

To: All Faculty

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to announce a new institute established at Stony Brook University, dedicated to research and education in paleontology, archeology, and geology in the Turkana Basin of East Africa.

A joint venture with Richard, Meave and Louise Leakey, the new Turkana Basin Institute draws on the outstanding strengths of our faculty in the Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences, as well as Anatomical Sciences, Anthropology, Ecology and Evolution, and Geosciences. The Institute will also build on the amazing discoveries that the Leakey family has made in the Turkana region and global attention they have brought to the history of human origins. Professor John Fleagle, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Anatomical Sciences has accepted the role of Director for the Institute. John has been with Stony Brook University since 1975 and has earned international acclaim for his work in evolutionary biology and anatomy, particularly in humans and primates.

Despite decades of dedicated research, there are large gaps in our understanding of human origins and evolution. Greater progress in this research requires a focused multidisciplinary approach that not only builds on the academic excellence of our University, but partners with young African scientists and academic institutions in the developing world.

The institute will have its academic home at Stony Brook University and three field research facilities in eastern Africa surrounding Lake Turkana. In addition to the unique field opportunities for faculty, graduate students and undergraduates offered by the TBI, the Institute will develop lecture series, symposia, college courses, graduate fellowships and postdoctoral fellowships as well as globalinternet-based educational offerings with various other international institutions, including the National Geographic Society.

I would encourage any faculty who wished to be involved in this new Institute to contact Professor Fleagle and hope that you will also pass this announcement along to any of your students who may be interested.

Sincerely,

Robert L. McGrath

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs