



CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS



A Message From Judith B. Greiman

*Chief Deputy to the President and Vice President for Government
and Community Relations*

The academic year has come to a close, but Stony Brook campus is full of life as we enter the summer season! Every summer we offer more than [500 courses and 60 subjects](#) for college students. Stony Brook students as well as college students from around the country who return home to Long Island for their summer break, call Stony Brook University [their home](#) during the summer months as they get a head start on their fall academics. Meanwhile, high school students are taking full advantage of [our exciting variety of opportunities](#) to jump start their college careers ranging from genuine hands-on research to credit bearing academic classes.

The [Seawolves Sports Camps and Clinics](#) are buzzing with activity each day as the Stony Brook Athletics Department welcomes thousands of boys and girls, ages 5-18, interested in basketball, lacrosse, soccer, football, baseball, volleyball, and softball. Other campers choose to participate in our [academic camp programs](#).

We welcome the Long Island community to enjoy our beautiful campus by utilizing our [bicycle and walking paths](#), which provide a scenic and environmentally friendly way to enjoy a summer afternoon. We also hope that everyone will join us for the [21st Annual Stony Brook Film Festival](#) presented by Island Federal Credit Union from July 21 through July 30. The festival of new independent films showcases a highly selective compendium of features, documentaries and shorts.



Whether you are a student, employee, community member or in town for a visit, we hope you take advantage of all the wonderful happenings here at Stony Brook University this summer.

Sincerely,

Up in Albany

Legislative Session ends with \$30M SUNY Funding Increase

In the final week of the 2016 Legislative Session, legislative leaders negotiated budget amendments that included an additional \$30M in capital funding to the [SUNY](#) system and \$20M for [CUNY](#). Stony Brook's share of additional critical maintenance funds comes to \$3.1M. This was welcome news given that critical maintenance funding has been cut over the past few years.

Other key bills passed at the end of the session included:

- Agencies must pay small businesses within 15 days.
- Research institutions must provide adoption option for retired research animals.
- Ethics reform requires greater disclosure by lobbyists, new rules for political committees, and a vote on a constitutional amendment to prohibit lawmakers convicted of a felony from keeping their taxpayer-funded pensions.
- Various bills were enacted to fight heroin/opioid addiction.
- Significant funding was provided for affordable and supportive housing.

Read about other legislative highlights [here](#) and [here](#).

Election Season

As we enter the political election season, please remember that University employees are allowed to be politically involved provided they do it on their personal time and they are not representing the University. If an elected official or candidate contacts you to appear on campus or speak with students, please [contact the Government Relations office](#) to ensure proper compliance with [SUNY guidelines](#).

On the Hill

FY 2017 Budget Update

The House and Senate this week resumed work on their FY17 appropriations bills, but partisan differences over such issues as gun policy and counterterrorism will limit any progress before the summer recess begins in less than two weeks. Even so, the House and Senate appropriations committees have been moving through their respective bills. The Senate panel has approved its 12 bills and the House panel has two remaining. Stony Brook's Office of Government Relations remains hopeful that these efforts will leave Congress with a solid basis for the expected year-end negotiations.

The Association of American Universities (AAU) [issued a statement urging Congress to complete the FY17 appropriations process](#), place a high priority on research and higher education, and lay the groundwork for serious reforms in the next Congress. [Stony Brook's Office of Government Relations](#) continues to work alongside AAU and fellow member institutions, urging Congress to enact [our priorities](#).

Senators Introduce COMPETES Act Reauthorization

On June 23, Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Gary Peters (D-MI) [released details](#) of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act ([S. 3084](#)), the Senate version of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act.

On June 29, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee approved the bill. The

bipartisan bill reauthorizes programs at NSF and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The bill contains many positive provisions for the research community. For example, the measure reaffirms NSF's peer review process and creates a new proof-of-concept grant program at NSF. During the markup, the panel also approved authorized funding levels for both NSF and NIST as well as a provision to raise the [micro-purchase threshold](#) to \$10,000 for NSF, NASA, and NIST awards. A date has not been set for the bill to come to the Senate floor for a full chamber vote.



Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO), left, and Gary Peters (D-MI) introduce COMPETES Reauthorization Act.

In advance of the markup, AAU [released a statement](#) expressing appreciation for the positive provisions in the bill, and encouraging committee approval of authorized funding levels.

House Education Committee Approves Package of Higher Education Bills

The House Education and the Workforce Committee on June 22 [approved](#) by voice vote a package of five higher education bills.

The American Council on Education on June 21 [submitted a letter](#) to committee leaders on behalf of several higher education associations, expressing support for the bills, but citing concerns about how two of the bills would be implemented. Those bills are the [Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act \(H.R. 3178\)](#) and the [Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act \(H.R. 3179\)](#).

In Our Community

Staller Center Creates Magic with the Instrument Petting Zoo

Educational outreach staffers, students and professional musicians have brought the Instrument Petting Zoo to local libraries, Head Start centers and non-profit organizations so the children can see, hear and learn about the different instrument families and play those instruments with the help of Zoo staff.

[Read the full story](#)



The Instrument Petting Zoo from Staller Center introduces children to musical instruments.

Alan Alda Announces Winners of Stony Brook University's Flame Challenge

If a tree fell in the woods and no one was around, would it make a sound? From vibrations in speakers to light reflections and pixels in a camera, those were just some of the examples used to tackle the question "What is Sound?" in the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science's 5th annual The Flame Challenge.

[Read the full story](#)

FLAME CHALLENGE
Encouraging students to pursue
 FLAMECHALLENGE.ORG

What is Sound?

Take the 2016 Flame Challenge

Deadline:
 Register "What is Sound?" by July 15th and enter on 11/15/16.

Win \$1,000 and a trip to New York City to meet Alton Ames and be honored at the World Science Festival.

Starts by June 15, 2016

Faculty:
 Sign up your 5th and 6th grade classes to judge the contest.

Register by March 21, 2016

Register early by Dec. 21, 2015 to receive a poster and priority to join the conference with Alton Ames.

More information at www.flamechallenge.org

Stony Brook Center for Computing Science
 @stonybrookcenter



ACS
 AAAS

Alum Ruchi Shah Takes on Gender Equality at White House Summit

Stony Brook alum Ruchi Shah '16 recently joined 5,000 leaders from around the world in Washington to celebrate achievements in gender equality issues and to discuss future action.

"The White House Summit on the United State of Women was an incredible opportunity to learn about the multitude of challenges

women face here and abroad, and hear from inspiring leaders and organizations that are making a tangible positive difference in communities," said Ruchi. "It was an unforgettable experience sharing the room with inspiring leaders like President Obama, Michelle Obama, Oprah, Warren Buffett and Gloria Steinem."



Accomplished SBU alum Ruchi Shah attended The United State of Women on June 14.

[Read the full story](#)

Upcoming Events

Staller Exhibition: On The Record: Album Cover Art

Tuesday, July 19 - Saturday, July 30, 2016

[Hundreds of Record Album Covers Spanning the Decades on Display](#)

Stony Brook Film Festival

Thursday, July 21 - Saturday, July 30, 2016

[21st Year of the Stony Brook Ten-Day Film Festival](#)

SAVE THE DATE - 2016 Homecoming

Saturday, October 15, 2016

[Wolfstock 2016](#)

[Full Stony Brook events calendar](#)

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 University**

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