

From the Vice Provost

Stony Brook University celebrated a special International Education Week this November by receiving the 2018 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization. Awarded to institutions demonstrating significant progress toward campus internationalization efforts, the Simon Award is a direct result of the Stony Brook community collaborating together to support global initiatives over the past few years. I applaud all our efforts in making Stony Brook a truly global campus!



This fall, the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) made a number of strides in increasing international student success. Most notably our new Peer Mentoring Program, an outcome of the International Student Success Task Force, partnered over 200 incoming international freshmen with Stony Brook peers to help them learn how to navigate campus life and academics. The program will grow to include new international transfer students in spring.

Additionally, OGA hosted a number of workshops and events for the campus community, including a new Chinese Conversation Workshop specifically designed to help faculty and staff better communicate with Chinese international students. The workshop, which covers topics like pronouncing Chinese names and Chinese greetings, will continue next semester.

As we plan for a new year, the Office of Global Affairs looks forward to working with students, faculty, and staff to continue our efforts to brand Stony Brook University as a national leader in comprehensive internationalization and global engagement.

OGA wishes you a joyous holiday season and a happy New Year!

2018 Simon Award Ceremony and Presidential Panel



Stony Brook University was honored with the Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization by NAFSA: Association of International Educators during the 2018 International Education Week this November.

Photo: President Stanley receives the 2018 Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization from Corey Simon, Granddaughter of the late Senator Paul Simon, and Dr. Esther Brimmer, Executive Director & CEO of NAFSA

The ceremony, held in Washington, DC, included a [Presidential Panel](#), where Stony Brook President Dr. Samuel L. Stanley Jr.

answered questions related to Stony Brook's internationalization efforts alongside the presidents of fellow 2018 winners, Babson College, Harper College, and Texas Tech University. During the panel, President Stanley highlighted three of Stony Brook's global sites: the Turkana Basin Institute in Kenya, Centre ValBio in Madagascar, and SUNY Korea, which offer research opportunities for Stony Brook faculty and students, study abroad programs led by Stony Brook faculty, and community outreach opportunities.

In addition to the ceremony, Stony Brook was also profiled by NAFSA in its [2018 Internationalizing the Campus](#) publication, showcasing the University's internationalization efforts.

Mentoring International Student Success

This semester, the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) launched the first outcome from the International Student Success Task Force: a Peer Mentoring Program for freshmen international students. The program has paired over 200 new international students with a Stony Brook mentor to help them navigate their first year on campus.

Photo: Peer mentors at orientation to learn more about student services on campus



Stony Brook University has a very diverse international student population from a variety of different cultures and educational backgrounds. As these students transition to a new university, community, and educational style, the support services they need can vary greatly. Many of our international students will experience challenges in the form of cultural differences both in and out of the classroom, such as language proficiency, being afraid to ask questions, and determining whose advice to follow (parents, friends, advisors, etc.). They may also struggle with understanding the US educational system, particularly the importance of academic integrity and extracurricular experiences.

The Peer Mentoring Program matches international students with Stony Brook upperclassmen based on both common interests and student requests. Mentors receive an orientation to learn how to communicate with their mentees and learn what campus services are available to students needing help. Participants are able to communicate online or meet up in person to discuss topics ranging from residence hall life and extracurricular activities to managing stress and academic expectations. Mentors keep an online log that helps Stony Brook staff identify students in need of additional support.

[Read more](#)

International Education Week

The Office of Global Affairs (OGA) celebrated International Education Week with a series of programs for students, faculty, and staff to expand their global awareness.

Photo: Passport to the World event during International Education Week.

International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to celebrate the benefits of



international education and exchange worldwide. The program, which began in 2000, is celebrated in more than 100 countries, and is designed to promote international understanding and encourage educational exchange.

To encourage students to explore international cultures, OGA once again held its annual Passport to the World in the Melville Library Lobby. International students from 10 countries showcased their cultures, traditions, and language while providing samples of candies from

their home country. OGA also arranged a meet and greet for students participating in the Peer Mentoring Program for freshmen international students, as well as workshops for faculty and staff to learn the correct pronunciation of Chinese names and understand the immigration process for international students.

Study abroad participants at Centre ValBio in Madagascar, led by Stony Brook's Gilman Scholar, Veronica Tuazon, also got in on the celebration, creating a video for the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)!



Reflections on the Tanzania Summer Study Abroad

by Sarah Cotter



As an adult student, I never dreamed of studying abroad when I decided to finish my Bachelor's in Biology at Stony Brook in the spring of 2017. However, when I started classes in the fall, I was lucky enough to have Study Abroad & Exchange Manager Mariam Isack come to my class to lecture on the countless benefits of study abroad. The Tanzania program was the one that made the biggest impression on me, not only due to the academic benefits, but for the extracurricular activities as well. I

was able to witness foreign health care systems first hand and gain memories that will last a lifetime.

