Stony Brook University

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

TO: University Senate

FROM: Minghua Zhang, Interim Provost and Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs
Distinguished Professor in School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences

DATE: Monday, March 2, 2020

Recognizing the Faculty Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, many faculty members have made ample accommodations to ensure that impacted students can continue their studies without interruption. The Office of the Provost extends its gratitude to these faculty members for their unwavering commitment to the academic success of their students.

Heather Lynch Chosen as AAAS Leshner Fellow

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has selected Stony Brook University Professor Heather Lynch as one of 12 researchers in the area of artificial intelligence (AI) to be a 2020-2021 AAAS Alan I. Leshner Leadership Institute Public Engagement Fellow. Dr. Lynch, Institute for Advanced Computational Science Endowed Chair for Ecology & Evolution, was chosen for having demonstrated leadership and excellence in her research career and for her interest in promoting meaningful dialogue between science and society.

Dr. Lynch has pioneered the use of satellite imagery for studying the distribution and abundance of Antarctic seabirds and published the first Antarctic-wide satellite-based surveys of both Adélie penguins and Antarctic petrels. More recently, her research group has been developing computer vision-based tools for annotating satellite imagery for penguins, pack-ice seals, and whales. She co-leads an NSF-funded program to train graduate students to work at the science-policy interface.

The AAAS Leshner Fellows will meet in June 2020 at AAAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. for a week of intensive public engagement and science communication training, networking, and public engagement plan development. They will use these tools and networks to increase the impact of their engagement activities and their capacity for public engagement leadership.

Robert Hough Awarded Sloan Research Fellowship

Robert Hough, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, has been selected to receive a 2020 Sloan Research Fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. He is one of 126 awardees from more than 60 institutions in the United States and Canada chosen for this prestigious honor, which comes with a $75,000 two-year fellowship. The Sloan Research Fellowship honors scholars whose creativity, leadership, and independent research achievements make them some

of the most promising researchers working today. The Sloan Foundation recognizes Sloan Fellows as "rising stars" and "the next generation of scientific leaders."

Fellowships are awarded in eight scientific fields: chemistry, computer science, economics, mathematics, computational and evolutionary molecular biology, neuroscience, ocean sciences, and physics. Administered and funded by the Sloan Foundation, the Sloan Research Fellowships are awarded in close coordination with the scientific community. To qualify, candidates must first be nominated by their fellow scientists, and are subsequently selected by independent panels of senior scholars.

Dr. Hough's current research concerns questions related to the enumeration of low degree number fields, extending some works cited in Manjul Bhargava's Fields medal, and studies the asymptotic mixing of large statistical physics models such as the abelian sandpile model and Kac model. A discussion of Dr. Hough's work on the 15-puzzle recently appeared in Quanta.

March Provost's Lecture Series

Validating Agents: Advocating, Supporting and Cultivating Student Success

Bridget Turner Kelly is Associate Professor of Student Affairs at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her scholarship focuses on marginalized populations in higher education, such as women and faculty of color. She has authored over 25 publications, including two articles that have received more than 200 citations each and two that have been cited in AMICUS briefs for U.S. Supreme Court cases. Dr. Kelly is an award winning teacher of intergroup dialogue and presents nationally on the topic. She served on the editorial review board of the *Journal of College Student Development* (JCSD), as Associate Editor for Media and Book Reviews for the *Journal of Student Affairs, Research and Practice* (JSARP), and now serves as the Executive Editor for *JSARP*. She is an author in and co-editor of *Engaging Images for Research, Pedagogy and Practice: Utilizing Visuals to Understand and Promote College Student Development* (2017, Stylus).

