

# Center for Inclusive Education

SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2

## Thank you, Dr. Martin

*The Center for Inclusive Education reflects on the transformative work of Dr. Lawrence Martin, Dean of the Graduate School and his efforts in building and growing the Center for Inclusive Education at Stony Brook University*



On January 19, 2012, Dr. Lawrence Martin stepped aside as Dean of the Graduate School after eighteen years of service towards building the national reputation of Stony Brook University as a leader in innovation of graduate education. As noted in Provost Assanis' message, Lawrence's time and efforts as Graduate Dean ushered in a 25% growth in enrollment in our graduate programs, the addition of six doctoral degree programs, several master's programs, and the recent expansion of the master's degree offerings here and at Stony Brook Southampton. Dr. Martin will now be assuming full time responsibility for directing the Turkana Basin Institute, where he will continue with his already successful efforts in fundraising, capital construction, and business planning of an international research Institute of major global significance.

Lawrence's assumption of the position of Graduate Dean in 1993 came just seven years after the establishment of the W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship Program. Thus, he has been overseeing the program since its earliest years and led its growth into the prestigious fellowship that it is today. During his years as Graduate Dean, Lawrence made it a point to develop a strong friendship with Burg, Joyce, and the Turner Family, being certain to include them in building the story of the Turner program. In recent years, his work with the Office of Advancement has played a major role in growing the Turner support fund and the Turner endowed fund (created by Burg and Joyce), which, as they continue to grow, will someday enable us to offer even more opportunities for underrepresented graduate students to succeed here at Stony Brook and beyond.

In 1999, Stony Brook University won the inaugural Council of Graduate School/Peterson's award for Innovation in Promoting an Inclusive Graduate Community, largely due to Lawrence's leadership and commitment to diversity. That same year, Stony Brook University was among six institutions nationally to win a 2.5 million dollar NSF Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate grant, which has significantly helped to expand access and success in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines at the graduate level. Then, in 2002, Peterson's made a donation that provided the seed money to create the Center for Inclusive Education. With the creation of the Center, the collaborations and connections between diversity efforts in graduate education at Stony Brook grew exponentially in strength, and, in 2006 the Turner Fellowship program was added to the list of efforts under the responsibility of the Center.

Lawrence, we are immensely grateful for all that you have done for the diverse graduate student population at Stony Brook. We wish you the best of luck as you assume greater responsibilities with the Turkana Basin Institute and continue your work with Academic Analytics. We hope you will remain active and supportive as we gear-up for the celebratory activities of the twenty fifth anniversary of the Turner Fellowship Program later this year.

*"Working with Lawrence over the past 12 years, and having served as his Assistant Dean for Diversity since September of 2006 has been both an honor and a privilege. Lawrence has been an important mentor for me, and for this, I am incredibly grateful."  
-Nina Maung-Gaona*

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# Welcome, Dr. Taber



The Center for Inclusive Education would like to be one of the first to welcome to office our Interim Graduate School Dean, Dr. Charles (Chuck) Taber. Dr. Taber has for the past two years served as Associate Dean of the Graduate School where he has played an integral role in the growth of the Graduate School. As Associate Dean, Chuck has been responsible for the development of new graduate programs, curricular changes to existing graduate programs, the Provost's Graduate Student Lecture Series, China Interviews, new graduate student orientations, postdoctoral affairs, and much more. By assuming the position of Interim Dean of the Graduate School, Chuck will be very much involved in the activities of the Center. Please join us in welcoming him. We are holding a special meet and greet with Dean Taber on March 29. Please join us!

## Bring on the Spring!

With a very busy and event filled fall semester behind us, the Center welcomes everyone back to Stony Brook for a new calendar year, a new set of activities, many new opportunities and a few changes as well.

The first months of the academic year flew by. The Center staff was on the move, sending administrative and student representatives to *four* national conferences for underrepresented students and coming back to Stony Brook with over 200 intake forms and inquiries from students interested in pursuing graduate study at Stony Brook. In addition to these important recruitment events, the Center participated in the November SUNY STEM diversity conference in Albany, presenting outcomes information from the ten years of AGEP here at Stony Brook. Our students were also traveling to strengthen their professional development through participation in the Rochester Institute of Technology's Future Faculty Career Exploration Program and the Southern Regional Education Board Compact for Faculty Diversity in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Center was involved in several activities to build connections with academic departments as well. In October, we spearheaded an interdepartmental initiative to submit Stony Brook's application for the National Institutes of Health's Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Awards (IRACDA) Grant. The Center hosted an historic meeting that brought



together graduate education leaders from a multitude of programs in both the Graduate and Medical Schools to put forth what we believe to be a strong proposal for funding an IRACDA program to train post doctoral fellows at Stony Brook. The CIE successfully submitted our proposal and we will find out this spring if we were selected for funding.

The CIE is working on this and several other grants due in part to the fact that the AGEP phase two grant will officially end this semester after twelve years at Stony Brook. The CIE will be applying for refunding of AGEP through the NSF, but this moment also serves as a prime opportunity to grow our student population and our outreach through the development of other programs. The end of the AGEP program, even though temporary, is just one of the changes we face as we head into the Spring.

We have done our best to get you this spring newsletter as close to the start of the semester as possible so you can mark your calendars for all of the exciting events we have on the horizon. Again, welcome back to all of you, and good wishes for a productive new year!



# Spring 2012

## Calendar of Events

### January

- 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 17: Turner Advisory Committee Meeting
- 23: Breakfast Social
- 26: Research Café with Cindy Leiton
- 28: Scientific Writing Workshop

### February

- 22: Black History Month “Family Tree” Social
- 23-26 ERN Conference in STEM Atlanta, GA
- 27: Turner Advisory Committee Meeting for 1st round nominations
- 29: Turner Alumni Speaker Series with Dr. Bianca Acevedo, Psychology

### March

- 1: Undergraduate Opportunities for Summer Research talk w. Vanessa Cruz, University of Michigan
- 14: Turner Alumni Speaker Series with Dr. Phillip Ortiz, Physiology & Biophysics
- 16-18 National Postdoctoral Association Annual Meeting
- 29: CIE Social and Meet and Greet with Interim Dean Charles Taber
- 29-31: NSBE Annual Conference Pittsburgh, PA



### April

- 2-8: Spring Recess
- 18: Research Café with Karla Batres
- 27: Topic Based Lunch w/Dexter Bailey, Jr., Vice President, Office of Advancement

### May

- 4: Classes End
- 8-15: Final Exam Days
- 10: Turner Alumni Speaker Series, TBA
- 10: CIE End of Year Party
- 17: Doctoral Hooding Day Brunch, Doctoral Hooding Ceremony
- 18: Commencement
- 29: REU in Nanotechnology Health, Energy & The Environment begins

### June

- 12-15 NSF Joint Annual Meeting Washington, D.C.
- 13: Research Café TBA



# Black History Month Social

## February 22, 2012

Please join us on Wednesday, February 22 at 1:30 PM in the Center for Inclusive Education for our social in Honor of Black History Month. This year, Stony Brook's theme is Sankofa!, with a sub-theme of 'From Black Roots Everyone Grows.' The theme was selected to teach us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward, reaching back and gathering the best of what our past has taught us so that we can achieve our fullest potential moving forward. Much of our identity comes from our family, both past and present. Families have roots, and from those roots trees with many branches grow through time. Thus, in honor of this important theme, the Center is making our February social open to our students and their immediate families. Each attendee/family will be asked to bring a copy of a photo, image, poem or other visual memento important to their family identity. From these mementos we will make a collage which we will display in the CIE for the rest of February and all future Black History months at Stony Brook. RSVP to [CIE\\_graduateschool@stonybrook.edu](mailto:CIE_graduateschool@stonybrook.edu) and let us know who in your family will join you.

