



MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

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

DATE: May 5, 2014

SUBJECT: President's Report

I. MIDDLE STATES REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION UPDATE

As you may recall, Stony Brook University hosted its site visit of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education from March 30 through April 2. I am pleased to report that by all accounts, the site visit was a success. According to feedback from our exit interview and the preliminary draft report from the review team, the University is in compliance with all 14 standards of excellence. This is welcomed news and I extend my appreciation and congratulations to the entire Middle States Reaccreditation Steering Committee, led by Co-Chairs Daniel Davis and Charlie Robbins, and Middle States Coordinator Lauren Tacke-Cushing.

At this time, the University is reviewing the review team's draft report to verify factual information. The team's report will then be submitted to the Commission on Accreditation along with our self-study. We will be advised of the final decision following the June meeting of the Commission on Higher Education.

II. STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY GETS NOD AND \$60M TO BUILD INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY CENTER IN R&D PARK

Stony Brook University received a \$60 million appropriation in the 2014 State Budget for the design and construction of the first phase of a new "Innovation and Discovery Center," which will be located in the University's Research & Development Park. The Center will comprise 200,000 gross square feet of lab and office space, with a mix of public and private funding anticipated to complete the total build-out. Once completed, it will enable new start-up and high tech companies to take full advantage of Governor Cuomo's Start-Up New York initiative.

As a mezzanine structure, the Center will promote the growth of start-up businesses and attract companies in the following industries: biotechnology, information technology, electronics, and advanced materials and processing. The Center will also afford Stony Brook incubator companies the opportunity to step up to the next level before entering the open market. The new tech-ready facility will offer larger spaces for start-up companies currently operating out of one of Stony Brook's five incubator facilities, which will free up space and provide other start-up companies the chance to develop on Long Island.

III. DISCOVERY FUND ESTABLISHED

Thanks to a \$500,000 donation from the Stony Brook Foundation, Stony Brook University has established the Discovery Fund – a new initiative to support the University’s vital discovery-driven research through philanthropy. The Discovery Fund will attract private philanthropic dollars that will continue to advance basic science research and discovery at Stony Brook, a counter to the years of funding cuts to scientific research at the federal level. Private dollars raised through the Discovery Fund will support University faculty and students in pursuit of new ideas and answers to today’s most burning questions in the areas of engineering and the physical and life sciences, including but not limited to: biology and human evolutionary science, geosciences, cognitive neuroscience, nano-science, mathematics, marine and atmospheric sciences, nuclear and computational astrophysics, theoretical physics, and computer and information sciences.

IV. 15TH ANNUAL STARS OF STONY BROOK GALA 2014

On Wednesday, April 16, Stony Brook University honored one of its own, long-time conservationist and lemur expert **Dr. Patricia C. Wright** at its 15th annual Stars of Stony Brook Gala 2014. A recipient of the MacArthur “Genius Award” and finalist for the 2014 Indianapolis Conservation Prize, Dr. Wright was honored for her major contributions in biology, ecology, conservation and behavior of living primates. She has also been instrumental in helping both indigenous people and the international community better understand the value of conservation in Madagascar and around the world. Through the research station she created there known as Centre ValBio, Dr. Wright has continued to deliver her expert knowledge and support to help both the wildlife and residents of this region.

Also recognized at the gala was the Global Health Institute in Madagascar. As a result of Dr. Wright’s work, Stony Brook University is more invested than ever in her mission there. Along with the Centre ValBio research center, the University has also teamed up with scientists/husband

and wife duo, **Jim and Robin Herrnstein**, to establish the Global Health Institute. The Institute will drive cutting-edge health research in the region while working closely with a new nongovernmental organization. The gala was also attended by over thirty high-achieving students. In its 15-year history, the Stars of Stony Brook Gala has raised over \$37 million to support student scholarships and various hands-on research programs.

