



CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Michael Bernstein Named Interim President of Stony Brook University



Interim President Dr. Michael Alan Bernstein

[Dr. Michael Alan Bernstein](#) has been appointed Interim President of Stony Brook University, effective on or about August 1, 2019. Bernstein's appointment was codified on June 20 via a resolution passed during a SUNY Board of Trustees public session.

"Michael is an outstanding selection for this role," said outgoing President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD. "During his three-year tenure as Provost and Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Stony Brook, he has made extraordinary contributions to every aspect of the University. His decisive and energetic leadership has been welcome and needed, and Stony Brook University is fortunate to have his steady hand at the helm going forward."

Bernstein was appointed Stony Brook University Provost in October 2016. As Provost, he oversaw numerous initiatives aimed at supporting the University's missions in research, scholarship, art-making, and teaching. He laid special emphasis on measures enhancing diversity and inclusion.

[Read the full story](#)

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Up in Albany

2019 Legislative Session Comes to an End

The 2019 legislative session came to an end with a push for progressive issues including driver's licenses for undocumented residents, increased labor rights for [farm workers](#), increased protections for victims of [sexual harassment](#) and a [climate protection bill](#) that requires the state to cut greenhouse emissions by 85% by 2050; requires that 70% of electricity be produced by renewable energy systems by 2030, and requires 100% clean energy statewide by 2040.

While the Senate approved a resolution that provided Stony Brook with \$50,000 in funding for disease related research, some Stony Brook priority issues that didn't



Assemblyman Steve Englebright led fight for hospital operating aid

make it to the end included funding for a new engineering building and restoration of operating funds for the three teaching hospitals. In the final days of session, Assemblyman Steve Englebright coordinated a [letter to Speaker Heastie](#) from Assembly majority members from across the state requesting that the state pick up capital debt service for the hospitals in an effort to free up operating funds.

Aside from the previously [outlined](#) critical maintenance and capital funds given to SUNY, there was no other capital pool granted to the System or to individual campuses for special projects.

Governor Cuomo joins SoMAS on Great South Bay to increase shellfish population



Stony Brook University SoMAS students spread clams and oysters in the Great South Bay

Governor Andrew Cuomo was recently joined by Dean Paul Shepson and Dr. Chris Gobler of the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences to continue the success of his Long Island Shellfish Restoration Project (LISRP) to [restore the clam and oyster population](#) in the Great South Bay.

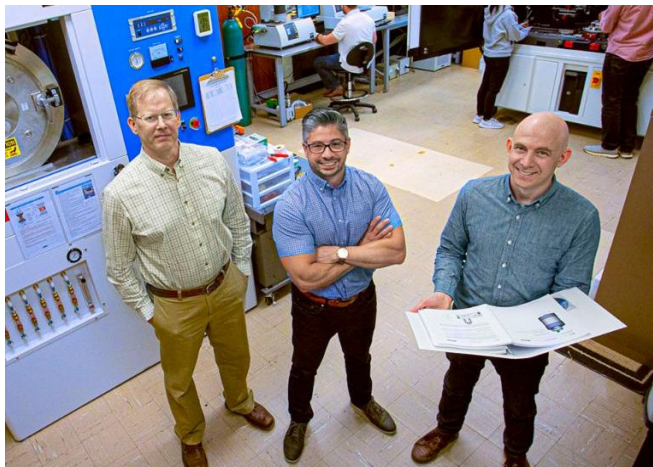
The Governor has already invested \$10.4M to spread 179 million clams and oysters throughout Long Island

bays on the north and south shores through 2021.

LISRP is led by the State Department of Environmental Conservation in collaboration with Stony Brook University, Cornell Cooperative Extension and community leaders and local governments. Increasing the shellfish population is expected to improve water quality and mitigate harmful algal blooms.

On the Hill

\$2.35 Million ARPA-E Award Will Help Develop Safer Nuclear Energy



Jason Trelewicz, center, with Lance Snead, left, and David Sprouster

\$2.35 million from the U.S. Department of Energy [Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy \(ARPA-E\)](#) program has been awarded to the team in the [Engineered Microstructures and Radiation Effects Laboratory \(EMREL\)](#), led by Principal Investigator (PI) Professor Jason Trelewicz with co-PIs Lance Snead and David Sprouster. Their project, Technology Enabling Zero-EPZ Micro Modular Reactors, will develop advanced moderator (Ad-Mod) technologies to increase the output of modular high temperature gas cooled reactors (HTGR) while also reducing the reactor footprint and overall costs of nuclear energy.

