This time of year, as I prepare for my annual State of the University message, I get the opportunity to think short term about what we have accomplished in the past year and long range about where we have come in the entire course of our history, and where we are going now. Every year I show statistical evidence to illustrate what I am saying, but in a lot of ways the statistics, accurate as they are, cannot give a full picture of Stony Brook.

Often in talking about our University I use the phrase “so far, so fast”—that is, in only 41 years this campus has come “so far, so fast”—to describe what a great institution we have.
Together we have created a miracle on Long Island, a hub for economic, social, cultural, ecological, and medical life, a research institution respected and admired around the world, an academic institution that gives the brightest an opportunity to study with the best, even if they cannot afford the most expensive. Our student body keeps growing and getting better; our research dollars continue to grow; we’re about to launch our first capital campaign; our faculty are world-class. And we’re not about to slow down now.
Let's begin with the budget. Stringent State budgets were not a surprise to us; the devastation in the wake of September 11, 2001, left no doubt that the tax base of the State would decline. We suffered far more, individually and as a nation, in other ways, but our institution was bound to be hit economically. The cuts we could see coming certainly arrived. Last year we had a midyear cut that, we were told, would double this year, but that has not yet happened. The administration prepared well last year and sustained the midyear cut. To be ready to meet this year’s cuts, we delayed equipment purchases and postponed replacement hires. And we’re going to be okay. Tight, but okay.

Let’s look at what has happened to the budget over recent years. First, State tax support is only 60 percent of the state allocation; tuition comprises 40 percent of the total (Chart 1); 15 years ago tuition was a mere 16 percent, and ten years ago, it was still less than 20 percent. So yes, the students are paying a bigger percentage of the costs of their education, and State tax money is paying a considerably smaller proportion. If you look at our total operating resources, you see that tax support is only 10 percent of the total from all funding sources (if you add in State fringe benefits, it is 15 percent); health care is now 58 percent, and self-sustaining operations such as residence halls and food service are greater than tax support (Chart 2).

Even more surprising, perhaps, is the fact that research dollars brought in from outside sources have surpassed tax support as a funding source for our work (Chart 3). Our expenditure picture is simple to understand—56 percent of our all-funds budget goes to personal services (Chart 5). That is why the cuts in the State budget, although not a huge percentage of the total, affect our staffing levels so drastically. And that is why when we get large cuts, we have no choice but to decrease the number of personnel paid by State funding. We have done that without breaking any tenure or contractual obligations, but as a result, positions cannot be filled rapidly, temporary employee numbers must be lowered, and there is a general perception that we are at least temporarily in stasis—or worse. At the same time, we cannot afford to pause in our progress. Not at this point.

Although our State funding is a sad story, our total budget has grown significantly. We have increased research dollars by 68 percent in the past 10 years, from $84 million to $141 million, an increase of $57 million; in the past 20 years,
expenditures have increased by $108 million, or more than 300 percent (Chart 6). As you can see, biomedical research has grown dramatically. Given the funding growth in the National Institutes of Health, we expect that trend to continue.

So whereas our tax support is lamentably sluggish, our research productivity has multiplied. Add to that our royalty income, also a result of our research agenda (Chart 7). We are now ranked in the top 15 of all schools nationally (SUNY takes credit for that ranking, but Stony Brook alone—producer of approximately 96 percent to 97 percent of the total SUNY royalties—earns the title on its own). As you can see, royalty income can be a roller coaster. The biggest success story we have is ReoPro®, invented by Dr. Barry Coller. As he constantly reminds me, if a better or less expensive drug comes along—threats occurred in 2001 and 2003—the royalties can drop precipitously; we cannot depend on these numbers continuing.

This single life-saving drug has contributed $52 million to Stony Brook budgets in the past seven years. Our advancement funds have also grown. Again the statistics look terrific—we have brought in more than $90 million in the last decade and almost $20 million last year alone; our annual yield is now five times what it was a decade ago.
Center, the largest gift ever given to SUNY and the most beautiful building by far (Photo A).

But aside from that magnanimous gift, we’re really just beginning to raise money up to our capabilities and the expectations of an institution of this size and stature. Soon we plan to initiate our capital campaign and we will be ambitious indeed—at least $250 million over a five-year period. That campaign will involve all of you, working together, spreading the word, finding the alumni and friends with the capability of giving major gifts.

