



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

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

DATE: March 4, 2019

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. REMEMBERING ERWIN P. STALLER

Stony Brook University recently lost a friend and tireless advocate, **Erwin P. Staller**, Hon. '01, Stony Brook Foundation Emeritus Trustee and CEO of Staller Associates. Born in 1921, Erwin was a visionary philanthropist, one of Long Island's most admired commercial real estate entrepreneurs, and a loyal and generous friend to Stony Brook University and the Staller Center for the Arts.

In 1988, Erwin Staller and the Staller family gave the University its first million-dollar donation; a \$1.8 million gift to what became the Staller Center for the Arts, helping create a foundation for a legacy of philanthropy at Stony Brook University spanning 35 years. He also served with distinction on the Stony Brook Foundation Board of Trustees for over 30 years and remained a highly valued emeritus member of both the Stony Brook Foundation Board and the Stony Brook Foundation Realty, LLC, for which he was the Founding Chair. Stony Brook is proud to have awarded Erwin Staller the Stony Brook Medal for Extraordinary Service in 1989 as well as an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in 2001, and to have recognized his importance as a member of the Stony Brook community by honoring him at the 2006 Stars of Stony Brook Gala.

II. STARS OF STONY BROOK GALA 2019

The Stars of Stony Brook Gala will be held on **Wednesday, April 10 at Pier Sixty in New York City** and will honor distinguished alumnae and President of the Simons Foundation, **Marilyn H. Simons** '74, PhD '84, Hon. '08. Faculty and staff tickets are available at a reduced price. Complimentary bus transportation to and from Pier Sixty is offered on a first-come, first-served basis (reservations are required and space is limited). To purchase tickets and reserve seats on the bus, please complete the response form at this [link](#) or contact **Nicole Tennant** at 632-4197 or Nicole.Tennant@stonybrook.edu.

III. FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Since the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1, Advancement has secured \$28.6 million from 8,944 donors. The following commitments are the most recent examples of how our generous donors are investing in our University community:

- \$750,000 for the Turkana Basin Institute
- \$500,000 for Southampton Arts
- \$163,000 for Computer Science students' work in AI and Human Language Analysis
- \$85,000 for Seawolves United

IV. SPRING ENROLLMENT FINAL SNAPSHOT

A total of 25,007 students were registered at the start of day 15 of the spring 2019 semester – 314 more students than last year at the same point in the term. Compared to day 15 of spring 2018, the following changes were observed by area:

- + 247 West Campus Undergraduates
- - 117 Graduate School (includes West Campus, HSC, and Southampton)
- + 114 School of Professional Development
- + 13 East Campus/HSC
- + 40 Southampton

V. HONORARY DEGREE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Honorary Degrees will begin its work leading to the recommendation of candidates for SUNY Honorary Degrees to be awarded in 2020. The chairs of the committee are **Richard Gerrig**, Interim Dean of the Graduate School, and **Dexter Bailey**, Senior Vice President for Advancement. The purposes of awarding honorary degrees by the State University of New York are:

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

Nominations should be sent to **Gianna Juliano-Hooper** via interoffice mail (zip = 4433) or email (gianna.juliano-hooper@stonybrook.edu). **The deadline for submission is Friday, March 15.** To obtain further information, a complete list of past SUNY or Stony Brook honorary degree recipients, or a set of the guidelines adopted by the Board of Trustees, please contact Gianna at 632-7035.

