**Stony Brook University Physician Assistant Students**

**Celebrate National PA Week, October 6-12, 2016**

**By Maria Brown, PAS**

To ring in the 50th anniversary of the physician assistant profession, the Stony Brook University Physician Assistant Class of 2018 organized several activities to bring awareness to National PA Week, October 6th - 12th. Our class started the weeklong celebration by traveling to New York City’s Rockefeller Center, where we joined several other physician assistant programs on the plaza outside of a live taping of the TODAY Show. We proudly wore our white coats, waved flashy signs we made, and cheered with excitement to represent both the Stony Brook program and the PA profession.

Our observance of National PA Week continued with a PA Profession awareness table set up in the Stony Brook University Hospital lobby. We played “PA-Week Trivia” which rewarded participants with fun prizes for answering questions regarding the physician assistant profession and health topics. We also provided free blood pressure screening and provided the community with education and resources about maintaining a healthy blood pressure. Our awareness booth also featured a thank you card basket, where people could write thank you cards to the hard-working physician assistants of the Stony Brook University hospital.

Our week concluded with a luncheon for the PA Program students, faculty, alumni, and the physician assistants of the hospital, which was organized by the student PA Week Committee. The event took place on an outdoor hospital patio and included a barbecue, cake, and an opportunity for students to mingle with the physician assistants currently practicing in the hospital. With beautiful weather, great food, and the common goal of celebrating PAs, it was the perfect way to end the week.

To fund these events, we organized a successful bake sale, a pancake breakfast, a local restaurant fundraiser, and sold 50th anniversary PA week t-shirts that were worn throughout the week. A portion of the proceeds we raised were donated to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The Stony Brook Physician Assistant class had a wonderful time celebrating our first PA week as students and future PAs. It was both rewarding and exciting to share our passion for the profession and spread awareness of its positive impact on medicine, patients, and health care!

