



University Honors Programs

Norm Prusslin's journey is one defined by passion—for education, media, music, and mentoring. From his early days as a student at Stony Brook University (SBU) to his long-standing tenure as a faculty and staff member, Prusslin's career has been dedicated to public higher education and fostering student engagement in media and the arts.



"I am a lifelong believer and supporter of public higher education," Prusslin begins, with a sense of pride that is unmistakable. His connection to public universities runs deep, stretching from his undergraduate years at Stony Brook in the fall of 1969 to his graduate studies at Queens College, and onward to decades of service at SBU. Over the years, he has amassed a treasure trove of SUNY and CUNY memorabilia, symbolic of his unwavering commitment.

Though his career took him into the world of academia, Prusslin's love for media and music never waned. "I always wanted to be a teacher, educator, mentor, and adviser as well as be involved in the media and music industries," he reflects, crediting inspiring teachers throughout his educational journey for guiding him toward this dual path. His experiences working at radio stations, record companies, and magazines fueled his passion, while his role as co-founder of the Long Island Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2003 cemented his connection to the music world.

Prusslin's contributions to Stony Brook are nothing short of remarkable. He proudly recalls founding WUSB-FM Radio in 1977, a campus institution that thrives to this day, and his ongoing work as faculty adviser to both the station and the Student Media Council. His focus on student media, radio,

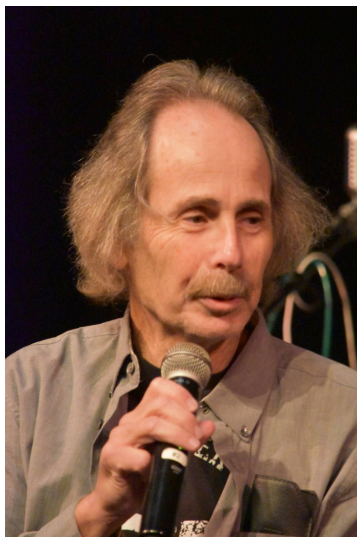


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and the music business has shaped countless lives, offering students hands-on learning experiences in fields that blend creativity with critical thinking. “There are multiple projects happening all the time!” he says enthusiastically, highlighting his leadership roles at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System and his tireless work with student media.

In the classroom, Prusslin teaches a wide array of courses, from "Arts and Society" to specialized internship classes in the media and music business. His teaching, which spans both Honors and Media Arts programs, is shaped by his belief in the power of creative expression and student engagement. “I always tell my Honors classes that I find my experiences in the classroom with them to be very rewarding and energizing!” he says. He fondly recalls the many industry professionals who have visited his courses, sharing their knowledge and learning from students in return.

Beyond the classroom, Prusslin has played an integral role in student development at Stony Brook. He has served as Faculty Director for the Media Arts Minor, co-chaired the Shirley Strum Kenny Student Arts Festival, and spent years guiding students through interdisciplinary projects. His dedication has not gone unnoticed; he is the recipient of numerous accolades, including the SUNY Chancellor’s Award, the SBU President’s Award, and a Lifetime Adviser Award from Student Affairs. “I am humbled by the many accolades I have received during my SBU years,” he reflects, demonstrating his characteristic humility despite his profound impact.



For Prusslin, teaching is not just about delivering lectures—it’s about inspiring students to pursue their dreams with confidence and creativity. “The best advice I can give is—follow your heart, think out-of-the-box, be bold and confident, live and enjoy life to the fullest!” he advises. He hopes that his enthusiasm for teaching, radio, and media is contagious, encouraging students to channel their passions into their future careers.



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While Prusslin’s achievements are numerous, it’s the simple moments that seem to resonate most deeply with him—moments spent mentoring students, collaborating with colleagues, and watching new generations of learners develop their voices. He remains energized by these interactions, which have shaped his own journey just as much as they have his students’.

“I hope that the enthusiasm, excitement, and energy that I bring to all aspects of my work somehow inspires my students,” he shares. For Prusslin, education is about more than imparting knowledge—it’s about creating a dynamic, lifelong experience that fosters creativity, bold thinking, and, most importantly, joy.