Photo: Stony Brook biology major Sarah Cotter explores a local art shop in Mto Wa Mbu during the 2018 Tanzania Summer Study Abroad program.

The faculty-led program consisted of visits to various health care facilities throughout Tanzania, with an additional internship extension that allowed me to job shadow at a local hospital through a peer mentoring program. The faculty and program leaders were invaluable to us students, accompanying us throughout the program. From getting by day to day in-country to leading us through health care facilities with actual medical professionals, the faculty provided invaluable information that I wouldn't have been able to get on my own. It contributed an extra sense of bonding and community among the students, as we spent a considerable amount of time together each day throughout the duration of the program.

Being able to observe foreign healthcare systems at work solidified my passion for pursuing a career in the health sciences. Medicine has always been a passion of mine, but up until this program I had only had experiences on the non-clinical end. Being able to walk through hospitals and clinics in Tanzania, under the guidance of faculty, was an experience I would never have had without this program. Since returning home, I am now more determined and passionate than ever in making my career in medicine a reality. From my experience in Tanzania, I was even lucky enough to be able to shadow Dr. Thomas Bilfinger, one of our Stony Brook faculty leaders, in his OR at Stony Brook University Hospital.

All in all, this experience was the opportunity of a lifetime, and I would highly encourage all prospective SBU students to apply for study abroad programs in the future!

Global Affairs Highlights



Fall Study Abroad Fair

This fall, International Academic Programs (IAP) held its annual Study Abroad Fair in the Academic Mall. Representatives from all SUNY institutions, faculty, and IAP staff were on hand to introduce and answer questions about the over 500 study abroad programs available to Stony Brook participants.

Over 500 students attended the event, learning about the wealth of Study Abroad destinations and programs and entering a raffle to win one of 15 \$500 study abroad scholarships toward any program. Study Abroad alumni and exchange students also organized a flash mob choreographed by Stony Brook students!



Chinese Conversation Workshops

This Fall, the Confucius Institute, with the assistance of the China Center, offered its first conversational Chinese workshop specially designed for faculty and staff.

The free weekly workshops focused on subjects such as correct pronunciation of Chinese names, Chinese greetings, exchanging gifts, and advising students in Chinese. Faculty and staff participating in the workshops learned basic Chinese phrases and pronunciation to help them better communicate and connect with Stony Brook's Chinese international student population, while also learning about Chinese culture.

The Confucius Institute Chinese

IAP will hold a Spring Study Abroad Fair on February 13, and students are encouraged to visit the [IAP office](#) and [website](#) any time to learn more.



Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival

On September 24, the China Center and Confucius Institute at Stony Brook celebrated the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, Confucius Institute Day, and the 10th Anniversary of the Confucius Institute at Stony Brook University with over 350 students, faculty, and staff at the Charles B. Wang Center.

The event featured traditional Chinese music, paper cutting, and calligraphy performed by Stony Brook's Chinese international students. Students were able to taste Chinese Moon Cakes, a traditional Mid-Autumn Festival dessert, and hear presentations from Consul Jun Yang from the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in New York; Dr. Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., President of Stony Brook University; Dr. Jun Liu, Vice Provost for Global Affairs at Stony Brook University; and Dr. Qun Xie, the Chinese Director of the Confucius Institute at Stony Brook.

The Mid-Autumn Festival honors the harvest, and is traditionally celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar under a full moon. It is widely celebrated throughout Southeast Asia.

Conversation Classes will continue during the Spring semester. More detailed information can be found on the [Confucius Institute website](#).

Global Forum

Engineering Planetary Health

Organized by the Institute of Global Studies,
Office of Global Affairs

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

1 PM - 2:20 PM

Charles B. Wang Center Theatre

Engineering Planetary Health

On Wednesday, December 5, the Institute for Global Studies will host the last Global Forum of the semester from 1:00 - 2:30 pm in the Wang Center Theater. Focusing on [Engineering Planetary Health](#), the Forum is a continuation of the Global Engineering theme that began last April.

Humans are living longer and healthier lives than ever before, yet the health of the planet is in jeopardy. The globalization of the Industrial Revolution is damaging the geobody at an alarming rate, but human health requires a healthy planet. To keep us and our planet healthy, advanced technical skills must be matched with smart social, cultural, and political abilities. We need constructive local interventions that go FAR BEYOND engineering. This Global Forum provides some insight into how Stony Brook researchers are approaching humanity's new planetary challenge.

Join us as we explore planetary health with Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos, Dean of the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences, and professors from the Departments of Ecology & Evolution and Technology & Society.

Next Issue

- **Anhui K-12 Teachers Group** (In collaboration with the Educational Leadership Program, School of Professional Development)
- **China Center/Confucius Institute Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration** (In collaboration with the Department of Music and the Long Island community)