FOR 50 YEARS, WE HAVE SET IMPOSSIBLE GOALS...AND MET THEM. HERE WE GO AGAIN!
You have all heard about the tipping point; now we have reached it. We have achieved our original bold aspirations, and we have done it in just 49 years. It’s time to celebrate the past—and embrace the future. Because now we are setting out on our new—and even bolder—set of goals. Given our trajectory thus far, that future will be glorious.

First, the past. In 1965, eight years after the new State University College on Long Island opened at Planting Fields and three years after it moved to Stony Brook and changed its name, an article published in Science was headlined, “Stony Brook: Young and Ambitious New York Institution is Beginning to Stir Notice in Academic World.” The article spoke of a “puzzling” aspect in the “manhunting activity known as faculty and administrative recruiting”—some of the most sought-after talent was going to “a virtual unknown of the academic scene,” the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Stony Brook had a total enrollment of 1,789, had lacked a president for more than three years, had only a limited number of graduate programs, but already had a fair sprinkling of academic luminaries among its 209 faculty members. Now Stony Brook had “pried” away—that was the term used—that was the term used—John S. Toll from the University of Maryland to be president, and he had lured H. Bentley Glass from Johns Hopkins to be academic vice president. C.N. Yang, the Nobel laureate in physics at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, was at Stony Brook as a three-month visiting professor; it was rumored he was a possibility for the Einstein professorship, which carried $100,000 a year and very few restrictions on how it could be spent between salary and other items. Incidentally, that $100,000 chair should be measured
against the president’s compensation of $30,000 plus a house, and the vice president’s $27,000 salary. Ward Melville had contributed 480 acres (it is true; it was not the entire 1,039-acre campus we have now). It was rumored that Stony Brook might be adding as many as 100 faculty a year for the next four or five years, half of them at the tenure level. “Inevitably,” the article continued, “it soon began to be asked on campuses and at professional meetings, what is Stony Brook?”

Some other aspects of those early days are not as well known. For example, humanists then detected a tendency to bend over backwards to make certain the humanities were not shortchanged. President Toll felt strongly that the intellectual care and feeding of undergraduates was to be a prime concern. “The University,” he said, “should be oriented toward undergraduates. This is good for the undergraduates, and it is good for the graduate programs and research.” He looked toward preventing students “from feeling lost in the University,” and encouraged “activities outside of class that will give the student a sense of a relationship with the University. I’d like to see faculty members residing in the dormitories, and I’d like to have lectures in the dorms. Above all, I want the students to feel that they are somebody at the University.”

That article in Science appeared 40 years ago. It is amazing that now, even though we, as an institution, have selective memories about that era—remembering the great appointments and the relatively generous investment of the State, but forgetting the vision of deeply involved undergraduates in the early years (what I hear about most is mud and the drug raids)—we have realized that original vision. It has taken a little mental readjustment to recognize that we have reached it, and now it is time to build from that great past to an original and worthy vision for the future.

The wider academic world also knows we have reached those early goals; our successes are no longer deemed “puzzling.” Our creative impulses were shaped by those early visionaries, and Stony Brook has remained true to their vision. For many years our greatest aspiration was to be recognized by election to the Association of American Universities (AAU); we passed that hurdle some five years ago. Now no one is surprised when Stony Brook is ranked with the great universities. But what is truly amazing is that we have come so far, so fast.

Recently, we have received a lot of recognition. The London Times Higher Education Supplement ranks us 136 among the world’s 8,300 universities, well within the top 2 percent. Its rankings list us in the top 50 universities in North America, and in science we make the top 100 in the world, top 25 in North America, and top ten among American public universities. The Institute of Higher Education in
Shanghai agrees in its rankings—we are in the top 100 to 150 of 8,300 (they do not give more precise rankings). *U.S. News & World Report* rates us in the top 100 national universities and in the top 50 public national universities. Beyond that, we are listed in “Programs to Look For” as outstanding for undergraduate research and creative projects. We also are recognized as one of the national institutions whose students graduate with the least debt. It is notable that in 2003 we were ranked 117 in *U.S. News & World Report* and last year we were 106; so at 97 now, we have moved up 20 slots in two years.

The *Fiske Guide* is also complimentary, talking of our aim to be “the model of a student-centered research university,” and pointing out our six Undergraduate Colleges, which “provide a small college community experience with all the assets of a leading research university.” *Fiske* notes that Stony Brook made a name for itself with top-notch programs in the hard sciences; the guide recognizes a “highly competitive learning environment” as well as “the high quality of its professors.” *Fiske* even points out that students “boast of their school’s diversity and creativity as well as the feeling of hospitality that pervades campus life.” *The Princeton Review*, which, this year, discusses Stony Brook in its rating of the best 361 colleges nationwide, for years had ranted about our tiny—yes, tiny—ugly campus. This year that misinformation was omitted; instead the guide spoke glowingly of our “solid reputation in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering” and our “brilliant professors.” One student talked about our athletic programs and facilities as excellent. Yes, even *The Princeton Review* now has to admit Stony Brook is outstanding.
Our skepticism about the methodology of the commercial rankings has not diminished. Nevertheless, it is nice to be on the right side in the listings. It is good to see that people know what has been built in this incredibly short time, 49 years in all, 43 years in Stony Brook, 40 years since John Toll arrived and recruited Bentley Glass, Frank Yang, and the other greats of that generation of pioneers.

As we continue to excel in the central goals of this University, we do so in a world that has changed radically, and we must respond to those changes. We must build on the strengths of that mid-century effort, but we must also envision the next 50 years and meet the new challenges with intelligence and foresight.

As President Toll foretold decades ago, one of the most important goals has been to make Stony Brook a great place for undergraduates to learn. Over the past several years, we have seen the fruition of that dream. We have become one of the strongholds for undergraduate education, noted across the country. Our Reinvention Center, which grew out of the report of the Boyer Commission, *Reinventing Undergraduate Education: A Blueprint for America’s Research Universities*, which I chaired, now helps universities nationwide build their undergraduate programs. We are a stronghold of undergraduate research, as noted by *U.S. News & World Report*, and I can think of nothing more important to the undergraduate experience, whether or not the young researcher continues in the field in which he or she worked. Now, thanks to the dedication and determination of Provost Robert McGrath and the energy and innovation of our faculty, the Undergraduate Colleges are fully operating, giving students an opportunity as freshmen to be part of a residential college focused on one of six selected topics. And this fall, for the first time, all freshmen will participate in a seminar. Freshman seminars and undergraduate research are two of the key components of the Boyer recommendations, and we stand in the very good company of universities like Stanford and Cornell in making sure all our students get those opportunities.

For many years the mantra at Stony Brook was that there was nothing to do outside the classrooms; the University closed up on the weekends because everybody went home; parties had to be held on Thursday nights. Well, it is not true anymore. Now students are beginning to complain that too many events are scheduled at the same time (a nice problem). There are more than 200 clubs, plenty of
events on weekends, and Division I athletics. Thanks to Jerry Stein, our dean of students, Jim Fiore, director of athletics, and everyone that works with them, there is more than enough for students to do outside the classroom. On Fridays the campus is busy and full of people, and on Saturdays the Stadium is the place to be. Our men’s and women’s basketball season promises to be lively with our two outstanding new coaches. Lacrosse, soccer, baseball, and the other team sports show great promise (last year our baseball team won the conference title and went to the NCAA tournament).

We now have housing for nearly 9,000 students; all the old residence halls were refurbished, and we have two new complexes, eight new buildings for apartment-style living. The entire renewal and expansion project, which cost $150 million, was all handled on a self-support basis, thanks to Dallas Bauman and his staff. No money from the University budget went into the project. The result? We still do not have enough housing—this fall we had to triple 300 rooms, or 900 students, although that situation will straighten out over the year. This is true although our capacity is dramatically higher; now two-thirds of our undergraduates have on-campus housing. Moreover, our students have an increasing number of places in which they can use their meal cards, including the Student Activities Center; the glatt kosher deli Delancey Street; and the Asian food court Jasmine in the Wang Center. And although the University Club was closed for the renovation of the Graduate Chemistry Building, the faculty and staff, of course, also have more variety through these venues, not to mention the J Club in Jasmine with a daily buffet and table service, and the new Market Place Café in the Hospital.
The result of these improvements?

