



CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS



A Message From Judith B. Greiman

Chief Deputy to the President and Vice President for Government and Community Relations

With the passage of this year's State Budget, Congressional appropriations negotiations heating up, and our spring semester in full swing here on campus, Stony Brook's Office of Government and Community Relations has been buzzing with activity. In this issue we share our response to the budget, advocacy efforts in D.C. and a few of the ways we are connecting with the community.

I hope you enjoy our latest updates in this April edition of *Capitols and Communities*.

Sincerely,

[Up in Albany](#)

[On the Hill](#)

[In Our Community](#)

Up in Albany

2016-17 State Budget Finalized

The 2016-17 State Budget was finalized this month, which for SUNY and Stony Brook University brings good news and not-so-good news.

Let's start with the not-so-good news... The proposal to extend the SUNY 2020 rational tuition plan was not included in the final budget. Instead, the budget froze tuition for resident undergraduate students for one year, the Maintenance of Effort provision (which requires the State to maintain level funding) was

not extended, and there were no additional operating funds provided to mitigate the lost tuition revenue - an estimated \$3.8M impact for Stony Brook.



President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. and Chief Deputy to the President Judith B. Greiman discuss Stony Brook University priorities with New York State Assembly Higher Education Chair, Assemblymember Deborah Glick.

The [TAP tuition credit](#) was maintained for one year, but universities were not provided with tuition or base aid revenue to support the aid - a cost of about \$5M for Stony Brook.

The big news in the budget, thanks to [Senator Ken LaValle](#) and [Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan](#), was the award of \$75M in capital funds to Stony Brook for development of an institute that will use our strengths in computational science to support innovations in biotechnology and medical research and will serve as a draw for companies to the [LI Research Corridor](#).

Other capital budget appropriations include an extra \$50M for [Stony Brook University Hospital](#) and \$27.2M for critical maintenance. This was \$6M more than what had originally been proposed, but is still far from the \$75M Stony Brook depended on some years ago. Critical maintenance funds allow us to take care of our aging infrastructure including buildings, walkways, labs, roofs and critical systems. In

addition, previous years' appropriations have been redirected for an expansion of Kenneth P. LaValle stadium and for the renovation and modernization of classrooms and laboratories at [Stony Brook Southampton](#).

[Equal Opportunity Programs \(EOP\)](#) statewide saw an increase of \$5.4M in operating funds, the Centers of Excellence remained flat at \$1M each and the Centers for Advanced Technology were reduced \$1M statewide. Funding for [SOMAS' Marine Animal Disease Lab](#) was a three year project that expired last fiscal year and was not extended.

Wolfie's Albany Road Trip

During [Mascot Madness 2016](#), Wolfie joined SUNY mascots from across New York in the state capital. Not one for the usual formalities of the hallways of the Capitol and Legislative Office Building, legislators and advocacy groups were unexpectedly greeted by Wolfie.

Although it was budget season, a time of working late nights and weekends, the legislators greeted the mascots with hugs and high-fives. Wolfie was especially excited to run into members of [Stony Brook Undergraduate Student Government \(USG\)](#) and the [Graduate Student Organization \(GSO\)](#) who were speaking with legislators about the importance of predictable tuition costs for students and their families.



Wolfie surprises Stony Brook students during their meeting with Assemblyman Fred Thiele.



Wolfie greets Senator Ken LaValle.

On the Hill

Stony Brook Answers Why Science Matters

As voters in 14 states on [Super Tuesday](#) answered the question of who they want to be their party's nominee for president of the United States, [The Science Coalition \(TSC\)](#) asked students, researchers and faculty at four universities - including Stony Brook - a different question: Why should science matter to our presidential candidates? Stony Brook University answers included the importance of cancer research, promoting energy efficiency and the future of our water supply, among others.



Putting Science in Super Tuesday

Stony Brook University, along with its fellow TSC members, continue to focus advocacy efforts on the need to maintain America's leadership in scientific discovery and innovation.

