



# CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS



*Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD addresses gathering at HeForShe event in New York City.*

## FAST-TRACKING GENDER EQUALITY

### ***Stony Brook is front and center at HeForShe 2nd anniversary celebration***

Highlighting its commitment to achieving gender equality on campus and across the globe, Stony Brook University co-hosted the UN Women's [HeForShe](#) second anniversary event, welcoming world leaders, activists, change-makers and celebrities.

The evening reception was held

September 20, 2016 at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and co-hosted by SBU President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD, along with two other [IMPACT 10x10x10 Champions](#): Sauli Niinistö, President of Finland, and Bob Moritz, Chairman, PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited.

"Stony Brook University is committed to be the national leader - a model in gender equality in the United States for colleges and universities," said President Stanley. "That is why we are so invested in HeForShe. It provides a visionary and sound foundation from which we can all work together to improve the human condition through the achievement of gender equality."

[Read the full story](#)

[Watch the video](#)

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*Students representing SBU's HeForShe Committee join President Stanley and (right) Charles L. Robbins, SUNY UN Women HeForShe Coordinator, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of the Undergraduate Colleges.*

## Up in Albany

### Students Respond to County's Proposed Bus Cuts



*From left: Judith Greiman, Chief Deputy to the President and VP for Government and Community Relations, SBU students Connor Behan and Timothy Jack Tan, and Michael Arens, Assistant VP for Government and Community Relations.*

More than 100 students responded to surveys from the [Graduate Student Organization](#) and [Office of Commuter Student Services and Off Campus Living](#) regarding a [Suffolk County](#) proposal to cut bus service in an effort to close a budget gap. In addition, others joined Judith Greiman, Chief Deputy to the President and Vice President for Government and Community Relations, at a public hearing to verbally voice their opposition.

In particular, elimination of the S71 route, which serves the main campus and Stony Brook University Hospital, is frequented by students, employees, hospital patients and visitors with destinations southeast of the University. At the hearing, Ms. Greiman provided a summary of comments from the student survey. Among the survey results, 84% of students said they use the route daily to several times a month and 45% use the route to travel to and from school.

The County is expected to implement the cuts in early October. Students and employees affected by the elimination of S71 can meet with a Suffolk County transit representative on October 5 in Room 303 of the [Students Activities Center](#) where they can map out an alternative route. Riders can also visit [Suffolk Transit](#) and click on the [511 link](#) for transit assistance. Keep in mind that the Suffolk County transit website will continue to show the S71 route until it is officially out of service. Riders can also call Suffolk Transit at 631-852-5200 to speak with a representative.

### Politics on Campus

2016 is producing arguably the most watched and interesting presidential race in U.S. history. As a University, there is a great benefit of exposing students to political debates and civic engagement information.

It's important for all Stony Brook student clubs and individual students interested in hosting any political activity on campus to contact the [Office of Student Affairs](#) to ensure that all are in compliance with both state and federal rules and regulations.



*Republican nominee Donald Trump (left) and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton (right) during Monday's presidential debate*

According to [SUNY's policy on Political Campaign Activity at SUNY Campuses](#), the following should be kept in mind for SUNY employees' political activity:

*State employees must not use their position to gain political favor, encourage or discourage political*

contribution or activity or interfere with an election or lawful political activity. State employees may not use State resources (including SUNY letterhead, computers, e-mail and telephones) for partisan political purposes, but have the right to make personal political contributions, and to be active in personal political campaigns during nonworking hours.

For further information, please contact [Stony Brook's Office of Government and Community Relations](#).

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## On the Hill

### Congress Clears Bill to Prevent Shutdown

Congress hit the exits Wednesday night, with the [House and Senate passing legislation](#) to avoid a government shutdown and lawmakers skipping town until after Election Day.

The bill, which has White House backing, would fund the federal government through Dec. 9, provide \$1.1 billion to combat the Zika virus and send \$500 million to Louisiana and other states facing natural disasters. The package is expected to land on the president's desk in short order and lawmakers will cast their next roll calls in Washington during the lame-duck session in mid-November.

[Stony Brook University's Office of Government Relations](#) along with our fellow colleagues at AAU continue to urge Congress to complete the FY17 appropriations process before the end of December and to give high priority to research and higher education funding.

### President Stanley: Funding for Young Researchers is Critical

In a new video produced by [The Science Coalition](#) for its [Science 2034 Thought Leaders video series](#), Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD, addresses the importance of creating new opportunities and additional funding for young scientific investigators, a critical step to pave the way for future scientific breakthroughs. The Science Coalition is an organization made up of 60 major research universities nationwide.

