



# CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## Stony Brook Honors Michael J. Fox, Jonathan Oringer as 6,991 Graduate



*The Class of 2017 celebrates.*

Emerging from Stony Brook with the momentum to make a difference, 6,991 students celebrated their graduation at the University's 57th Commencement ceremony May 19 at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.

They became Stony Brook's newest alumni, joining more than 160,000 of their forerunners around the globe whose lives and work advance the mission and spirit of Stony Brook.

"I don't think anyone can say that graduating from Stony Brook is easy," said President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD in his address to the Class of 2017. "You have met that challenge and you

and your families should be proud of what you accomplished. 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," Stanley said.

In keeping with President Stanley's remarks on excellence and achievement, two prominent leaders in their respective fields accepted honorary degrees. Actor and philanthropist Michael J. Fox received 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.

Receiving a Doctor of Science for his contributions to the tech industry was programmer, photographer, serial entrepreneur, Stony Brook University alumnus, and founder and CEO of [Shutterstock](#), Jonathan Oringer '96. His contributions include the invention of one of the web's first pop-up blockers and the creation of Shutterstock, the global technology company that disrupted the image licensing industry.



*(L-R): Cole Lee, President of Undergraduate Student Government; President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD; Vahideh Rasekhi, President of the Graduate Student Organization.*

A third luminary, Prince Emmanuel de Merode, was to have accepted an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters but was unable to attend. President Stanley said he hopes the degree will be conferred at a future ceremony. At the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on Thursday, May 18, two distinguished scholars, Dr. Arthur "Art" Kramer ('75) and Dr. Frank Shu also received [2017 honorary degrees](#).

[Read the full story](#)

[View more Commencement photos](#)

[Up in Albany](#)

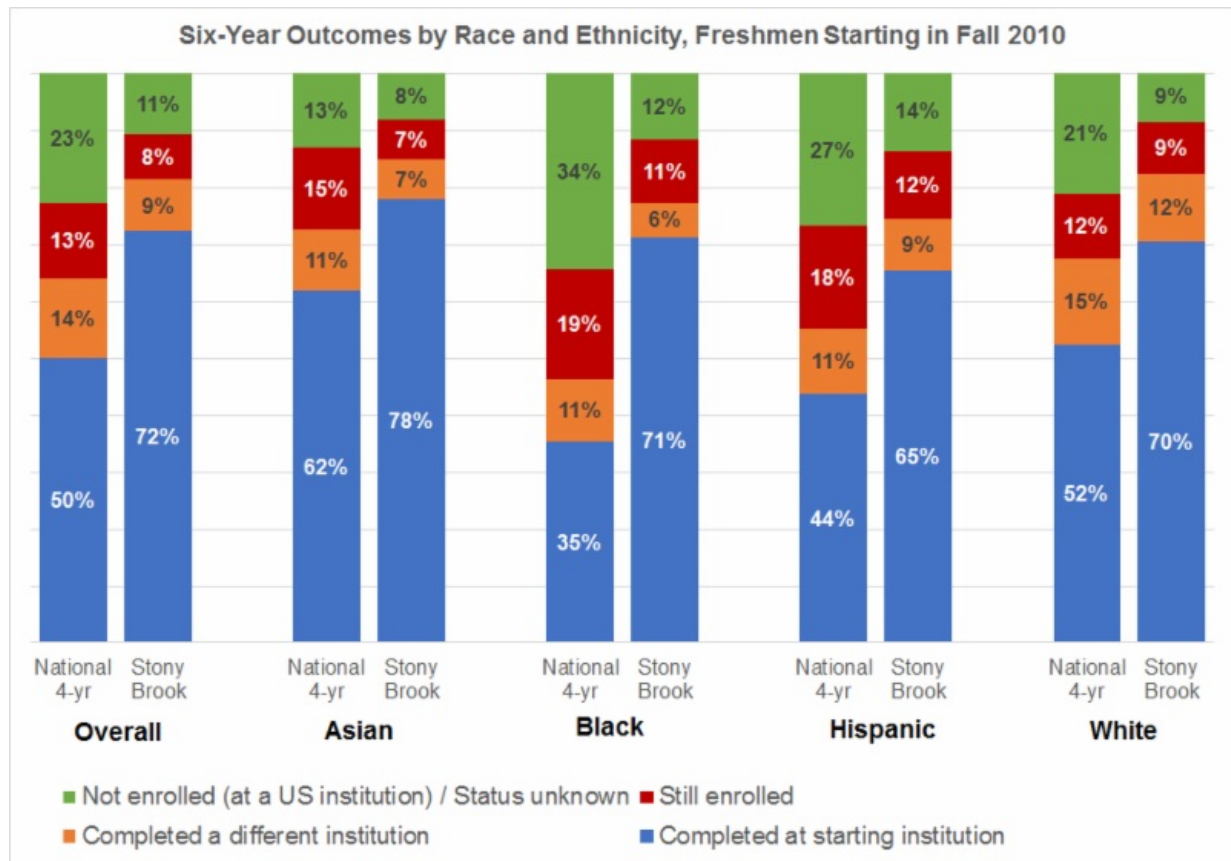
[On the Hill](#)

