

From the Vice Provost

Over the weekend, internationalization and immigration came to the forefront of American news and politics with President Trump's Executive Order barring entry to citizens from certain countries. For more information on the Executive Order, please watch the [information session with immigration attorneys](#) hosted by the Office of the President and Global Affairs.

The impact of the Executive Order was felt strongly here at Stony Brook, and in light of these ongoing developments, I'd like to reaffirm our commitment to our international community. The Office of Global Affairs (OGA) is united with [President Stanley and the University](#) in creating a campus environment of diversity, access, and inclusiveness, and stands ready to assist our international students, faculty and scholars in any way possible.



Stony Brook University is home to over 5,600 international students, faculty and scholars from over 100 countries. We have partnerships with nearly 150 universities on 5 continents, as well as 5 global sites. Our students, faculty, and staff collaborate and connect with peers all over the world on a daily basis. OGA has made it a priority to become more engaged with the campus community by strategically working on Stony Brook's global initiatives, partnering with our international centers and global sites, presenting and debating international issues during our Global Forum, and communicating through this newsletter.

Looking forward, we plan to build upon this momentum and interaction, with increased opportunities for discussion and exchange, as well as further development of OGA's initiatives. Of particular importance is the development and enhancement international support services, and we are working with key offices and academic units to propose solutions to better serve the needs of our international student population. We are also creating new faculty mentoring programs to build connections and create cross-cultural experiences between Stony Brook and partner universities.

Stony Brook University's strength lies in its acceptance of diversity from all backgrounds and experiences. I and the OGA team are proud to promote a campus environment that encourages diversity and welcomes all, and will remain vigilant in our mission to build an integrative and globally engaged campus.

Transforming Lives in Madagascar

By Vanessa Crowley



Picture: Trey Murphy presents Ranomafana representatives with a new waste management vehicle along with Drs. Patricia Wright and Jun Liu.

On September 15, 2016 just as the sun was rising and breaking through the mist in Ranomafana National Park, a remote rain forest in the southeast of Madagascar that is home to one of Stony Brook's global sites, a group of individuals gathered in front of Centre ValBio, the Park's prestigious research station. Patricia Wright, Founder and Executive Director of the research station, and Jun Liu, Vice Provost for Stony Brook Global Affairs were among the crowd of people set accompany Trey Murphy, a young business man in his own right at the age of 21, to the village of Ranomafana where he would be donating a waste management vehicle.

Followed closely by the waste management vehicle, the group drove down the steep hill leading into the village to meet with the Mayor and present him with the community's important new asset. This was not the first time the Mayor of Ranomafana village had met Trey Murphy. Trey explained his relationship to Ranomafana in a brief interview:

"I started out as a study abroad student in the fall of 2014 in Stony Brook's anthropology program. I study business management at Stony Brook, but when I heard about our school's connection to Madagascar, I took a chance and ended up loving it. I enjoyed the anthropology courses, but I also spent time on the trip thinking about business opportunities in Madagascar. Ranomafana now feels like home to me. I have met some incredible people and really enjoy the Malagasy way of life. Everyone cares about each other and their community, and the personal connections are very strong.

"I feel like the waste management vehicle is something that Ranomafana has needed since the inception of its National Park. Tourism is increasing every year and so is the trash produced from hosting over 30,000 guests per year. As a member of the community I felt like this was something I could provide that would benefit everyone. My business focus is ecotourism, and I believe everyone visiting Ranomafana in the future will notice the cleanliness as a result of our group effort."

[Read More](#)

Turkana Basin Institute Introduces New Summer Programs

For the first time this year, the Turkana Basin Institute (TBI) is offering two programs during the summer in northern Kenya. Students will be able to choose between the traditional TBI course offerings during the new Summer Origins Field School and a new engineering-focused program with the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS). The CEAS program will concentrate on design solutions and applying knowledge with limited resources to real-world problems both at TBI and in the surrounding community.



