

HSC

E-NEWS

FEBRUARY 2003 ††STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER †

Norman H. Edelman, M.D., Vice President, Health Sciences Center & Dean, School of Medicine

To use a Yogi-ism, *it seems like deja vue all over again.*

Again we find our institution in difficult budgetary straits due to a New York State fiscal crisis. New York State faces up to a \$2.5 billion deficit this fiscal year and as much as a \$10 billion revenue shortfall in the fiscal year beginning April. Many of you have weathered these conditions before and know how unsettling it can be. Where will the cuts come from? How secure is my position? How can we not fill that position? How do we maintain a level of excellence without resources? As real as these questions are and as difficult as they may be in terms of solutions, Stony Brook has gone through this process before and come out the better for it. The good news is that the SUNY Board and Chancellor have proposed a substantial, long overdue, increase in tuition to meet the crises. How this proposal survives the budget process remains to be seen.

Departments are now tackling the issues of how to implement across the budget cuts. During the current fiscal year, approximately 7.5% reduction must be in effect by June 2003. For fiscal year 2003-2004 an additional reduction of 5% must be planned for. The State has focused on early retirement incentives along with elimination of job lines to reduce its total workforce. The budget process in the HSC will more closely examine expenditures than in prior years. Hopefully, by re-examining our priorities and focusing on our strengths and opportunities, more fiscal and human resources will be available to make high priority activities stronger. There is no doubt that our core mission and values will not only survive, but flourish.



Norman H. Edelman, MD

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Michael A. Maffetone, D.A., the former Director and CEO of Stony Brook University Hospital. All of us who knew Mike remember him as a man of vision, wisdom, and great kindness who cared very deeply about the patients and staff of the Hospital. Mike contributed greatly to improving the healthcare of people on Long Island, and to advancing the image and reputation of Stony Brook University Hospital regionally and nationally.

To honor his accomplishments, Stony Brook established the Michael A. Maffetone, D.A., Community Service Award which honors an employee of the hospital, Health Sciences Center, or the Long Island Veterans Home, who personifies Dr. Maffetone's strong commitment to community service. I am sure I speak for all of us when I say our deepest sympathies go out to his family.



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL FIRST ANNUAL GALA

Carol M. Baldwin, one of the nation's leading breast cancer crusaders, has been named the inaugural honoree for the Patron Award for "Celebrate Excellence"-the 1st Annual Gala presented by Stony Brook University's School of Medicine and Stony Brook University Hospital. The fund-raising event, to be held Saturday, March 1, will be the first major event to take place at the University's new \$40 million Charles B. Wang Center.

Carol Baldwin, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1990, has long been affiliated with Stony Brook University, its Health Sciences Center (HSC), and University Hospital. A former native of Massapequa, she formed the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund (www.find-acure.org) in 1996 to generate funding for breast cancer research at the hospital and at the HSC. Stony Brook is one of the leading public research institutions in the nation and the home of the Long Island Cancer Center (www.stonybrookhospital/licc.com), which conducts cutting-edge research into the causes of a variety of cancers, including breast cancer. The organization has funded 37 research grants totaling \$1.8 million.

In addition to her fund-raising activities, Carol Baldwin is associated with the University through the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Care Center. Part of Stony Brook University Hospital's services, it is located in East Setauket, two miles from the hospital and provides state-of-the-art services from digital mammography to biopsies and psychological counseling.

The Gala, which will benefit children's services and programs at Stony Brook, is expected to attract many Stony Brook alumni plus Long Island's top business leaders, civic leaders, and healthcare professionals. The event begins at 6:30 PM. Individual tickets are \$250 and may be obtained by calling (631) 444-2899.



IT'S THE BEST ROAD TRIP OF THE YEAR!

**Stony Brook Day
In Albany**

February 25, 2003



Register online at

www.stonybrook.edu/albany

DON'T MISS THE BUS!

For more information contact Pat Cruso

E-mail: Patricia.Cruso@stonybrook.edu

Phone: (631) 632-4309

**STONY
BROOK**
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If you need a disability-related accommodation, please call (631) 632-4309.



I want to thank you for making this year's Stony Brook Cares/SEFA Campaign most successful. In June 2002, a theme was chosen, "SEFA Has Touched Your Life and Give until It Feels Good" which set the tone for the entire campaign. Given our outstanding results due to your generosity, I know all of the participants must be feeling good.

