



# CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## Opening Ceremony Launches Hispanic Heritage Month



*Left to right: President Stanley, Suffolk County Legislator Monica Martinez and Chief Diversity Officer Lee Bitsoi*

Stony Brook University kicked off its 28th annual celebration of [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) with an opening ceremony on Wednesday, October 4. The celebration featured the traditional proclamation from University President Samuel Stanley and the keynote address delivered by [Suffolk County Legislator Monica Martinez](#).

Events commenced with the flag presentation, as several members of Stony Brook University Athletic Bands led campus community members into the ballroom carrying flags of various Hispanic nations and territories. Guests were welcomed to a mix of songs from popular Latin artists, such as La Sonora Dinamita, Victor Manuelle and Elvis Crespo, and were treated to some traditional Hispanic cuisine, including empanadas and fried plantains. Additional speakers included President Stanley and Stony Brook Chief Diversity Officer LeManuel "Lee" Bitsói.

Hispanic Americans have long played a key role in our country's proud heritage and the building of our nation," said President Stanley, who has long championed diversity at Stony Brook and has helped to bring the University's Hispanic population to record highs, both in number and percentage for the entering 2017 class. "At Stony Brook, our diversity has always been one of our strongest assets. And the Hispanic American community is an essential part of our multi-cultural campus."

[Read the full story](#)

[Up in Albany](#)  
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[In Our Community](#)



*Before the Opening Ceremony, students and staff presented the flags of all Hispanic nations.*

## In the Spotlight

### Stony Brook Forum Tackles Complex Immigration Issues

Stony Brook recently presented "Immigration in America," a community dialogue in which the issue of immigration was discussed in a safe forum among students, faculty, staff and community members. The event was hosted by the [Office of the Dean of Students](#) in partnership with [Vote Everywhere](#), the [Andrew Goodman Foundation](#) and [National Issues Forums](#) and moderated by Steven Adelson, Residence Hall Director and recent SBU alum.

Given the [recent national climate](#) surrounding immigration in the United States and our undocumented immigrant communities, this community dialogue provided an opportunity to come together to better understand these complex issues. The event follows a [September 7 on-campus rally](#), in which students, staff and other members of the campus community voiced their support for the "Dreamers," whose immigration status is in limbo following the Trump administration's order to end the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) that shields young undocumented immigrants from deportation.



*Students participated in thought-provoking dialogue surrounding immigration and discussed different solutions in today's America.*

[Read the full story](#)

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## Up in Albany

### Albany Reacts to Federal Policy Changes

Albany is pushing back on federal policy changes to issues including Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Tax Reform. In a [letter](#) to of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Acting Secretary, NYS DOH Commissioner Howard Zucker warned that the health care for 350,000 New York children is now in jeopardy. Commissioner Zucker states that CHIP has been a success in New York State leading to an 85% reduction in the number of uninsured children over the past two decades. Zucker warned that when New York exhausts its CHIP funding allotment, it will have to discontinue the program and Governor Cuomo would need to call a special session to fill a \$1 billion hole left by the Federal Government to continue to provide coverage to all the children currently enrolled in CHIP.

In a [separate letter](#) to the U.S. Senate and all Members of Congress signed by Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Assemblymember Helene Weinstein, the legislators call for a rejection of tax reform proposals that will hurt New Yorkers. The letter states that according to the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance, the federal elimination of the state and local tax deduction will cost New Yorkers more than \$17.5 billion in additional taxes on an annual basis.

## A Region in Motion

The Long Island Regional Economic Development Council has presented New York State Economic Development Council with A Region in Motion, a progress report highlighting Long Island's strategic plan for economic growth. The LIREDC include Stony Brook University President Sam Stanley and is co-chaired by LIA President and CEO, Kevin Law who is also the Chairman of the Stony Brook University Council. The report provides a progress report on the Council's "vision for long-term economic growth... characterized by increased collaboration among academia, the private and public sectors and labor to protect and grow our advanced manufacturing base while encouraging innovation in the life sciences, information technology, clean energy, defense and homeland security industry clusters." See the full report [here](#).

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## On the Hill

# SBU Graduate Students Meet with Congressional Leaders



*Left to right: Luigi Pesce Ibarra, Joseph Verardo, Shruti Sharma and Jinelle Wint.*

Representatives from the Stony Brook University [Graduate Student Organization \(GSO\)](#) were on Capitol Hill on October 3 along with other members of the [National Association of Graduate-Professional Students \(NAGPS\)](#) - a network of graduate student organizations at more than 50 universities that represents approximately 500,000 graduate and professional students nationwide. While in Washington, DC, students advocated for the interests and concerns of thousands of graduate students as they met with staff from the Long Island Congressional Delegation in addition to [Congressman Lee Zeldin](#).

