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Subject Faculty Director for the new College of Science and Society

Colleagues,

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Jeffrey Levinton of the Department of Ecology and Evolution as the founding faculty director of the College of Science and Society.

This new college adds to the College of Information and Technology Studies, established last year, as part of a set of six colleges for first-year students. [The College of Arts, Culture, and Humanities is also beginning this year.] We expect to establish the full set by Fall 2004. As I wrote last year, the impetus for the colleges comes from research of the last two decades on what first-year academic experiences prove most conducive to future academic success. The colleges will bring students together in a structured setting with activities and support designed to help them find their place in the academic mainstream quickly and effectively. The new Colleges are intended to improve the student experience at Stony Brook and will complement existing programs such as the Honors College, the Learning Communities, the Living Learning Centers, and Women in Science and Engineering that also offer structured learning environments. The colleges are a collaborative initiative of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.

The College of Science and Society is headquartered in Roth Quad, and program activities include both residential and commuter students.

Faculty leadership of these colleges is critically important, this is why I am so pleased that Professor Levinton has agreed to direct the new college. Many of you know him already, but let me provide a sketch of his career. He received his B.S. degree from the College of the City of New York in Geology and went on to take his graduate degrees at Yale University in Geology and Geophysics. His many awards and recognitions include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fulbright Fellowship, and fellowship in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has also received both the President's and Chancellor's awards for teaching excellence. Professor Levinton has held many visiting positions at universities, and ecology and marine institutions. He has been an important influence in many university matters; e.g., the chairperson of the Life Sciences Curriculum committee, a member of the Honors College advisory committee, and a director of the Marine Biology Graduate Program. He has mentored nineteen Ph.D. students, and many postdoctoral fellows.

Professor Levinton is a distinguished scientist and teacher with broad interests in the sciences and the intersection of science and society. I believe he is the ideal director for our new first-year College of Science and Society.

- Robert McGrath, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs