

## From the Desk of Interim President Michael A. Bernstein

It is my privilege and pleasure to honor tradition by updating you on Stony Brook University's accomplishments of the past year and sharing our priorities for the coming one.

We have much to celebrate, thanks in large part to your dedicated generosity and commitment.

Great universities are built upon the foundation of great students, great faculty, and a great community of friends and alumni who believe in their missions.

This past year, Stony Brook has climbed in several of higher education's most prestigious rankings. This recognition comes as we continue to set a high standard for promoting social mobility and providing outstanding academic opportunities and medical services.

I'm proud to report that among U.S. public universities and hospitals, Stony Brook is now ranked:

- 39th on *U.S. News & World Report's* list of "America's Best Colleges"
- 13th on *Forbes's* list of "America's Best Value Colleges"
- 30th in the *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* College Rankings
- Top 100 America's Best Hospitals overall and Top 100 for Cardiac Care, Stroke Care and Coronary Intervention by Healthgrades.

Most importantly, we are thrilled to highlight the many Stony Brook students who have earned a wide range of prestigious fellowships, scholarships, and awards. Our most recent laurels include:

- Ten SBU students have been recognized by the Department of State's Fulbright U.S. Student Program – a highly competitive scholarship opportunity that provides funding for students from the United States to conduct research or teach English in over 140 countries overseas.
- Eleven Stony Brook students – including nine women – have been awarded Graduate Research Fellowships by the National Science Foundation. Another six SBU students earned honorable mentions. This is a record-breaking performance for Stony Brook.
- Three Stony Brook University students have been selected as recipients of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, recognizing outstanding undergraduates who intend to pursue STEM research careers.

- Fourteen Stony Brook University students received the 2019 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence at a ceremony in Albany, New York, on April 24. The award recognizes graduating seniors who have demonstrated campus leadership, academic excellence and service to their communities.

### **Creating Impact and Advancing Our University's Reputation**

Our faculty members are the lifeblood of this institution, and they keep Stony Brook at the forefront of academia. I am delighted to showcase the following faculty achievements.

**Peter van Nieuwenhuizen**, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Physics in the College of Arts and Sciences and the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics, received a Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics for the "invention of supergravity, in which quantum variables are part of the description of the geometry of spacetime." This is the second time in the award's seven-year history that a Stony Brook faculty member has been recognized. This honor — funded by some of the brightest minds in science and technology, including Mark Zuckerberg and Yuri Milner — follows the Breakthrough Prize for Mathematics received in 2014 by Sir Simon Donaldson of the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics.

**Howardena Pindell**, Professor of Art in the College of Arts and Sciences, has earned numerous recognitions this year. First, she received the 2019 Distinguished Artist Award for Lifetime Achievement by the College Art Association. She also received the George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award for *What Remains to Be Seen*, as well as an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). This fall, Professor Pindell will be awarded the 2019 Archives of American Art Medal by the Smithsonian.

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

**Sir Simon Donaldson** and **Professor of Mathematics Xiuxiong Chen** are two of three awardees of the American Mathematical Society's 2019 Oswald Veblen Prize in Geometry. The Veblen Prize is awarded for outstanding research work in geometry or topology.

Most recently, two Stony Brook faculty members received the Presidential Early

Career Award for Scientists and Engineers – the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers in the early stages of their careers. The honorees are **Sandeep Mallipattu, MD**, the Dialysis Clinic, Inc.-Martin Liebowitz Professor of Nephrology in the Renaissance School of Medicine, for his research in chronic kidney disease, and **Joanna Kiryluk, PhD**, Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Arts and Sciences, for her research on the origins of the universe’s most powerful cosmic accelerators.

Thanks to friends and alumni like you, Stony Brook can continue to provide more students with access to excellence in our classrooms, labs, and cultural venues. I am also excited to share the notable achievements attained by our athletic programs. For the first time in the University’s history, Stony Brook Athletics captured the America East Conference Commissioner’s Cup, honoring the conference’s most successful athletic program across all sports. Stony Brook student athletes captured six regular season conference titles during the 2018-19 academic year, winning conference tournaments in volleyball, baseball and women’s lacrosse.

### **Looking Ahead and Aiming for Optimum Impact**

We never waver from our mission as a public research university to advance knowledge and provide an exceptional college experience at a great value.

Stony Brook’s **Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center** will be the home of – and will play a key role in – a nationwide research and development consortium for the offshore wind industry. The consortium will collaborate with related industries, research laboratories, and other states.

Stony Brook University is also joining an elite roster of national institutions in a new business development feeder system spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority will foster the development of new health security protocols for preparedness to respond to threats ranging from chemical attacks and radiological terrorism to pandemic influenza and other biological outbreaks.

As the Class of 2023 arrives on our campus, we strive to provide these students with a high-quality and enriching university experience. We are investing in resources to ensure they can graduate on time, minimize their student debt, and be well prepared to excel at Stony Brook and beyond. I look forward to sharing more about how you help our students go further, faster.

Your belief in our University has empowered us to exceed the expectations of what anyone could have imagined when Stony Brook was first established. As we look to the future, we are energized to keep pushing forward. Thanks to your support, I am confident that we will continue this outstanding upward trajectory together.

I extend my sincerest gratitude for all that you do to make Stony Brook University an institution of excellence.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MA Bernstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael A. Bernstein  
Interim President