

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** University Senate

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

**DATE:** March 5, 2018

**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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**I. DEPARTURES AND APPOINTMENTS**

**Dr. Paul Shepson** has been named the **new Dean of the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS)**. Shepson comes to Stony Brook from Purdue University, where he is currently a distinguished professor of Chemistry and of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences. His research focuses on issues related to the exchange of gases between the Earth's surface and the atmosphere in various settings, ranging from the Arctic and coastal marine environments to forests and urban environments. The author and co-author of over 215 scientific publications, Shepson is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2015, he received the American Chemical Society Award for Creative Advances in Environmental Science and Technology. His distinguished career in the field of atmospheric sciences and his passion for understanding and communicating about climate change and its impacts and related constructive problem-solving will be instrumental in elevating the already distinguished School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences to greater heights. His tenure as the SoMAS Dean is planned to begin July 2.

**II. CAMPAIGN FOR STONY BROOK UPDATE/GRANTS**

The Campaign for Stony Brook has secured an additional \$4.4 million in gifts and pledges since the University Senate last met. The new total of \$579.4 million in support has come from more than 46,400 donors to date.

The following commitments are recent examples of the tremendous impact campaign donors continue to have on our campus:

- \$2,000,000 for fellowship and research support in the Center for Quantitative Finance
- \$500,000 for an endowed scholarship in the School of Dental Medicine
- \$500,000 in support of an endowed professorship in SoMAS
- \$200,000 for the Staller Center
- \$100,000 for the Cancer Center

### III. FINAL SPRING 2018 ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT

A total of 24,693 students were registered at the beginning of Day 15 in Spring 2018, 159 more than last year at the same point in the term.

Compared to spring 2017, the following changes were observed by area:

- +193 West Campus undergraduates
- +52 Graduate School (West, HSC, Southampton)
- 153 School of Professional Development
- +78 East Campus/HSC
- 5 Southampton location

### IV. STONY BROOK JOINS UNIVERSITY CLIMATE CHANGE COALITION

President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. participated in the launch of a multi-university coalition to fight climate change at the **2018 Higher Education Climate Change Leadership Summit** on Tuesday, February 6. The **University Climate Change Coalition**, also known as UC3, is made up of 13 research universities from across North America, including the California Institute of Technology, the University of Toronto and UNAM in Mexico City. The coalition seeks to coordinate with policy makers to bring about environmentally-beneficial programs. President Stanley represented **Chancellor Kristina Johnson** and the SUNY system at the conference and served as a featured speaker during the closing keynote panel.

### V. STONY BROOK SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN “UP TO US” COMPETITION

Stony Brook University has been selected to participate in the 2017-2018 cohort of **Up to Us, a national competition** that encourages students to spread the word about fiscal policy matters like federal budgets and the national debt – big-ticket items that could have a significant effect on students’ career and life choices. The exclusive annual competition is limited to 100 teams nationally. Stony Brook University and SUNY Old Westbury are the only Long Island institutions

selected to participate in the 2017-2018 competition. The goal of the Up to Us contest is twofold: to spread critical knowledge about topics like budgets and deficits, and to accumulate “participation points” through campus-based activities and awareness campaigns, with a shot at the competition’s \$25,000 grand prize.

## VI. INSTITUTE OF GAS INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (I-GIT) INTRODUCED

Stony Brook University and National Grid have recently formed and introduced the **Institute of Gas Innovation and Technology (I-GIT)**. I-GIT is a consortium of industry and academic leaders and will serve as an independent reviewer of gas technologies and related policies, focused on key areas including gas-supply diversification, safety, resiliency and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as Big Data management related to natural gas systems. The Institute is housed at the [Advanced Energy Research & Technology Center](#), a New York State-designated Center of Excellence located in Stony Brook’s Research and Development Park, and is expected to be a home for the hands-on implementation of innovative ideas for the development of the world’s next generation of clean-energy resources.

## VII. ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IN TAMIL LANGUAGE CREATED

**Bala and Prabha Swaminathan** have funded the creation of the **Anandavalli and Dr. G. Swaminathan Endowed Research Professorship in Tamil** at Stony Brook University. The 2,000-year-old Tamil language — nearly as old as Hebrew — is spoken by more than 70 million people in a diaspora that has its main origins in India, Sri Lanka and Singapore, where it is among the official languages. Stony Brook will be one of a small number of colleges and universities to offer students the opportunity to study Tamil.

