

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Stony Brook Senate

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

**DATE:** November 7, 2016

**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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**I. RESPONDING TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (R.E.D.I.) PROJECT**

The Responding to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (R.E.D.I.) Project provides the opportunity for administrators, faculty and staff to attend a six-hour diversity seminar. The seminar is geared toward increasing the understanding and celebration of the myriad of cultures that contribute to our diverse campus community. The experiential seminar utilizes case study along with group activities as a means of enabling participants to recognize the manifestation and impact of implicit bias in a safe and supportive space. All are encouraged to participate by registering [here](#). Each seminar is restricted to a maximum of 20 people per session. The R.E.D.I. Project is an initiative arising out of the Stony Brook University Plan for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and is led by **Robbye Kinkade**, Clinical Assistant Professor in the School of Health Technology and Management as well as the School of Medicine.

**II. CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS**

Computers and information technology are essential to the mission of a modern university. Not only academic pursuits, but also the daily business of the institution, are dependent on secure, reliable information systems. Today we face increasing threats from malicious cyber attacks, loss of privacy from spyware and adware, and identity theft and fraud. It is essential that we take a thorough and collaborative approach to managing our cyber security risks.

With this in mind, Stony Brook University observes National Cyber Security Awareness Month every October. This year's observance was especially important, because it included the adoption of a [new Information Security Policy](#). This policy formalizes our Information Security Program and creates a united effort across the campus to protect the integrity of critical information. It establishes the need for all senior leadership to work towards improving cyber security and identifies the Information Security Program Council (ISPC) as the group charged with implementing new cyber security policy and related improvements. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with this policy and prepare to join the University community in joint efforts to make cyber security a reality. As this effort matures, you will see new cyber security related initiatives that will rely upon your involvement.

### III. “FIVE QUESTIONS WITH...” VIDEO SERIES LAUNCHED

Leaders from every field share ambitious ideas and imaginative solutions for education and the global future in Stony Brook University's new video series, “[5 Questions With ...](#)” [Billy Joel](#), [Alan Alda](#), [Eric Holder](#), and [Richard Leakey](#) are among the initial set of luminaries giving thoughtful, compelling interviews, featured on a browsable website, as well as a [YouTube playlist](#). The ongoing series is part of the “In The Know” offerings and highlights the university’s role in global thought leadership. Interview subjects are affiliated with or have visited the campus for student and community enrichment events and activities.

### IV. CAMPAIGN FOR STONY BROOK UPDATE

The first quarter of fiscal year 2017 was strong. Commitments for the Campaign for Stony Brook to date total \$473,163,942 and nearly 80 percent of these funds are already at work on campus. Examples of recent philanthropic investments from friends and alumni include:

- \$254,164 for the Faculty Student Association Scholarship
- \$100,000 for the Friends of Neurosurgery Fund
- \$68,798 for the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and various mathematics funds
- \$50,000 for the Sillcox Scholars Current Use Scholarship Fund
- \$50,000 for the First Alumni Endowed Scholarship and the Heart Institute
- \$50,000 for the Madagascar Rainforest Conservation Fund
- \$50,000 for the Das Family Men’s Soccer Scholarship Fund

For additional updates on the campaign, please visit: [stonybrook.edu/campaign](http://stonybrook.edu/campaign).

### V. UNIVERSITY ACCOLADES

#### **Stony Brook Shines in Recent College Rankings**

Stony Brook University’s academic excellence has again been recognized in three recent college rankings: the [Wall Street Journal / Times Higher Education College Ranking](#), which places SBU at No. 30 among national public institutions; the new [Washington Post composite ranking](#), which places SBU No. 69 nationally and No. 35 among public institutions; and the *US News & World Report* [Best Global Universities](#) ranking, which ranks SBU as No. 131 worldwide.

#### **Stony Brook Again Recognized Nationally for Community Service**

Stony Brook University has been named to the [President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll](#) for three categories: General Community Service, Economic Opportunity and Education, and Honor Roll with Distinction for Interfaith Service. Launched in 2006, the Honor Roll acknowledges colleges and universities that focus on community service and service learning for solving community problems. It is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service’s strategic commitment to engage millions of college students in service and celebrate the critical role of higher education in strengthening communities. Stony Brook continues to provide opportunities for students, faculty and staff to be involved in sustained, lifelong community engagement. The University’s application for the Honor Roll highlighted

approximately of 130,000 hours of community service for the past year, with more than 10,800 students involved.

