



# CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

---

## CommUniversity Day Celebrates the Best of Stony Brook



*CommUniversity Day 2019*

More than 4,000 members of the community enjoyed a beautiful day full of fun, learning and discovery at CommUniversity Day on September 21, 2019. The free festival, now in its third year, showcased the best of the University and Hospital through more than 100 interactive, hands-on activities and performances coordinated by more than 350 student and employee volunteers.

"It's been incredible to see how the community has embraced CommUniversity Day," said Joan Dickinson, Director of [Community Relations](#) and Executive Director of CommUniversity Day. "Each year, we see more and more neighbors, faculty, students, alumni and friends come out,

engage with our volunteers and learn something new about Stony Brook."



*SBU Interim President Michael Bernstein*

Stony Brook University Interim [President Michael Bernstein](#) attended the festivities and provided closing remarks. "We are proud to open the doors to our campus departments to share a look inside with the community," said Michael Bernstein, Interim President, Stony Brook University, as he addressed the crowd before the ice cream social. "From drones to kazoos, to the smoothie bike and dental screenings, I hope you had a chance to see something new today."

[Read the full story](#)

[View photos from the event on the University's Flickr](#)

[On the Hill](#)  
[In Our Community](#)

[Up In Albany](#)

---

**In the Spotlight**

# PhD Student Advocates for Higher Ed Funding in Washington, D.C.

At a time when government research funding is threatened, advocacy for higher education is critical. That's something doctoral candidate [Xiaoqing Zhang](#) has learned as a student researcher, and more recently as an intern with Stony Brook's [Office of Government Relations](#) in Washington, D.C. this past summer.

"Interning for SBU's Office of Government Relations was a valuable educational experience that prepared me to be a strong and effective advocate for scientific research funding and other important issues," said Xiaoqing. "I look forward to continuing to represent the graduate students of Stony Brook University."



*Xiaoqing Zhang, GSO President*

[Read the full story](#)

[Read more about the GSO President's D.C. advocacy experience](#)

---

## Up in Albany

### Dr. Bernstein Meets with Elected Officials to Discuss SBU goals



*Meeting with County Executive Steve Bellone in the County Executive's office.*

[Interim President Dr. Michael Bernstein](#) and [Judy Greiman](#), Chief Deputy to the President and Senior VP for Government & Community Relations, have held meetings recently with local elected officials to thank them for their ongoing support of Stony Brook University. This unwavering support has helped make the campus a global research institution that generates a regional economic impact of more than \$7 billion.

During the meetings, Dr. Bernstein has shared his [key goals](#) including the promotion of diversity and inclusive excellence throughout the institution and the need to manage budgets and finances within existing resource constraints in ways that allow the campus to pursue goals that best meet the needs of employees,

students, patients and community partners.



*(r) Assemblyman Steve Englebright in the President's office.*



*(l-r) Senator Flanagan, Senator LaValle, Dr. Bernstein, Legislator Hahn and Councilwoman Cartright.*

## Government Relations Gathering Legislative Priorities

The SBU Government Relations team has been meeting with campus leadership to develop a set of institutional priorities for local, state and federal advocacy in the coming year. Of key importance in Albany will be securing an increase in base aid for SUNY, additional support for our new Engineering building and restoration of operating funds for SUNY hospitals to continue the promise made years ago to reduce the impact of state employee benefits on our ability to compete in a tight hospital market.

Throughout the year, the [Office of Government & Community Relations](#) monitors and tracks legislation that is of interest to the University or campus departments. If any campus faculty, staff or student organizations wish to have a bill monitored or plan to advocate or lobby for or against a state, county or town budget or legislative issue, please email [michael.arens@stonybrook.edu](mailto:michael.arens@stonybrook.edu). For federal government issues, please email [lauren.brookmeyer@stonybrook.edu](mailto:lauren.brookmeyer@stonybrook.edu).

---

## On the Hill

### Congressman Zeldin Tours LIHTI during Congressional Recess



*Rep. Lee Zeldin (right) touring the laboratory of Vascular Simulations.*

During the 2019 Congressional recess, [Rep. Lee Zeldin](#) toured the Long Island High Tech Incubator ([LIHTI](#)) located on Stony Brook University's (SBU) campus. SBU's Vice President of Research [Richard Reeder](#), Associate Vice President for Technology Partnerships Peter Donnelly, and LIHTI Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer Matthew Stadler greeted the Congressman and provided an update on how Stony Brook University is working with high-tech startup companies to develop groundbreaking research, create thousands of jobs, and generate billions of dollars in positive economic impact for the region.

"LIHTI is a great example of how the support and research expertise of Stony Brook University can help lead to commercial successes," said Dr. Reeder. "The University plays a valuable role beyond basic science research and education by helping move technologies from the laboratory out into the local and global economy." During his visit, Congressman Zeldin toured the laboratories and production facilities of two LIHTI companies, [Vascular Simulations](#) and [Biocogent](#).

[Read the full story](#)

### SBU Urges Congress to Fund More Oral Health Training Programs and Increase Funding for Dental Research

On Wednesday, September 18, [Dr. Dan Colosi](#), Associate Professor in the [Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine](#) and Director of the Division of Diagnostic Imaging, visited Capitol Hill in conjunction with the [American Dental Education Association's](#) Hill Day to advocate for more oral health training programs and increased funding for dental research.

"There is a need for more dental school faculty. There are currently about 265 funded vacant full-time faculty positions nationwide. Title VII funding supports faculty development at dental schools, helping to involve practicing dentists in dental education," said Dr. Colosi. "The proposed loan repayment program provides dental schools with a recruitment tool for highly-qualified faculty."

