

***REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE***

TO: University Senate

FROM: Michael A. Bernstein, Professor of Business, Economics, and History  
Provost and Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs

DATE: Monday, May 6, 2019

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***Vertically Integrated Projects Program***

The Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) Program was established on a project-based model for higher education. It unites undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty members in multidisciplinary teams that work on long-term projects in research, design, innovation, and entrepreneurship. It provides a real-world context for course work, shapes career paths, and builds professional, teamwork, and leadership skills that cannot be taught in the classroom. Projects, teams, and participants are elevated by the broad knowledge, talents, and experiences assembled by engaging individuals from diverse disciplines and backgrounds. The long-term nature of the projects provides students with the opportunity to grow as a team member, make substantial contributions, and rise through the ranks of team leadership.

Applications for Fall 2019 are now open. For more information, please visit <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/vertically-integrated-projects/> or email [vip@stonybrook.edu](mailto:vip@stonybrook.edu).

***May Provost's Lecture Series***

**Walt Whitman and the Ethics of Optimism**

American composer, conductor, writer, and pianist Matthew Aucoin was named a 2018 MacArthur Fellow for his achievements in “expanding the potential of vocal and orchestral music to convey emotional, dramatic, and literary meaning.” His musical works vividly communicate the nuances, ambiguities, and multiple meanings of texts in musical form. Matthew Aucoin graduated from Harvard College and earned a Graduate Diploma from the Juilliard School. He is both Artist-in-Residence at the Los Angeles Opera and co-artistic director of the newly formed American Modern Opera Company. Aucoin is currently at work on a new opera, *Eurydice*, which has been co-commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera and the Los Angeles Opera.

*Abstract:* To celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Walt Whitman, this lecture and performance features 2018 MacArthur Fellow Matthew Aucoin, composer and writer of the critically acclaimed original opera *Crossing*, based on Walt Whitman's Civil War writings. Aucoin will discuss Whitman, the creation of *Crossing*, and the themes the opera addresses. Leading American operatic baritone Rod Gilfry, who originated the role of Whitman,

will perform with Aucoin. The opera was performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in 2017 and by the Los Angeles Opera in 2018. This event offered a rare opportunity for audiences in the New York area to hear this critically acclaimed work.

This lecture was held on Friday, May 3, at 5:00 PM in the Staller Center Recital Hall. It was co-sponsored by a FAHSS grant, the Run Run Shaw Fund, the University Libraries, the Humanities Institute, and the Departments of English and Music.

### ***URECA 2019: Celebration of Undergraduate Research & Creativity***

URECA's Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creativity took place on Wednesday, April 24th. The day featured exhibits and presentations of undergraduate researchers. URECA's Celebration of Undergraduate Research & Creativity is an annual event organized by the URECA Program that showcases undergraduate research and is open to all SBU undergraduates conducting faculty-mentored research and creative projects. As the only university-wide research symposium, this event provides a way for faculty and students to see what is going on in their own and other departments. The success of URECA's Research Celebration relies on the efforts of faculty who provide time, resources, and encouragement to participate.

For more information, please visit  
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/ureca/celebration/symposium>.

### ***2019 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 students were recognized for their achievements:

James Breton  
Hung Wei "Bernie" Chen  
Eilona Feder  
Sean Fiola  
Amgad Ghoprial  
Sabrina Grunseich  
Thomas Malachowski  
Alexandra Nerantzinis  
Andrew Nwuba  
Gabrielle Paniccia  
Rideeta Raquib  
Lee Ann Santore  
Timothy Jack Tan  
Rui Qi "Angela" Zheng

***Final Grade Submission Deadline***

Spring 2019 final exams end on Wednesday, May 22. In order to run the academic standing and graduation clearance process in a timely manner, faculty must submit grades via SOLAR within three working days of the final exam. The final deadline for submission of spring grades is Tuesday, May 28.