V. STUDENT & FACULTY ACCOLADES

Four SBU Students Selected as 2014 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellows

Four Stony Brook University students have been selected to join the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program. The award winners are: **Dara Bobb-Semple** in Chemistry, **Stephen K. Lee** in Biomedical Engineering, **Marisa Lim** in Ecology & Evolution, and **Micah Mumper** in Psychology/Cognitive Science. Each fellow will receive a three-year annual stipend of \$32,000. This year’s competition attracted over 14,000 applicants from among the nation’s top STEM graduate students and 2,000 awardees were selected.

James H. Simons Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

James H. Simons, Ph.D., research professor and former chair of the Department of Mathematics at Stony Brook University and chairman of the board of the Simons Foundation, has been named a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Simons is the founder of the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics at Stony Brook University, a research center devoted to furthering fundamental knowledge in mathematics and theoretical physics – especially knowledge at the interface of these two disciplines. He is among 84 new members and 21 foreign associates from 15 countries that were elected in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

Two SBU Professors Elected into the American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Two Stony Brook University professors have been elected as fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS). **Ken A. Dill, Ph.D.**, Distinguished Professor of Physics and Chemistry, and Director of the Laufer Center for Physical & Quantitative Biology, and **Jules Ralph Feiffer**, an artist, writer, and longtime faculty member of the Stony Brook Southampton MFA program in Creative Writing and Literature, will be formally inducted at a ceremony in October at the Academy's headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The AAAS is one of the nation's oldest learned societies and independent policy research centers, and convenes leaders from the academic, business, and government sectors to address critical challenges facing our global society.

Four SBU Professors Named 2014 Guggenheim Fellows

In the 90th annual John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation competition, **Dr. Mark Aronoff**, a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Linguistics; **Dr. Eva Kittay**, a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Philosophy; **Dr. William Chittick**, a professor in the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies; and **Annie Baker**, a core faculty member in the MFA in Theatre program at Stony Brook Southampton, were selected as fellows on the basis of prior achievement and exceptional promise.

Annie Baker Wins 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Drama

Critically acclaimed playwright **Annie Baker**, a core faculty member in the MFA in Theatre program at Stony Brook Southampton, has been awarded the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play *The Flick*. The drama award, which includes a \$10,000 prize, is “for a distinguished play by an American author, preferably original in its source and dealing with American life,” according to the official guidelines. The Columbia University prize board said Baker’s play was “a hilarious and heart-rending cry for authenticity in a fast-changing world.”

VI. STONY BROOK’S GREEN EFFORTS RECEIVE RECOGNITION

Stony Brook University was recognized twice during a week of Earth Day celebrations for environmental stewardship programs that place us as a leader in sustainability among all U.S. university and college campuses. The Princeton Review and the U.S. Green Building Council named Stony Brook as one of the nation’s most environmentally friendly or “green” colleges for

the fifth year in a row. Stony Brook also put forth a strong showing in the 2014 RecycleMania Tournament, recycling the most e-waste of all colleges and universities for the second straight year.

VII. COMMENCEMENT & HONORS PROGRAMS SET FOR THIS MONTH

Stony Brook University will celebrate its 54th Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 23 at 11:00 a.m. in the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. The Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, May 22 at 1:00 p.m. in the Pritchard Gymnasium. A Baccalaureate Honors Convocation will also take place on May 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Pritchard Gymnasium. This ceremony will recognize candidates graduating with distinctions of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude, as well as members of Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi and recipients of the Chancellor's and Provost's awards. As of April 30, a total of 5,819 students have applied for graduation (includes all degrees), with approximately 2,700 students indicating that they would participate in the Main Commencement Ceremony.

Having received approval from the SUNY Board of Trustees, Stony Brook will bestow honorary degrees upon **Dorothy Lichtenstein** (Doctor of Humane Letters) at the Main Commencement Ceremony and **Dr. David Robert Walt** (Doctor of Science) at the Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony.