[In Our Community](#)

## In the Spotlight

### Stony Brook Outperforms National Averages in Graduation Rates and Largely Eliminates Race-based Performance Gaps

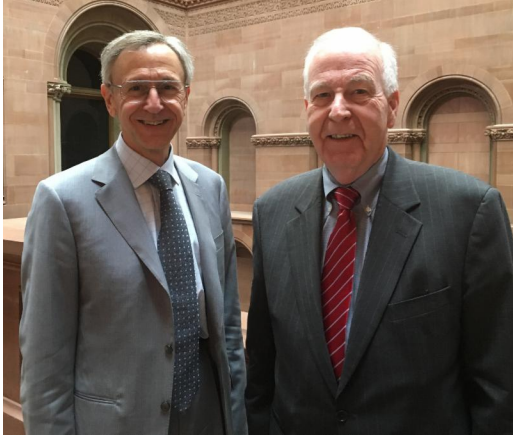
The chart below illustrates data collected from a National Student Clearinghouse study. The data demonstrate Stony Brook University outperforming national averages in graduation rates in addition to largely eliminating race-based performance gaps observed in the rest of higher education.



## Up in Albany

### Dr. Kaushansky Makes Albany Rounds

[Dr. Ken Kaushansky](#), Senior Vice President for Stony Brook Medicine and Dean of the School of Medicine, visited Albany recently to discuss proposed changes to the distribution of Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding that would severely impact hospital budgeting. As a safety-net hospital, [Stony Brook Medicine](#) receives DSH funding to pay for



Dr. Ken Kaushansky (left) and Senator Kemp Hannon in Albany.

On April 18, [Brookhaven National Laboratory](#) (BNL) [Director Doon Gibbs](#) and [Richard Reeder](#), Stony Brook's Vice President for Research and Associate Vice President for [Brookhaven Affairs](#) at Stony Brook University were guests of the New York State Senate who passed a Resolution honoring BNL on its 70th Anniversary.

The Resolution was sponsored by [State Senator Kenneth LaValle](#) who highlighted Stony Brook's strong connection to BNL. Since 1998, Stony Brook has co-managed BNL for the U.S. Department of Energy under [Brookhaven Science Associates](#). BNL employs nearly 3,000 scientists and hosts more than 4,000 visiting scientists and researchers each year from around the world. Seven Nobel prizes have been won for BNL research. Stony Brook has more than [75 joint appointments](#) with BNL.

care provided to uninsured and under-insured patients. Meetings were held with the New York State Department of Health and Senate Finance staff.

Dr. Kaushansky updated [Senator Kemp Hannon](#), Chair of the Senate Health Committee and [Senator Ken LaValle](#), Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, both of whom are supportive of protecting the hospital from the proposed cuts.

## Brookhaven National Lab Honored for 70 Years of Science and Discoveries on Long Island



(L-R): Richard Reeder, Stony Brook's Vice President for Research and Associate Vice President for Brookhaven Affairs at Stony Brook University; Senator Ken LaValle; Doon Gibbs, Lab Director.

## On the Hill

### House Committees Call on SBU Expert to Testify on Success of Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Packages

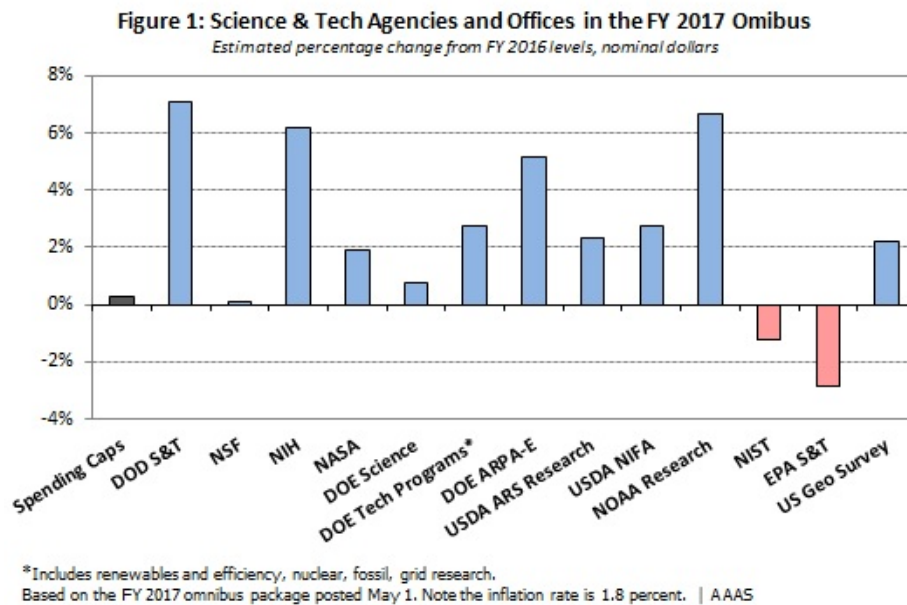


Dr. Clinton Rubin testifying at the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology and House Small Business Committee joint hearing on May 4.

