



5 April 2012

Solicitation letter for contributions for:  
Endowed Professorship in Mineral Physics at Stony Brook

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: "Infinite Possibilities for Stony Brook University:"  
e.g., An Endowed Professorship in Mineral Physics

The University has recently celebrated two remarkable events: Governor Andrew Cuomo's approval of Stony Brook University's \$35 million NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant application and a transformational \$150 million gift to the University from Jim and Marilyn Simons and the Simons Foundation. Details may be found on the Stony Brook website at: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/simonsgift/>

The Simons gift will be used in three ways, one of which is to provide matching funds for faculty hires through new professorships. For Endowed Professorships, the Simons gift will match external contributions dollar-for-dollar so that \$375,000 raised externally will be matched to create an endowment of \$750,000. The income from this endowment [estimated to be approximately \$40,000 per annum] may be used for a variety of purposes, including salary supplement or research activities.

We have decided to mount a campaign to raise the matching funds necessary to establish an Endowed Professorship in Mineral Physics at Stony Brook and are writing to you now in the hope that you may be able and willing to contribute to this effort. See details in the attached flyer from the Advancement Office.

We thank you for your previous contributions to mineral physics at Stony Brook, which has allowed our programs to reach international prominence and for your consideration of this solicitation letter.

Best regards  
Bob Liebermann

On behalf of the current mineral physics faculty in the Department of Geosciences and the Mineral Physics Institute:

Lars Ehm, Research Associate Professor in the MPI

Baosheng Li, Research Professor in the MPI

Robert Liebermann, Distinguished Service Professor in Geosciences

Artem Oganov, Professor in Geosciences

John Parise, Distinguished Professor in Geosciences

Michael Vaughan, Research Associate Professor in the MPI

Donald Weidner, Distinguished Professor in Geosciences

# Endowing a Professorship in Mineral Physics at Stony Brook University

An endowed academic position is a faculty position partially or fully supported by an endowment from which distributions are dedicated to salary supplementation, research support, and/or other professional needs of a faculty member. The position holder will normally be a tenured faculty member who has had a distinguished career. A holder may be named to an endowed academic position for the remainder of his or her employment, or for a term of years (not less than 5 years) the position may be renewable or non-renewable and may be used for recruitment or retention.

An Endowed Professorship in Mineral Physics can be established with a gift or gifts totaling \$375,000. The gift(s) would be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Simons Foundation to fulfill the minimum requirement of \$750,000 for an endowed professorship. A professorship would strengthen the University's position as a leader in the field of Mineral Physics by creating an endowed position dedicated solely to that area.

Minimum funding (through gifts) is \$750,000. Endowment income [est 5% or \$37,500 per annum may be used:

- For outstanding, tenured faculty members at the full or associate professor level
- To provide supplementation to state-funded base salary
- For recruitment or retention
- To enhance scholarly efforts, research, and/or teaching, with expenditures at the discretion of the holder.
- To support holder's graduate students and/or post-docs
- For visiting scholars while in temporary residence at the University

The holder of the Professorship is required to submit an annual stewardship report of activity to the donor(s).

Appointment (and re-appointment) is recommended by the respective Dean and confirmed by the President and/or the appropriate senior academic officer.

All gifts and pledges payable over up to five years from private individuals and foundations would qualify for matching "Reimagining Stony Brook" Funds from the Simons Foundation.

For additional information or to make a gift or pledge towards endowing a Professorship in Mineral Physics, please contact Jane MacArthur at 631-632-7644 or via email at [jane.macarthur@stonybrook.edu](mailto:jane.macarthur@stonybrook.edu). Please also inform Bob Liebermann of your plans at [Robert.Liebermann@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Robert.Liebermann@stonybrook.edu).

Gifts can be made using cash, checks, credit cards, stock or property transfers.