrepresented minority undergraduates to pursue graduate degrees in the STEM disciplines. Jennifer’s academic research on enzyme function in novel pathways of cancer growth and metabolism already set her apart as an exceptional scholar, but it is her deep commitment to supporting her fellow students, and her desire to seek out opportunities to communicate science to broad audiences and promote increased participation of underrepresented students in STEM that make her most deserving of this important recognition.



### Vanessa Lynn

Vanessa joined the PhD program in sociology at Stony Brook as a Dr. W Burghardt Turner Fellow in 2012. “From her first year at the institution, I knew that Vanessa was going to be a significant contributor to the mission and work of the CIE,” recalls then Turner Program Coordinator, Toni Sperzel. Her academic work, which examines the experiences of formerly incarcerated men and women within the historical social framework of the war on drugs and the New Jim Crow narrative, is a testament to not only her intelligence, but her deep commitment to social issues and collective change.

Vanessa was an active participant in many of the events and programming of the CIE, taking every opportunity to connect with her fellow scholars both within and outside of her own academic discipline. Vanessa is truly open to the idea that reaching across disciplines and engaging in conversation outside of one’s own academic field can greatly open our minds to exploring new directions of thought in our own work. She regularly attends the Research Cafés of CIE Scholars in both STEM and non-STEM disciplines and contributes greatly to the post-presentation conversations. In addition to her support of her fellow graduate scholars, Vanessa became a member of the Community of Student Mentors program as both a mentor and mentee, as well as the Turner/AIM Mentors program (TAMP) mentoring undergraduate scholars from the EOP/AIM program. “The impact of Vanessa’s commitment to her fellow scholars and her enthusiasm to welcome new scholars to the CIE community and encourage them to be avid participants cannot be understated,” noted Sperzel. For all these reasons and more she is being recognized by the CIE.

# Stony Brook University Faculty



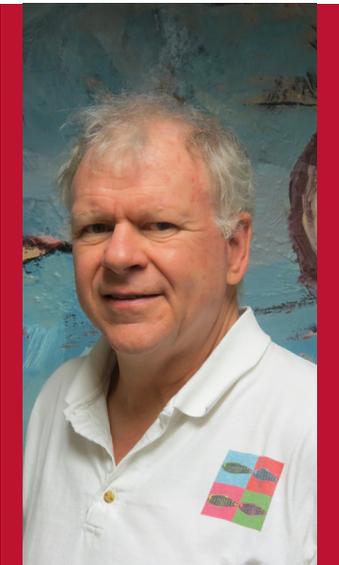
## Thomas F. Floyd, MD - Department of Anesthesiology

Dr. Floyd was nominated for the Faculty Award for Excellence by two CIE Scholars who work in the Department of Anesthesiology of Stony Brook Medicine - IMSD-MERGE Undergraduate Scholar, Kennelia Mellanson and AGEP-T FRAME & Turner Fellow, Cindy V. Leiton, PhD.

“In the future and now, I will always recognize Dr. Floyd as a critical mentor figure,” said Mellanson. She was first introduced to Dr. Floyd the winter of her sophomore year. His evident excitement about his research fed into her enthusiasm for the project and Dr. Floyd became her first and current undergraduate research faculty mentor. “Dr. Floyd’s positive attitude about my contributions has further cemented for me the rewards of research. Knowing that I am helping the scientific community in any way makes my career objective as a scientist that much more desirable,” added Mellanson. She commended Dr. Floyd for his excellent mentorship skills which foster a sense of collaboration between the lab members, his attributes as a well-grounded scientist and his benevolent nature with expressing criticism.

Dr. Floyd is also the current postdoctoral advisor and professional mentor for Dr. Leiton, who quickly took notice of his distinct approach to research and to relationships with his colleagues. “He started his presentation not by diving into the usual rationale and hypotheses behind his lab’s research, but by describing his incredible journey into academic research, which has been non-traditional, but inspiring,” said Dr. Leiton. Through working together, “Dr. Floyd has continually supported my experimental ideas, and has always been available, despite his hectic schedule, to meet with me and stay informed about my work. He has supported my extracurricular activities and campus involvement, especially those in the CIE. He has provided me ample opportunities to teach in the laboratory, attend scientific conferences and workshops to build my understanding and scientific network, and has given me the independence to design my own experimental approaches and ideas. All of this, while encouraging me and counseling my professional decisions all along the way.”

