



# CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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## Gala Honoring Dr. Marilyn Hawrys Simons Raises Record \$28.2 Million



*Honoree Marilyn Simons, center, with Stony Brook Foundation Chair Rich Gelfond, left, and Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., right.*

More than 800 guests gathered on Wednesday, April 10 at Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers in New York City to honor alumna and [Simons Foundation](#) President [Marilyn Hawrys Simons](#) '74, PhD '84, at the [20th Stars of Stony Brook Gala](#).

Hosted annually by the Stony Brook Foundation Board of Trustees, this year's celebration recognized Dr. Simons for her leadership as president of one of the nation's premier philanthropic institutions devoted to driving progress in basic science, as well as her contributions to improving educational opportunities for the underserved at the university and beyond.

The 2019 Stony Brook Gala also proved to be a record-breaker, raising an astounding \$28.2 million. The total included \$25 million from Dr. Simons, which will establish a new Center for Applied Economics and Public Policy at the University and another record-breaking \$3.2 million plus was raised for student scholarships.

"This incredible gift will transform our economics department," said University [President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.](#), "and positively impact programs campus wide, enhancing Stony Brook's voice in public policy and bolstering the worldwide reputation of the university. I am humbled by Marilyn's vision, generosity and confidence in Stony Brook."

[Read the full story](#)

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### In the Spotlight

SBU Reaffirms Commitment to Gender Equality at HeForShe Meeting



SBU was represented at a recent meeting of the [UN Women's HeForShe 10x10x10 Impact Champions](#). At the meeting, Chief Deputy to the President [Judy Greiman](#) discussed with international colleagues ways to scale up efforts to enhance gender equity across the university and corporate sectors.

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## Up in Albany

### Governor Cuomo Visits SBU for State Budget overview



*President Stanley with Governor Cuomo*

Students, faculty and staff were among more than 400 people who showed up in the Student Activities Center to hear [Governor Andrew Cuomo](#) provide a Long Island overview of the 2019-2020 New York State Budget. Highlights included making the two-percent property tax cap permanent, which he says will save the average Suffolk County taxpayer \$58,000 as well as a new internet sales tax for out-of-state business that will generate \$45.3M in new tax revenue for both Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

To see an overview of how the budget impacted SUNY and Stony Brook University, click here for "[Wins and Losses](#)" in last month's Government and Community Relations Newsletter.

The event also was an opportunity for many elected officials to visit campus including the Senate's "Long Island Six" (right).



*(L-R): NYS Senators Todd Kaminsky (D-Long Beach), John Brooks (D-Seaford), James Gauhgran (D-Oyster Bay), Anna Kaplan (D-Great Neck), President Stanley, and Senators Monica Martinez (D-Brentwood) and Kevin Thomas (D-Levittown).*

### President Stanley Makes Top 10 of Higher Education Power 50 List

Stony Brook University President [Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD](#), made the City & State New York inaugural [Higher Education Power 50 list](#), which honors the 50 most powerful New Yorkers working in higher education. President Stanley placed in the top 10 on the prestigious listing.

[Read the full story](#)

## Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins Makes First Visit to SBU



*President Stanley*



*President Stanley with Senate Majority Leader Andrea-Stewart Cousins on the academic mall.*

Over one-hundred students gathered at Frey Hall to greet New York State [Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins](#) (D-Yonkers) at an event hosted by the College Democrats and opened to the campus community. The Senator gave an inspirational speech and acknowledged in her comments the benefit of having Stony Brook University as one of two public [AAU](#) institutions in New York. She noted how impressive it is that Stony Brook is among the nation's highest ranked higher education institutions for [upward mobility](#).

President Stanley met up with Stewart-Cousins after the event and had an opportunity to show the Majority Leader some of the campus while discussing Stony Brook's budget priorities including capital funding for a [new engineering building](#). We look forward to future visits by the Majority Leader.

## Legislator Tom Cilmi meets with Stony Brook Medicine's Mobile Stroke Team



*Legislator Cilmi with mobile stroke team member*

The first of two of Stony Brook Medicine's [Mobile Stroke Units](#) has been dispatched for service - the only such mobile technology of its kind on Long Island.

This state-of-the-art vehicle will be stationed off of Exit 57 on the Long Island Expressway and dispatched by Suffolk County 911 operators whenever responding to a potential stroke victim. The Stony Brook Mobile Stroke Response Team will be able to begin immediate diagnosis and necessary treatment in emergency situations where every second counts. A second vehicle will be stationed off of Exit 68 when it is put into service.

Suffolk County Legislature's Minority Leader, [Tom Cilmi](#) (R-Bay Shore) recently met with the mobile stroke team for an overview.

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## On the Hill

### Stony Brook Startup Featured at University and Innovation Entrepreneurship Showcase in Washington, D.C.

Stony Brook University (SBU) [School of Medicine](#) professor [Maurizio Del Poeta](#) and SBU alumnus Brian McCarthy were selected to feature their startup company, [MicroRid Technologies, Inc.](#), at the [University Innovation and Entrepreneurship \(I&E\) Showcase](#) in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, April 10.

Hosted by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities ([APLU](#)) and the Association of American



Representatives of Congressman Zeldin and Senator Gillibrand met with MicroRid Technologies Inc.co-founders at the I&E showcase.

Universities (AAU), the event spotlighted 20 startup companies from across the nation that have created products and services using federally funded, university-based research. During the event, the companies were recognized nationally for their exemplary work at the intersection of science, technology, and business.