During his advocacy visit to Washington, DC, Dr. Colosi met with staff of [Leader Chuck Schumer](#), [Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand](#), [Rep. Lee Zeldin](#), and [Rep. Tom Suozzi](#). Stony



*Dr. Dan Colosi*

Brook's [Office of Government Relations](#) coordinated these meetings and continues to work closely with Congress on Stony Brook's [federal priorities](#).

[Read the full story](#)

## Researchers Receive \$4.3 Million Grant to Develop Next-Generation Alzheimer's Treatments



*Christine DeLorenzo*

A team of cross-disciplinary faculty spanning Biomedical Engineering in the [College of Engineering and Applied Sciences](#) and Psychiatry in the [Renaissance School of Medicine](#) aim to develop an approach to find the source of the damage to cholinergic neurons that results in Alzheimer's disease. Principal Investigator [Christine DeLorenzo's](#) lab at Stony Brook University focuses on the neurobiology of mental illness using brain imaging, AI and technology to obtain the most comprehensive views of the brain possible. "If we know exactly what is altered in the biology, then we can develop the next generation of treatments," DeLorenzo said.

[Read the full story](#)

---

## In Our Community

### Raising Cultural Awareness in the Business Community

Many on campus consider the Village of Port Jefferson to be their college town. Its bustling seaside business district of restaurants, entertainment and shopping is enjoyed by thousands of Stony Brook University employees and students. An incident last May where a young Sikh alumnus wearing a turban was not permitted to enter a restaurant in the Village because of a no hat policy prompted many discussions on campus and in the community about diversity, equity and inclusion.



*Elected officials, Greater Port Jefferson Chamber of Commerce leadership, and SBU faculty and staff team up to raise cultural awareness in the Business Community.*

In an effort to help merchants to expand their cultural awareness, the [Greater Port Jefferson Chamber of Commerce](#) partnered with [Stony Brook University's Office of Community Relations](#) to present a panel discussion on Cultural Competency and Humility. The framework for the discussion centered around the concept of what it means to run a business next to a major international university. "We have a diverse population on campus, and we wanted to give the Chamber members a sense of who might be walking through their doors," said Judy Greiman, Chief Deputy to the President and Senior Vice President for Government and Community Relations. "It's important for these shops to understand that differences exist, that we have buying power and that we all want to feel welcome."

[Read the full story](#)

### Stony Brook Offers Path to American Dream, Marketwatch Says

Stony Brook University is showcased as a university that "helps low-income kids move into the middle class and beyond" in an [op-ed](#) published September 20 in Marketwatch.

"There's something special going on at SUNY Stony Brook," says John Friedan, co-author of a study identifying the U.S. colleges and universities that best promote upward mobility, who is quoted in the article.



"Over the past five years, Stony Brook has improved graduation rates across the board," writes op-ed author Howard Gold. "It has a high-tech, data-driven focus on student performance and a high-touch, advisor-heavy outreach program to make sure kids stay on track."

[Read the full story](#)

## Campus Launches Major Plastic Waste Reduction in Dining Services

Together, the Faculty Student Association ([FSA](#)), CulinArt and the Undergraduate Student

Government ([USG](#)) are making strides toward reducing the amount of plastic waste produced by the dining operations and shifting to more environmentally friendly materials.

"Sustainability is making choices with long-term perspectives to the environment and society. By leading the initiative with FSA to transition away from using disposable plastics, and instead using compostable containers, we are guiding Seawolves to live a greener and more sustainable lifestyle," explained Shaheer Khan, USG President.



According to [Plastic Oceans](#), more than 8 million tons of plastic waste are dumped into oceans each year. Plastic waste has an immense negative impact on the environment as it pollutes waterways, its disposal clogs up landfills and litters the land and water, and causes severe problems in marine habitats.

[Read the full story](#)

---

## Upcoming Events

### [30th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Opening Ceremony](#)

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

October 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of Hispanic Heritage Month at Stony Brook University. Join us to celebrate the achievements and contributions of the Hispanic and Latinx community.

### [Lecture by Carla Yanni on the "Health and the Housing of College Women, 1830 to 1930"](#)

**Thursday, October 10, 2019**

Using extensive archival research and analysis of architectural drawings and buildings, Yanni will trace the history of genteel surveillance that characterized dormitories for women housing at co-ed universities.

### [Fall Films: The Keeper](#)

**Friday, October 11, 2019**

The true story of a WWII German POW in England who gains the attention of the local soccer team's manager, only to face hostility when his reputation as a goal-keeper earns him a spot on the local team.

### [Men's Soccer vs Hartford](#)

**Friday, October 11, 2019**

Go Seawolves!

### [Living World Open Night: World Birding: Travels and Reflections of an Evolutionary Biologist](#)

**Friday, October 11, 2019**

A lecture by David Futuyama, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Ecology and Evolution

### [Seawolves Football vs New Hampshire](#)

**Saturday, October 12, 2019**

Go Seawolves!

### [Stony Brook Dental Medicine 7th Annual International Outreach Golf Outing](#)

**Sunday, October 13, 2019**

Donations will be used to support the travel of the dental teams and to purchase portable dental units, generators, and other specialized equipment and supplies for use in remote areas of the world.

### [Women's Soccer vs UMass Lowell](#)

**Sunday, October 13, 2019**

**Contact Information:**  
**Office of Government and Community Relations**

**(631) 632-6302**  
**governmentrelations@stonybrook.edu**

 **Stony Brook University** **FAR BEYOND**

Stony Brook University/SUNY is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educator and employer. 15120899

STAY CONNECTED:

Follow us on **twitter**

SBU Community Relations

Follow us on **twitter**

SBU Government Relations

[SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER](#)