Dr. Floyd’s previous experience included joining the US Navy as a doctor and establishing a private practice prior to becoming a Professor at Stony Brook University in 2010. “The standards set by Dr. Floyd proves that one can be a serious scientist with a soul. To be a whole person invested in helping those in need while taking care of your family. To always be keen about the big picture of your science. To not speak down to others just because you have the authority to do so,” concluded Mellanson.



## J. Peter Gergen, PhD - Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology

Dr. Gergen was nominated for the Faculty Award for Excellence by IMSD-MERGE Undergraduate Scholar, Stephanie Fiorella. “Dr. Gergen has made a significant impact on my life,” said Fiorella. “I was interested in doing research and heard about the Entering Research Workshop held by Dr. Gergen. After completing the workshop, I got accepted to do research in Dr. Miguel Garcia-Diaz’s lab over the summer.” Fiorella was then recruited to join the IMSD-MERGE program.

Since her acceptance into the IMSD-MERGE program, Dr. Gergen has been Fiorella’s advisor and helped advise her to apply to the Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology PhD program, which she will begin in the fall 2016. “If it wasn’t for Dr. Gergen and all the programs he is involved in, I would have never thought I’d be where I am today,” said Fiorella. “I am very grateful for all the opportunities, advising, encouragement, and help that Dr. Gergen has provided for me.”

Dr. Gergen is a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology and Director of the Center for Developmental Genetics at Stony Brook University. Since 2010, Dr. Gergen has served as the Director of Undergraduate Biology, a program that provides advising and student support for the largest undergraduate major at Stony Brook. He is also the PI of the IMSD-MERGE program which aims to increase the number of underrepresented students completing highly productive biological and biomedical science degrees at Stony Brook University, and prepare them for seamless advancement into successful research careers. According to Fiorella, “since getting accepted into the IMSD- MERGE program, I have been able to get back to doing research and I feel like I’m back where I belong.”

# Connection & Community

CIE Scholars gathered together for three monthly socials this semester. As is custom, themes were set for each luncheon: January was a celebration of leadership and former CIE Director, Nina Maung-Gaona's new role; February was a chance to enjoy the extra day thanks to the Leap Year; and March was held in recognition of Women's History Month. At each social, good news is shared and birthdays are announced. We always look forward to the opportunity to connect with each other and honor the excellent accomplishments within our community.



## CSM/TAMP Social

The Center for Inclusive Education hosted a Social for members of the Community of Student Mentors (CSM) and Turner-AIM Mentoring Program (TAMP) on Thursday, March 10. This event gave students a chance to catch-up with each other in a social setting.

## Postdoc Social

IRACDA NY-CAPS and AGEP-T FRAME hosted their first postdoc social at the Hilton Garden Inn on March 2. This event provided the opportunity for our CIE postdocs at SBU and BNL to network and connect on a more social level. We are looking forward to the next social, which will be held this summer.

## CIE Welcomes Rosalia Davi

This March, the CIE welcomed a new member to the team. Rosalia Davi jumped right into her position as Diversity Outreach Coordinator; a new initiative within the department that is supported by the Center for Inclusive Education and the Institute for Advanced Computational Science (IACS) to drive graduate and postdoctoral diversity recruitment efforts in primarily STEM fields. In her position, Davi will be responsible for the development, implementation, and management of graduate student recruitment and outreach plans; build relationships with feeder institutions; and provide assistance to graduate programs on recruitment issues.

Davi joins us from the Career Services office at New York Institute of Technology, where for the past five and one-half years she has been a leader in working with employers and community partners to build and develop diversity and inclusion efforts focused on experiential learning programs for NYIT's students and academic programs. Prior to her time in Student Affairs, Davi worked for a college access nonprofit, helping to bridge the opportunity gap for under-resourced students through program management and fundraising. She has a dual master's degree in Gender and Cultural Studies and Communications Management from Simmons College, and is a Stony Brook University baccalaureate alumna.



Please join us in welcoming Rosalia to the CIE community!

## Stony Brook Awarded Two Doctoral Diversity Fellowships

The SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) selected both of Stony Brook's 2016 nominees as recipients of this year's Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in STEM for the coming academic year. The recipients are Santiago Vargas from the Department of Computer Science & Engineering and Carl Fields from the Department of Physics & Astronomy. This is the first time in five years that Stony Brook has received two DDF awards, which are established to "increase the number of underrepresented graduate and undergraduate students applying for admission to and attending the University."

