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STONY BROOK DAY 2004:

(Written by Hanne Tracy)

The morning of February 24, 2004 got off to a chilly start as fifteen buses and nearly seven hundred people prepared to make the four hour trip up to Albany for Stony Brook Day in our State Capital.

Upon disembarking from our buses in Albany, the Stony Brook contingency headed for the “Egg” convention center. There we connected with our team leaders, received our information packets, our appointment schedules and were briefed about the public officials we had appointments with. Most teams had an appointment schedules that included four or five visits throughout the Legislative Office Building.

The importance of Stony Brook Day in Albany is to provide members of the campus community an opportunity to voice their concerns about our institution and to address the directions and trends that Higher Education will take in our State over the coming years. The issues being discussed with the members of the Legislature were as varied as the Stony Brook representatives. My particular group was comprised of undergraduate students. As the appointments progressed, it became obvious that these young people were keenly aware of the issues that faced them in their academic future.

The Legislative Members were most welcoming. Assemblyman Peter Rivera had prepared a buffet breakfast, complete with bacon, eggs, bagels and coffee for his visitors, for which the students were especially appreciative.

At the completion of the appointment schedules, the Stony Brook Lobbyists were treated to a sumptuous reception while listening to the addresses from key note speakers.

We boarded buses for the return trip to Long Island at approximately 4:15 pm. Nature herself provided us with an extra treat; a magnificent sunset framed by the majestic Catskill Mountains. Much to our surprise, when we pulled into the South P parking lot, we found our car encrusted in a layer of icy snow.

Stony Brook Day was a huge success and it continues to grow in importance with each

passing year. The event provides a unique opportunity for us to interact with the governmental processes and people who represent us in the State of New York.