

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** University Senate  
**FROM:** Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.  
President  
**DATE:** December 3, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** President's Report

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**I. NAMING OF THE RENAISSANCE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY**

The **Board of Trustees of the State University of New York** recently approved the naming of the **Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University**. This is in recognition of the 111 current and former employees of Renaissance Technologies and their families, who have donated more than \$500 million to date including \$166.5 million directly benefiting Stony Brook Medicine and its School of Medicine.

**II. STONY BROOK RANKED FOURTH BEST COLLEGE FOR MARINE BIOLOGY BY COLLEGE MAGAZINE**

College Magazine has ranked Stony Brook University fourth on its list of "The 10 Best Colleges for Marine Biology." Stony Brook is the only university in New York State and in the Northeast to make the top 10 list. Stony Brook's program in the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS) was noted for its hands-on field research and experience in and around the Shinnecock Bay, the Peconic River and the greater Atlantic Ocean through the Marine Science Center on the Stony Brook Southampton campus.

**III. FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT ACCOLADES**

**Paul Kelton** was recently appointed to the inaugural **Robert David Lion Gardiner Endowed Chair in American History** at a ceremony held in the Charles B. Wang Center.

**Professor Minh Hoai Nguyen and his team**, in the **Department of Computer Science**, earned a **National Science Foundation award** worth nearly \$1.2 million, which will allow researchers in computer science and psychology to work together to research patterns in human eye movement in order for computational systems to anticipate responses to certain stimuli.

**Jennifer Gersten**, a DMA candidate in the Department of Music, received the **2018 Rubin Prize in Music Criticism**. The \$10,000 award is given by the Stephen and Cynthia Rubin Institute for Music Criticism at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

**Ken A. Dill**, distinguished professor in the Departments of Chemistry and Physics & Astronomy and the Louis and Beatrice Laufer Endowed Chair of Physical and Quantitative Biology, has been awarded the **American Physical Society's 2019 Max Delbrück Prize in Biological Physics** for his independent contributions to a new view of protein folding.

The following six Stony Brook University faculty members have been named fellows of the **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**:

- **Robert B. Grubbs**, Department of Chemistry
- **K. Daniel O'Leary**, Department of Psychology
- **Eliza Reilly**, Department of Technology and Society
- **Steven Skiena**, Department of Computer Science
- **Esther Takeuchi**, Department of Chemistry, Department of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering
- **Vincent W. Yang**, Departments of Medicine and Physiology and Biophysics

The American Mathematical Society (AMS) has named professors **Christopher Bishop and Mark De Cataldo** to the **2019 class of AMS Fellows**. The Fellows of the AMS designation recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions to the creation, exposition, advancement, communication, and utilization of mathematics.

**Emily Snyder**, Associate Director of the Office of Commuter Student Services and Off-Campus Living, received the **William C. Hine Distinguished Service Award** from the Alpha Sigma Lambda (ASL) National Honor Society in recognition of her work on behalf of non-traditional students.

**Xiuxiong Chen**, a professor in the Department of Mathematics, and **Sir Simon Donaldson**, a permanent member of the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics are two of three awardees of the **American Mathematical Society 2019 Oswald Veblen Prize in Geometry**. The Veblen Prize is awarded every three years for outstanding research work in geometry or topology.

**Danny Bluestein**, Professor of Biomedical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, has been awarded a **\$3.84 million Bioengineering Research Partnership U01 grant** from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering for his proposal "Biomechanical Approaches and Technologies for Enhancing TAVR Outcomes."

#### IV. RECENT EVENTS

**Prince Emmanuel de Merode**, noted conservationist and director of the Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was awarded an **Honorary Degree Doctor of Humane Letters** for his selfless and heroic devotion to saving African wildlife and for supporting the rangers who protect them. As part of the Presidential Lecture series, he also screened and discussed the Oscar-nominated documentary *Virunga*, which depicts efforts to protect the park from poachers, armed militia and other threats.

#### V. UPCOMING EVENTS

**Winter Commencement** is scheduled for **Friday, December 21** at **11:00 a.m.** in the **IFCU Arena**.

#### VI. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Since the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1, we have secured a total of \$14.1 million from 5,002 donors. The following are the most recent examples of how our generous donors are investing in our students, faculty, and patients through their giving:

- \$600,000 to successfully complete fundraising for an Endowed Professorship in Global Citizenship in the College of Arts and Sciences
- \$500,000 for the Pediatric Emergency Department Expansion Fund
- \$450,000 for Staller Center, academic and athletic scholarships
- \$125,000 for the Digital Humanities Project at University Libraries
- \$100,000 for a graduate assistantship in the College of Business

#### VII. ATHLETICS UPDATE

**Men's Basketball** is 6-1 and off to its best start since the 1992-93 season when Stony Brook competed in Division III as the Patriots. The team defeated an SEC opponent (South Carolina) for the first time in program history and has beaten Rhode Island and George Washington from the Atlantic 10 Conference.

**Women's Basketball** is 5-1 after defeating Penn State on Nov. 25. It was the program's first-ever win over a Big Ten team.

**Volleyball** made history by winning 17 consecutive matches on the way to its second consecutive America East championship and NCAA Tournament appearance. The team faced No. 4 BYU in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Nov. 30.

**Football** reached the NCAA FCS Playoffs for the second consecutive year while finishing the regular season ranked No. 15.

Senior football student-athlete **Chris Infantino** received the prestigious **Chuck Boone Leadership and Excellence Award**, an honor awarded by the Colonial Athletic Association to the student-athlete who embodies the highest standards of leadership, integrity, teamwork, and sportsmanship in academics and athletics. Chris graduated last May with a double major in biology and psychology and is currently pursuing a Master's of Science degree in Biomedical Sciences. He is an ambassador for the Concussion Legacy Foundation and participates in Uplifting Athletes, a fundraising event to raise awareness for rare disease research.

**Swimming and Diving** defeated LIU Post to claim the first win for the program since the team was reinstated last year following five years of renovations to University Pool. It was also the first victory for Kerry Smith, who came to Stony Brook from Yale, as a head coach.