# CIE Speaker Series Welcomes Alumnus, Dwan A. Gerido, PhD



The CIE Speakers Series was created in an effort to connect our robust alumni community with current scholars. Alumni are invited back to Stony Brook to share their graduate school experiences, career trajectories and future plans. This spring, we welcomed former AGEP and Turner Fellow, Dwan A. Gerido, PhD to give his talk, “Intellectual Property: An Alternative Career for Scientists”. Dr. Gerido completed his PhD in Physiology & Biophysics at Stony Brook in 2007. Currently, he is a Patent Examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Thomas W. White, PhD, Professor in the Department of Physiology & Biophysics, introduced Dr. Gerido as “the first student” he mentored at Stony Brook. They arrived at the University at the same time and learned how to approach a mentoring

relationship together. Dr. Gerido acknowledged the role Dr. White played in his scientific and professional development and how he “will always be indebted to him.”

Dr. Gerido acknowledged that he views his time at Stony Brook quite differently now than when he was in the middle of it. Drawing upon that notion, he shared two important lessons he learned: “you always have to evaluate” and “stay the course”. “It is important to question where you are and how you and your experiments are working,” said Dr. Gerido. “You will always have ups and downs, but you need to do good work and be prepared to defend it.” When it comes to staying the course, he reiterated the necessity to manage time well, stay focused, have an outlet and enjoy the process. “There is a lot happening at once when you are pursuing your PhD,” said Dr. Gerido. “It takes time and sustained effort, but you also have to love what you do.”

During the Q&A portion of the event, attendees asked questions about Dr. Gerido’s transition from the bench and academia to patent work. Dr. Gerido explained how he had to be honest with himself about his desire to be in academia. “I did not think I had the creativity,” said Dr. Gerido. “I was looking for something different and sought out patents. Now I am nine years in and still enjoy what I do. At the end of the day, it is still science.”



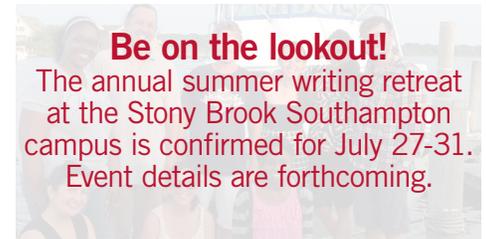
## “Save the Date” for the Third Annual Graduate School Preview Day



The third annual Graduate School Preview Day, “The PhD: A Path to Success”, is set for Friday, November 18 at the Charles B. Wang Center. As in years past, the full-day event is open to all undergraduate and master’s-level students who want to pursue a PhD and are interested in learning more about what “the other kind of doctor” really means. Attendees will network with graduate program faculty, graduate students and postdocs to gain an inside perspective to Stony Brook and the admissions process. Underrepresented minority students are encouraged to attend to learn about the funding opportunities, academic support, professional development and the vibrant community at the Center for Inclusive Education. If you would like more information about the event or to volunteer, please contact the [CIE team](#).

# Writing Our Way Through Winter Intersession

The third annual “Keep Calm & Write On” Winter Writing Boot Camp was held during the January intersession. On Thursday mornings, scholars were invited to set up in the CIE to work on writing their dissertation, thesis, fellowship and/or grant proposal. A quiet space and breakfast were provided, as well as access to a Wi-Fi network, printer and copier. “The writing boot camps have been well-received by scholars during each intersession,” said Karian Wright, Program Manager, AGEP-T FRAME & IRACDA NY-CAPS. The “Keep Calm & Write On” Boot Camp is held every intersession. Our next boot camp will take place this summer; keep an eye on the events calendar on our homepage for dates.



## Practical Professional Skills Series



This spring, the CIE continued its Practical Professional Skills Series in collaboration with the Office for the Integration of Research, Education, and Professional Development (IREP). The series is designed to give Stony Brook graduate students and postdocs practical training in common academic career issues in management and leadership.

“Dealing with Difficult People,” led by Tonjanita L. Johnson, PhD, offered some helpful perspectives in understanding how to effectively identify and address the underlying causes of “difficult” behavior and how participants can develop their own disciplined approach to diffusing potentially volatile people and situations in their professional, academic and personal life. Dr. Johnson currently serves as Vice President for Communications and Marketing for the University of Tennessee. Prior to her appointment with UT, she served for three years as Chief Deputy to the President at Stony Brook.



“Strengthening Your Leadership, Team Building, & Communication Skills,” led by Richard J. Gatteau, PhD, was an interactive workshop centered around strengthening leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. Also explored were important aspects of today’s organizations, including the concepts of efficiency, effectiveness, and cooperation. Dr. Gatteau is the Associate Provost for Academic Success at Stony Brook University.