Abstract: Increasingly students coming to higher education are marginalized due to their race, gender, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, among other intersecting social identities, such as being a first-generation college student. Polices, programs, and people working in higher education must be prepared to meet the needs of these students. Our workforce and society is dependent on these students thriving in higher education and coming out prepared to transform the world. Dr. Kelly will share intentional actions faculty and staff can take to be successful in educating all students. Specifically, Dr. Kelly will present on how faculty and student affairs staff may serve as validating agents who advocate, support and cultivate student success. She will define validating agents from Laura Rendon's validation theory, share an empirical study of what assisted in the retention of undergraduate students at predominantly white institutions (PWIs), and end with implications for practice and practical suggestions for faculty and student affairs staff at Stony Brook University.

This event is part of the 25th annual Leadership Symposium and will be held on Wednesday, March 11 at 9:00 AM in the SAC Auditorium. It is co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and the School of Social Welfare.

President John Marburger III: Science Policy Lecture Series

Rosina Bierbaum is a Professor and Dean Emerita of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment and the Roy F. Weston Chair in Natural Economics at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. She chairs the Science and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, and serves as a Science Adviser to the Global Adaptation Commission. Dr. Bierbaum's experience extends from climate science into foreign relations and international development. She served for two decades in both the legislative and executive branches of the US Government and ran the first Environment Division of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She was named an Adaptation Fellow at the World Bank, co-authored the 2010 World Development Report on Climate Change, and served on President Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. She has led key reports on climate change – particularly highlighting the importance of adaptation – for the United Nations, the US Congress, the White House, and the World Bank. Dr. Bierbaum is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Ecological Society of America, and Sigma Xi. She earned a BA in English, a BS in biology and a PhD in ecology and evolution from Stony Brook University.

Abstract: John (Jack) Marburger III held many distinguished roles throughout his career ranging from scientist to Stony Brook University President to Science Advisor to President George W. Bush. His service to the university, country and scientific world is greatly missed. The President John Marburger III: Science Policy Lecture Series is an intellectual forum to hear from leading science policy scholars and practitioners about challenges facing our world. In the inaugural lecture by Rosina Bierbaum, she will recount some of her memories of President Marburger and share her thoughts about the direction of science and technology around the world.

This event will be held on Thursday, March 12 at 4:00 PM in Charles B. Wang Center Lecture Room 2. It is co-sponsored by the Department of Technology and Society, the Institute for Advanced Computational Science, and the Graduate School

Fireside Chat with Yusef Salaam

Yusef Salaam was just 15 years old when he and four other boys, then known as the Central Park Five, were wrongfully convicted of rape. Since his release from prison in 1997 and vacated conviction in 2002, Yusef has committed himself to advocating and educating people on the issues of false confessions, police brutality and misconduct, press ethics and bias, race and law, and the disparities in America's criminal justice system. Yusef was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in 2014 and received the President's Life Time Achievement Award in 2016 from President Barack Obama. He was appointed to the board of the Innocence Project in 2018. Several high-profile media projects have examined the case, including Ken and Sarah Burns'

2013 documentary *The Central Park Five* and Ava DuVerney's 2019 limited series *When They See Us*.

This event, moderated by Vice Provost Charles L. Robbins, will take place on Tuesday, March 24 at 4:00 PM in the Charles B. Wang Center Theater. It is co-sponsored by the Center for Changing Systems of Power and the Presidential Diversity Initiative.

Stony Brook-Led Team Awarded $4.2 Million Grant to Fight Prostate Cancer

A Stony Brook University-led research team has received a new five-year grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), totaling $4.2 million, to advance prostate cancer research through 2025. Iwao Ojima, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, and Martin Kaczocha, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, received a seed grant from the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University to conduct a preliminary study of FABP5 and its inhibitors as potential prostate cancer therapeutic target and agents. They are now working with a collaborative team that includes Robert Rizzo, Professor of Applied Mathematics and Statistics, and Lloyd Trotman, Professor at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Under this grant, the team will leverage structure-based drug design and chemical synthesis approaches to identify best FABP5 inhibitors for potency and selectivity, employ a robust in vitro inhibitor testing platform, and access the efficacy of candidate inhibitors in mouse models. They will also investigate FABP5 inhibitors when used as monotherapies, as well as in combination with FDA approved drugs.