NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Stony Brook's Class of 2016 celebrates.

Momentum to Make a Difference

Empowered to build a bold new future, 6,570 students celebrated their graduation at the University's 56th Commencement ceremony May 20 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.

"We are committed to excellence, committed to

seeing this young University achieve greatness," said President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD in his address to the Class of 2016. "I hope your journey at Stony Brook University has empowered you to make a real difference as you go out to make an impact on our world," Stanley said.

In keeping with President Stanley's remarks on excellence and achievement, two prominent leaders in their respective fields accepted honorary degrees and addressed the crowd. Eric H. Holder, Jr., the 82nd Attorney General of the United States, received a Doctor of Law, and award-winning journalist Soledad O'Brien received a Doctor of Letters.

Read the full story

Up in Albany
On the Hill
In Our Community

Left to right: President Stanley, Soledad O'Brien, Eric H. Holder, Jr. and keynote speaker Senator Charles Schumer.

Up in Albany

SBU Dental School Advocates in Albany

Stony Brook Government Relations recently accompanied Mary Truhlar, Dean of the Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine, for the New York State Academic Dental Centers

Senator Ken LaValle and Dean Mary Truhlar, D.D.S., M.S.

(NYSADC) Advocacy Day in Albany as part of an effort to pass legislation extending New York State dental schools' ability to provide licensing to international faculty through 2019.

Stony Brook, like the other five dental schools from around the state, have benefited from the expertise of qualified international faculty needed to fill academic vacancies.

Senator Ken LaValle, Chair of the Higher Education Committee, was cognizant of the schools' immediate need to extend foreign faculty licensure, but he expressed concern that faculty were not being recruited in significant numbers from the ranks of graduates of US dental schools. He urged NYSADC to work to solve the domestic recruitment problem. NYSADC agreed with Senator LaValle and will work to deliver a plan by the end of this year that would effectively address the domestic recruitment issue.

Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Project Planned for Stony Brook Road

New York State Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan delivered $1M in Senate funding to help improve pedestrian and traffic safety on Stony Brook Road. In cooperation with Town of Brookhaven Highway Superintendent Dan Losquadro who will add another $600,000 and Assemblyman Steve Englebright who is able to contribute $75,000, a sidewalk will be installed on Stony Brook Road between Oxhead Road and the entrance to SBU's Research and Development Park.

From Left to Right: Chief Deputy to the President Judith Greiman, Brookhaven Highway Supervisor Dan Losquadro, President Stanley, Senator John Flanagan, and Assemblyman Steve Englebright.

Included in this project on Stony Brook Road is the extension of existing bicycle lanes, the installation of new left turn lanes at the South Drive and Oxhead Road intersections, the installation of a new traffic signal at Development Drive, pedestrian signal upgrades, lighting improvements, landscaping, and ADA-compliant handicap ramps.

On the Hill

Funding for University Research is a Mixed Bag

As the House and Senate continue work on their FY17 appropriations bills, university research funding is making some key gains, while also experiencing some disappointing losses.

With FY17 discretionary spending largely frozen at the FY16 level, nondefense discretionary spending is just $40 million higher than FY16 levels with increases for some programs coming at the expense of others. The Association of American Universities' (AAU) funding priorities chart shows the latest numbers.
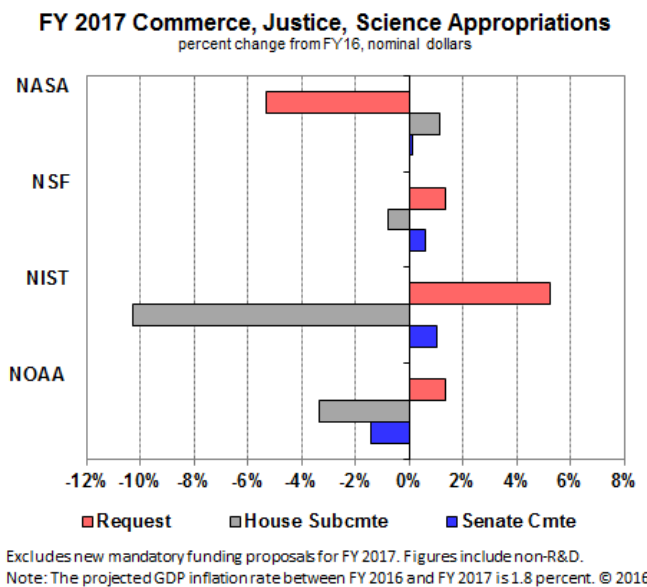
Of the bills considered so far, which do not

include the Labor-HHS-Education bill that funds the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and student aid, the clear research winner is the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) in the Department of Agriculture, which both the House and Senate bills would raise by $25 million.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) sees mixed funding from both the House and Senate, but the overall budget for NSF remains well below the higher education community's request of $8 billion and the President's request of $7.9 billion.

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Research would receive an overall increase in the House and Senate bills, with differences in funding among the research programs.

FY 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations
percent change from FY16, nominal dollars

Excludes new mandatory funding proposals for FY 2017. Figures include non-R&D.
Note: The projected GDP inflation rate between FY 2016 and FY 2017 is 1.8 percent. © 2016

As negotiations move forward, the Office of Government Relations continues to urge Congress to support Stony Brook's priorities.

