

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

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

DATE: April 2, 2018

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. DEPARTURES AND APPOINTMENTS

Samir Das, who has served as associate dean for research for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences since 2016, has been appointed **Chair of the Department of Computer Science** following a competitive national search. Das has served as interim chair of the Department since August 2017. Previously, he was a division director in the Center of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology (CEWIT) as well as the graduate advisor in the Computer Science Department. Das is a professor in the Department of Computer Science, where he has been a faculty member since joining Stony Brook in 2002.

II. CAMPAIGN FOR STONY BROOK UPDATE/GRANTS

The Campaign for Stony Brook has secured an additional \$3.4 million in gifts and pledges since the University Senate last met. The new total of \$582.8 million in support has come from more than 46,715 donors.

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

- \$800,000 for an endowed faculty position in the School of Nursing and the School of Nursing Doctoral Program
- \$700,000 for health and technology literacy programs and related scholarships
- \$400,000 for the Sam Kornhauser Scholarship in Athletics and \$50,000 for women's track and field
- \$250,000 for leadership and social justice in the School of Social Welfare
- \$100,000 for the Department of Chemistry

III. NAFSA RECOGNIZES SBU FOR EXCELLENCE IN CAMPUS INTERNATIONALIZATION

Stony Brook University has been awarded a prestigious 2018 Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization by [NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#). Named after the late Senator Paul Simon of Illinois, the award recognizes outstanding innovation and accomplishment in integrating international education throughout all facets of university and college campuses. The Comprehensive Internationalization Award is granted to a limited number of institutions each year, and Stony Brook is one of only five recipients in 2018.

IV. STONY BROOK DOCTORAL STUDENT DISCOVERS GENE IN DANGEROUS FUNGUS

Mansa Munshi, a doctoral student in the molecular genetics and microbiology department, **discovered a gene in a pathogenic fungal species** known as *Cryptococcus neoformans* -- a fungus that can cause fungal pneumonia and a fungal brain infection, which can be fatal in people with suppressed immune systems. The fungal species is resistant to many potent drugs, and Munshi's **research includes a massive search for a compound capable** of quelling the gene's activity and ultimately **serving as a human medication**.

V. "SUPERCOLONY" OF ADELIE PENGUINS DISCOVERED IN ANTARCTICA

Stony Brook University ecologist **Heather Lynch** and colleagues from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) announced the **discovery of a previously unknown "supercolony" of more than 1,500,000 Adélie Penguins** in the Danger Islands, a chain of remote, rocky islands off of the **Antarctic Peninsula's northern tip**. This is the largest such population on the Antarctic Peninsula, and the penguins appear not to have suffered the population declines associated with climate change that are found in other colonies in Antarctica. With the discovery of the importance of the Danger Islands to the penguin population, the team can better move forward designing Marine Protected Areas in the region and managing the Antarctic krill fishery.

VI. NEW BACHELOR OF ARTS IN BIOLOGY TO BE OFFERED IN FALL 2018

Stony Brook University's College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is planning to add a **Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Biology** program in time for the **Fall 2018 semester**. The interdisciplinary program, which has received approval from SUNY and the New York State Education Department, will allow students to combine a less intensive Biology major curriculum with any one of 40 non-science minors from CAS.

VII. FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT ACCOLADES

- **Ryan McHugh '20**, a Biology and Chemistry double major, will be heading to Japan as part of the highly selective **Amgen Scholars Program at the University of Kyoto**. The program provides funding for promising undergraduates to conduct cutting-edge research at one of 17 world-class institutions in the US, Europe, and Japan.
- Mechanical Engineering Assistant Professor **Ya Wang** and Computer Science professor **Anshul Gandhi** have received the prestigious **Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) Award** from the **National Science Foundation (NSF)**. Wang received the award for her project, Understanding Dynamics of Ultra-small Magnetic Nanoparticles in the Brain for Neuron Regeneration Therapies, while Gandhi was awarded for his research in unpredictable performance in cloud computing environments. The award supports the research of junior faculty with federal grant funding.
- **Michael Kimmel**, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Stony Brook University, has been **named one of UN Women's 2018 Champions of Change**. Kimmel received this distinction for his many significant contributions to women's empowerment and gender equality. He is the founder and executive director of the Center for Men and Masculinities at Stony Brook, as well as an author, speaker, and advocate for gender equality.

VIII. RECENT EVENTS

The **Service Awards Ceremony** was held on Tuesday, March 6, celebrating employees marking 25 years or more of service at Stony Brook University. For the first time in its history, the Service Awards recognized six honorees who were celebrating more than 50 years of service. [The list of awardees can be found here.](#)

IX. UPCOMING EVENTS

The Spring 2018 **Diversity Plan Town Halls** will be taking place on the following dates:

Health Sciences Center - East Campus
Thursday, April 19, 2018
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
HSC Lecture Hall 3

Stony Brook University - Main Campus
Wednesday, April 25, 2018
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Frey Hall 100

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, Roy Lichtenstein Foundation and Stony Brook Foundation Board Trustee. In addition to raising essential funds for student scholarships, this year's Gala will also raise funds for the Stony Brook Southampton Creative Writing and Film program. [Tickets are available for purchase.](#)

X. ATHLETICS UPDATE

- Stony Brook alum Jameel Warney became the first Seawolf to appear in the NBA when he was called up to the Dallas Mavericks on March 11. In his three games against the Houston Rockets, New York Knicks and Toronto Raptors, Jameel averaged 5.7 points and three rebounds.
- Women's Lacrosse has maintained its No. 1 ranking in all major polls for five straight weeks. The team is 8-0 with wins over five ranked opponents. LaValle Stadium will host the NCAA Division I Women's Lacrosse Championship in May. Senior Courtney Murphy is 12 goals shy of breaking the NCAA career record.
- Men's Lacrosse has won three of the last four games, including a 2-0 start in America East play. The lone defeat during that stretch was a 15-14 decision against No. 9 Virginia.
- Baseball leads the America East with a 12-9 overall record, including 2-1 in conference play.
- Men's Basketball freshman Elijah Olaniyi was named 2018 America East Rookie of the Year.