[Read the full story](#)



*President Stanley discusses the importance of federal funding for young researchers.*

### SBU Students on Capitol Hill

Twice a year, [Stony Brook University's Graduate Student Organization](#) partners with the [National Association of Graduate-Professional Students \(NAGPS\)](#) for the [NAGPS' Advocacy Summit and Legislative Action Days](#). The Summit gathers student leaders from across the country for a two-day seminar and a day on the Hill meeting with policymakers about issues in higher education. On their recent advocacy day, they discussed important issues including STEM funding and also funding for the social sciences, open access to federally funded research, international visa concerns, student loans and interest rates.

"I had the opportunity to speak with policymakers on the importance of funding for the social sciences and its importance in addressing many of the issues that occupy public discourse. Major debate topics including crime, poverty, extremism, economics and the dissemination of life-saving treatments are addressed through research in the social sciences," said Joseph Verardo, GSO treasurer and director of finance for the NAGPS.





[Read the full story](#)

*From left to right: Tiffany Victor, Joseph Verardo and Vahideh Rasekhi on Capitol Hill for Graduate Students Legislative Action Day.*

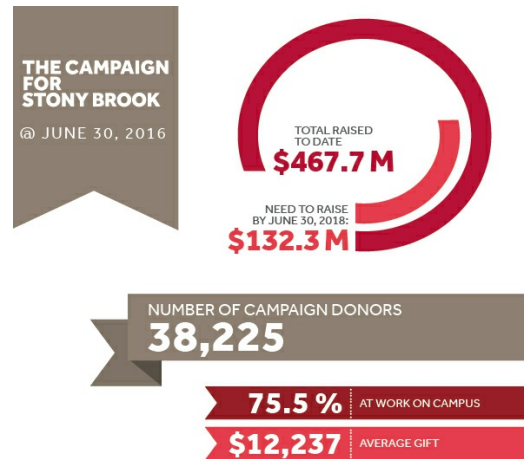
## In Our Community

### The Campaign for Stony Brook: More than \$468 Million Raised to Date

June 30, 2016 marked the end of year five of The Campaign for Stony Brook. Since 2011, more than 38,000 friends, alumni, corporations, foundations and others have joined to support our deserving students, faculty and staff, raising more than \$468 million in gifts and pledges.

"Our compelling case for support provides meaningful opportunities for donors to invest in the future of Stony Brook. We are proud of our progress to date and are prepared for the hard work ahead," said Dexter A. Bailey Jr., senior vice president of Advancement and executive director of the Stony Brook Foundation. "Completing the Campaign will take great effort, but our momentum continues to build."

[Read the full story](#)



### Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka Discusses Gender Equality



On September 12, 2016, President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD welcomed Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, to deliver a timely and provocative Presidential Lecture.

"Stony Brook University is not only our partner in gender equality but a true pioneer in its own right in this area," Mlambo-Ngcuka said. "There aren't enough universities in the world that have put this issue at the center of their work."

[Read the full story](#)

## Stony Brook University Seeks Ideas for Campus Village

In an effort to address our future housing needs, University officials posted a formal Request for Qualifications with the state to create a public-private housing development - which would be the first of its kind on the 25,000-student campus. The "campus village" would be targeted to students and young faculty, and would create a safe, affordable alternative to traditional off-campus housing.



*Toll Drive Residence Hall is the University's latest campus project to address the housing shortage.*

[Read the full story](#)

## New MSNBC Senior Vice President Credits Stony Brook with Providing the Tools for Success



*Errol Cockfield '94*

Errol Cockfield '94 has had a remarkable career: as a journalist at prestigious newspapers, a press secretary for two governors and a consultant advising Fortune 500 companies.

Now, he's the senior vice president of MSNBC Communications.

"I credit Stony Brook University for the entirety of my professional success," Cockfield said. "Stony Brook is different from other universities because while it has stellar academics at its foundation, it's a campus full of people who are invested in your evolution as a person. Stony Brook helped me to be better at who I am."

[Read the full story](#)

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## Upcoming Events

Now through December 23, 2016

[Wang Center Exhibitions: The Power and Pleasure of Possessions in Korean Painted Screens](#)

Friday, September 30, 2016

[Staller Film: A Bigger Splash](#)

Saturday, October 1, 2016

[Community Forum on the Opioid Epidemic](#)

Saturday, October 15, 2016

[Wolfstock: A Homecoming Tradition](#)

Saturday, October 15, 2016

[Stony Brook Medicine Presents Women's Health Day](#)

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

[Defamation: A Play By Todd Logan](#)

[Full Stony Brook events calendar](#)

**Contact Information:  
Office of Government and Community Relations**

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