ARPA-E is an agency tasked with promoting and funding research and development of advanced energy technologies.

[Read the full story](#)

SoMAS Professor Advocates for Comprehensive National Mercury Monitoring Act on Capitol Hill

On Tuesday, June 18, [Professor Nicholas Fisher](#) of SBU's School of

Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (SoMAS) attended meetings in Washington, DC with staffers of [Sen. Schumer](#), [Sen. Gillibrand](#), and [Rep. Zeldin](#) to advocate for the [Comprehensive National Mercury Monitoring Act](#). Consumption of marine fish accounts for more than 80% of methylmercury intake in the US resulting in dangerous health impacts. An estimated 200,000 children born in the United States each year are exposed to levels of mercury in the womb that are high enough to impair neurological development.



Professor Nicholas Fisher

Currently, scientists must rely on limited information to understand the critical linkages between mercury emissions and environmental response and human health. In order to successfully design, implement, and assess solutions to the problem of mercury pollution, scientists need comprehensive long-term data. To address this discrepancy and acquire this critical data, a Comprehensive National Mercury Monitoring Act, would establish a national mercury monitoring network to protect human health, safeguard fisheries, and track the environmental effects of emissions reductions.

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

Medical Student Named NIH Research Scholar



Jenny Kim

Stony Brook University [School of Medicine](#) student Jenny Kim is considering becoming an anesthesiologist and would like to research novel non-opioid analgesics for pain. During the 2018-19 academic year, Kim will be involved in pain research at the National Institutes of Health ([NIH](#)) before she returns to Stony Brook the following year to complete her MD program. This opportunity arose as Kim was selected as one of the recipients of the NIH's 2018-19 Medical Research Scholars Program ([MRSP](#)).

[Read the full story](#)

In Our Community

A World of Cinema Comes to the Stony Brook Film Festival

When filmgoers attend the [Stony Brook Film Festival presented by Island Federal](#), they're likely to see something they wouldn't normally get a chance to see.

"Probably two-thirds of the feature films we've shown, you can't find anywhere," said festival founder and director Alan Inkles. "The only place you'll see it is here. And that's why people come."

Inkles and co-programmer Kent Marks viewed an almost unbelievable 2,500 entries before determining the 36 films - 20 feature films and 16 shorts - that will be shown at the 24th annual festival, which takes place July 18-27 at the Staller Center's Main Stage Theater. The 10-day event will feature a mix of the best in new independent feature films and shorts, as well as Q&A sessions with many of the filmmakers.



The German film, Balloon, will open the 24th annual Stony Brook Film Festival.

[Read the full story](#)

Stony Brook Claims AE Commissioner's Cup

Following an historic 2018-19 season, Stony Brook University has claimed the America East Stuart P. Haskell, Jr. Commissioner's Cup for the first time in school history. The Cup annually recognizes the strongest athletic program in the Conference as determined by success both during the regular season and championship competition in 18 sports.



SBU Athletic Director Shawn Heilbron accepts Commissioner's Cup from America East Commissioner Amy Huchthausen.

[Read the full story](#)

Cutting-Edge Products Displayed at Incubator Showcase

Long Island start-ups displayed pioneering new products and technologies at the fourth

annual Incubator Showcase, sponsored by the Vice President for Research and the [Office of Economic Development](#), and held at the Center of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology ([CEWIT](#)) on June 5.



Biotech exhibitors at Incubator Showcase

More than 50 start-ups exhibited at the event, which celebrates the flourishing entrepreneurial culture built at Stony Brook University and highlights the individual success of companies incubated here.

"Our Stony Brook University incubator companies are creating incredibly robust and diverse opportunities for future industry growth and collaboration in our communities," said Peter Donnelly, Associate Vice President for Technology Partnerships.

[Read the full story](#)

Upcoming Events

Thursday, July 18, 2019

[2019 Touchdown Club Golf Classic](#)

Presented by Island Federal Credit Union
In Memory of Deputy Chief Raymond M. Downey

Monday, August 5, 2019

[2019 Seawolves United Golf Classic](#)

St. Georges Golf & Country Club | Setauket, NY
Presented by Johnson Controls
Benefits Seawolves United and In Honor of Charles Gordon Heuser

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, September 21, 2019

[CommUniversity Day](#) will highlight the campus through hands-on, interactive activities, fun entertainment, exciting tours, and thought-provoking mini-talks. Free and open to all.

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