[Read the full story](#)

FY17 Budget Process Moves Forward

The House and Senate appropriations committees are making progress on their FY17 funding bills, but it seems inevitable that Congress will need to approve a continuing resolution (CR) this fall to prevent a government shutdown on October 1.



Graduate Student Organization leaders Joseph Verardo and Vahideh Raseghi on Capitol Hill.

Recently, the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved its [FY17 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill](#). This bill funds the [National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#) at \$7.5 billion. While this is an increase of \$46 million above the FY16 enacted level, we are disappointed that NSF was not funded at the higher education community's requested level of \$8 billion. Stony Brook continues to work with our fellow members of the Association of American Universities (AAU) to urge the House not to follow suit with the Senate and rather, fund NSF at \$8 billion.

Meanwhile, [Stony Brook University Government Relations](#) and student advocates continue to show a strong presence in Washington, D.C. this spring, meeting with members of the Long Island delegation to discuss [university priorities](#) including [increased funding to federal research agencies](#).

In Our Community

"Far Beyond" Brings the Stony Brook University Story to Life

As Stony Brook University continues its ascent as one of the nation's preeminent research universities, students, faculty, alumni and staff now have a new compelling and consistent communications framework from which to tell their stories, to describe their life-changing experiences, and to reflect their pride: FAR BEYOND.



"Our community recognizes the remarkable, groundbreaking work and outstanding scholarship that take place on our campus every day," said Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. "Equally as important is ensuring that people outside of Stony Brook - peers, the public, media, legislators - see the full breadth of our story and recognize the drive and growing reach and impact of our University.

[Read the full story](#)

Alda Center Teaches Communication Skills to Entrepreneurs

The Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, renowned for helping scientists explain their work to a general audience, is now helping CEO -entrepreneurs better communicate their businesses with key audiences. The Alda Center Industry Initiative is for scientists, engineers and other technical professionals in industry who want to become better at communicating their work with varied audiences including clients, corporate leaders, marketing personnel, policy makers and colleagues in other disciplines.



Graham Chedd and Marcy McGinnis lead a workshop called Introduction to Distilling Your Message.

[Read the full story](#)

Eric H. Holder, Jr., Soledad O'Brien to Receive Honorary Degrees at 2016 Commencement

Two eminent Americans, former US Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. and award-winning journalist Soledad O'Brien, will receive honorary degrees at Stony Brook University's 56th annual Commencement ceremony, to be held May 20, 2016. The conferral of these degrees underscores the University's ongoing commitment to diversity, social justice and public service.

"This is a remarkable distinction for the class of 2016, to be joined by individuals who personify what Stony Brook embraces - the relentless pursuit of excellence and commitment to make a real difference," said Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.



[Read the full story](#)

Ruchi Shah Named One of Glamour Magazine's Top 10 College Women



Ruchi Shah '16

Stony Brook University student Ruchi Shah '16 has been named one of Glamour magazine's Top 10 College Women of 2016.

Shah, the inventor of an all-natural mosquito repellent designed to combat disease in third world countries, is also a CEO of her own social entrepreneurship company, a nationally recognized cancer researcher and a journalist published on a national news network. Her goal is to "inspire others to follow their ideas until

they become realities."

[Read the full story](#)

13 SBU Students Honored with SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence

Thirteen students from Stony Brook University received the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence in a ceremony at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany on April 5. SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher presented the awards to 248 SUNY students.

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence was created in 1997 to recognize students who have best demonstrated, and have been recognized for, the integration of academic excellence with accomplishments in the areas of leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, campus involvement, or career achievement.

[Read the full story](#)



Pictured with SUNY Chancellor Zimpher are, left to right: Heather Savino, Alysa Rybkin, Robert Maloney, Bryan Szeglin, Ashwin Kelkar, Anirudh Chandrashekar and Casey Vieni.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, May 4- Saturday, May 7, 2016

[Chamber Music Festival](#)

Monday, May 9, 2016

[A Discussion on Diversity at Stony Brook: Black and Latino Alumni Network Event](#)

Friday, May 20, 2016

[Commencement Ceremony](#)

Saturday, May 21, 2016

[Seawolves Baseball vs Albany](#)



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