VIII. RECENT EVENTS

Stony Brook Holds Earthstock 2014

Stony Brook Earthstock, the week-long campus celebration of Earth Day, took place from April 21-25. The week featured a number of environmental programs, including the University's first-ever "Tweet-Up," which featured renowned Indianapolis Prize finalists **Drs. Patricia Wright, Carl Safina and Russell Mittermeier**. The week closed with the Earthstock Festival and keynote lecture delivered by **Dr. Robert Howarth**, The David R. Atkinson Professor of Ecology & Evolution at Cornell University.

Opening of Newly Refurbished Recreation Fields

Stony Brook celebrated the opening of its newly renovated Campus Recreation Field Complex with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the southeast corner of the South P parking area of the campus on April 16. Students will have primary use of the three competition size turf and grass fields, which measure over nine square acres and include lights for evening practice and competition.

IX. ATHLETICS UPDATE

The Stony Brook Athletics' spring season is in full swing and enjoying great success. All of the teams have qualified for conference tournaments. One NCAA bid has already been earned and several teams are currently the top seed heading into their respective conference championships.

Tennis

The women's tennis team and Head Coach **Gary Glassman** are headed to the NCAA Tournament after capturing the America East Championship for an impressive third straight year. Junior **Polina Movchan** (Kiev, Ukraine) was named America East Player of the Year and freshman **Nadia Smergut** (New York, NY) earned Rookie of the Year. The team will open NCAA Tournament play against Texas A&M on May 9. On the men's side, the team also advanced to the Championship match before falling to #1 seed Binghamton University.

Softball

As they finish up their regular season play, Head Coach **Megan Bryant** and the softball team have already amassed 30 wins and are in first place. The team hopes to clinch the America East Conference title, host the Championship tournament and earn a second straight trip to the NCAA Tournament. The team is led by junior pitcher **Allison Cukrov** (Irvine, CA), who has allowed only four earned runs in her last 59 1/3 innings. She has garnered two consecutive America East Pitcher of the Week honors.

Baseball

Head Coach **Matt Senk** and his team are currently 25-14 this season (as of May 2), having won 25 of their last 33 games. They are in first place in America East play with an 11-3 conference record. Senior first baseman **Kevin Courtney** (Lindenhurst, NY) is one of 30 baseball players across the nation nominated for the Senior CLASS Award, which recognizes players with leadership qualities on and off the field.

Women's Lacrosse

Third year Head Coach **Joe Spallina** and the women's lacrosse team earned a share of the regular season conference title, and will be the top seed and host school for the America East Championship. Senior goalie **Frankie Caridi** (East Northport, NY) has been named one of 25 nominees for the Tewaaraton Award – the preeminent lacrosse award that honors the top male and female college lacrosse players in the nation. Caridi was named America East Defender of the Year and freshman midfielder **Dorrien Van Dyke** (Northport, NY) took home the Rookie of the Year honor.

Men's Lacrosse

Head Coach **Jim Nagle** and the men's lacrosse team earned the fourth seed in the America East Championship. The teams' Championship appearance was their 14th since joining the conference in 2000. Sophomore **Challen Rodgers** (Coquitlam, British Columbia) was selected to the America East first-team.

Outdoor Track & Field

Head Coach **Andy Ronan** and the Outdoor Track and Field team have been led by impressive performances by sophomore **Christina Melian** (Staten Island, NY) and senior **Olivia Burne**

(Palmerston North, New Zealand). Melian ran a personal record time in the 5,000 meters at the Penn Relays and just missed a guaranteed spot in the NCAA Regional Championships. Burne placed fourth in the 3,000 meters and notched a career best time. The senior standout was also named the America East Scholar-Athlete winner for her academic performance during the indoor season.

Men's Basketball

After another banner year for the men's basketball program, which included the team's fourth 20-win season in the last five years, Stony Brook University has agreed to a contract extension for head men's basketball coach **Steve Pikiell** through the end of the 2018-19 season. Pikiell recently completed his ninth season coaching the Seawolves, and he has firmly established the program as one of the best in the America East Conference, the Metropolitan New York area and the Northeast Region.

Women's Basketball

After three seasons as head coach of the women's basketball team, **Beth O'Boyle** resigned to accept the head coach position at VCU.