Let me place our results in a frame of reference. All philanthropic agencies throughout the State of New York and the nation will acknowledge that this year, it has been more difficult than ever to raise funds. A sharp downturn in the economy affected people's ability to give. Our State employees' pensions sharply declined due to the sustained stock market collapse. Although this was unanticipated and unavoidable, it had a negative aspect on gathering donations. In the Fall, an incentive to retire was offered to State employees. Several hundred Stony Brook employees over 55 years old took advantage of this opportunity. This reduced the pool of employees so there were fewer to give. The remaining employees at Stony Brook University rose to the occasion and showed their generosity to the SB Cares/SEFA campaign. We raised more SEFA-designated money than the year before.

Despite these extenuating circumstances, current SEFA figures for State employees indicate that these obstacles were overcome and the campaign results were more successful than in past years. This year Stony Brook accounts for 85% of the State Div 2 SEFA dollars raised. There was an increase of over \$8,000, 39 additional donors, and a small bump in the percentage of participants this year. Below is Stony Brook's giving record:

| STATE EMPLOYEE GIVING | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| YR | \$\$ RAISED | # GIVERS | % PART. |
| 2002 | 210,689 | 1111 | 12.4 |
| 2001 | 202,047 | 1072 | 12.0 |
| 2000 | 157,901 | 1032 | 11.5 |
| 1999 | 138,869 | 1074 | 12 |
| 1998 | 135,249 | 1945 | 21.7 |
| 1997 | 106,991 | 874 | 9.7 |

(NOTE: 2002 figures are as of date 1/20, contributions are still coming in)
(NOTE: Total for all SB employees (State, R/F, FSA) is nearly \$232,000)

This year we had 193 cornerstone level donors (over \$500); 41 of these cornerstone donors gave above the \$1,000 State-Pillars level, and 6 gave over \$2,000. A total amount was raised of \$137,038.75 from all donors in these categories. Based upon our achievements, this year's campaign committee has been nominated by the SEFA Long Island Region for State-Wide Recognition.

For all Stony Brook employees, (State, Research Foundation, UUP, and FSA) this year was better than last. It is the dedication and to the credit of the SB Cares/SEFA operations committee and the 140 SEFA voluntary captains, from a multitude of departments, whose tireless efforts increased donations. Last year, (excluding funds given for the World Trade Center Disaster which was a special one-time circumstance) the SEFA campaign raised \$224K. This year's campus-wide total is nearly \$232K. The committee and captains are the strongest, most effective group on our campus because of their organizational skills, experience, and rich history of what SEFA stands for, with an infectious enthusiasm for success. They combined hard work with innovative and creative ideas to achieve a stellar campaign. I am looking forward to seeing them at Stony Brook Cares Evening at the Staller on March 30.

My sincerest appreciation is extended to all of you who opened your hearts and pocketbooks. You can only be as successful as those who surround you. You have produced this campaign's results and made my service as Chair, a most pleasant and productive experience.

EZ EXAM

The course directors of the School of Medicine have determined to move toward giving medical school exams via the computer. At the moment, this is being accomplished through a program called eZ.exam and several exams have been given using this software. The exam is taken by the student using a web browser and can in principle be taken anywhere at any time. Of course, that is not always a good thing, so, there are times when it is taken in a controlled setting here on the premises.

How does it work? Well, the first thing you need for an exam is some questions. EZ.exam allows for all different types of questions - simple multiple choice questions with one right answer have been the most popular so far but that is not the only option by any means. There can be more than one correct choice for example, or the correct answer can be chosen from a drop down list. Graphics are easily incorporated into a question, either as a picture about which questions can be asked, or the student can be asked to move markers to identify a particular object. More specialized questions such as Likert scale survey questions are also available. If you want to see what these different types look like, go to:

<http://exams.som.sunysb.edu/q/open.dll>

and log in with any name and password. Choose the 'simple example assessment' which has every question type.

The instructor can enter the questions into the program using a number of different methods including importing them from a text file in the case of multiple choice questions, or using a built in "wizard". Questions are stored organized into topics and exams can be assembled using questions from several topics.

Once exams are assembled they are transferred to the server. Medical Informatics manages the server and we take care of getting the exams put into place. We also enter the students' names and passwords and take care of the details of arranging who can access which exams and when.

For all this to work efficiently, the course director must decide on a number of parameters of the exam, such things as when the exam is available, how long the student has to complete it and how many attempts they are allowed. A complete list of the parameters can be found at:

<http://www.uhmc.sunysb.edu/ezexam/checklist.html>

The most important question concerns the level of security. At its most stringent, the exam can be set up so that it can only be taken on a special browser ("secure browser") which must be installed specially on a computer. Typically, these exams would be taken here in the HSC in the computer lab and normally all the students would take the exam within a very limited time frame. The alternative is to allow access from any computer with internet access, although the limits of the time the exam is available and the number of attempts allowed still apply.

