



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** University Senate

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

**DATE:** February 3, 2020

**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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**I. DIVERSITY UPDATES**

**Stony Brook Recognized as Leader in Diversity by Forbes**

Stony Brook University has made the Forbes list of America's Best Employers for Diversity, ranking No. 59 out of 500 companies and institutions throughout the country. Forbes partnered with market research company Statista to select the nation's top employers for diversity based on an independent survey from a sample of more than 60,000 employees working for companies employing at least 1,000 people.

**Judith Brown Clarke, Ph.D. Appointed Chief Diversity Officer**

**Judith (Judi) Brown Clarke, Ph.D.**, Diversity Director of the Bio-Computational Evolution in Action Consortium (BEACON) Science and Technology Center at Michigan State University, has been appointed Chief Diversity Officer (CDO), effective February 17. As CDO, Judi will guide the implementation of Stony Brook University's Plan for Equity, Inclusion & Diversity and advance the overarching goal of building an inclusive Stony Brook community. She will serve on University Council.

Judi brings a wealth of experience to this role and is passionate about integrating diversity into workplace practices and universities, with expertise in reaching out to students, faculty, staff, and the community through successful workshops and learning modules. Judi received her B.S. in Audiology & Speech Science and an M.S. in Educational Administration from Michigan State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Western Michigan University. Judi is a member of the Scientific Research Honor Society, American Indian Science & Engineering Society, and the International Women's Forum.

**Presidential Mini-Grants for Departmental Diversity Initiative**

The President's Office is currently accepting proposals for the Presidential Mini-Grants for Departmental Diversity Initiatives through **Friday, February 28**. Drawing on a total pool of

\$30,000, the award amount granted will be determined by the number of grants selected and approved for funding. The application form, guidelines and a list of previous winning proposals, are available at: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/pres/minigrants/index.html>.

## **II. BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY TO HOST MAJOR NEW NUCLEAR PHYSICS FACILITY**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has announced the selection of Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) as the site for a planned major new nuclear physics research facility. The Lab is managed for the DOE by Brookhaven Science Associates, a partnership between the Research Foundation for the State University of New York on behalf of Stony Brook University and Battelle Memorial Institute. The Electron Ion Collider, to be designed and constructed over ten years, will bring major benefits to the regional economy and offer unprecedented research opportunities to Stony Brook faculty. Stony Brook and Brookhaven National Lab have more than 100 joint appointments supporting the strategic missions of both institutions. Joint appointees strengthen ties between Stony Brook and Brookhaven, facilitate student engagement at Brookhaven, and contribute to shared research goals.

## **III. CATHRINE DUFFY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF HEALTHIER U**

**Cathrine Duffy** has been appointed Director of Healthier U at Stony Brook University. As Director, Cathrine will be responsible for continuing the development of the Healthier U initiative and implementing a full suite of programs designed to support a healthy work environment and provide opportunities for staff and faculty to enhance their physical, fiscal and mental health. Cathrine has worked at Stony Brook since 2006 and was most recently the Director of Student Support in the Office of the Dean of Students. She was a founding faculty member of Stony Brook's School of Journalism and lectured there for six years. In addition to teaching, Cathrine provided academic advising to journalism students and administered alumni and recruitment outreach. She has also served as co-coordinator of the Robert W. Greene Summer Institute for High School Journalists, a residential high school journalism workshop. Cathrine previously worked at Newsday in various capacities including news editor, copy editor and deputy Long Island editor. She is a two-time alumna of Stony Brook University with a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in journalism and a Master of Arts in Public Policy.

## **IV. SPRING ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT**

A total of 25,044 students were registered at the beginning of Day 1 in spring 2020, 473 more than last year at the same point in the term. Compared to spring 2019, the following changes were observed by area:

- +310 West Campus Undergraduates
- +7 Graduate School (West, HSC, Southampton)
- -2 School of Professional Development
- +140 East Campus/HSC
- +17 Southampton location

The final enrollment snapshot is scheduled for February 14.

## V. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Since the beginning of the 2020 fiscal year, more than \$35.4 million has generously been given by 8,500 donors investing in our students, faculty, staff, and patients. Their pledges and contributions include:

- \$100,000 toward the Staller Center for the Arts
- \$100,000 toward a Doctoral Endowed Fellowship in the humanities and social sciences
- \$250,000 toward Breast Cancer Research
- \$250,000 toward an Endowed Scholarship for Renaissance School of Medicine students
- \$600,000 toward the Alda Center for Communicating Science Endowment
- \$1,000,000 toward the Electrical and Computer Engineering program
- \$1,000,000 toward an Endowed Professorship in Cardiology and Cardiac Imaging Research
- \$1,500,000 toward the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics Endowment

## VI. FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI, & STUDENT ACCOLADES

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

- **Claire Garfield '20** has been awarded the Marshall Scholarship, one of the most prestigious academic honors available to U.S. undergraduates. This scholarship is granted annually to 50 outstanding seniors identified as future leaders in their fields and finances two years of study at the most distinguished universities in the United Kingdom.
- Stony Brook alumna **Angela Zheng '19**, who received her BA in Multidisciplinary Studies, has been selected for the nationally competitive Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program Graduate Fellowship. This award will provide her with approximately \$75,000 to pursue a Master's degree in international affairs and will guaranteed placement in the U.S. Foreign Service.
- **Irvin Huang**, a PhD candidate in the Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, has been chosen as a fellow in the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program, which matches highly qualified graduate students with "hosts" in the legislative branch, executive branch, or appropriate associations/institutions located in the Washington, DC area, for a one-year paid fellowship. The program is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Sea Grant College Program.
- **Lauren Brookmeyer**, Director of Government Relations, has been elected 2020 President of The Science Coalition (TSC), a non-partisan organization dedicated to sustaining federal investment in basic scientific research. She recently served as TSC's Vice President of External Relations and Chair of the Communications Committee.
- **Sir Simon Donaldson**, a permanent member of the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics (SCGP) and a professor in the Department of Mathematics, was recently named a recipient of the 2020 Wolf Prize in Mathematics for his contribution to differential geometry and topology. Professor Donaldson was jointly awarded the prize with Professor

**Yakov Eliashberg**, Stanford University and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the SCGP, for their outstanding contributions to the field of mathematics.

