

Office of the Provost, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-1401

## EMERITUS – September 2025

An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association



### **ZOOM MEETING:**

Our next meeting is Friday, September 5, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. This will be virtual meeting using ZOOM. Information will be sent to your Stony Brook emails a few days prior to the meeting. Meeting information is also listed below.

Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/93251596862?pwd=Y3bYfD2V8fc3wNjFxHTqjobQqEbY2o.1>

Meeting ID: 932 5159 6862

Passcode: 166445



**SPEAKER:** Our guest speaker will be Robert Crease, Department of Philosophy.

**Bio:** Robert P. Crease is a Professor in the SBU Department of Philosophy, where he focuses on science and society issues. For 25 years he has written a monthly column, "Critical Point," for *Physics World*. In 2023-4 he had an NSF grant to study "Social and Political Dynamics of Lab-Community Relations." He wrote a history of BNL's first 25 years, and with Peter Bond, *The Leak: Politics, Activism, and Loss of Trust at Brookhaven National Laboratory* (MIT Press 2022).

**Topic:** Many years ago, Brookhaven National Laboratory leaked a small amount of radioactive material that was declared harmless by Federal, State, and local environmental protection agencies. But the leak gave rise to an activist-media-political firestorm that permanently closed the High Flux Beam Reactor. Where else have similar leaks happened, what was the outcome, and what do the differing outcomes teach us about relations between labs and the communities around them?



### **IN MEMORIAM:**

#### **Martin Freundlich (1931-2025)**

Freundlich came to Stony Brook in 1967, when Mel Simpson was setting up the Department of Biochemistry, and he came with a PhD from the Univ. of Minnesota and work at Cold Spring Harbor. He was a greatly respected and very successful teacher of both undergraduates and (many) graduate students. He twice chaired what became the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

#### **Martin Liebowitz (1931-2025)**

Marty Liebowitz came to the SB Medical School in its opening days (1971) and he came from Albert Einstein, in the Bronx, where he had helped establish one of the first kidney dialysis programs in NY State. At Stony Brook he trained a long generation of students in this area and, in 1999 he was named a Master of the American College of Physicians. Beyond this, SB endowed a DCI-Martin Liebowitz Fellowship in Nephrology. Marty enjoyed travel and the many forms of cultural life of NY and Stony Brook. Before Covid, when the Emeriti met in person and had a steering committee, Marty was a cheerful member and always helped furnish names and point to current research work of general interest. *Written by Joel Rosenthal*

#### **Nicholas Rzhevsky (1943-2025)**

Rzhevsky was one of several colleagues who taught Russian language and literature in what is now the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies. He was the recipient of four Fulbright-Hays Fellowships as well as grants and awards from the NEH and the US Dept. of Education. He edited volumes of the great Russian writers, was a contributor and co-editor of the Cambridge Companion to Modern Russian Literature, and published volumes on Russian literature, culture, and modern theater.

### **John A. Williams (1935-2025)**

John Williams taught in the SB History Department from 1968 until his retirement. He was hired as a historian of the British Empire and (late) colonialism. Building on his Wisconsin Ph.D. he published *Politics of the New Zealand Māori: Protest & Cooperation, 1891-1909* and then *Classroom in Conflict: Teaching Controversial Subjects in a Diverse Society*, largely focused on how to teach South Africa in years of universal political division about apartheid and the new nation that emerged. After retirement he and his wife Ginger taught creative writing for OLLI and at the local Unitarian church and they co-published volumes of poetry. John was about the best tennis player on the faculty. *Written by Joel Rosenthal*

An obituary notice for **Harvard Lyman** will appear in the next newsletter.

*(Joel covers this sort of obvious news on the idea that readers of this newsletter are widely scattered, often not in touch with colleagues with whom they spent their working lives, and interested in a final summation of what is usually the work of decades at a state university that grew into what we hoped would be its future amidst the ugly early buildings and the mud. We helped build it to where it is now rated and ranked.)*



### **SAVE THE DATES: (First Friday of every month)**

Here is a preview of our upcoming Fall speakers.

September 5, 2025 – Robert Crease, Philosophy

October 3, 2025 – Lawrence Martin, Anthropology

November 7, 2025 – Neelima Sehgal, Physics

December 5, 2025 – April Masten, History



## **CAMPUS EVENTS:**

Saturday, September 6, 2025: **Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center: Family Tour and Drip Painting Workshops \$15 – Pre-Registration required**

Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center | 830 Springs-Fireplace Road | East Hampton, NY 11937  
4:30  
10:00am – 11:30am

Saturday, September 13, 2025: **Dragon Boat Races Festival 2025**

Port Jefferson Harbor Park  
8:30 – 5:00PM

Thursday, September 18, 2025 **Film Screening/MIRAI**

Wang Center Theatre  
6:00 – 7:45 PM, \$5 Tickets  
RSVP at [thewangcenter.org](http://thewangcenter.org)

Saturday, September 27, 2025 **CommUniversity Day**

Academic Mall  
12:00 – 4:00 PM



## **Participate in "Documenting COVID-19: Stony Brook University Experiences"**

Stony Brook University Libraries announced the establishment of “Documenting COVID-19: Stony Brook University Experiences,” a new digital archive project to collect, preserve, and publish the institutional history of Stony Brook University. The archive will primarily be formed from submissions received directly from students, faculty, staff, and alumni that document life during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Interviews, first-hand accounts, written narratives, photographs, and more will be important sources to consult in the future to study, interpret, and derive meaning from this historic time period. Members of the Emeritus Faculty Association are invited and encouraged to participate in the project. For more information, please visit: <https://library.stonybrook.edu/special-library-initiatives/documenting-covid-19/>



## Participate in the Faculty Emeritus Documentation Project

In return for the light labor of arranging the calendar of speakers I claim the right to be a nag. Each month the SB Emeriti newsletter includes a plea for you to go to the Old Stony Brook memory project on the web site run by and preserved in the Melville Library's Special Collections. To date, only 19 retired SB faculty have filled out the forms designed to let you talk about the early days at SB and your retrospective views, both about what you expected (or were told) when you came and what you now have to say, looking back, on the experience. The responses are an open document and this paragraph is designed to make you feel guilty if you have not bothered to fill out the questionnaire. You can remedy this.

**Joel Rosenthal**

In an effort to document and preserve the unique and varied experiences of the university's emeritus faculty, a questionnaire has been designed to elicit the personal reflections of faculty members':

- impetuses for accepting academic positions at Stony Brook University.
- early experiences on the campus.
- views on the evolution and growth of the institution.
- contributions to departments and to the university.
- interactions with academic and administrative leadership.
- views on the institution's role in the community (local and wider).
- assessments of the university's mission and successes as a research university.

**Your participation is vital to documenting Stony Brook University history.**

Access information about the project and the questionnaire at:

<http://www.library.stonybrook.edu/special-collections-university-archives/university-archives/>



## **Emeritus Faculty Association (EFA) Member Update:**



**We are actively looking for new Steering Committee Members! Please contact [Joel.Rosenthal@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Joel.Rosenthal@stonybrook.edu) for more information.**

The Provost's Office has updated the EFA's member list! Below is the link for the updated contact information for all members. Please take a look and let us know if you notice any out-of-date or incorrect information about yourself or a colleague, please contact us at [provost@stonybrook.edu](mailto:provost@stonybrook.edu) with any changes. Please remember, we are **only** using your Stony Brook emails.

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emeritus/members.html>

Visit our website: To visit our website, go to the University website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emeritus/index.html>. It always contains the latest emeritus news (click on "Next Meeting"), a list of members' email addresses, a list of officers, newsletter archives and many other useful links.