[Read the full story](#)

### SBU Leadership and GSO Leadership Discuss Higher Ed Priorities with Schumer and Gillibrand Staff in D.C

[Judith Greiman](#), SBU's Chief Deputy to the President and Senior Vice President for Government and Community Relations, joined with SBU's [Graduate Student Organization](#) (GSO) leadership during SUNY Day DC to advocate for university and student higher education priorities. They met with representatives of [Leader Chuck Schumer](#) and [Senator Kirsten Gillibrand](#).

Issues discussed during the meeting included re-authorization of the Higher Education Act, increased student financial aid, a permanent solution for DACA recipients, increased federal investment for scientific research, and the need for a bipartisan budget agreement to lift the Budget Control Act's harmful discretionary caps in FY20 and FY21. SBU's [Office of Government](#)

[Relations](#) continues to work closely with members of Congress on Stony Brook's federal [priorities](#).



(L-R): Chief Deputy to the President and Senior VP for Government and Community Relations Judith Greiman, GSO Treasurer Xiaoqing Zhang, GSO President James Vassallo, Alexandra Lowe-Server (Legislative Asst. for Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand), and GSO Secretary Luigi Pesce-Ibarra.

### School of Dental Medicine Chapter Receives Two Awards at American Student Dental Association's Annual Session



Students of the Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine chapter.

The Stony Brook [School of Dental Medicine](#) chapter of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) was recognized on the organization's national stage for their leadership and media accomplishments at the [ASDA Annual Session](#). SBU's School of Dental Medicine was honored with two Gold Crown Awards: Most Improved Newsletter and District Delegate of the Year.

[Read the full story](#)

## In Our Community

Il Memming Park Wins \$200K Stony Brook Discovery Prize

[Dr. Il Memming Park](#) and three Stony Brook early career research colleagues took the stage and presented their high-risk, high-reward concepts to a panel of prestigious judges at the 2019 [Discovery Prize](#) competition in the Charles B. Wang Center Theatre at Stony Brook University on April 23.



*2019 Discovery Prize winner Il Memming Park, PhD, presents his proposal.*

Park, an assistant professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior in the [College of Arts and Sciences](#) and [Renaissance School of Medicine](#) at Stony Brook University, emerged as the winner for his project which uses neurotechnologies and machine learning methods to better understand the brain trapped in unconscious states. With the prestigious award that will help advance his research thesis comes \$200,000 in new funding, meant to spur future funding for Park's research.

[Read the full story](#)

## Jinyoung Jin's Creative Energy Transforms the Wang Center



*Jinyoung Jin inhabits the installation "The Studio: Through a Surrealistic Lens."*

Jinyoung Jin has transformed a little used space in the Charles B. Wang Center into a selfie-inducing, crowd-pleasing interactive art exhibit. The theatre lobby entrance hadn't been used for anything of interest until Jin, the Center's Director of Cultural Programs, determined that it would be the perfect spot to house "The Studio: Through a Surrealistic Lens," a long-term installation that invites visitors to interact with a black-and-white, three-dimensional, cartoon-like artist's studio.

Designed and presented by the South Korea-based project group GREEM (a name that translates to "picture" in Korean), the exhibition is a favorite among students and other guests who can sit in the studio and take selfies and

other photos, sharing them on social media.

[Read the full story](#)

## Pilot Program Provides Mentorship and Attire for Students Seeking Jobs

The [Department of External Scholarships and Fellowships Advising](#) at Stony Brook University started an initiative this semester called the Red Hot Career Closet and Mentoring Program, which provides clothing and mentoring to students from low-income families for interviews, internships or their first work experience after college.

The program will be giving out donated clothes, shoes, bags, overcoats and accessories from students, faculty and community members. Mentors working in the program educate participants about professional norms, helping students to feel confident as they pitch their talent and skills in the workplace.



*External Scholarships and Fellowships Advisor in The Graduate School, Jennifer Green, (middle), shows students donated business clothing to the Red Hot Career Closet and Mentoring Program. Green founded the program.*

[Read the full story](#)

## Bayport-Blue Point School District Visits SBU Campus

For three days in March, Stony Brook University had visits from the Bayport-Blue Point School District. Fourth-grade, fifth-grade, and high-school students each had separate visits to campus, totaling 82 students.



*Bayport-Blue Point high-school students*

[Read more](#)

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## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

[Diversity Day and Strawberry Festival](#)

Annual campus event that brings individuals from different backgrounds together to celebrate their cultures

**Monday, May 6, 2019**

[Jazz Ensemble @ Jazz Loft](#)

Stony Brook University's famed big band, The Blowage, featuring Ray Anderson and Tom Manuel, swings the night away with original charts, sizzling classics and hot soloists. Anderson also directs small jazz and improvising music groups.

**Thursday, May 9, 2019**

[Launch of the Institute for AI-Driven Discovery and Innovation](#)

President Samuel L. Stanley and Dean Fotis Sotiropoulos cordially invite you to the launch of The Stony Brook University Institute for AI-Driven Discovery and Innovation.

**Saturday, May 18, 2019**

[2019 Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony](#)

Join us for the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony honoring Lily McNair, MA '83, PhD '87, President of Tuskegee University.

**Friday, May 24, 2019**

[Commencement Ceremony](#)

Join us in celebrating this academic milestone for our graduates!



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**Stony Brook University**

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