



CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Stony Brook Builds an Engine of Social Mobility



Madeline Augustin '05 came to SBU as a transfer student after struggling at another college, and is now an engineer at Boeing.

In an era of growing income inequality, families have fewer opportunities to better their children's future. Meanwhile, we endanger a national tradition of innovation and discovery when many of our best and brightest minds are left by the wayside.

For many lower-income and first-generation students, attending college can seem like a pipe dream, with few people guiding them toward higher education.

At Stony Brook University, a committed community of scholars, administrators and students is igniting social mobility by offering a different progression - one that can lead to better outcomes - through a sustained, multipronged outreach before college; a culture of diversity and inclusivity; and on-campus mentoring and support to retain students to graduation. These outcomes are singled out in a [recent study](#) led by the [Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research](#), which concludes that Stony Brook offers a proven path toward upward advancement for students from low-income households, far ahead of many of its better-funded peers, public and private.

[Read the full story](#)
[Leading the Way to Social Mobility flipbook](#)

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In the Spotlight

Department of Defense Visits Stony Brook University

On Thursday, December 14, [Dr. Robin Staffin](#), Director of Basic Research for the [Department of Defense](#) (DoD) visited Stony Brook University along with four of her DoD colleagues.

This visit was organized by the [Office of the Vice President for Research](#) and the [Office of Government Relations](#) to provide Stony Brook researchers with a strategic networking opportunity to learn about a wide

range of disciplinary funding opportunities for basic research activities from the DoD.



Provost Michael Bernstein; Dr. Robin Staffin; and Dr. Richard Reeder, Senior Vice President for Research

"The visit by DoD's Director of Basic Research reflects our outstanding reputation for fundamental research at Stony Brook," said Richard Reeder, Vice President for

Research at Stony Brook University. "The new insights gained during the visit will allow us to expand our research across a broad range of disciplines, a goal that's vitally important at a time when some federal funding agencies are facing possible cuts."



Dr. Robin Staffin addresses the SBU research community during the DOD visit to campus.

[Read the full story](#)

Up in Albany

Senator Serino makes trip to Stony Brook for Update on Lyme and Tick Research and Care



(L-R) Dr. David Thanassi, Chair, Dept of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology; Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky, Senior VP, Health Sciences and Dean, School of Medicine; Dr. Jorge Benach, Distinguished Professor; Senator Sue Serino; Dr. Luis Marcos, Director of the Adult Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Center; Dr. Bettina Fries, Chief, Division of Infectious Disease; Dr. Christy Beneri, Asst. Professor of Pediatric Infectious Disease, Stony Brook Children's Hospital; Eric Hoffmesiter, Chief of Staff for Senator Tom Croci, Scott Lavery, representing Senator Phil Boyle

Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky welcomed [New York State Senator Sue Serino](#) (R-Hyde Park), Chair of the New York State [Senate Task Force on Lyme and Tick Borne Diseases](#), to campus for a briefing on Stony Brook's research and care of these diseases.

While Suffolk County bears a disproportionate burden of tick-borne diseases in the state, the problem is increasing throughout the state especially in the Hudson Valley area which includes Senator Serino's district. The Senator was provided an overview by [Dr. Jorge Benach](#) and [Dr. David Thanassi](#) on the latest research.

Additionally, the Senator was provided with adult and pediatric clinical updates by [Dr. Bettina Fries](#) and [Dr. Luis Marcos](#) from the [Division of Infectious Diseases in](#)

[the Department of Medicine](#). [Dr. Christy Beneri](#) from the [Department of Pediatrics](#) provided an overview of the treatment of children with tick-borne diseases. Senator John Flanagan and Senator Ken LaValle also serve on the task force as well as other members of the Senate delegation on Long Island.

Collaborations with SUNY Korea

At the request of [Assemblyman Ron](#)

Kim. (D-Flushing), a meeting was held on campus to discuss a collaboration with SUNY Korea and the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association.

The collaboration would introduce student talent to the needs of cities in the US and South Korea for improved management through new and advanced technologies.

Assemblyman Kim is the first Korean-American to be elected to the New York State Legislature.



(L-R) Dr. Chan-Yong Nam, BNL; Dr. Min Suk Kang, KSEA; Assemblyman Ron Kim, Dr. Fotis Sotiropoulos, Dean, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Yoonmi Noh, Asst. Dean, Global Initiatives; Dr. Matthew Whelan, VP, Strategic Initiatives; Michael Arens, Asst. VP, Government and Community Relations and Dr. Stephen K. Suh, KSEA (via Skype from South Korea)

On the Hill

School of Social Welfare Leadership Briefs LI Congressional Delegation in DC



(L-R): Professor Michelle Ballan, Professor George Leibowitz, Congressman Peter King and Dean Jacqueline Mondros

Representatives from the Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare traveled to Washington, DC, to advocate for the school's legislative and funding priorities. Jacqueline B. Mondros, Dean and Assistant Vice President for Social Determinants of Health for the School of Social Welfare, along with Professor Michelle S. Ballan and Professor George S. Leibowitz met with Congressman Peter King, Congressman Tom Suozzi, and the higher education policy staff of Leader Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Congressman Zeldin and Congresswoman Rice.