## VI. FACULTY, STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACCOLADES

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

- **Anshul Gandhi**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has been awarded a Computer Systems Research (CSR) award by the National Science Foundation (NSF). He will receive nearly \$400,000 during the next three years for his research project, “Scalable, Heterogeneity-Aware Load Balancing.” The funding will allow Gandhi and his team of students to conduct research on cloud load balancers and their performance.
- **Shan Lin**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has received a National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award, one of the most prestigious honors given to support junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through research education. Lin will receive \$450,000 during the next five years for his research – Safe and Secure Network Control for Smart and Connected Hospitals – which seeks to improve safety and security of networks in a hospital setting.
- **Christopher Johnson**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry, received a Young Investigators Grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research for his project, “Probing Electronic Structure and Energy Transfer in Protected Metal Nanoparticles by Mass-Selective Spectroscopy.”
- **Alexander G. Abanov**, PhD, and **Axel Drees**, PhD, have been named American Physical Society (APS) Fellows. Made up of scientists nationally and internationally, the APS works to advance and disseminate the knowledge of physics through research, education, outreach, advocacy and international activities. The APS fellowship annual election honors members who have contributed extensively to the physics enterprise, by way of research, leadership, or education. No more than one percent of the 5,000 plus members are elected in a given year.
- Faculty member **Melissa Bank**'s short film, *Siren*, has been accepted to two festivals that are set to take place this month in Manhattan: the 2016 New York Short Film Festival and the Zero Film Festival.
- **Bentley Heyman**'s short film *Kingdom* won the Best Experimental Film award at the inaugural Nottingham International Film Festival. Heyman is an MFA in Film degree candidate. *Kingdom* was developed in the MFA in Film program and workshopped with Jennie Allen and Mercedes Ruehl.
- **Deborah Barkley**, a PhD chemistry student, has added to an already distinguished academic career by winning the 2016 Kodak Intern Innovation Award. The award came as the result of an internship Deborah completed at Eastman Kodak Research Labs within the Intellectual Property Solutions Division. She studied nanoparticle polymer surface interactions.

- **Erica Mukherjee**, a doctoral student in the Department of History, has been awarded a highly competitive Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) grant through the Department of Education. These grants provide six to twelve months of funding to conduct doctoral dissertation research in one or more countries worldwide. The program is intended to create modern language and world area specialists who have an interdisciplinary approach to research.
- **Jianping Huang**, a graduate student at Stony Brook University working on his PhD in chemistry, was awarded the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Mow Shiah Lin Scholarship sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Association at Brookhaven National Lab. He received \$1,000 and a plaque at a ceremony at Brookhaven Lab on September 28. Huang is pursuing his PhD in the Sustainable Energy Technologies Department at Brookhaven, working with Stony Brook Distinguished Professor Esther Takeuchi as his advisor. Huang's focus is on energy materials research.
- **Colette Geary**, PhD '87, '89 was recently inaugurated as the 12<sup>th</sup> president of The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota.
- **Ruchi Shah**, '16, has been chosen as a recipient of Bustle magazine's Upstart Award, which honors 15 U.S. women each year who are making a difference in their respective fields. Bustle selected Shah, who is currently pursuing a career as a physician at Stony Brook's School of Medicine, for her many achievements, including inventing an all-natural mosquito repellent designed to combat disease in third world countries, acting as CEO of a social entrepreneurship company, discovering proteins in a cancer research lab, and presenting a TED Talk at Stony Brook.

## VII. STONY BROOK SET TO CELEBRATE WINTER COMMENCEMENT

Stony Brook will celebrate Winter Commencement on **Thursday, December 22 in the Island Federal Credit Union Arena**. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. and confer bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees for summer 2016 and fall 2016 graduates.

## VIII. RECENT EVENTS

### Veterans Day Ceremony

This year's Veterans Day Ceremony took place on Wednesday, November 2 in the Student Activities Center (SAC), Sidney Gelber Auditorium. The ceremony honored all veterans, students, alumni, faculty, staff and families who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces – especially those students who have postponed their education to serve in moments of need.

### Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> year at Stony Brook this October. This year's theme was, "Esta es nuestra historia / This is our Story." The month opened with a ceremony that featured keynote speaker **Dr. Lori Flores**, Assistant Professor of History. Following a month of diverse activities, the month ended with the Annual Awards Closing Ceremony and Annual Awards on November 2.