Computer Science Professor's NSF Grant Will Help Improve Mobile Web Performance

Professor Aruna Balasubramanian

Aruna Balasubramanian, an assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science at Stony Brook, has been awarded a National Science Foundation grant for her research, "CRII: NeTS: Making Sense of Mobile Web Page Performance." Balasubramanian's innovative research focuses on improving the power and performance of mobile applications.
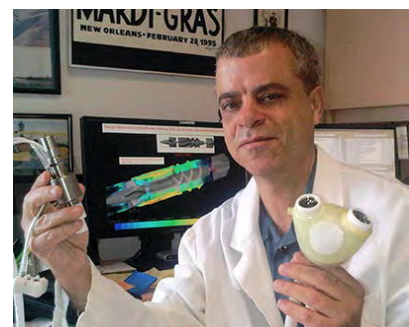
"One of the goals of this project is to shed light on why web pages load slower on the phone as compared to a desktop," said Balasubramanian. "The project will use this bottleneck analysis to design algorithms, techniques and tools to accurately estimate if any given optimization will help or further slow down the page load time. The end goal of the project is a comprehensive analysis framework called ProfX that will help web developers, network providers, browser vendors and researchers design and choose the right set of optimizations to significantly speed up the mobile web."

Read the full story

NIH Pumps $3.6M into Cardiovascular Research at Stony Brook University

A Stony Brook-led interdisciplinary computer modeling project that could lead to a better understanding of cardiovascular disease has received major funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

A team of scientists led by Danny Bluestein, Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Stony Brook University, will conduct multi-scale simulations of cardiovascular processes. The project aims to investigate issues relating to blood flow and platelet mediated thrombosis - major causes of cardiovascular disease, which remains the leading cause of death in the developed world.
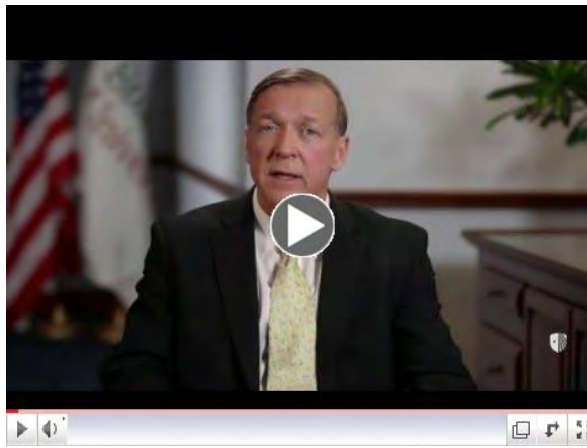
Read the full story

Professor Danny Bluestein

In Our Community

Stony Brook Announces New Plan for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity

Stony Brook University's Plan for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity

Stony Brook recently released its Plan for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity. The plan grew out of discussions with students, staff and faculty. It focuses on recruitment, retention and creating a more welcoming community for all.

Building this plan was a community effort. In March, all Stony Brook students, faculty and staff were invited to comment on a draft plan. More than 120 thoughtful suggestions were received, and served a crucial role in developing the final plan. Implementation of the plan has already begun and will be guided by a Steering Committee, various working groups and a broad based Advisory Council.

Read the full story

Hospital's HOPE Program Inspires High School Students' Future in Health Science, Medicine

"Graduating" seniors from Stony Brook University Hospital's HOPE program from the Brentwood, Longwood, and Wyandanch School Districts.

Thirteen high school seniors who completed Stony Brook University Hospital's Health Occupations Partnership for Excellence (HOPE) Program celebrated their "graduation" from the program and are on their way to college. The faculty-mentored educational program exposes students from underserved school districts to careers in healthcare.
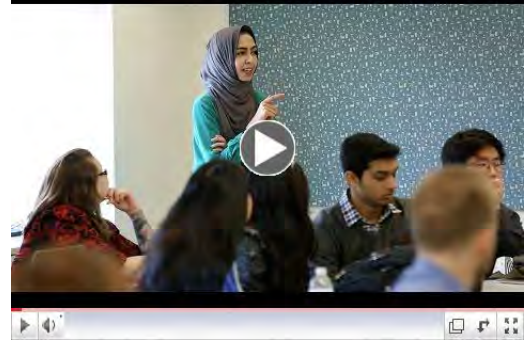
Read the full story

Global Issues through Empathetic Technological Design

As challenging as college can be, some Stony Brook students are inventing strong solutions to major global issues like malnutrition, poverty and water scarcity before ever leaving campus.

"My course teaches students the basics of design ideation, prototype development and testing," said Professor Komal Magsi in the Department of Technologyand Society. "But my goal is to help students

develop solutions to problems for people in dire need."

[Read the full story](#)

Students are solving global problems through technological design with Professor Komal Magsi.

Upcoming Events
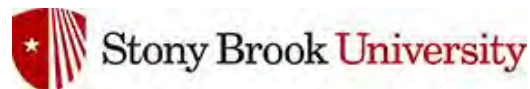
Thursday, June 2, 2016
Incubator Company Showcase

Sunday, June 5, 2016
National Cancer Survivors Day

Monday, June 27, 2016
Stony Brook Alumni Association Scholarship Golf Classic

Full Stony Brook events calendar

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