- The most freshman applications the University has ever received (graph 1);
- The largest freshman class in the history of Stony Brook (graph 2);
- The most new transfer students (graph 3)—this fall we also opened our doors to 13 students from Tulane University and other colleges affected by Hurricane Katrina;
- The highest SAT scores since the scores were recentered in 1996 (we had no way of measuring before then) (graph 4).

This year we are adding a winter session in January in which students can earn up to four credits in three weeks. We are also developing more summer courses. Stony Brook Manhattan, which was packed with summer students again this year, allows us to expand our summer programs and serve those of our students who work in New York City. We hope to offer courses such as freshman math and English that are overbooked during the regular sessions, thus easing the crush and allowing students to take these courses early rather than waiting to take them.

So, yes, we have worked hard to serve our undergraduates, an area that needed so much improvement that it had threatened our Middle States accreditation 11 years ago. We are also creating some strong new undergraduate majors. The Health Science major, introduced only five years ago, in that short time has grown from 66 to 1,000 students. Our education program has received NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) approval and continues to grow. This year Howie Schneider, former editor of Newsday, is developing the Journalism major. This, too, promises to be a highly successful program.
popular major, particularly since it is being con-
ected to study of the other disciplines on cam-
pus to create journalists knowledgeable about
science, technology, medicine, etc. We also have
nearly 50 majors eligible for the new five-year
bachelor’s/MBA program.

Obviously in our other core missions, graduate
study and research, we continue to improve. Our
Research Foundation volume rose again this year
(graph 5); we led SUNY. In fact, we are responsible
for 22 percent of all of the Research Foundation
expenditures for the 64 campuses.

Of course, the opportunities for research at
Brookhaven National Laboratory are stronger
than ever now that we co-manage it. Not only our
faculty but also graduate students and, in some
cases, undergraduates are working on projects
there, and not only in physics but in many fields,
including the biomedical. Faculty and graduate
students also conduct research at Cold Spring
Harbor Laboratory.

As we continue to upgrade facilities, our research
and graduate needs loom large. We are now
improving our academic facilities. This year the
Humanities Building and the Heavy Engineering
Building will come on line. Graduate Chemistry
will go off line next, as we continue to rehab the
old buildings. The Recreation Center, so long in
coming, has been funded by a $19 million legisla-
tive initiative, and the design phase will get under-
way this year. There will, of course, also be some
minor rehabs possible from our own capital funds,
and the “quality of life” funding for small projects such
as faculty/student lounges will continue.
“As we look at our future, it is time for a new vision of how we fit in to both the educational and economic picture for the State of New York.”

Although the roadwork has proven extremely irritating (construction within buildings certainly is a lot less messy!), most of our visitors speak of the stunning beauty of the campus and what an impact it has—prospective students and their parents are moved by it, alumni love it, and other SUNY administrators and faculty are deeply impressed. The beautification has come slowly as funds become available, but I believe we have reached critical mass to create a very different image of Stony Brook. The latest addition, the Staller Terraces, was a gift of the Stony Brook Foundation. Not only do the Terraces provide pleasant space for students to enjoy, they will also provide an amphitheatre that can be used for a variety of purposes, with the patio in front of Staller as the stage.

We have another important role, however, beyond education and research, and that is our contribution to economic development. We now have three incubators, and our contributions to local companies, large and small, through such programs as the New York State Strategic Partnership for Industrial Resurgence (SPIR) and the incubators, tie us closely to business. We also know we are indispensable to the Long Island economy because of our 22,000 students, 13,000 employees, and the multiplier effect on the economy—we are, in fact, the largest single-site employer on Long Island.

As we look at our future, it is time for a new vision of how Stony Brook fits into both the educational and economic picture for the State of New York. Stony Brook is a great international university, with many international students, many international programs that our own students attend from Korea to India to Tanzania to Italy and well beyond, and a worldwide reputation. This is a first-tier national university, as the rankings clearly demonstrate. But as I have often said, to be a great national university we must also be a great local university, and now that obligation has become far more complex, and far fuller of promise.

