

MARILYN SIMONS RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD FROM STONY BROOK

Honored for community achievements, extraordinary commitment to SBU

STONY BROOK, NY, November 10, 2011 – The [Stony Brook University Alumni Association](#) honored Marilyn Simons with a [2011 Distinguished Alumni Award](#), the highest honor given by the Alumni Association, at a special ceremony and reception held at Flowerfield in St. James on November 9. Ms. Simons was presented the award by Thomas Muench, her former economics professor at Stony Brook.

The Stony Brook University Alumni Association recognizes prominent SBU graduates for their career and community achievements, extraordinary commitment to Stony Brook and for reflecting “the highest values embraced and promoted by the University and the Stony Brook Alumni Association.”

[Marilyn Hawrys Simons](#) is the President of [The Simons Foundation](#), an organization whose primary mission is to support advanced research in mathematics and science. Under Marilyn and her husband Jim’s leadership, the Foundation has grown rapidly since its inception in 1994—starting with one staff person and a checkbook—to become one of the country’s leading funders of basic scientific research.

In addition to her work at the Foundation, Ms. Simons actively supports numerous not-for-profit organizations both in New York City and Long Island. She is currently President of the Board of the Learning Spring School, a New York City-based school for children diagnosed on the autism spectrum. In addition, she also leads the Committee on Trustees at the East Harlem Tutorial Program, an afterschool program in East Harlem. Her philanthropic work on Long Island includes serving as a Vice President of the Board of the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, an outstanding research facility specializing in molecular biology and genetics. Previously, Ms. Simons has served on the boards of the Churchill School and Planned Parenthood of Suffolk County.

Marilyn, along with her husband Jim, are active members of the Stony Brook community—where they met, married and started their family before moving to NYC in the early 1990s. Their support to the University reaches across numerous disciplines including mathematics, physics, music and the arts, medicine, healthcare, anthropology and economics. Ms. Simons earned her BA and PhD in Economics from Stony Brook University.

The Stony Brook University Alumni Association also honored [four other individuals](#): Jane Corrarino (MS ’86, DNP ’10); Keith Kowalsky (BE ’86, MS ’88); Aaron Podolefsky (MAL ’73, MA ’76, PhD ’78); and Peter Seccia (BA ’89).

“Our five recipients are a great credit to their alma mater,” said Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD, President of Stony Brook University. “Each one is a dedicated and dynamic person who has made the most of his or her Stony Brook degree. They are all a source of inspiration to our emerging scholars, beginning researchers and developing professionals. They represent the best Stony Brook has to offer.”

About the Stony Brook Alumni Association

The Stony Brook Alumni Association is an independent 501(c)(3) organization that represents more than 144,000 Stony Brook University alumni nationwide and abroad. Established in 1965, the Association seeks to reach, serve and engage all alumni, students, and other constituencies to foster a lifelong intellectual and emotional connection between the University and its graduates, and to provide the University with goodwill and support.



Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD, (left) and Scott Middleton (right) pictured with Marilyn Simons.