Stony Brook Honors Michael J. Fox, Jonathan Oringer as 6,991 Graduate

Emerging from Stony Brook with the momentum to make a difference, 6,991 students celebrated their graduation at the University's 57th Commencement ceremony May 19 at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.

They became Stony Brook’s newest alumni, joining more than 160,000 of their forerunners around the globe whose lives and work advance the mission and spirit of Stony Brook.

"I don't think anyone can say that graduating from Stony Brook is easy," said President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD in his address to the Class of 2017. "You have met that challenge and you and your families should be proud of what you accomplished. We will continue to push for excellence, and continue to make your Stony Brook degree and your University something you can always be proud of," Stanley said.

In keeping with President Stanley's remarks on excellence and achievement, two prominent leaders in their respective fields accepted honorary degrees. Actor and philanthropist Michael J. Fox received the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, recognizing a career that has brought international acclaim with many honors and awards, as well as a dedication to charitable endeavor best exemplified by the founding and stewardship of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

Receiving a Doctor of Science for his contributions to the tech industry was programmer, photographer, serial entrepreneur, Stony Brook University alumnus, and founder and CEO of Shutterstock, Jonathan Oringer ’96. His contributions include the invention of one of the web’s first pop-up blockers and the creation of Shutterstock, the global technology company that disrupted the image licensing industry.
A third luminary, Prince Emmanuel de Merode, was to have accepted an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters but was unable to attend. President Stanley said he hopes the degree will be conferred at a future ceremony. At the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on Thursday, May 18, two distinguished scholars, Dr. Arthur "Art" Kramer ('75) and Dr. Frank Shu also received 2017 honorary degrees.

Read the full story
View more Commencement photos

In the Spotlight

Stony Brook Outperforms National Averages in Graduation Rates and Largely Eliminates Race-based Performance Gaps

The chart below illustrates data collected from a National Student Clearinghouse study. The data demonstrate Stony Brook University outperforming national averages in graduation rates in addition to largely eliminating race-based performance gaps observed in the rest of higher education.

Up in Albany

Dr. Kaushansky Makes Albany Rounds

Dr. Kaushansky, Senior Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine and Dean of the School of Medicine, visited Albany recently to discuss proposed changes to the distribution of Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding that would severely impact hospital budgeting. As a safety-net hospital, Stony Brook Medicine receives DSH funding to pay for
Dr. Ken Kaushansky (left) and Senator Kemp Hannon in Albany.

On April 18, Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) Director Doon Gibbs and Richard Reeder, Stony Brook's Vice President for Research and Associate Vice President for Brookhaven Affairs were guests of the New York State Senate who passed a Resolution honoring BNL on its 70th Anniversary.

The Resolution was sponsored by State Senator Kenneth LaValle who highlighted Stony Brook's strong connection to BNL. Since 1998, Stony Brook has co-managed BNL for the U.S. Department of Energy under Brookhaven Science Associates. BNL employs nearly 3,000 scientists and hosts more than 4,000 visiting scientists and researchers each year from around the world. Seven Nobel prizes have been won for BNL research. Stony Brook has more than 75 joint appointments with BNL.

**On the Hill**

House Committees Call on SBU Expert to Testify on Success of Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Packages

Dr. Clinton Rubin testifying at the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology and House Small Business Committee joint hearing on May 4.

On May 4, Dr. Clinton Rubin, a SUNY Distinguished Professor & Chairman of the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Stony Brook University, testified in front of members of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology and House Small Business Committee during a joint hearing regarding the improvement of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Rubin focused his testimony on the success of the Long Island BioScience Hub (LIBH), which is partly funded by the NIH Research, Evaluation and Commercialization Hub (REACH) program. LIBH fosters the development of therapeutics, preventative, diagnostics, devices and research tools emerging from LIBH partner institutions that address diseases within the NIH's mission. LIBH successfully uses NIH REACH funding to catalyze technology development, SBIR/STTR initiatives and company formation. Stony Brook's Office of Government Relations is working closely with Senate and House committee staff in D.C. to advocate for the re-authorization of NIH REACH funding, which is due to sunset in September of this year.
FY17 Omnibus Package Increases Research and Higher Education Funding

On May 5, 2017, President Trump signed into law the FY17 Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R. 244), which incorporates 11 out of 12 FY17 appropriations bills (Military Construction-Veterans Affairs was enacted earlier).

The package, which passed the House on May 3 and the Senate on May 4, includes funding increases for several research and higher education programs, including a $2-billion increase for the National Institutes of Health.

The federal funding advocacy efforts of Stony Brook's Office of Government Relations now turns to FY18.

FY18 SBU Federal Funding Priorities Chart
Summary of SBU Priorities in FY17 Omnibus Package

Respiratory Care Students Advocate for Patient Care in Washington, D.C.

Dana Badke and Catherine Vidal, two senior Stony Brook University respiratory care students, recently advocated for the American Association for Respiratory Care in Washington, D.C. They were accompanied by Clinical Associate Professor Stephen G. Smith from the School of Health Technology and Management's Respiratory Care Program.

The group attended meetings with New York congressional staff to discuss the importance of the clinical care that respiratory therapists provide to patients and to encourage Congress to support legislation that will have a positive impact on patient care, specifically patients with cardiopulmonary diseases.

Read the full story

In Our Community

SBU's Communicating Science Program Expands Across SUNY

The partnership between SUNY and Stony Brook University

(L-R): Matthew Scott, Legislative Assistant to Congressman Lee Zeldin; Cat Vidal and Dana Badke, seniors in the SHTM Respiratory Care Program; Stephen G. Smith, Clinical Associate Professor, SHTM-Respiratory Care Program and Regional Director for NY State Society for Respiratory Care; and Robert Feiler, Legislative Assistant, outside Congressman Lee Zeldin's Office.
University's Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science will broaden its reach by offering the center's highly acclaimed training to doctoral students at up to five additional SUNY campuses. The Alan Alda Center has received widespread recognition for its training, which provides students with skills to communicate their work effectively to the public, public officials, the media and others outside of their discipline.

Read the full story

Students Honored for Activism on Cancer and Organ Donation

The American Lung Association and LiveOnNY representatives presented awards to members of the student groups Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) and CHILL on May 8, 2017, for promoting awareness of organ donation and decreasing lifelong cancer risk with safe practices at Stony Brook University.

Read the full story

Career Center’s Dixon Honored for Innovation in Diversity

Stony Brook’s Kimberly Joy Dixon is a recipient of the 2017 Innovation in Diversity & Inclusion Award granted by the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers (EACE). Dixon is Assistant Director of Employer Relations & Diversity Recruitment at Stony Brook’s Career Center.

The Innovation in Diversity and Inclusion Award honors EACE members who have made outstanding contributions and demonstrated innovation in work with diverse populations.

Read the full story

Upcoming Events

Friday, June 2, 2017
School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences Public Lecture Series
Speaker: Paul Sieswerda, Executive Director, Gotham Whale
Stony Brook Southampton

Sunday, June 4, 2017
National Cancer Survivors Day: Surviving with Grace
International Speaker: Jennifer Arnold, MD, MSc, FAPP
East Campus - Cancer Center

Friday June 9 - Saturday June 10, 2017
Third Annual Food Lab Conference
Keynote Speaker: World-famous chef and restaurateur Bobby Flay
Stony Brook Southampton

Monday, June 26, 2017
Annual Scholarship Golf Classic
Huntington Country Club

Full Stony Brook events calendar

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