Stony Brook is the only research university on Long Island, which, if you count Brooklyn and Queens, comprises 7.5 million people. We have the only tertiary care hospital in Suffolk County, a county of 1.5 million residents; at present the Hospital is undergoing a $300 million renovation. It is incumbent on us to realize our role in serving all the people of Long Island at the same time we serve our national and international constituencies. And it is essential that we recognize, as we extend our reach, that every new initiative must enhance the main campus; nothing we do can detract attention or resources from it.
In the past several years, we took the first steps. First, we bid for and won the contract with our partners Battelle Memorial Institute to manage Brookhaven National Lab. It was a highly controversial move at the time, perceived as risky because of the contamination at the Lab. But it was worth the risk—it put us in the same category as the few elite national universities managing national labs. Given our strength in physics and the other sciences, it made sense; after all, the University was reputedly originally sited here because of the proximity to Brookhaven. And I have no doubt that it raised our image among our peers, such as the members of AAU.

Stony Brook Manhattan opened in 2001, bringing our programs—particularly those in Social Welfare, Health Technology and Management, and Business—to a larger audience. It also made summer school accessible for many of our students, who could not keep their summer jobs and commute to Stony Brook. And, of course, it gave us a terrific site for meeting our alumni and donors, so many of whom live and/or work in New York City.

Next we opened the incubator in Calverton, intended to focus on aquaculture and related fields; the State provided the building and the town of Riverhead provided us 50 acres of land from the old Grumman complex. In the years to come, we will be able to develop that property as needed, although no further growth is anticipated in the near future. The Long Island High Tech Incubator adjacent to the Health Sciences complex and the software incubator at present housed on campus give us three sites for incubating new companies, many started by our own faculty. They also offer our graduate students opportunities for internships and jobs.

Clearly we need now to be concerned about bringing the fledgling companies from the incubators to the next stage of their development, hoping thereby to keep them on Long Island. That is why the acquisition of the Gyrodyne property, adjacent to the campus, became a key step in Stony Brook’s development. Although offers to purchase and then eminent domain proceedings have continued ad nauseum, we are now finalizing the details of the process acquiring the portion of the property needed to build a research and development park. Architects have begun designing the first of the ten buildings to be located there, the Center of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology; soon they can continue their work directly on the land. Stony Brook should be able to spawn new high-tech companies that settle on Long Island the way other great universities, such as Stanford, MIT, and the University of Texas, have done in their vicinities; the research and development park will create the paths.

The most recent addition to our expansion agenda is Southampton College. No one could have predicted or planned for the opportunities that exist at Southampton any more than we could have foreseen that the Brookhaven management would be terminated and a new set of managers sought.
The acquisition of Southampton College’s marine science programs will make Stony Brook the only campus in the SUNY system with direct access to the Atlantic Ocean.

But when the possibility for such an important development occurs, we must be smart enough to see the opportunities and agile enough to seize them. The question of whether to take on Southampton within the Stony Brook complex was not an easy or obvious one. The campus had great potential, but we could not afford to divert money or attention from the main campus. If Long Island University, with a higher tuition base, had decided to close, why did we think we could do better? And did this acquisition fit with the broader concept to develop Stony Brook?

A lot of careful thought went into those questions. A faculty committee was formed to consider curriculum. Detailed financial analyses were completed and a business plan developed. The physical plant was examined for weaknesses. The business analysis determined it is feasible financially, given economies of scale, shared administrative systems, and enrollment success. Meanwhile, through a three-year lease of the appropriate facilities, the Marine Sciences Research Center took over LIU’s undergraduate Marine Sciences programs, with access to the Atlantic Ocean that not only we but no other SUNY campus had ever had. That program has just gotten underway this fall.

The interdisciplinary curriculum committee for Southampton programming devised the outlines of a curriculum that would focus on ecological sustainability, surely the inescapable issue of the 21st century, in a highly interdisciplinary fashion, utilizing not only our science programs but Economics, Political Science, and other aspects as well. It has proposed four or five majors for the campus, starting with those in Marine Sciences. The Southampton program is anticipated to grow to 2,000 students within four or five years, starting in 2006, primarily upper-division
students after they have decided to major in one of these fields. We will also have programs open to SUNY students from other campuses for a specially designed semester at Southampton in Marine Sciences. Given the location of the campus, we will continue to build strength in the arts as well.