"It was extremely interesting to have the opportunity to speak with the Congressional staff members and to hear their comments and perspectives," said Dean Mondros. "It was also important to establish Stony Brook's presence and advocate for several urgent issues that we are working on."

[Read the full story](#)

Stony Brook's "Communicating Science" Highlighted at National Higher Education Government Relations Conference

Judy Greiman, Chief Deputy to the President and Senior Vice President of Government and Community Relations, and Laura Lindenfeld, Director of the Alda Center, provided a presentation on *Communicating Science to Policy Makers* at the

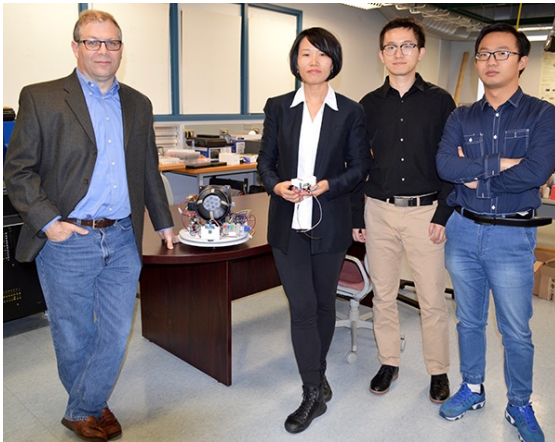
[2017 Higher Education Government Relations Conference](#) in San Diego on December 7.

Hosted by AACC, AASCU, APLU and CASE, the conference was designed to help higher education government relations professionals from institutions, systems, and governing/coordinating boards understand and navigate the current era of greater political polarization. The *Communicating Science to Policy Makers* presentation

provides an introduction to strategies for government relations professionals and faculty on their campuses to engage more effectively with elected officials and their staff.



Mechanical Engineering Awarded \$1 Million from ARPA-E for Transformational Energy Technology



Jon Longtin (co-PI) and Ya Wang (PI) of Mechanical Engineering, demonstrate their device with student team.

The [College of Engineering and Applied Sciences](#) has been awarded \$1 Million in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). Led by Professor Ya Wang, the funding will be used to develop a Synchronized Low-Energy Electronically-Chopped Passive-InfraRed (PIR) Sensor for Occupancy Detection (SLEEP-IR), an inventive occupancy sensing solution, for residential homes for detecting high accuracy human presence.

[Read the full story](#)

In Our Community

Stony Brook Celebrates a Year of Giving and Service with '31 Days of Giving Back'

Each year, Stony Brook University students, faculty, staff and alumni share their time and talent through thousands of community service hours, and each year that effort is celebrated with '[31 Days of Giving Back](#).'

The blog, published by the Office of Community Relations, showcases the many ways Stony Brook University is making a difference in the community by highlighting an event or initiative from the past 12 months every day throughout the month of December.

[Read the full story](#)



Family fun was had by all at Stony Brook's first CommUniversity Day in September.

New Nursing PhD Program Answers Need for More Nurse-Scientists



The [Stony Brook University School of Nursing](#) is launching a PhD in Nursing that will begin in the summer of 2018. The PhD in Nursing Program emphasizes education and training at the highest level in order to develop the next generation of nurse scientists and educators skilled in research methodologies useful in all areas of nursing science to improve the health and well-being of the population.

[Read the full story](#)

Patricia Bruckenthal is Director of the PhD in Nursing Program, slated to begin in summer 2018.

MFA in Film Faculty Premiering Three Projects at 2018 Sundance Film Festival

Three projects with producer credits for Stony Brook MFA in Film faculty will have their world premieres at the Sundance Film Festival, to be held January 18 to 28, 2018, in Park City, Utah. The narrative feature *Colette* and television series *This Close*, both produced by Killer Films' Christine Vachon and Pamela Koffler, and *The Tale*, with For Impact Productions' Simone Pero as a producer, were all selected for screening at the upcoming festival in Utah.

[Read the full story](#)



Christine Vachon, Magdalene Brandeis, Simone Pero, and Pamela Koffler of the MFA in Film program

Upcoming Events

January 4, 2018

[School of Social Welfare Open House](#)

January 18, 2018

[Men's Basketball vs. Binghamton](#)

January 20, 2017

[Staller Center Main Stage: The Hot Sardines](#)

January 21, 2018

[National Girls and Women in Sports Day/
Women's Basketball vs. New Hampshire](#)

[Full Stony Brook events calendar](#)

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