



# CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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## SBU Celebrates Its Largest, Most Diverse Graduating Class at 58th Commencement



*Class of 2018 celebrates.*

Stony Brook University honored the largest graduating class in its history, granting degrees to 7,350 of the world's brightest minds in a May 18 Commencement ceremony at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. The Class of 2018 joins the ranks of more than 185,000 Seawolves worldwide, united by a vision of a bold new future.

Stony Brook University [President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.](#) affirmed his confidence in the graduates and the value of their education in his address to the Class of

2018. "The data shows that employers and graduate schools recognize the value of your degree, and that helps explain why 92 percent of you will be employed or in graduate school six months from now," President Stanley said. "But as pleased as we are with that statistic, we will continue to push for excellence, and continue to make your Stony Brook degree and your University something you can always be proud of. You should expect nothing less," he said.

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### Up in Albany

## Ronald McDonald House LI Provides Overview to Legislators

[New York State Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan](#) and [Assemblyman Steve Englebright](#) received an overview by [Ronald McDonald House LI](#) executives of their proposal to expand their services in Suffolk County so they may



(L-R): Assemblyman Steve Englebright, Margaret McGovern, M.D., Ph.D., Chair, Dept. of Pediatrics, Matt Campo, President, Ronald McDonald House LI, Katie Hunt-Rotolo, Chair, RMD LI Board of Directors, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan in the RMD LI Room in Stony Brook Hospital's Pediatrics Dept.

further serve the families under the care of Stony Brook Medicine's growing [children's hospital](#).

The proposal would replace the small family room that the non-profit organization currently manages at the hospital with a full-service stand-alone facility on the hospital grounds.

The new facility will allow families with child patients to rest in a comfortable environment near their child and health care providers. The facility will be managed by Ronald McDonald House LI and funded through the organization's generous donors. Senator Flanagan and Assemblyman Englebright are supporting the legislation to enable construction of the facility on Stony Brook Medicine's property.

## Procurement Bill Opposed by SUNY

Stony Brook University joins with [SUNY](#) in [opposing legislation](#) (A.6355-A/S.3984-A) relating to procurement on SUNY campuses including teaching hospitals. SUNY, unlike other state agencies, operates in a competitive landscape that requires additional oversight from the [Office of the State Comptroller \(OSC\)](#).

However, since legislation was passed in 2011 and extended in 2016, OSC has maintained post-audit oversight of every SUNY transaction. In fact, an audit by OSC in 2015 found that "SUNY officials have generally established good internal controls over procurement and have effectively communicated these procedures to the campuses."

If enacted, this legislation would create an increase in lead time for commodities and services contracts by one to three months; an increase in lead time for design and construction contracts by three months or more, resulting in an escalation of costs; and an increase in the cost of natural gas to SUNY due to the inability to bid and award contracts within 72 hours, which is the longest any energy supplier can hold a price. These added costs, as a result of the above, will impact campus bottom lines and academic missions.

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## On the Hill

### Stony Brook Leadership Meets with Long Island Congressional Delegation on Capitol Hill



Leader Chuck Schumer and Stony Brook President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD, meeting in the US Capitol Building.

Stony Brook University [President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD](#) and [Judy Greiman](#), Chief Deputy to the President and Senior Vice President for Government and Community Relations, met with members of the Long Island Congressional Delegation in Washington, DC, on May 8.

Meetings were held on Capitol Hill with Senate Minority Leader [Chuck Schumer](#), [Senator Kirsten Gillibrand](#), [Congressman Lee Zeldin](#), [Congressman Peter King](#) and [Congressman Tom Suozzi](#). President Stanley urged each member to support crucial increases in funding for higher education programs, student financial aid and scientific research in the [FY19 budget](#).

[Read the full story](#)

## SBU Student wins DOE Graduate Student Research Program Award

[Samuel Homiller](#), a PhD student in the [Department of Physics and Astronomy](#) in the [College of Arts & Sciences](#) at Stony Brook University



is among a group of students selected nationally as a recipient of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Graduate Student Research ([SCGSR](#)) Program award. The award supports the research of graduate students in STEM fields with a \$3,000 per month stipend and an opportunity to conduct part of their thesis-related research at DOE laboratories.

[Read the full story](#)



*Samuel Homiller*

## School of Dental Medicine Heads to Washington



*(L-R) Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine students: Rocco Tedesco, Joe Manzella, Jack Lupfer, and Alexander McGuinness*

Students from the Stony Brook [School of Dental Medicine](#) traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in the [American Dental Association's Dentist and Student Lobby Day](#) this spring. The students attended the three-day event in the nation's capital and heard from political analysts, subject matter experts and dentists involved with federal advocacy. They also met with federal elected officials including [Congressman Lee Zeldin](#).

[Read the full story](#)

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## In Our Community

### PACE Center for Health and Wellness Honored for Services to Vulnerable Communities

The Partnership to Advance Collaborative Education (PACE) is an interprofessional wellness center that focuses on meeting the health-promotion and disease-prevention needs of adults on Long Island. Located in Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine's Dental Care Center, the PACE team includes a nurse practitioner and dental and social work professionals from Stony Brook University Schools of Dental Medicine, Nursing and Social Welfare.

The PACE Center has been awarded an Honorable Mention for its work with "At Risk and Vulnerable Communities" by the US Public Health Service (USPHS) and the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC)

[Read the full story](#)



*School of Nursing faculty and students on rounds in the clinic.*

### Prom Dreams Turn to Reality Thanks to the Student African American Sisterhood

The Student African American Sisterhood ([SAAS](#)) completed their most recent charitable endeavor on Saturday, April 28, as the young women headed to Operation PROM in Brooklyn, NY, with bins full of prom garments donated by the Stony Brook community. The gowns, tuxedos, shoes and accessories were swiftly set up on racks and distributed free of charge to needy high school students at the [Prom Wear Giveaway Event](#).



*Student African American Sisterhood members*

[Read the full story](#)



## Four Stony Brook Seawolves Named SUNY Scholar Athletes

Four student athletes from Stony Brook University have been named recipients of the 2017-18 Scholar Athlete Award by State University of New York Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson. This award recognizes outstanding academic excellence and athletic achievement.

[Read the full story](#)

## Office of Veterans Affairs Brings the Murph Challenge to SBU



*Left to right: Veterans Affairs Pamela Pfeil, Interim VP for Student Affairs Rick Gatteau, Lt. Murphy's father and brother Dan and John Murphy, and Kate Larsen, Assistant VP for Accounting Services and University Controller*

The Office of Veteran Affairs hosted the Murph Challenge at the Stony Brook Walter J. Hawrys Recreation Center on Saturday, April 21. The intensive training regiment consisted of a 1 mile run followed by 100 pullups, 200 pushups, 300 squats and a second mile run, all while wearing a 20 pound vest or body armor.

The challenge is named for Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy, a Navy SEAL who selflessly gave his own life in combat to save the lives of his team.

[Read the full story](#)

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018**

[Art in Focus at Stony Brook Southampton: Elliot Bostwick Davis](#)

**Tuesday, June 19, 2018**

[Art in Focus at Stony Brook Southampton: Charles A. Riley II](#)

**Save the Date: September 22, 2018**

[CommUniversity Day 2018](#)

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