So far the experience has been almost totally positive. The students like getting used to taking computer-based exams since that is how the boards are given. They also appreciate that graphics, especially histological images, are much easier to recognize than poor paper copies used hitherto. As the faculty becomes more familiar with the concept, I expect that they will make more use of the varied question types allowed by eZ.exam. But unfortunately, it won't grade essay questions for you.

For more information, contact Michael Silverberg.

(michael.silverberg@stonybrook.edu; 42347)

ISDN LINES FOR VIDEOCONFERENCING

We have installed ISDN lines for videoconferencing in the Dean's Small Conference Room. That room is now added to our inventory of rooms available for videoconferencing events. (Please note, however, that the lines are the same as those in the OVP Large Conference Room. Events requiring videoconferencing from both of these rooms simultaneously are not possible.)

Any questions or concerns are to be directed to Eugene Hellin, Media Services, 444-3230.

Norman H. Edelman, Dean , School of Medicine and Vice President, Health Sciences Center has received recognition and honor for his accomplishments by the Board of Trustees of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. The Norman H. Edelman Professorship in Bioinformatics in the Department of Pharmacology, has formally been designated. A commemoration ceremony is scheduled in the spring.

Stony Brook is the recipient of three out of potentially four state funded approved research fellow positions through the NYS Department of Health awarded to: **Marie C. Gelato, Professor of Medicine** -- The Mechanisms of Chromium's Effects on Insulin Sensitivity in Patients with HIV Disease; **Margaret McNurlan, Associate Professor of Surgery** -- Cellular Mechanisms for Sarcopenia in the Elderly; **Lauren B. Krupp, Professor of Neurology** -- A Longitudinal Study of Mild Cognitive Impairment in Patients with Multiple Sclerosis.

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) has awarded a \$50,000 grant for the development and evaluation of a culturally sensitive web-based breast education program to be administered by the South Fork Breast Health Coalition and the Long Island Cancer Center at Stony Brook University. The grant-awarded by the DOH's Wadsworth Center, the most comprehensive state health laboratory in the country, will fund the implementation of the effort, which will be conducted in partnership with civic and community organizations. The web education program was developed by **Elinor Schoenfeld, Senior Research Scientist** and **colleagues** from the Department of **Preventive Medicine**.

Paul Lombardo, Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Physician Assistant Program in the **School of Health Technology and Management**, has been elected President-elect of the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP) and will become president of the APAP in November, 2003. He is the first person ever elected to the top posts of the APAP, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, and the Physician Assistant Foundation-three of the pre-eminent organizations nationwide serving PA faculty and practicing PAs.

Debra Sansoucie, Clinical Associate Professor, is the new Chair of the Parent and Child Health Department in the **School of Nursing**. Dr. Sansoucie developed the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner program and has led it to become an international resource for neonatal nurses.

Stefan Judex, Assistant Professor in the Department of **Biomedical Engineering**, has received a three-year award totaling \$764,073 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Dr. Judex's award, entitled, "The Genetic Basis of the Loss of Musculo-Skeletal Tissue during Weightlessness: Towards the Identification of Individuals that are at Greatest Risk." This research project is aimed at localizing specific regions on chromosomes that predispose individuals to excessive loss of bone or muscle mass during long term space flight.

Dr. Judex's grant proposal received favorable scientific review and NASA evaluation from NASA's Bioastronautics Research Division (BSD) through a competitive review process. The BSD at NASA's Johnson Space Center aims to be a world leader in understanding the space frontier and the opportunities, capabilities and limitations of humans living and working on that frontier.

Calendar of Events

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE



February 25

Stony Brook Day in Albany
Register online at www.stonybrook.edu/albany
For info, call 632-4309

March 1

University Hospital & School of
Medicine Inaugural Gala - Wang
Center
For info, call 444-2899

March 20

Match Day

April 3

Stars of Stony Brook Gala
For info, call 212-254-6677

May 6

SOM AOA Induction Dinner

May 7

Grand Rounds with AOA
Speaker

May 8

M.D. with Recognition Poster
Session

May 20

Recognition Reception for Adjunct
Faculty
For info, call 444-3084 or 444-1025

Q & A

Good communication is two way. Therefore, if you would like to comment, respond to topics, or have news to share: HSC_VP@notes.cc.sunysb.edu. Suggestions for future topics are always welcome, as well. Please feel free to email this publication to others who might be interested in what is happening at the Health Sciences Center.

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