It's never too late to ask for a Mentor! The Center invites new and continuing CIE students to apply to participate in the 2011-2012 Community of Student Mentors Program beginning this spring. The CSM program pairs new graduate students with advanced students in the same, or a similar academic program for a peer to peer mentoring relationship. Mentoring pairs are required to meet once a month and remain in regular contact, discussing a variety of professional and academic concerns. All student mentors are provided with a meal card and mentoring pairs meet over coffee and/or lunch on campus. If you are interested in serving as a mentor, or would like to request a mentor, please contact Toni Sperzel at 631-632-9560 or [CIE\\_graduateschool@stonybrook.edu](mailto:CIE_graduateschool@stonybrook.edu)



CIE Students and Community Members pose with Dr. Jo Handelsman, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at Yale University. Dr. Handelsman is a Nationally Recognized Science Education and increasing the participation of Women and Minorities in science at the University Level. Following her September 26 Provost's Lecture Series Talk, Dr. Handelsman joined the CIE community for a post-event Mixer at the Center.

Find us on Facebook!

To get the most up to date news and event announcements from the CIE, 'like' our Facebook fan page <https://www.facebook.com/StonyBrookCIE>

## Beyond Student Services: Grant Writing at the Center for Inclusive Education

This Fall the Center for Inclusive Education worked in Collaboration with ten academic departments at Stony Brook and three partner institutions (Suffolk County Community College, SUNY at Old Westbury, and CUNY Brooklyn) to submit a grant proposal for the National Institutes of Health Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Awards (NIH-IRACDA). Submission of the proposal was a significant undertaking that required the generous support and efforts of faculty, staff, and administrators across several campus departments. If selected as an award recipient, the IRACDA proposal could bring \$6.6 million to Stony Brook University to fund a potential 30 IRACDA Post Doctoral Scholars. This semester, the Center is working on several other grant initiatives. The Center expects news on the IRACDA proposal in late spring. Stay tuned to our Facebook fan page to find out if we were selected!



*The CIE Staff take a moment out of their busy schedules to celebrate the holidays and the successful submission of another grant proposal*



**Coming in February: The third installment in the Turner Alumni Speaker Series welcomes Dr. Bianca Acevedo, Post Doctoral Fellow in Public Health at Weil Cornell Medical College and Stony Brook University Ph.D., 2008 in Social Health Psychology**

Don't miss out on another opportunity to connect with our Turner Fellowship Alumni! Join us on Wednesday, February 29th at 1:00 PM in the Center for Inclusive Education for our third guest speaker in this 25th Anniversary year Turner Alumni Speaker Series, Dr. Bianca Acevedo.

Bianca's work examines interpersonal relationships, specifically the neuroscience of love, long term relationships, and lasting marriages. After completing her Ph.D. in Psychology at Stony Brook in 2008, Bianca went on to complete an NSF Funded Postdoctoral Research Position at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the University of California, Santa Barbara .

Bianca will join us here in the Center for Inclusive Education on Friday, February 29th at 1:00 PM. Lunch will be served. Stony Brook Community members interested in attending should email the Center at [CIE\\_graduateschool@stonybrook.edu](mailto:CIE_graduateschool@stonybrook.edu) with their name, email address and department information.

*“Love is an exquisite force that unites people, provides care for children, elevates lovers, and inspires creation.”*  
-Dr. Bianca Acevedo



**SAVE THE DATE: The W. Burghardt  
Turner 25th Anniversary  
Celebration**

Fellows past and present, CIE Community Members, and Friends: Please mark you calendars for October 4-5, 2012 and hold the dates for the two day symposium and celebration to mark the 25th Anniversary of the W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship Program at Stony Brook University. Keep an eye on your email inboxes as more details about the event emerge.

# Writing Accountability Groups

This Spring the Center for Inclusive Education will once again coordinate writing accountability groups for CIE students. The writing accountability groups offer students the opportunity to dedicate a set, recurring block of time to the writing of grant proposals, theses statements, research articles and/or dissertation chapters in the quiet and uninterrupted setting of the Center, separate from their academic departments and home life.

The impetus for this activity rose from requests made by our CIE students, stirred by a suggestion made by our 2011 CDAE speaker Dr. Kerry Anne Rockquomore. By establishing set, recurring blocks of time focused on writing where participants are accountable to one another for their work, writers are more likely to be successful in meeting their writing goals. Also, by using a space that is separate from the work-sphere and the home-sphere, the Center can also provide a space free from interruption from professional responsibilities and the distractions of home.

