



CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Stony Brook University Gala Raises More Than \$6.9 Million for Cancer Research and Student Scholarships



47th Vice President Joe Biden honored for cancer research advocacy

In recognition of his dedication to the fight against cancer, Joseph R. Biden Jr., 47th Vice President of the United States of America, was honored at the Stars of Stony Brook, Stony Brook University's annual fundraising gala at Chelsea Piers in Manhattan on Wednesday, April 19.

Hosted by the Stony Brook Foundation, the Gala generates funds for student financial aid and a select

academic area of excellence. This year, the University raised \$6,946,000 in gifts and pledges including \$2,051,000 for scholarships and \$4,895,000 to support the [Stony Brook University Cancer Center](#). Since 2000, the event has raised more than \$50 million.

"At Stony Brook, we share Joe Biden's determination, sense of urgency and his fundamental confidence in our ability to make a difference in the fight against cancer," Stony Brook President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. said to the record-breaking 870 guests in attendance.

"The Stony Brook Cancer Center brings together the brightest minds, enhancing purposeful collaboration and creating strategic partnerships to share information and accelerate research. Our researchers are receiving worldwide attention for a pioneering study of the genesis and behavior of cancer cells at the molecular level, with the goal of one day helping to detect, treat and eventually eliminate the disease for good."

[Read the full story](#)

[Watch the video screened at the 2017 Stars of Stony Brook Gala: The Future is Now](#)



Surrounded by SBU students and other

Up in Albany

Higher Ed is High Profile in this Year's State Budget

Higher education was a top issue in the state budget as the legislature negotiated details on the [Governor's Excelsior Scholarship Program](#) and the [Predictable Tuition](#) plan. In the end, a modified version of Excelsior was passed for students with family incomes under \$125,000 and the SUNY Board of Trustees was given the authority to increase undergraduate in-state tuition up to \$200 per year for the next four years.

Below is a summary of the scholarship program.

EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Subject to appropriation and based on the availability of funds, Excelsior will be managed by the [Higher Education Services Corporation \(HESC\)](#) and is a "last dollar" award for eligible students that will cover the difference between other financial aid programs and the SUNY tuition of \$6,470.

[Review Excelsior Scholarship FAQs](#)

Summary of other budget issues:

- **Capital Budget** - SBU received an increase to \$34M in critical maintenance funds, an additional \$50M for hospital capital bonding authority and a redirected authorization of \$5M that will support development of academic and student support space at our Southampton campus.
- **EOP, Centers of Excellence, and Centers for Advanced Technology** were all level funded.

For questions, please contact Michael Arens, Assistant Vice President of Government and Community Relations, at Michael.aren@stonybrook.edu.

Stony Brook Celebrates the Opening of Advanced Specialty Care

On April 18, Stony Brook Medicine celebrated the opening of Advanced Specialty Care - its new, multispecialty care center in Commack, offering more choice and flexibility to those looking for quality medical care.

Located at 500 Commack Road, the center has more than 30 specialties and subspecialties in a single, convenient location to serve the growing healthcare needs of western Suffolk County.



President Stanley joined Secretary Hillary Clinton at Governor Cuomo's signing of the Excelsior Scholarship Program. The event was held at LaGuardia Community College.



"I am so pleased to be here today to celebrate the opening of Stony Brook Medicine's bold new vision for ambulatory care," said Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD, President, Stony Brook University. "This is yet another step in our goal of creating an ambitious, integrated healthcare network for all of Long Island and beyond..."

[Read the full story](#)

(L-R): Valerie M. Cartright, Brookhaven Town Councilwoman; Robert Trotta, Suffolk County Legislator; Michael Fitzpatrick, New York State Assemblyman; Margaret M. McGovern, MD, PhD, Chair, Department of Pediatrics, Physician-in-Chief, Stony Brook Children's Hospital, and Associate Dean, Ambulatory Operations; Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD, President, Stony Brook University; Kenneth Kaushansky, MD, Senior Vice President, Health Sciences, and Dean, Stony Brook University School of Medicine; Andrew Raia, New York State Assemblyman; Kara Hahn, Suffolk County Legislator; and Leslie Kennedy, Suffolk County Legislator.

On the Hill

Seawolves on the Hill



Seawolves in front of the Capitol (left to right): Jean-Doris Muhuza, Patrick Smith, Kayla Gogarty and Lyl Tomlinson

Four Stony Brook University students - Jean-Doris Muhuza, Patrick Smith, Kayla Gogarty and Lyl Tomlinson - were on Capitol Hill as part of "SUNY Students on the Hill Day," advocating for increased federal support for public higher education so that SUNY and Stony Brook can continue to deliver high-quality, affordable opportunities to students.

During the advocacy event, students networked with DC-based SUNY alumni, heard directly from members of Congress, learned how to advocate on Capitol Hill, and met with Congressional members and their staff to speak about the importance of increased access to key student financial aid programs.