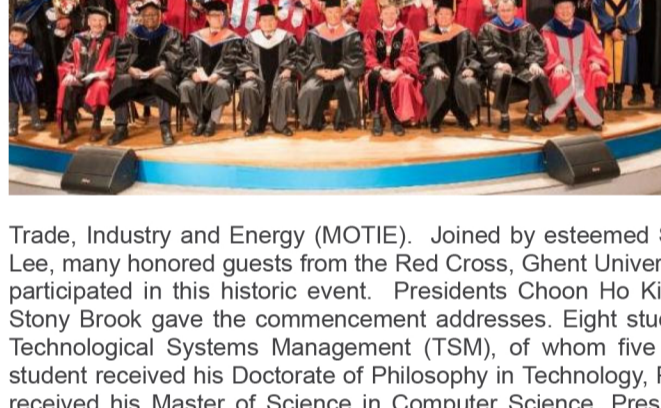
TBI is a non-profit joint venture founded by Stony Brook University and Richard Leakey, renowned paleoanthropologist and conservationist. TBI's facilities are comprised of two compounds, Turkwel and Illet, situated on either side of Lake Turkana.

The sprawling campuses, which are unique in both size and location, allow for important archeological, geological, and anthropological research on either side of the Turkana Basin, including remote areas in Sibilo National Park.

These new summer programs join the existing semester-long field schools held each Fall and Spring, where students spend 11 weeks which include 5 intensive 2-week sessions studying ecology, geology, anthropology, human evolution, and prehistoric archaeology with Stony Brook University faculty and other prominent scholars from around the world. Students participate in hands-on activities in the field and TBI labs, as well as participating in community volunteer projects. "There are many ongoing research projects in the field throughout the year in Turkana, one of which I co-lead, and students get to play a part in the discovery during the courses. After the program, we've invited many Origins Field School alumni to come with us to excavate for a month during our field season" explained Summer Field School Director Jason Lewis.

[Read More](#)

SUNY Korea Celebrates First Commencement



SUNY Korea celebrated its first Undergraduate Commencement for the Class of 2016 on Friday January 13, 2017, marking a milestone as the first American University in the history of the Incheon Global Campus (IGC) and the country of South Korea, as well as for Stony Brook University (SBU).

The ceremony was presided over by dignitaries from the Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ) and other governmental agencies of South Korea including the national Congress, Ministries of Education (MoE) and Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE). Joined by esteemed SBU alumni Drs. Myung Oh and Hyungson Lee, many honored guests from the Red Cross, Ghent University, and faculty from SBU and SUNY Korea participated in this historic event. Presidents Choon Ho Kim of SUNY Korea and Samuel Stanley of Stony Brook gave the commencement addresses. Eight students received their Bachelor of Science in Technological Systems Management (TSM), of whom five graduated with Honors. In addition, one student received his Doctorate of Philosophy in Technology, Policy and Innovation (TPI) and one student received his Master of Science in Computer Science. President Stanley conferred the degrees on all graduating students.

All our students of the first graduating class have either moved on to graduate school or accepted offers from industry, pursuing promising careers with employment opportunities. With the guidance and support of our dedicated and talented faculty and staff, and of course their families, this group of graduates will embark on a path of lifelong learning as they pursue and succeed in their professional careers and personal growth.

We wish the first class of graduates all the best in their future endeavors!

Inaugural C.N. Yang - Wei Deng Endowed Chair of Physics and Astronomy Celebrated in China

By Stony Brook Newsroom

The impact that Professor Alexander Zamolodchikov has had on the field of physics can be measured by a simple metric: 18,000. It's the number of times his published research has been cited; one of the highest in physics to date.

Picture: Investiture ceremony of the C.N. Yang - Wei Deng Endowed Chair in Physics & Astronomy in Beijing



A pioneer in modern theoretical physics and member of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Zamolodchikov is known internationally for his contributions to the study of condensed matter physics, conformal field theory and string theory.

Adding to an extensive list of titles and awards, Dr. Zamolodchikov became the inaugural Chen Ning Yang - Wei Deng Endowed Chair in Physics and Astronomy on January 6 at an investiture ceremony in Beijing, China at Bright Ocean's headquarters.