VI. FACULTY AND STUDENT ACCOLADES

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

- **Bettina Fries, MD**, Professor of Medicine, Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, and Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Stony Brook Medicine, and **David Thanassi, PhD**, Professor and Chair, Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University, have been elected Fellows of the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM). The AAM is the honorary leadership group of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), the largest science professional organization in the world.
- **Fotis Sotiropoulos**, Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has been selected to give the Borland Lecture in Hydraulics at the 2019 American Geophysical Union (AGU) Hydrology Days Meeting. This honor is in recognition of his significant contributions to environmental fluid mechanics, hydraulic engineering, water resources planning and management, and related fields.
- **Eric Zolov**, Associate Professor in the Department of History, has been selected by the Fulbright Scholars Program to teach at the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Santiago, Chile, next academic year. The Fulbright Scholars Program is for applicants who already hold PhDs to conduct research, teach, or do both in cooperation with an overseas university.
- **Nick Nikiforakis**, Assistant Professor from the Department of Computer Science in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has received a 2018 Amazon Research Award for his work in the area of Internet security. His project, ICBots: Tools and Techniques for Detecting Web Bots, will receive \$64,000 in funding.
- Acclaimed actor **Alan Alda**, a visiting professor in the Stony Brook University School of Journalism's Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, was honored for a lifetime of acting at the 25th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on January 27. In addition to his 60-year acting career, Alda was praised for decades of philanthropy and his love of science and learning.
- Fifteen graduate students from the arts, humanities, sciences and engineering received PhD Works Professional Development Awards for Inclusion and Equity during 2018. Awardees received up to \$750 to enhance their career and professional skills while advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in their own fields. These awards were made possible through funds allocated for implementation of the campus Diversity Plan. The awardees are: **Ignacio D. Arellano-Torres**, Hispanic Languages and Literature; **Janice Darling**, Computer Science; **Natalie De Paz**, Creative Writing; **Katelyn Ellison**, Philosophy; **Eugina Gelbelman**, Film; **Jon Heggstad**, English; **Maureen Lynch**, Ecology and Evolution; **Vanessa Lynn**, Sociology; **Cecilia O'Leary**, SoMAS; **Luigi Pesce-Ibarra**, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences; **Anna Reguero**, Music History/Theory; **Mariola Szenk**, Biomedical Engineering; **Katherine Thompson**, Anthropology; **Jingmin Wang**, Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology; & **Sarah Weaver**, Music Composition.

VII. MANDATORY TITLE IX TRAINING

The office of Institutional Diversity & Equity (OIDE) has developed an online Title IX and sexual harassment prevention program called [ReportIt: Ending Sexual Misconduct for Faculty & Staff](#). This interactive online program provides information on Title IX, sexual misconduct, reporting options, and where to get support and help. It also identifies and provides additional training for Responsible Employees. **All employees are required to complete this training program.** Almost 10,000 employees had completed the training as of February 28, 2019.

VIII. RECENT EVENTS

Staller Center for the Arts Gala 2019

On March 2, the Staller Center for the Arts hosted its Gala 2019. Four-time Grammy Award winner, **Renée Fleming**, entertained before a packed house. The Metropolitan Opera superstar performed a special program of beloved arias and songs. The annual gala supports arts programming at the Staller Center.

IX. UPCOMING EVENTS

Education and Exploration: Learning Today & a Path for Tomorrow

The [President's ADA Advisory Committee](#) will host its first-ever colloquium, Education & Exploration: Learning Today & a Path for Tomorrow. This colloquium will take place on **Wednesday, March 27, 2019 in the Wang Center**. The day will feature keynote speaker **Jeanne Kincaid**, a nationally known disability lawyer and consultant. She will discuss foundational accessibility principles and the changing landscape of disability. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue and learn about on-campus resources that support faculty and students. This event is open to Stony Brook University faculty, staff, and students at no charge. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. **Advance registration is required and seats are limited.** To register, please visit: www.stonybrook.edu/adaday.

Celebrating Women's History Month at Stony Brook

Stony Brook University is recognizing Women's History Month by holding a series of exciting events that will take place on campus throughout the month and are open to the campus community. For a full listing of events, please click [here](#).

X. ATHLETICS UPDATE (as of 2/26)

Winter Sports

- Stony Brook is one of nine Division I programs this season with Men's Basketball and Women's Basketball each winning 20 games.
- Men's Basketball has a record of 22-6 and clinched a first-round home game in the America East playoffs, which begin on Saturday, March 9.

- Women's Basketball has a record of 20-7 and also clinched a first-round home game in the America East playoffs, which begin on Wednesday, March 6.

Spring Sports

- Women's Lacrosse defeated No. 13 Colorado in the season opener, 15-5. The win was the fourth this year for the Athletics Department against Power 5 conference teams (Women's Soccer defeated Oregon State, Men's Basketball defeated South Carolina, and Women's Basketball defeated Penn State).