On May 4, [Dr. Clinton Rubin](#), a SUNY Distinguished Professor & Chairman of the [Department of Biomedical Engineering](#) at Stony Brook University, testified in front of members of the [House Committee on Science, Space and Technology](#) and [House Small Business Committee](#) during a joint hearing regarding the improvement of the [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\)](#) and [Small Business Technology Transfer \(STTR\) Programs](#) in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Rubin focused his testimony on the success of the [Long Island BioScience Hub \(LIBH\)](#), which is partly funded by the [NIH Research, Evaluation and Commercialization Hub \(REACH\)](#) program. LIBH fosters the development of therapeutics, preventatives, diagnostics, devices and research tools emerging from LIBH partner institutions that address diseases within the NIH's mission. LIBH successfully uses NIH REACH funding to catalyze technology development, SBIR/STTR initiatives and company formation. [Stony Brook's Office of Government Relations](#) is working closely with Senate and House committee staff in D.C. to advocate for the re-authorization of NIH REACH funding, which is due to sunset in September of this year.

## FY17 Omnibus Package Increases Research and Higher Education Funding



On May 5, 2017, President Trump signed into law the FY17 Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R. 244), which incorporates 11 out of 12 FY17 appropriations bills (Military Construction-Veterans Affairs was enacted earlier).

The package, which passed the House on May 3 and the Senate on May 4, includes funding increases for several [research](#) and [higher education](#) programs, including a [\\$2-billion increase for the National Institutes of Health](#)

[\(NIH\) and restoration of the year-round Pell Grant](#). The federal funding advocacy efforts of [Stony Brook's Office of Government Relations](#) now turns to FY18.

[FY18 SBU Federal Funding Priorities Chart](#)  
[Summary of SBU Priorities in FY17 Omnibus Package](#)

## Respiratory Care Students Advocate for Patient Care in Washington, D.C.

Dana Badke and Catherine Vidal, two senior Stony Brook University respiratory care students, recently advocated for the [American Association for Respiratory Care](#) in Washington, D.C. They were accompanied by Clinical Associate Professor Stephen G. Smith from the [School of Health Technology and Management's Respiratory Care Program](#).

The group attended meetings with New York congressional staff to discuss the importance of the clinical care that respiratory therapists provide to patients and to encourage Congress to support legislation that will have a positive impact on patient care, specifically patients with cardiopulmonary diseases.

[Read the full story](#)



(L-R): Matthew Scott, Legislative Assistant to Congressman Lee Zeldin; Cat Vidal and Dana Badke, seniors in the SHTM Respiratory Care Program; Stephen G. Smith, Clinical Associate Professor, SHTM-Respiratory Care Program and Regional Director for NY State Society for Respiratory Care; and Robert Feiler, Legislative Assistant, outside Congressman Lee Zeldin's Office.

## In Our Community

### SBU's Communicating Science Program Expands Across SUNY



*Alan Alda teaching a Center for Communicating Science improv workshop.*

[University's Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science](#) will broaden its reach by offering the center's highly acclaimed training to doctoral students at up to five additional SUNY campuses. The Alan Alda Center has received widespread recognition for its training, which provides students with skills to communicate their work effectively to the public, public officials, the media and others outside of their discipline.

[Read the full story](#)

## Cancer and Organ Donation

The American Lung Association and LiveOnNY representatives presented awards to members of the student groups [Student Health Advisory Committee \(SHAC\)](#) and [CHILL](#) on May 8, 2017, for promoting awareness of organ donation and decreasing lifelong cancer risk with safe practices at Stony Brook University.

[Read the full story](#)



*Members of SHAC and CHILL*

## Students Honored for Activism on

## Career Center's Dixon Honored for Innovation in Diversity



*Kimberly Joy Dixon (foreground) snaps a selfie with Stony Brook students.*

Stony Brook's Kimberly Joy Dixon is a recipient of the 2017 Innovation in Diversity & Inclusion Award granted by the [Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers \(EACE\)](#). Dixon is Assistant Director of Employer Relations & Diversity Recruitment at Stony Brook's [Career Center](#).

The Innovation in Diversity and Inclusion Award honors EACE members who have made outstanding contributions and demonstrated innovation in work with diverse populations.

[Read the full story](#)

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## Upcoming Events

Friday, June 2, 2017

School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences Public Lecture Series

[Speaker: Paul Sieswerda, Executive Director, Gotham Whale](#)

Stony Brook Southampton

Sunday, June 4, 2017

[National Cancer Survivors Day: Surviving with Grace](#)

International Speaker: Jennifer Arnold, MD, MSc, FAPP  
East Campus - Cancer Center

**Friday June 9 - Saturday June 10, 2017**

[Third Annual Food Lab Conference](#)

Keynote Speaker: World-famous chef and restaurateur Bobby Flay  
*Stony Brook Southampton*

**Monday, June 26, 2017**

[Annual Scholarship Golf Classic](#)

*Huntington Country Club*

[Full Stony Brook events calendar](#)



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