## College Teaching Seminar Series

The 2015-2016 College Teaching Seminar Series continued in the spring semester. A total of six pedagogy course seminars were held that covered topics including communicating science: media interview skills; active learning strategies for the science classroom; new instructor panel discussions; and preparing for your teaching talk. The seminar series is a required component of the IRACDA NY-CAPS postdoctoral traineeship.

## IRACDA NY-CAPS Scholar, Angela Miguez, PhD to Attend Prestigious Conference in Sicily

Dr. Angela Miguez was selected to attend the [Erice School](#) “Exploring and Quantifying Rough Free Energy Landscapes” Conference to be held on October 7-12, 2016 in Erice, Sicily. This meeting will be part of the ongoing International School of Statistical Physics, which exists under the auspices of the Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture.

## IRACDA NY-CAPS Pedagogy Journal Club

The monthly IRACDA Pedagogy Journal Club was conceived by our IRACDA NY-CAPS Scholars as an opportunity to review and discuss peer-reviewed articles on pedagogical topics. The following articles were reviewed during the spring semester. This journal club will continue to be an integral component of scholars’ training moving forward.

**Taylor Schoberle:** [Increased Preclass Preparation Underlies Student Outcome Improvement in the Flipped Classroom](#)

**Sarah Alaei:** [Caution, Student Experience May Vary: Social Identities Impact a Student’s Experience in Peer Discussions](#)

**Jillian Nissen:** [Increasing the Use of Student-Centered Pedagogies from Moderate to High Improves Student Learning and Attitudes about Biology](#)

**Sheri Clark:** [Stereotype threat and the intellectual test performance of African Americans](#)

# Update: Video Highlighting Pathways to Undergraduate Research



In the Fall 2015 Newsletter, we shared with you the [preview](#) to the informational video on pathways to undergraduate research that featured CIE Scholars, **Jinelle Wint**, **Kennelia Mellanson** and **Daniel Irizarry**. The project has since been completed and gained the attention of Steven Bellone, Suffolk County Executive. [FiOS 1](#) compiled a feature story on Bellone's "Emphasis on the Importance of Mentorship at Stony Brook University" on January 29. CIE Scholars, **Kellon Belfon** and Daniel Irizarry had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the CIE Community of Student Mentors program. Bellone was also informed about the Excellence in Mentoring Workshop which is a core activity of IMSD-MERGE.

Watch the complete "Pathways to Undergraduate Research in Biology @ SBU" video [here](#).

## IMSD-MERGE Undergraduate Information Night

Program Manager, Angel Gonzalez, PhD hosted an open IMSD-MERGE Undergraduate Information Night on Monday, March 28. SBU students were encouraged to attend to learn more about the program just in time to apply. Dr. Gonzalez facilitated a Q&A session to address particular inquiries. The interview process is well-underway and the new cohort of scholars will be decided upon and announced in the fall semester.

## IMSD-MERGE Scholars Present at Annual URECA Symposium

Four IMSD-MERGE Scholars, **Joselin Vargas**, **Kennelia Mellanson**, **Daniel Irizarry** and **Stephanie Fiorella**, presented posters at URECA's annual campus-wide Celebration of Undergraduate Research & Creativity on Wednesday, April 27. The annual event features research posters, oral presentations, senior design projects and artwork from undergraduates working with faculty in all disciplines. More information about the symposium can be found [here](#).

## REU Summer Program to Kickoff on June 1

The sixth and final cohort has been selected for the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU): Nanotechnology for Health, Energy & the Environment residential summer program. Under the direction of PI Dr. Gary Halada, ten interns from nine different undergraduate institutions will participate in the program. Again this year, participants will be accompanied by IMSD-MERGE Scholars who will also be engaging in funded summer research with campus faculty.