Students interested in participating in the Writing Accountability-buddy program can submit an application from the CIE website, [www.stonybrook.edu/cie](http://www.stonybrook.edu/cie).

## Intercession Science Writing Workshop

On January 28, 2012 the Center for Inclusive Education welcomed Dr. Geoff Weiss, Grants Development Officer at Hanover College and writing consultant for the University of Kentucky NIGMS "Get Funded" Program, to host a full day science and grant proposal writing workshop for CIE students. The workshop, which was held on a Saturday, covered many aspects of science writing, from how to search for and review the criteria set forth by funding organizations, to preparing a strong project proposal, to participating in mock review panels to develop a stronger understanding of the proposal review process. Also on the agenda were a series of writing exercises to improve brainstorming skills and build confidence in the revision process. Dr. Weiss has given similar workshops at several institutions across the country including Savannah State University.

The idea to run this writing workshop came from a suggestion received by Luisa Escobar-Hoyos, a CIE student in the department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology who had expressed interest in a similar writing course offered by the National Institutes of Health. The Center would like to extend a special note of thanks to Luisa for making the suggestion to coordinate such a workshop right here at Stony Brook.

The workshop ran from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM in the Center for Inclusive Education. Participants were selected based on submission of an application to the CIE. It is the hope of the Center for Inclusive Education that we will be able to continue to run a workshop of this type in future semesters as part of our efforts to support the development of writing skills in our graduate students. For more information about the Science Writing Workshop please contact Toni Sperzel in the Center at 631-632-9560.

### *Looking Ahead*

The Center is always looking for suggestions of new events and activities to benefit our students and the Stony Brook Community. If you have a suggestion for a possible workshop, panel, or presentation related to campus diversity and graduate education, please contact us in the CIE office at 631-632-9560, or via email at [CIE\\_graduateschool@stonybrook.edu](mailto:CIE_graduateschool@stonybrook.edu).





My Career in Science...How Did I Get HERE?

## Alumni Speaker Series with Dr. James H. Dickerson, II

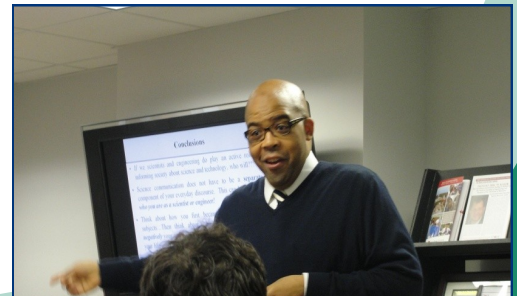
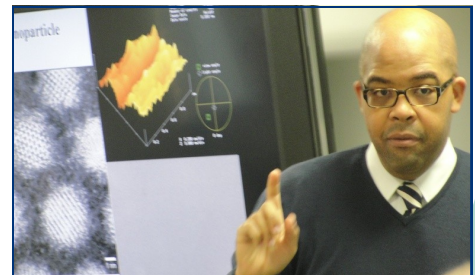
This holiday season the Center welcomed back to campus our second alumni speaker as part of the ongoing Turner Alumni Speaker Series, Dr. James H. “Jay” Dickerson II, Associate Professor in Physics and Astronomy at Vanderbilt University and Stony Brook University Ph.D. class of 2002. Dr. Dickerson visited with us December 15th and 16th to give his talk and join us for our annual Holiday Party.

Jay’s talk, entitled *“Scientists on the Cutting Edge: How Effective Communication of Science will Shape our Future,”* attracted the interest of many people on campus, including the Center for Communicating Science and Alumni Relations Office who both sent representatives to the Center. In his presentation, Jay explained how he found himself entering the Doctoral Program in Physics and Astronomy at Stony Brook University through a nontraditional route, choosing to return to the academy after teaching high school science for two years upon completing his Bachelor’s degree at Amherst College. Jay spoke openly and honestly about his experience returning to academia and the challenges that the research intensive doctoral program and the core coursework in Physics & Astronomy posed for him, having been out of college for two years and not having had an intensely research focused experience in his Bachelor’s degree program.