Thanks to the foresight and strenuous efforts of Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, the State allocated $35 million for the purpose of acquiring the 81-acre campus. These are not SUNY funds but an appropriation of additional State funding for this specific purpose.

The SUNY Board of Trustees has voted to give the Chancellor the authority to purchase the property. There’s a long road before all of the steps are taken—environmental review, title searches, approval by the Comptroller and the Attorney General, etc.—but we hope to have the process far enough along to attract a beginning class for next fall.

Now one sees a very different footprint for Stony Brook University from the original 480 acres that Ward Melville contributed. We stretch from Manhattan to Riverhead and soon Southampton; our Hospital is making alliances with other Island hospitals such as Central Suffolk to extend our health-care services; we manage one of the few national laboratories, and we sponsor three incubators. Soon we will also have a research and development park in which University members and corporations together sponsor research and the development of new products. If you put pins on a map, our influence will stretch from Manhattan to the East End, from the North Shore to the South Shore. Now that’s serving Long Island!
The Capital Campaign is “a new way of looking at Stony Brook, as a mature institution worthy of the financial support of its friends, alumni, faculty, and corporate partners.”

At the same time, our prime mission will always be to continue to build the main campus for undergraduate and graduate education, research, and health care. And to do that in an era in which we compete with institutions with far stronger funding bases, we must concentrate on building our financial strength through multiple strategies—state funding, tuition, grants, self-support initiatives, and fundraising.

This year fundraising has definitely come front and center. In the past Stony Brook was behind the curve, a consequence of being created at a time in which the State was generous, and then experiencing growing pains with an alumni body that had never been kept close. But that is the Stony Brook of the past. Last summer we announced our first Capital Campaign. Its theme is the story I have just related—the emergence of Stony Brook from its ambitious beginnings to a world-class university.

When we announced the campaign for $300 million last summer, we had accrued about $130 million during the silent phase. I have subsequently received $35 million in pledges, elevating our capital campaign numbers to $165 million just a few months after going public. With five years to go, I am optimistic that we will exceed our $300 million goal. Within that goal, we plan to raise at least $100 million in endowment, and I expect the total growth will be greater—we have already quadrupled the endowment in 11 years (see graph 6 on page 11).

The funds will be used for purposes specified by the departments. In particular we have an urgent need for endowed chairs as enhancements for the next generation of world shakers like C.N. Yang. We also seek endowments for graduate fellowships and undergraduate scholarships, as well as specific programmatic support. And there are capital needs. The Charles B. Wang Building, our biggest gift ever, has enhanced life here dramatically, and we are hopeful to attract more funds to be used for state-of-the-art facilities. We need them.

The Capital Campaign is our opportunity to bring it all together—to add endowed chairs, to support medical research and health care, to reconnect with our alumni, to improve the physical campus, to support departmental programmatic needs, and to provide funding for worthy students who merit the opportunity to study here. It is not just about money, though the money is of great importance. It also is about a new way of looking at Stony Brook, as a mature institution worthy of the financial support of its friends, alumni, faculty, and corporate partners. Investment in Stony Brook is investment in the highest level of academic and research potential; it is the pride and deep understanding of how really remarkable this institution is that will guide and inspire us as we engage our agenda for the 21st century.
What lies ahead? In brief:

- A top-notch undergraduate program that attracts and serves the best students;
- New educational programs designed for the changing world in which we live;
- An environment that provides intellectual, social, and service-oriented growth;
- A physical campus worthy of what happens here;
- Continually expanding basic and applied research, undertaken in facilities designed and built for 21st century needs;
- The expansion of incubators to a research and development park enabling our researchers, both faculty and students, to interact with corporate partners to build the high-tech solutions of the future;
- Academic satellites that match programs to need and location in Manhattan and Southampton;
- Medical care that, through affiliations, makes our tertiary capabilities more accessible to the citizens of Long Island, particularly Suffolk County;
- Strong translational research, bringing medical solutions from the bench to the bedside; and
- Successful completion of our capital campaign, building an endowment for the future.

I know that this fulfillment of greatness is what the first generation of thinkers and doers envisioned in those heady pioneer days at Stony Brook. We have the great privilege of being here to make it a reality.