[Read the full story](#)

## Congressman Lee Zeldin

On Friday, October 7, Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD; and Judy Greiman, Chief Deputy to the President and Senior Vice President of Government and Community Relations, met with Congressman Lee Zeldin (NY-1) at the Congressman's district office in Patchogue.

Topics discussed during the meeting included the importance of federal investment in both student financial aid and scientific research, protecting DACA students, ensuring hospitals have the necessary federal support to provide quality care to patients and Stony Brook's proven success for providing upward mobility for low income students.



*President Stanley and Congressman Zeldin.*

## NSF's Merit Review Report is Now Available



Every year, nearly 50,000 research proposals are submitted to the only federal agency in the United States that funds discovery research in all fields of science and engineering: the [National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#). The agency uses merit review to pick proposals that show the greatest potential to fulfill NSF's mission to promote the progress of science and serve the national interest.

NSF's National Science Board (NSB, Board) sets the agency's merit review criteria and ensures that practices are transparent and align with NSF objectives. Among the report's findings, NSF made nearly 8,800 research awards in fiscal year 2016 to mostly academic institutions.

[Read the full report](#)

## Stony Brook Leadership Meets with

## In Our Community

### Stony Brook Community Pioneers Technology-Based Response to Puerto Rico Crisis

"In theory I would be on a plane heading for Puerto Rico, but I am a graduate student without much money - so I am glad to be helping the Red Cross with their relief efforts any way I can," said Ian Bonnell '16.

Bonnell, who is enrolled in the five-year Master's program in mechanical engineering at Stony Brook, spoke as he documented the locations of storm-ravaged buildings in the hurricane-stricken U.S. territory. He was one of nearly 80 Stony Brook students, faculty and staff participating in an innovative initiative called "Disaster Relief Map-A-Thon: Puerto Rico."



*Sung-Gheel Jang leads volunteers through the Disaster Relief Map-A-Thon process.*

"It's great that we can have an impact on the world from a remote location," said Shafeek Fazal, associate dean for Library Technology, Discovery, and Digital Services.

[Read the full story](#)

### A Wolfstock Win

It was great to see so many alumni, faculty, students, neighbors and friends on Saturday, October 14 at Homecoming! There were over 2,500 attendees at our Wolfstock alumni events and BBQ, and over 12,000 fans to witness the Stony Brook Seawolves beat the then-No.12-ranked New Hampshire Wildcats.

Check out the [Wolfstock village photos here](#), visit our [Flickr page](#) for photos from other Homecoming events and click here to see photos from the Island Federal photo booth. Don't miss out on another opportunity to connect with fellow alums.

We hope to see you soon at a [future event](#).



### Local Family's Gift Bolsters Neonatal Training Lab at Stony Brook Children's Hospital



*Jim and Debra Breslawski attended the Stony Brook Children's Hospital Topping Off Ceremony in July 2015.*

Of all the newborns to receive specialized care in the Stony Brook Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), nearly 100 per year have a birthweight of 3 pounds or less. At that size, head circumference is often no larger than an orange, hands can barely grip an adult thumb and a foot - when birth weight hovers just over 1 pound - can be as small as a penny.

Thankfully, Suffolk County's smallest and most vulnerable citizens have access to technology and expert care delivered by Suffolk County's premier neonatal team. In support of this tradition of excellence, Jim Breslawski, President of Henry Schein, Inc., and his wife Debbie have graciously donated \$100,000 to the Stony Brook NICU Skills

Lab, a facility designed to train nurses and physicians who care for the sickest babies.

[Read the full story](#)

## **Stony Brook Police Building Community Connections One Cup at a Time**

Stony Brook University police officers hosted their second annual Coffee with a Cop event in the Student Activities Center Plaza and at East Side Dining on Wednesday, October 4, after hosting five events last fall.

"One of the challenges on a college campus is the population changes every year," said Eric Olsen, Assistant Chief of Police. "That's why we try to continue this effort year after year to get to know the student population."

[Read the full story](#)



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## **Upcoming Events**

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017**

[Hispanic Heritage Month Closing Ceremony](#)

**Saturday, November 4, 2017**

[The Empire Clash: Seawolves Football vs. Albany](#)

**Saturday, November 4, 2017**

[Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra](#)

**Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

[WolfieTank 2017](#)

**Wednesday, November 8, 2017**

[Diversity Plan Town Hall Meeting](#)

**Wednesday, November 8, 2017**

[Stony Brook Southampton Writers Speak: Kimiko Hahn and Michelle Whittaker](#)

**Sunday, November 19, 2017**

[Run for the Warriors](#)

[Full Stony Brook events calendar](#)

**Contact Information:  
Office of Government and Community Relations**

**(631) 632-6302  
governmentrelations@stonybrook.edu**



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