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## Eighth Annual Holi 2016 Celebration Takes Place at Stony Brook

### Over 600 Participate in Event presented by Hindu Students Council

Stony Brook, New York – April 21, 2016 – For the eighth year in a row, Stony Brook's Hindu Students Council brought Holi to Stony Brook University. Colors flew everywhere as over 600 students celebrated the Hindu festival of colors in the Mendelsohn Pit.

Holi is a Hindu holiday that was originally related to agriculture and meant to celebrate that arrival of spring. Holi is celebrated with general merrymaking and the use of colored powders. The use of colored powders represents the celebration of the colorfulness and liveliness of spring, as opposed to the gloom of winter (Holi).

Originally scheduled for April third, this year's Holi celebration had to be pushed back to the 17<sup>th</sup> because of weather conditions. On the 17<sup>th</sup> the sun was bright in the sky with the Mendelsohn pit jam-packed with people as Stony Brook celebrated Holi this year. Hundreds of students lined up outside the pit to receive a cup of colored powder. Everyone received a random color out of the wide variety provided including various shades of blue, yellow, green and purple. Once in the pit, it was impossible to move more than a few feet without being hit with colored powder. Everywhere you looked, people

were covered from head to toe in a rainbow of colors. Friends and strangers alike walked around throwing color at each other saying “Happy Holi”.

After the event had gone on for about an hour, members of the Hindu Students Council handed out Frooti’s, a mango flavored juice, to participants. Frooti is the most popular mango flavored juice in India (Chamikutty). As another hour went by, numbers dwindled and Stony Brook’s eighth Holi came to a close. One thing was obvious; it was the most popular Holi celebration yet.

Hetal Patel, the SEVA coordinator for the Stony Brook chapter of Hindu Students Council said, “Participation in Holi at Stony Brook University has increased every single year since the first Holi celebration in 2008 and this year was no exception. Last year we had less than 500 people at the event. With over 600 people, this year was by far our most popular Holi yet.”

Stony Brook’s Hindu Student Council is a chapter of the national Hindu Students Council organization. Hindu Students Council was founded in 1990. With over 130,000 students having participated in its events and activities it is currently the largest Hindu youth organization in North America. Hindu Student Council’s mission is three-fold: “providing opportunities to learn about Hindu heritage and culture, fostering awareness of issues affecting Hindus, and providing SEVA (service) to the community”. More information can be found at <http://hindustudentscouncil.org> . To contact the Hindu Students Organization visit [http://hindustudentscouncil.org/?page\\_id=3222](http://hindustudentscouncil.org/?page_id=3222).

### Works Cited

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