

***REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE***

TO: University Senate

FROM: Michael A. Bernstein, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: Monday, May 1, 2017

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***Update on 2017 Seed Grant Proposals***

There were a total of 38 Seed Grant proposals submitted for the 2017 call. The SBU-BNL Seed Grant program serves to foster collaborative efforts between scientists at the University and BNL. It is a key opportunity for developing synergistic activities that can grow joint research programs aligned with the strategic plans of both institutions. For this 19th year, a minimum pool of \$200,000 will be distributed to proposals submitted jointly by SBU and BNL scientists. Winning proposals will be announced and principal investigators will be notified at the end of May.

For more information on Seed Grants, please visit  
<http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/bnl/seed/seed.html>.

***Provost's Award for Academic Excellence***

The Provost's Award for Academic Excellence is given annually to a very select number of graduating seniors who have shown true academic excellence in the classroom, as well as through research, creative activities, and community building. This year, the following 16 students were recognized for their achievements:

- Andrea Baatz
- Kwabena Busia
- Breana Channer
- Ramona Chen
- Joshua Farr
- Thomas Kennedy
- Hannah Mieczkowski
- Rebecca Monastero
- Jeremy Monroe
- Dwayne Moore
- Henry Ng
- Sebastian Ramirez
- Rebecca Shum
- Andrew Sullivan
- Stephen Tschudi
- Jessica Willdigg

## ***Celebration of Teaching***

Stony Brook University's Celebration of Teaching event will highlight and celebrate the dedication of our faculty to teaching excellence and student success. The reception will take place Wednesday, May 3, 2017 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Hilton Garden Inn to recognize SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professors; Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching faculty; departmental, school and college teaching awardees and graduate student teaching award winners.

## ***Mind/Brain Lecture with Dr. Eve Marder***

The 21st annual Swartz Foundation Mind/Brain Lecture Series was held on April 24, 2017. Eve Marder, the Victor and Gwendolyn Beinfield Professor of Neuroscience at Brandeis University, discussed "Understanding Why Animals Show Variable Responses to Climate Change." Her talk examined the effects the change in ocean temperature have on the nervous system of the crab *Cancer Borealis* and how her findings offered insight into why humans respond so variably to stressors.

Professor Marder pioneered the understanding of how a neural circuit can generate the necessary rhythmic firing patterns that control movements such as breathing and walking. For her contributions to neuroscience, she has received many prestigious awards, including most recently the 2016 Kavli Prize in Neuroscience.

The Mind/Brain Lecture Series is hosted by the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior and is supported by the Swartz Foundation which launched the lecture series at Stony Brook in 1997 to acquaint the campus and the public with current thoughts on brain research. The lecture series promotes the philosophical and scientific perspective that properties of the mind—from sensory perception to learning to thinking to consciousness—are a direct product of the intrinsic physical properties of the brain. The mind is the brain at work. Results from neuroscience research are converging to show that much of what the brain does can be modeled computationally. Understanding the relationship between neural computation and mental function is the work at hand. Getting there will require the collaboration of investigators from many disciplines and may involve principles and technology not yet conceived. Understanding the mind/brain relationship is an Everest of science, as well as one of the enduring conundrums of philosophy.

More information on past speakers and the lecture series can be found at [stonybrook.edu/mindbrain](http://stonybrook.edu/mindbrain).

## ***The Public Intellectual: Series Two with Visiting Lecturer Naomi Wolf***

*New York Times* best-selling nonfiction author and third-wave feminist activist Naomi Wolf returned to Stony Brook University to continue her four-part workshop series, "The Public Intellectual." These workshops featured hands-on, person-to-person coaching by Wolf, as well as in-session writing activities. Wolf designed the workshops to help students and faculty alike articulate their expertise and ideas to non-academic audiences and begin the process of becoming successful public intellectuals. The events included:

Workshop 1: What is a Public Intellectual? (February 28, 2017)

Participants learned why they should become public intellectuals and move constituencies to advance missions, persuade audiences, or secure goals.

Workshop 2: The “Pitch” (March 7, 2017)

Participants learned how to identify their core messages and communicate it winningly in any context.

Workshop 3: The Op-Ed (March 28, 2017)

Participants learned to master the art of “making their cases” in 800-1200 words.

Workshop 4: Live Presenting (April 18, 2017)

Participants received hands-on coaching in how to share their research, mission, or vision in a compelling, dynamic way with live, non-academic audiences, and how to interactively engage with audience members.

For more information on the series, please visit <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/cas/2017events/naomiwolf/publicintellectualseriestwo.html>.

***Enhancing Research Partnerships with EU Institutions***

The Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University, along with the Office of the Provost and Office of Research, hosted colleagues and partners in STEM education and research on April 20 at the Charles B. Wang Center for a collaborative discussion with Carlos Moedas, the European Commissioner of Research, Science, and Innovation.

Commissioner Moedas presented opportunities for Stony Brook University, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, and Brookhaven National Laboratory to engage more directly with European Union research institutions. Actor Alan Alda, a visiting professor in Stony Brook’s School of Journalism and founder of the Center for Communicating Science, introduced Commissioner Moedas and participated in a conversation about creating greater scientific research, funding and communication partnerships with EU institutions.

***Senior Show 2017 and URECA Art Exhibition***

Stony Brook University presents its annual exhibition of works by senior art majors and minors. The juried Senior Show 2017 includes paintings, sculpture, ceramics, prints, photographs, digital media, mixed-media installations, and works on paper. Faculty members of Stony Brook’s Art Department select from among the best work of this year’s graduating class.

Senior Show 2017 is presented concurrently with the URECA Art Exhibition. This annual art exhibition is dedicated to celebrating outstanding artwork created on campus by Stony Brook University undergraduate students this year. The 2017 URECA Art Exhibition presents nearly 30 student artists in a group show composed of distinct expressive voices using a variety of media in drawing and painting, sculpture and ceramics, printmaking and photography, video

and digital art. Sponsored by the Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities (URECA) and featured as a part of the Shirley Strum Kenny Student Arts Festival, this exhibition has juried awards and distinctions presented at the reception by the Interim Dean of Students Jerry Stein and the Director of Gallery North Judith Levy.

The Senior Show 2017 is on view through Friday, May 19 and the URECA Art Exhibition is on view through Saturday, May 6. Both exhibits are featured at the Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery.

### *April Provost's Lecture Series*

In celebration of Earthstock, the Provost's Lecture Series was pleased to host "Roadshow of Resistance: Saving the Planet, Indigenous Rights and Standing Rock" on Thursday, April 20 in the Student Activities Center.

The Roadshow of Resistance is a traveling revue of environmental activism and the rights of Indigenous People. It featured music by singer-songwriter Casey Neill and Diné/Cheyenne hip-hop artist Lyla June. It also included speeches by Lakota elder Cheryl Angel and Brytnée Laurette from the Center for Biological Diversity. This a powerful opportunity to learn more about the environment, the threat of climate change, and potential species extinction.