**Chelsea Alamo**, Nassau Community College - advised by Dr. Gary Halada

**Marissa Alamo**, Nassau Community College - advised by Dr. Gary Halada

**Kerry Baker**, Bucknell University - advised by Dr. Jason Trelewicz

**Brian Bick**, Suffolk Community College - advised by Dr. Taejin Kim

**Elizabeth Easter**, North Carolina State University - advised by Dr. David Rubenstein

**Kriti Jindal**, Johns Hopkins University - advised by Dr. Helmut Strey

**Alison McCarthy**, The College of New Jersey - advised by Drs. Ken Takeuchi & Amy Marschilok

**Meaghan O'Brien**, University of Massachusetts Amherst - advised by Dr. Yizhi Meng

**Fabian Strauss**, University of Louisiana - advised by Dr. Molly Frame

**Samuel Urena**, Stony Brook University - advised by Dr. Katarzyna Sawicka

### Congratulations to our previous REU in Nanotechnology Participants:

**Nicholas Romero** (REU 2015) was accepted into the MS in Biomedical Engineering program at SBU beginning in fall 2016.

**Samantha Weber-Fishkin** (REU 2015) will be starting her PhD in Biomedical Engineering at SBU beginning in fall 2016.

**Steven Hall** (REU 2014) will be starting his PhD in Chemistry at SBU beginning in fall 2016.

# 2016 Turner Fellowship Nominations

This year, two rounds of Turner Fellowship nominations were completed; each yielding excellent results for the program. In total, 74 Stony Brook students from various disciplines were nominated, 44 offers were made and 19 confirmed their acceptance. The complete list and profiles of the fellowship recipients is forthcoming in the fall edition of the CIE Newsletter. In addition to this year's fellowship awards, the Turner program selected four nominees to receive the newly established Ferguson Merit Award.

## Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Honored by Patchogue-Medford School District



Some of the honorees (including the Turner family) before the induction ceremony

On May 6, Dr. W. Burghardt Turner was inducted into the Patchogue-Medford High School Hall of Fame. Along with nine other institutional alumni and former leaders, Turner is part of the inaugural class of inductees to the newly established hall. Turner was a teacher in the Patchogue-Medford School District for several years prior to joining the faculty at Stony Brook University. A civil rights leader here on Long Island, Turner established the Brookhaven branch of the NAACP and may have been the first African American teacher in the Patchogue-Medford School District. The ceremony was attended by Joyce Turner and all three of the Turner children, who attended Patchogue Medford High School. Turner is the only teacher to be inducted as part of the inaugural class.

A post-event article about the Hall of Fame induction can be found on the Greater Patchogue [website](#).

## 2016 Turner Summer Research Grant Cohort

The Turner Summer Research Grant program provides travel, research and stipend support for current Turner Fellows to assist in the continued progress of their dissertation work during the summer months. Sixteen Turner Fellows were selected as recipients of summer research grants:

- **Benedette Adewale**, PhD student in Chemistry - *Characterizing the composition of dispersants, their transformation products and sorption of surfactants to sediments from the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ecosystem*
- **Azeez Aranmolate**, PhD student in Molecular & Cellular Biology - *A role for Puchenne Muscular Dystrophy Gene in central nervous system myelination*
- **Sarah Bannon**, PhD student in Psychology - *Head Injury (TBI) and aggression: A prospective longitudinal study*
- **Nicole Bender**, PhD student in Ecology & Evolution - *Understanding spatial dynamics in penguin colonies*
- **Sara Cernadas-Martin**, PhD student in Marine & Atmospheric Sciences - *Assessing homing to feeding grounds in summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*) using otolith microchemistry supported by passive acoustic telemetry*
- **Michael Cortes**, PhD student in Applied Math & Statistics - *How viral replication influences the lysis-lysogeny decisionok*
- **Elizabeth Coston**, PhD candidate in Sociology - *LGBT Civil Rights and their impact on Anti-LGB hate crimes*
- **Hewan Girma**, PhD student in Sociology - *Intersectional analysis of return migration*
- **Sirena Ibrahim**, PhD student in Psychology - *Coping as a moderator of the effects of stress during pregnancy*
- **Vanessa Lynn**, PhD student in Sociology - *Dissertation data collection and preparing beyond*
- **Jonathan Macagba**, PhD student in Cultural Analysis and Theory - *Suburban forms: Minervois mapping project*
- **Coray McBean**, PhD student in Chemistry - *Synthesis of OER and ORR-Active LaMnO<sub>3</sub> and LaNiO<sub>3</sub> Catalysts*
- **Camillia Monestime**, PhD student in Neuroscience - *Unique and overlapping roles of REST/CoREST family in neural development*
- **Lauren Petruccio**, PhD student in Anthropology - *Endocrinology of parent-offspring conflict and primate development*
- **Oli Stephano**, PhD student in Philosophy - *Immanence and ecological ethics*
- **Dewayne Wrencher**, MFA student in Studio Art - *Black What?*