## **Faculty and Staff Recognized at University Awards Dinner**

Faculty and staff were honored for their accomplishments at the annual University Awards Dinner on October 13. The event recognized faculty that have earned the prestigious system-level rank of Distinguish Professor, State University of New York Chancellor's Award winners and Presidential Mini-Grant recipients. Click [here](#) for a list of all award winners.

## **Margaret Jay Examines Politics on Both Sides of the Pond**

On October 11, Britain's former Leader of the House of Lords and Minister for Women **Margaret Jay** delivered a Presidential Lecture entitled, "The New Populism in America and Britain: What Has Happened to Our Politics?" In her lecture, Jay compared Britain's recent vote to leave the EU, popularly known as "Brexit," to the populist upsurge reflected in the current US Presidential campaign. Following the lecture, I sat down with Margaret Jay and had a lively discussion. To view the lecture, click [here](#).

## **IX. UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Native American Heritage Awareness Program Series**

Stony Brook University is hosting its first Native American Heritage Awareness Program Series running through November 16. Co-sponsored by many departments and groups across campus, this series features a wide-range of Native American cultural, educational and social demonstrations. This includes a number of artist performances, exhibits, and lectures, including a keynote on **November 9** by US Department of the Interior Special Trustee for American Indians, **Vincent G. Logan**. For more information, please visit: [stonybrook.edu/naheritage](http://stonybrook.edu/naheritage)

### **Town Hall Meeting on Stony Brook University's Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Initiative**

All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend one of my upcoming Town Hall meetings to hear an update on the University's Diversity Plan. The sessions will take place on:

- Wednesday, November 30, 1 pm in Charles B. Wang Center Theater
- Friday, December 1, 1 pm in the Health Sciences, Level 2, Lecture Hall 3

To read more about this important effort, visit: [stonybrook.edu/diversityplan](http://stonybrook.edu/diversityplan).

## **X. ATHLETICS UPDATE**

### **Team Updates<sup>1</sup>**

- **Cross Country:** The men's and women's cross country teams traveled south to Kingsville, Maryland for the America East Championship last week and came home with the first championship of the year. Our men's team won the America East Championship title – beating Maine by 1 point – winning their first championship since 2012. The women's team took home second place, missing the title by just 2 points. Head coach **Andy Ronan**

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<sup>1</sup> As of November 2

and his staff received the men's Coaching Staff of the Year award, while several student-athletes on both teams were recognized with All-Conference selections. The Seawolves will head to the NCAA Regional Championships on November 11<sup>th</sup> in Bronx, NY.

- **Football:** After a win at Delaware and a loss at New Hampshire, the team is currently 4-1 in CAA play. With just 3 games remaining this season, the team is currently ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in all three national FCS polls and is battling for a berth in the NCAA playoffs. The Seawolves have two remaining home games against William & Mary (November 5) and Maine (November 12). The final game of the regular season is at Albany on November 19.
- **Women's Soccer:** The team finished the year with an overall record of 9-8-3, and were 6-2 in conference play. Their season came to an end in a quarterfinal playoff game against Vermont on October 27, dropping a heartbreaker that came down to penalty kicks. This was the Seawolves' first playoff appearance since 2013. The Seawolves also strung together a six-game home winning streak this season, as well as an overall six-game winning streak that marked the longest in its Division-I era of play. Head coach **Brendan Faherty** was named America East Coach of the Year, becoming the first-ever first year head coach to win the award. Six student-athletes were honored by the conference for their play throughout the year. Senior **Raven Edwards** (West Orange, N.J.) finished her career as the leading scorer (24) and is tied for the lead in points (56) in Stony Brook's Division I history.
- **Men's Soccer:** For just the second time in program history, the team (9-5-3, 4-2-1 AE) will head into the America East Tournament as the top seed, after a 2-0 triumph over UMBC on November 2. The team advances to the semifinals on Wednesday, November 9. The Seawolves have had several big wins this season, including victories over #18 UMass Lowell and #25 New Hampshire. Freshman **Jarred Dass** (Marabella, Trinidad) was selected to the U-20 Trinidad and Tobago National Team and spent a week with them competing in the CONCACAF U-20 World Cup Qualifying Tournament.
- **Men's & Women's Basketball:** The teams are working hard to gear up for their 2016-17 seasons. Under new head coach **Jeff Boals**, our men's team will play their first game of the season at home against Columbia on Friday, November 11. Head coach **Caroline McCombs** and our women's team will play their home opener on Monday, November 14 against Hofstra.