The Chair was established through the generosity of Dr. Wei Deng, the founder and chairman of Bright Oceans Corporation, a high-tech industrial group in China. Dr. Wei Deng was inspired to honor Chen Ning Yang's scientific legacy as one of China's most venerated scientists, recipient of the 1957 Nobel Prize in Physics and the first director of Stony Brook's Institute of Theoretical Physics - now the Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics.

"The C.N. Yang - Wei Deng Endowed Chair is expected to help Stony Brook University transform their research achievements into actual benefits," Wei Deng told the Xinhua Net Press, "Which will better serve people all over the world, including the people in China and America."

[Read more](#)

Global Affairs Highlights



Students participate in the study abroad fair



Inaugural Global Forum

Spring Study Abroad Fair

The Spring Study Abroad Fair for International Academic Programs & Services was held on February 1 in the Melville Library.

This event gave students the opportunity to speak with program directors, faculty, former student participants, and visiting exchange students from programs all over the world.

Stony Brook students came to learn about the many opportunities for them to earn credits and satisfy degree requirements including through internships and research while studying abroad.

Visit the [Study Abroad website](#) to learn more about study abroad opportunities!

Global Forum

In October, the Office of Global Affairs kicked off its Global Forum series with a packed audience of around 300 students, faculty and staff in the Wang Center Theater with simultaneous broadcasting in the neighboring lecture hall. Participants heard election predictions, issues and outcomes from Stony Brook faculty, including Dr. Helmut Norpoth, who correctly identified the winner of the Turkish back in February 2016.

This semester, the Global Forum continues with three exciting events on contemporary global issues impacting our campus!



IEC Halloween Party



Peking Opera at Confucius Institute Day

Intensive English Center

The Intensive English Center (IEC) is a full time program for international students looking to improve their English language proficiency. For the Fall 2016 semester, approximately 70% of IEC students have conditional admission to the university and plan to begin their undergraduate studies either this spring or next fall. This year's IEC students span the globe, coming from China Colombia, Israel, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, and Venezuela.

Beyond language learning, the IEC program also serves as an introduction to American culture and Long Island. Each semester, IEC students participate in cultural programs like field trips to New York City and eastern Long Island, as well as celebrate traditional American holidays.

[Read more](#)

Confucius Institute

Each year, Stony Brook University's Confucius Institute hosts programs to introduce Chinese culture and language to the surrounding community, the biggest of which is the annual Chinese New Year celebration.

This year, the Confucius Institute welcomes the Year of the Rooster on Saturday, February 4 with artistic performances in dance, music, and more in the Wang Center Theater. Participants are followed by a celebratory dinner. In addition to the New Year celebrations, the Confucius Institute and Office of Global Affairs are hosting a lecture with Professor Da Hsuan Feng of the University of Macau on Friday, February 3. Prof. Feng will speak about China's One-Belt-One-Road proposal to revitalize the Ancient Silk Routes.

[Read more](#)



One-Stop-Culture-Shop at IEW 2016



Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City

International Education Week

Spearheaded by staff in Visa and Immigration Services (VIS), this year's International Education Week (IEW) featured more than 15 events to celebrate the international diversity of Stony Brook and introduce the world to Stony Brook students, faculty and staff. Sponsored by a Presidential Mini-Grant for Departmental Diversity Grant, events were targeted toward diverse campus populations to encourage and instruct about international diversity.

The main event, "One-Stop-Culture-Shop" featured international and domestic students showcasing over 100 countries. Student volunteers wrote up fact sheets about their home countries with local greetings and customs to pass out along with traditional candies.

[Read more](#)

Developing Partnerships in Vietnam

In November, President Samuel Stanley Jr., MD and Dr. Jun Liu traveled to Vietnam, one of Stony Brook's top ten countries for international students, to learn about the country's higher education system and explore areas for collaboration and exchange.

The Stony Brook delegation visited universities and government agencies in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, including the top two university systems in Vietnam: Vietnam National University, Hanoi and Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City. Both university systems are composed of independent, subject-specific universities.

[Read more](#)

Next Issue

- International Student Success Task Force
- Visa and Immigration Services
- Confucius Institute New Year Celebration
- Global Forum