# Once a Turner, Always a Turner...

## A Reflection on the Turner Fellowship Program



**Lori Gallegos De Castillo, PhD** accepted a tenure-track position at Texas State University to begin this fall.

“Thanks to the dissertation support stipend, I will be able to spend this semester revising my dissertation for submission as a manuscript to Oxford University Press. I don’t have a contract yet, but the editor is interested, and she has asked me to re-write my fourth chapter. I have also accepted a tenure-track position at Texas State University! It is difficult to fully process how, all along the way, success seems like a dream, and one is motivated by faith and commitment alone. Then, all of the sudden, the dream becomes real! I know that I wouldn’t have been successful on the job market -- or finished my dissertation, for that matter -- without the CIE and Turner programs. All of the wonderful conferences and summer research support, the opportunities to mentor, the fellowship writing help, the time off of teaching, and also Turner’s flexibility and willingness to stick with me even after I decided to return to New Mexico. I want you to know how deeply appreciative I am to Turner. I hope we continue to stay in touch for many years to come.”

## Turner Alumni Spotlights

### **Cheryl Woods Giscombé, PhD Named the First Melissa and Harry LeVine Family Distinguished Professor of Quality of Life, Health Promotion and Wellness**

**Dr. Giscombé**, Turner alumna, is “a tireless advocate for wellness and life quality; her research investigates how stress and coping strategies contribute to stress-related psychological and physical health outcomes.” Dr. Giscombé was selected as the first-ever recipient of the professorship “bearing the LeVine name and espousing their philosophy.” In the fall, Stony Brook’s Department of Sociology will be hosting Dr. Giscombé as a visiting speaker. The CIE will share the event information on the events calendar on our homepage.

The original article about Dr. Giscombé’s recognition can be found [here](#).



Turner alum, **Alexander Davis** won the Detroit Symphony Orchestral Fellowship for African Americans and will be playing with them for the 2016-2017 season.



**Save the Date for the Annual Turner Dinner**  
Wednesday, October 19  
6:00 pm  
Hilton Garden Inn

## Turner Fellow’s Photo Wins Contest



Nicole Bender’s winning photograph. Congratulations to Daniel McCarthy and Nicole Hebdon who received honorable mention in the contest!

Turner Fellow, **Nicole Bender** won the inaugural 2016 Stony Brook Graduate Student-Postdoc Photo Contest. The Graduate School, along with the School of Professional Development, the Graduate Student Organization (GSO), the Center for Inclusive Education (CIE) and the Office for the Integration of Research, Education and Professional Development (IREP), invited Stony Brook students currently enrolled in a certificate, master’s or doctoral program and Stony Brook-affiliated postdocs to submit photographs that demonstrate what inspires them.

**Submission Caption:** Penguins are wonderfully charismatic seabirds that serve as an indicator species for marine ecosystem health. Their population trends directly reflect the abundance of organisms on a lower rung of the food chain, such as krill and phytoplankton. Understanding the mysteries behind penguin life has become the inspiration for my dissertation work, which will explore the complex spatial patterning of penguin colonies in the hopes of detecting and protecting those in danger of local extirpation.

An online gallery of all the submissions is available [here](#).



Scan the QR code to access the links referenced throughout the newsletter.

For general inquiries, please contact the CIE at: 631-632-1386  
CIE\_Graduateschool@stonybrook.edu  
Fax: 631-982-7321  
To learn more about the CIE and its hosted programs, please visit our website at: [www.stonybrook.edu/cie](http://www.stonybrook.edu/cie)

Center for Inclusive Education  
2401 Computer Science Building  
The Graduate School  
Z=4422

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THE CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IS A DIVISION OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND AFFILIATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY IN THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCES.

Toni Sperzel  
Interim Assistant Dean for Diversity & Inclusion, the Graduate School  
Interim Director, Center for Inclusive Education  
Program Manager, Dr. W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship & GEM  
Toni.Sperzel@stonybrook.edu  
631-632-1384

Angel Gonzalez, PhD  
Program Manager  
LSAMP-BD, IMSD-MERGE & REU in Nanotechnology  
Angel.i.Gonzalez@stonybrook.edu  
631-632-1385

Karian Wright  
Program Manager  
AGEP-T FRAME & IRACDA NY-CAPS  
Karian.Wright@stonybrook.edu  
631-632-1336

Rosalia Davi  
Diversity Outreach Coordinator  
Rosalia.Davi@stonybrook.edu  
631-632-7041

Julianna Pryor  
Content & Publications Writer  
Julianna.Pryor@stonybrook.edu  
631-632-1691

Donna Scala  
CIE Administrative Assistant  
Donna.Scala@stonybrook.edu  
631-632-1386