- **Israel Kleinberg, DDS, PhD, DSc**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Oral Biology and Pathology, and **Stanislaus S. Wong**, PhD, Distinguished Professor, Department of Chemistry, have been selected as fellows by the National Academy of Inventors (NAI).
- Stony Brook University Distinguished Professor and former Chair of the Department of Computer Science, **Arie Kaufman**, has been inducted into the inaugural class of the IEEE Visualization Academy.
- A faculty member and an alumna from the Stony Brook University College of Arts and Sciences made the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for 2020. **Jessica Schleider**, Assistant Professor of Psychology, has been named in the Healthcare category, and **Ann Lin '18 Biochemistry/Economics**, in the Science category. Schleider's research focus is on making mental healthcare more accessible by developing interventions that are both effective and brief, making it easier and more scalable to deliver mental healthcare. Lin, now a PhD candidate at Stanford University, is using gene-editing technology to develop new procedures that can better confirm on-target activity of proposed cancer treatments.
- **Aurora D. Pryor, MD**, was elected president of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), a leading surgical society, representing and educating a global community of over 6,500 surgeons.
- **Robert J. Frey, '80 BS, '87 PhD**, renowned investor and academic in the field of advanced mathematics, has been chosen as the 2020 inductee to the Stony Brook University College of Engineering and Applied Sciences Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

## VII. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### Undergraduate Academic Excellence and Outstanding Achievement Award Nominations

Nominations are being sought for the Undergraduate Excellence and Outstanding Achievement Annual Ceremony. This ceremony provides an opportunity to honor the outstanding accomplishments of our undergraduate students and the faculty and staff who mentor them. Awards for Academic Excellence are given for academic accomplishments that go beyond the classroom experience. Awards for Outstanding Achievement are presented for excellence in three subcategories: Athletics, Leadership, or Community Service. Nomination materials must be received no later than **Monday, February 10, 2020**. Guidelines and eligibility criteria are available at: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/duc/awards.php?accordion=panel-d13e334>.

### President's Council of Student Advisors (COSA)

Nominations are being sought for the President's Council of Student Advisors for the 2010-2021 academic year. I am looking for exemplary students who demonstrate leadership, ingenuity, intellectual capacity, and a deep commitment to the University. The Council consists of undergraduates with demonstrated academic excellence and sincere interest in the challenges and complexities confronting higher education. Advisors engage in targeted research throughout the year on important issues that impact our campus community and make recommendations for improvement. All nominations are due by **Thursday, February 13**. For more information about

the Council and nomination process, please visit:  
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/pres/cosa/index.php>.

## VIII. RECENT EVENTS

### Winter Commencement

Stony Brook celebrated its 22<sup>nd</sup> Winter Commencement on Friday, December 20 at the Island Federal Credit Union Arena. The ceremony was held to confer bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, as well as certificates, for summer 2019 and fall 2019 graduates. A total of 1,740 degrees were conferred.

## IX. UPCOMING EVENTS

### Black History Month Celebration

The Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Black History Month Committee have coordinated the University's annual Black History Month celebrations. The opening ceremony is set for **Wednesday, February 5 (Staller Center Main Stage, 1:00 PM)** and will feature a conversation with **Spike Lee**. Writer, director, producer, actor, author and educator Spike Lee revolutionized modern cinema through his many powerful films, such as *She's Gotta Have It*, *Do the Right Thing*, *Jungle Fever*, *Malcolm X* and *Summer of Sam*. In 2019, he won the Academy Award for best adapted screenplay for his film *BlacKkKlansman*. Additional information, including a calendar of events and activities scheduled throughout the month, is available here: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/bhm/>.

### 2020 Stars of Stony Brook Gala

The Stars of Stony Brook Gala will be held on **Wednesday, March 11 at Chelsea Piers in New York City** and will recognize longtime friends **Drs. Barry and Bobbi Coller**. The Collers have both played significant roles in Stony Brook's ascendancy to New York's top public research university. For more information about the Gala, please visit: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/gala/>.

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

- **Academics:** The overall department GPA for the Fall 2019 semester was a 3.14. Of the nearly 500 student-athletes, 120 earned a 3.5 or above, with 16 earning a perfect 4.0.
- **Women's Basketball:** The team is off to its best start in program history with a record of 19-1, including a nation-leading 16-game winning streak. In addition, the team received votes in both the Top 25 Associated Press and Coaches' Poll for the first time ever.
- **Men's Basketball:** On Saturday, February 1, the team will host the second annual Stony Brook Children's Hospital Night. Each of the players will wear jerseys with the Children's

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<sup>1</sup> As of January 29

Hospital on the front and a patient's name on the back. Following the game, the members of the team will present their jerseys to the children.

- **Women's Lacrosse:** For the eighth-straight year the team has been selected as the favorite in the America East preseason poll. The team was also selected 12<sup>th</sup> in the preseason Top 25 Coaches poll. Seniors **Ally Kennedy** and **Taryn Ohmiller** were named preseason All-Americans.
- **Facilities:** Construction on the new indoor training center is almost complete. A temporary certificate of occupancy was granted to allow teams to practice, and the women's lacrosse team was the first to use the facility on January 22.