Jay explained that as he progressed in his graduate studies and his academic career, he saw that these challenges were not really challenges at all, but rather, opportunities to strengthen his skills in understanding and communicating science with his mentors, his peers and the public. Seeing these moments as opportunities to grow as a scholar and communicator revealed to Jay other opportunities to serve as a leader in his field, such as his service as committee member and chair of the American Physical Society Committee on Minorities and his position as a consultant on the development of a middle school science textbook. In different ways, he pointed out, each of these leadership moments provided him with a chance to learn how best to communicate science to audiences of different people at different levels of understanding.

The morning after his talk in the Center, Jay took the opportunity to have breakfast with our current Turner fellows in the department of Physics and Astronomy, to get to know them better and understand their experiences as graduate students in his former department. He was then invited by the department of Physics and Astronomy to give a more science-focused talk in the department as part of their monthly lecture series.

The Center would like to thank Dr. Dickerson for graciously accepting our invitation to speak, and for being so welcoming of the opportunities to meet with our students and campus leaders from various programs interested in communicating science. Additionally, we wish to thank the department of Physics and Astronomy for hosting Jay on Friday the 16th of December, and the office of Teaching, Learning and Technology for videotaping Dr. Dickerson’s lecture, which will be made available this spring through SBU Tube.



# Hispanic Heritage Month Faculty Forum

What does it mean to be Hispanic in the American Academy? How does your cultural heritage influence your experiences and efforts in pursuit of an academic career? These are just a few of the questions that were discussed at this year's Hispanic Heritage Month Faculty Forum hosted on October 18th in the Center for Inclusive Education. The Faculty Panel, hosted by Christina Vargas Law, Director of the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action at Stony Brook, brought together four faculty members from varying disciplines for an open and honest discussion on the differing experiences of Hispanic faculty from different parts of the world. Faculty participants included Dr. Miguel Garcia-Diaz, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology, Dr. Hugo Benitez Silva, Associate Professor in the Department of Economics, Dr. Paul Firbas, Associate Professor in the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature, and Dr. Maricedes Acosta Martinez, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. Born in Spain, Chile, Peru, and Puerto Rico (respectively), and each having studied in different countries, the participants spoke about their own educational experiences and the cultural observations they made when coming to the mainland United States to pursue their academic careers.



HHM Faculty Panel discusses their career paths



Hispanic Heritage Month Faculty Panel with CIE Students

This year's faculty forum brought great insight into the significant variety of cultural backgrounds, and individual experiences of faculty commonly grouped under a single heading of "Hispanic," and poignantly reaffirmed the importance of recognizing and respecting individual differences stemming from National heritage and cultural difference. The Center wishes to thank all of the faculty participants, Christina Vargas Law, and our CIE students for

joining us for this important event.

Please see page 4 of this newsletter for information about our scheduled Black History Month Student Panel.

## September Social for Post Doc Appreciation Week

The CIE's September Social served as an opportunity to stop and recognize our diverse community of Post Doctoral Fellows here at Stony Brook. The Center was joined by Lynn Allopena, Assistant Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs and several of our diverse Post Doctoral Fellows: Dr. Rose Edy Calixte from the department of Pediatrics, Dr. Tracy Liane Callender from the department of Biochemistry, Dr. Gretchen Lopez of Neurobiology and Behavior, Dr. Glenda Trujillo from the department of Pathology, and Dr. Luana Pedroza from the department of Physics & Astronomy for a luncheon with the CIE community.

Our September social was part of Stony Brook's efforts for the National Postdoctoral Association's (NPA) National Postdoc appreciation week. Also joining us for this event was the CIE's own Dr. Alexandra Corrales de Eilers, our AGEP Post Doctoral Fellow and recently selected Diversity Officer for the National Postdoctoral Association. As an NPA diversity officer, Dr. Corrales is working at the National level to advocate for increased diversity among post-doctoral scholars. We would like to congratulate Dr. Corrales on this prestigious selection and her service as an NPA diversity officer.