## VIII. FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT ACCOLADES

**Jarrold French**, an assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology and Department of Chemistry at Stony Brook, has been **named a Cottrell Scholar by the Research Corporation for Science Advancement**. Cottrell Scholars are recognized for their innovative research plans and education programs. French was chosen for his research proposal, “Structural Dynamics of Photoactive Proteins and Crowdsourcing Structural Biology.” The award, given this year to 24 top early-career academic scientists, includes a \$100,000 grant for each recipient.

**Dr. Peter Small**, the founding director of Stony Brook’s **Global Health Institute** and the **Jim and Robin Herrnstein Chair** was recently selected as one of seven members of the inaugural class of

**Rockefeller Foundation Fellows.** As a Fellow, he will receive two years of support for an independent project that seeks to better the lives of others and the world.

**Michele Bogart**, a professor in the Department of Art at Stony Brook University, has been **named to the 2017-18 Society of Fellows at the Norman Rockwell Museum's Center for American Visual Studies**, the nation's first research institute dedicated to exploring the history and criticism of American illustration art to more fully develop the language and discourse of an academic discipline devoted to published art. Professor Bogart has taught art history and American visual culture studies at Stony Brook University since 1982.

## IX. RECENT EVENTS

The Charles B. Wang Center celebrated the **Lunar New Year** on Sunday, February 18. The event included dinner, family-friendly crafts and a performance hosted by the Stony Brook Confucius Institute and drew about 400 people looking to celebrate the Year of the Dog.

The **Black History Month Closing Ceremony** occurred on Wednesday, February 28, featuring keynote speaker Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of Malcolm X and author of *Growing Up X*.

The grand opening of the **LGBTQ\* Center** occurred on Friday, March 2, 2018. The new, custom-designed center will be home to LGBTQ\* Services, providing a hub for community building, information, support, and resources for the Stony Brook University LGBTQ\* communities.

## X. UPCOMING EVENTS

On **Wednesday, March 7, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, the Stony Brook University School of Medicine will highlight Stony Brook female faculty, physicians, researchers, fellows, residents, medical students, undergraduates, nurses and PAs in honor of the [12th Annual Women in Medicine Research Day](#).

As part of an array of activities to support Women's History Month, **Gretchen Carlson** will be the featured speaker in the **School of Journalism's My Life As** series on Wednesday, **March 8 from 7:30-9:30p.m.** The television anchor will discuss her efforts to demand workforce equality.

The **2018 Women's Leadership Symposium** will take place on **March 14, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** at the Student Activities Center and Frey Hall. This year's theme is "Life, Health, & Leadership: a conversation on women in the workplace". The symposium focuses on the

retention, advancement and development of Stony Brook women faculty and staff. [Registration is open.](#)

The **19th Annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala** will take place on **April 11, 2018** at Pier Sixty at **Chelsea Piers, New York City**. This year's Gala will honor **Dorothy Lichtenstein**, President of the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation and Stony Brook Foundation Board Trustee, and will celebrate our renowned Stony Brook Southampton Creative Writing and Film program. [Tickets are available for purchase.](#)

## **XI. ATHLETICS UPDATE**

**Stony Brook student-athletes** had another strong semester in the classroom, achieving a **cumulative GPA of 3.16**:

- 11 student-athletes achieved a 4.0
- 111 student-athletes achieved between 3.5-3.99
- 155 student-athletes achieved between 3.0-3.49

**Women's Lacrosse is ranked No. 1 in all major polls** now becoming the **first Stony Brook team in history** to achieve that ranking. The team is out to a 3-0 start after wins at No. 5 USC and No. 23 Stanford as well as a home win against No. 20 Denver.

**Women's Basketball** finished the regular season with 18 wins, including five straight **heading into this weekend's America East Tournament** in Portland, Maine. The 18 wins are the most for the program since the 2013-14 season.

**Baseball** has started the season with a 6-1 record for the program's **best start since 2000**.