I’m proud to say that the endowment fund has grown in the past 10 years from a little more than $10 million to $33 million, in part because of fund-raising and in part because of the extraordinary success of the Stony Brook Foundation Investment Committee (Chart 9). We haven’t seen the statistics this year, but two years ago our endowment had the best percentage increase of any university in the country, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy. Moreover, through the work of the Foundation, we have been able to increase our scholarship funding in the past five years from $1.6 million annually to more than $3.2 million.

All tuition now comes directly to the campus, and our phenomenal growth in enrollments over the past nine years, coupled with the increase in tuition this year, has played an ever-larger role—both through growth and through tuition increase—in a time that State tax support has not kept up with our needs (Chart 10). Now tuition comprises the 40 percent of our State allocation that I spoke of earlier. The students are paying a larger percentage of the costs than they ever have, although I am pleased to say that through state and federal aid programs and our enormously increased scholarship programs, 68 percent are getting some kind of financial aid. We will continue to increase our pool of scholarship funds as rapidly as possible.

Instead of wasting time regretting that the State does not—as some states certainly do—support us well, we have to focus our energies on being creative and entrepreneurial in finding other sources of funding. We have to continue passionately and persistently making our case to state officials and anyone else with influence, but we can’t waste time just lamenting the situation. Universities across the country are now being hurt financially. That means this is a great time to be smart and energetic enough to find new sources of funding. We’ve shown we can do it through the dramatic increases in research funding, royalties, fund-raising, and entrepreneurial activities such as our incubators, which don’t make us richer but certainly make us a more productive research center. We’ve built and continue to build new residence halls (Photo B) in our self-support operations; we’ve also gotten a new ambulatory surgery building (Photo C) without state underwriting, and we constructed the Wang Center and the

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Matt and Debra Cody Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (Photo D) through philanthropy. We’ve built the Child Care Center (Photo E) and rebuilt Sunwood (Photo F) without State dollars. We’ve made a campus so beautiful that people tell me it affects their children’s decision to come to Stony Brook. We’ve established Stony Brook Manhattan (Photo G), which is the source not only of revenue-producing academic programs but also alumni activities, fund raising, and cultural events, allowing us to connect with the media, New York City alumni, and donors.

To continue figuring out new ways to get things done is the only way we will move the University forward as rapidly as all of us want. Our capital campaign will enable us to have endowed chairs—a rarity at Stony Brook now—more scholarships for outstanding students, more building renovations, and new buildings. But we have to work together to find the potential donors and let them know what a grand place Stony Brook is.

Now let’s look at our students, of whom I am inordinately proud. Our campus enrollments continued to grow this year, despite the fact that we cut back freshman enrollment by 10 percent (Chart 11). For the first time ever, our enrollments exceed 22,000. Enrollments are up in the Graduate School, but most of all in the Health Sciences Center, particularly in Health Technology and Management, and in the School of Professional Development (Chart 12).

Our new doctoral students present a different geographic profile, with 35 percent from New York, 16 percent from other parts of the United States, and 49 percent international.
Undergraduates now comprise 63 percent of enrollment and graduates 37 percent. Freshman enrollments were intentionally decreased because of concerns about availability of funds to teach the students; however, the 28 percent tuition increase for undergraduates and comparable increases for all other students certainly make a big difference in our bottom line; this year we will bring in $23 million more in tuition than last year.

Our freshman SAT scores continue to rise—the average for regular admits has now topped 1,200, rising to 1,208 (Chart 13). Looking at the graph from 1996 till this fall, the scores have increased more than 100 points at the same time that enrollments have grown by 5,000 students and freshman enrollments by almost 400, an increase of 22 percent.

Frankly, that is an amazing record. Moreover, we have this year enrolled 17 valedictorians, 18 salutatorians, six National Merit finalists and five semifinalists, one Intel Science Talent finalist, and two semifinalists. More than 20 percent of our freshman class (460 students) have received merit-based scholarships, thanks to our fund-raising efforts.

Our freshmen increasingly come from beyond Long Island. Now 40 percent come from Nassau and Suffolk (40 years ago it was two-thirds of the total), and 43 percent from the five boroughs (40 years ago it was 24 percent) (Chart 14). Nine percent come from other parts of New York and eight percent are from out of state, including international students.