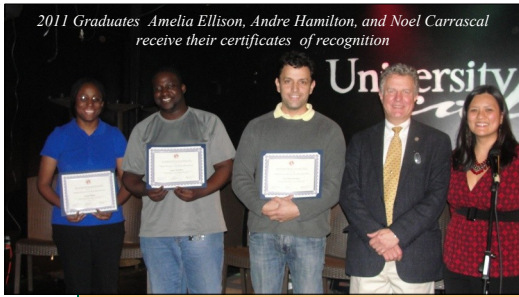


L to R: Drs. Gretchen Lopez, Alexandra Corrales, Luana Pedroza, and Tracy Liane Callender at the September Social

POST DOCTORAL FELLOWS MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH AND DISCOVERIES AT STONY BROOK



# 2011 Holiday Party



On December 15 the CIE celebrated with friends and family at this year's Holiday Party in the University Café. Joined by over 40 members of the Stony Brook community, the CIE recognized our December graduates (listed below). The Center was fortunate to be joined by Stony Brook Turner and AGEP alumnus Dr. James H. Dickerson II, who was visiting as a guest speaker in this year's Turner Alumni Speaker Series. Members of the AGEP and Turner Advisory Committees were also on hand for the celebration. Dean Lawrence Martin and Assistant Dean for Diversity, Ms. Nina Maung-Gaona presented certificates of recognition to our graduating students. It was a great celebration. We look forward to seeing everyone again in May at the end of the year party!



## Congratulations to our December 2011 Graduates

Celina Bragagnolo, Ph.D., Philosophy

Noel Carrascal, Ph.D., Applied Math & Statistics

Lee Hammons, Ph.D., Physics

Amelia Ellison, M.S., Computer Science

Andre Hamilton, M.S., Computer Science

Justin Williams, Ph.D., History

# The Turner Fellowship Annual Welcome Dinner

On Wednesday, October 5 the W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship program welcomed over 100 fellows, families, faculty and friends to the Three Village Inn in Stony Brook for the 2011 Welcome Dinner. This year's dinner marked the start of a year-long celebration recognizing the 25th anniversary of the W. Burghardt Turner Fellowship program's existence at Stony Brook University. Joined by several prominent leaders of Stony Brook, including our new Provost Dr. Dennis N. Assanis and Sylvia Turner-Yanofsky, daughter of Joyce Turner and the late W. Burghardt Turner, the Turner fellowship "family" celebrated with a night of dinner, dancing, and reflections on the past successes of the Turner program, as well as sharing our hopes for our future.

This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Michelle Juarez, a former Turner fellow, was the first in a year-long series of guest speakers being arranged by the Turner program. The "Turner Alumni Speaker Series" will bring Turner alumni to the Stony Brook campus bimonthly, each for an hour long lecture with our current CIE students where they will discuss not only their research, but also their academic career path and the struggles they faced in graduate school, as young academic professionals, and as leaders in their community. After a very warm and emotional introduction by Dr. J. Peter Gergen, Director of the Center for Developmental Genetics, Michelle gave an equally moving talk for our guests.

Dr. Juarez graduated from the doctoral program in Genetics and the Watson School at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in 2004. Michelle spoke openly and honestly about her experiences and struggles as a graduate student, and how her participation in the AGEF and Turner Fellowship programs offered her an opportunity to connect with fellow students, not just academically, but socially as well. The Center, through these programs, was able to provide her with a network of support outside of her academic department which she felt was an important part of her successful completion of graduate school, and a key force in her desire to pursue an academic career focusing on both teaching and research.

Following Michelle's talk, Dr. David Ferguson, TAC committee member and Director of the Center for Inclusive Education, officially announced the names of this year's new Turner Fellowship recipients, and, in the presence of their family and friends, we formally welcomed them into the Turner family. We would like to extend a special note of thanks to J. Peter Gergen and Kate Bell, as well as the department of Genetics for their work and efforts in welcoming and hosting Dr. Juarez for a science talk in the department during her visit.









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The Center for Inclusive Education is a division of the Graduate School and affiliated with the Department of Technology and Society in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

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To learn more about the Center and its hosted programs please visit our Web site at:  
[www.stonybrook.edu/CIE](http://www.stonybrook.edu/CIE)  
To be added to our email listserv or mailing list, please contact the CIE staff.