[Read the full story](#)



Stony Brook students Kayla Gogarty and Lyl Tomlinson met with Congressman Lee Zeldin (NY-1) at the Longworth House Office Building.

Stony Brook WTC Wellness Program Receives \$60 Million From NIOSH



Dr. Benjamin Luft

[The Stony Brook University WTC Wellness Program](#), led by Benjamin Luft, MD, the Edmund D. Pellegrino Professor of Medicine in the Stony Brook University School of Medicine, has received a five year federal grant totaling more than \$60 million. Awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#), the grant comes at a time when the WTC Wellness Program continues to expand its medical services to patients and is relocating later this month to a larger clinical space in [Stony Brook Medicine's new specialty care facility](#) in Commack, NY.

"Stony Brook's WTC Wellness Program has helped turn the tragedy of 9/11 for our courageous responders into a beacon of hope with healthcare experts and resources that make a real difference in their lives and well-being," said Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD, President of Stony Brook University. "This transformational grant will help to expand services for this important patient population and is a testament to the program's long-term commitment and impact in caring for them."

[Read the full story](#)

Stony Brook WTC Wellness Program Receives \$60 Million From NIOSH

Stony Brook University students Sandhiya Kannan and William Tunney participated in the Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering (CASE) program that took place in Washington, DC, April 2 through April 5. The program was hosted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The CASE program is designed for upper-class undergraduate and graduate students in science, mathematics, and engineering disciplines who want to learn more about the role of science in policy-making.

In various lectures and interactive workshops, students examined the structure and organization of Congress, the federal budget and appropriations process, and tools for effective science communication and civic engagement.

[Read the full story](#)



Stony Brook students William Tunney and Sandhiya Kannan in Washington, DC.

In Our Community

Professor Allison Wins 2017 Discovery Prize To Study the Movement of Molecules



Left to right: Thomas Allison, James Simons, President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.

In a presentation delivered April 13 at the Charles B. Wang Center Theatre, Thomas Allison, an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics at Stony Brook University, convinced a panel of three distinguished judges that his project deserved a \$200,000 cash prize to help fund his postdoctoral research. The award will finance equipment that will help scientists see how molecules move and behave in real time. Dr. Allison believes that using lasers to create movies of molecules carries incredible potential to vastly improve our understanding of molecules, electrons in molecules, and how to use molecules to ultimately develop all kinds of high-tech machinery.

[Read the full story](#)

Michael J. Fox Among Notables Receiving Honorary Degrees at Stony Brook Commencement

Michael J. Fox will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, recognizing a career that has brought international acclaim with many honors and awards, as well as a dedication to charitable endeavor best exemplified by the founding and stewardship of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. The degree will be conferred on Friday, May 19 at 11:00 am at Stony Brook University's 57th Commencement ceremony at the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.



*Actor and philanthropist
Michael J. Fox (photo: Mark
Seliger)*

[Read the full story](#)

SBU Research Team Develops Private Digital Assistance App

Digital personal assistants have the ability to gear the content of an app or service to your specific likes and dislikes, such as Google News. However, they need a lot of sensitive data about you to be effective. Assistant Professors Aruna Balasubramanian and Niranjan Balasubramanian, along with former graduate students Shashank Jain (Microsoft) and Vivek Tiwari (LinkedIn), developed an app that can deliver personalized recommendations for news articles without collecting and sending sensitive user data to a cloud service.

[Read the full story](#)

Ohlmiller Breaks Women's Lacrosse Record for Assists



Nearly junior attacker Kylie Ohlmiller (No. 17, left) looks to make a pass against USC on March 24.

Kylie Ohlmiller flipped a quick pass behind her back and over her right shoulder - customary flair for the junior attacker - to find junior midfielder Samantha DiSalvo cutting to the net for a goal. The ESPNU national broadcast gawked at Ohlmiller's 136th career assist, which broke the Stony Brook Women's Lacrosse program record and gave the Seawolves a 5-1 first-half lead.

[Read the full story](#)

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 28

[Staller Film: La La Land](#)

Saturday, April 29

[Benefits & Resources Fair for Veterans and Their Families](#)

Long Island State Veterans Home

Tuesday, May 2

[University Orchestra Concert at Staller Center](#)

Wednesday, May 3

[Diversity Day and Strawberry Festival](#)

Wednesday, May 3

[Engineering-Driven Medicine Lecture Series: Alexis Kaushansky](#)

"New Approaches to Studying the Molecular Battle Between Parasite and Host"

Friday, May 5

[School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences Public Lecture Series](#)

Speaker: Greg Marshall, Executive Director and Producer of Remote Imaging at National Geographic Television and Film

Sunday, May 7

["Docs Who Rock" Battle of the Bands to Benefit Stony Brook Cancer Center](#)

Friday, May 19

[Stony Brook University Commencement](#)

[Full Stony Brook events calendar](#)

Contact Information:
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