Thirty-five percent of freshmen are Caucasian, 30 percent are of Asian origin, 7 percent are of African origin, and 9 percent are Hispanic (Chart 15). Yet the statistics don’t really tell the story, in this case because 19 percent do not list their ethnicity. There are a lot of reasons that almost a fifth of our students do not categorize their ethnicity; one important one is that the federal categories that are used are so simplistic that they no longer fit many people—think of the dilemma Tiger Woods, for example, would have if he reported.

Religious preferences of freshmen are also diverse (Chart 16). Fifty-four percent are of Christian denominations, 26 percent list no affiliation, and the rest are fairly evenly divided among Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and other religions. This chart contrasts dramatically with the statistics of 1966, when the only categories were Catholic, other Christian, Jewish, and other. The Jewish population was far larger—43 percent—and there were almost no students in the “other” category that would include Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, etc.

Our new doctoral students present a different geographic profile,
with 35 percent from New York, 16 percent from other parts of the United States, and 48 percent international (Chart 17). Our master’s programs have 79 percent from New York State (Chart 18). The test score profile of graduate students is very similar to that of undergraduates—since 1996 the average GRE scores of doctoral students have risen by 101 points, from 1825 to 1926 (Chart 19). The ten largest graduate programs are perhaps surprising: the largest by far, with more than 1,000 students, is Liberal Studies. Four are in the Health Sciences Center, two in Engineering, two in the School of Professional Development, and Music and Physics round out the ten (Chart 20).

We have approximately 100 more full-time faculty than we had six years ago, an increase of eight percent (Chart 21). Until this year, we had increased the numbers every year. This year, they decreased by 13, or one percent. The East Campus was down by 32 full-time faculty, or four percent; the West Campus actually was up by 19, or three percent.

The physical plant continues to evolve dramatically. Last year, we opened SAC II (Photo H), the Charles B. Wang Center, the Ambulatory Surgery building, the Cody Center, Sunwood, and the magical Kenneth P. LaValle stadium (Photo I). Now we are looking to finish the expansion of the Heavy Engineering Building, with the Humanities Building (Photo J) soon to follow—it is even on schedule. The Hospital (Photo K) has begun a $300 million capital program, including modernizing and expanding the Heart Center, to be followed by the Emergency Department, the Neonatal Unit, new operating rooms, and the Cancer Center.

Now that we have the Wang Center as a state-of-the-art conferencing facility, we are once again working on building a conference hotel on campus; we first started by getting a ground lease from the Legislature almost 15 years ago, so we’re not exactly rushing into anything, but we are once again seeking to find a satisfactory building program. We are building another complex of undergraduate apartments (Photo L); the first phase is planned for opening in Fall 2004. We have many students wanting to live on campus, so the new halls are badly needed. With a resident student body, the campus becomes more and more active and

Stony Brook is growing in many ways—it’s undergraduate programs, its graduate programs, its health care, its research, its reputation, its role in economic development, its prominence well beyond New York.
spirited. We are also negotiating with the Legislature to build a Recreation Center on campus (Photo M), which will have a track, ball courts, a climbing wall, etc. We need it, and the students voted in a referendum for fees to use it, thereby paying off the bonds without Construction Fund involvement. The SUNY Construction funding will need to go to classroom and laboratory renovations.

And then there’s the Gyrodyne project, our efforts to purchase the 314-acre tract, which is zoned light industrial, adjacent to the campus across Stony Brook Road. It is there that we plan to build a research park, anchored by the $250 million Center of Excellence in Wireless Technology (Photo N) initiated by Governor Pataki and supported by corporations and federal grants. We have been negotiating with the Gyrodyne management for a long time, but up until this point, we have not settled the issue. Last spring the SUNY Board of Trustees voted to acquire the property by eminent domain. We prefer, of course, to settle with the management amicably, but we still do not know whether that will be possible. The research park is a key component for the continued economic development of Long Island; it will provide facilities for the University and corporations to collaborate on discoveries that will lead to the industries of the future.

Stony Brook is growing in many ways—its undergraduate programs, its graduate programs, its health care, its research, its reputation, its role in economic development, its prominence well beyond New York. We have assumed management of Brookhaven Laboratory with our partners at Battelle, we have been selected to be members of AAU, we have moved into Division I in athletics. I hope that all of you feel as energized by the pace of our progress as I do, because we only plan to keep on moving farther, faster.