

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

## **EMERITUS – September 2023 AND WE'RE BACK....**



**An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association**

### **ZOOM MEETING:**

Our first meeting of the Semester will be Friday, September 8, 2022 at 11:00 am. We will continue to do these meetings via Zoom. Information will be sent to your Stony Brook emails a few days prior to the meeting. Meeting information is also listed below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/91653290887?pwd=Z0FpbnJhbkQ2huZ1hQdVA1OXc5b2s0QT09>

Meeting ID: 916 5329 0887

Passcode: 869369



Our guest speaker will be Zebulon Miletsky, Africana Studies

### **BIO:**

Dr. Miletsky is an Associate Professor of Africana Studies at Stony Brook and received his PhD in African American Studies (with a concentration in History) at the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of

Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 2008. There, he was trained as a historian by some of the best thinkers in the field of African American Studies, many of whom are veterans of the Civil Rights and Black Power movements of the 1960s, 70s and beyond. Miletsky was awarded a “Game Changer Award” from the Long Island Area NAACP branches “for his work in Civil Rights in Long Island.” He lives in Brooklyn.

**TOPIC: Rethinking School Desegregation in Boston**

Dr. Zebulon Miletsky will discuss the process of writing and researching his new book *Before Busing* which tells the story of the men and women whose struggle to make school desegregation a reality in Boston was written out of the narrative and ignored by books like J. Anthony Lukas’ Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Common Ground*. This informal talk will provide a clearer picture of the long and hard-fought campaigns to break the back of Jim Crow education in the North and make Boston into a better, more democratic city.



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

Here is a preview of our upcoming speakers.

**October:** Haylee Hebenstreit School of Social Welfare

**November:** Joshua Dubnau, Department of Neurobiology & Behavior

**December:** Crystal Fleming, Department of Sociology



**IN MEMORIAM:**

**William Dawes, Department of Economics**

Bill was a faculty member in the Department of Economics from 1969 until his retirement in 2016, then held a John S. Toll Professorship for three years. Last fall, Bill came back to the classroom one last time to participate in the Department’s Teaching Practicum ECO 698, which he taught for

decades. He taught Introduction to Economics, ECO 108 for more than 40 years (Javits 100 was his backyard), and generations of students remember him dearly. In fact, some of his former students established the William Dawes Fund for Excellence in November of 2010, the proceeds of which are now used to give the Department's yearly awards to graduate students in recognition of their teaching and research excellence.

From 1999-2010, Bill served as chair or co-chair of the Department of Economics, and served as undergraduate program director for several years until the Fall of 2015.

Bill was a mentor and friend to many, and his dedication to undergraduate education was inspirational. His love for Stony Brook and its students is a legacy that will always be part of the Department of Economics and its mission.

### **Abraham Der Krikorian, Department of Biochemistry**

Abraham D. Krikorian of Belle Terre, New York passed away unexpectedly on May 21st, 2023. He was Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and Cell Biology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Abraham was a kind and loving soul who expressed his opinions and feelings very directly, but with civility and was greatly respected. He was the youngest of six exceedingly close children (3 girls and 3 boys) with older sisters Alice, Anna and Mary still with us. Brothers Charlie and Peter are deceased.

Abe's colleagues would describe him as industrious and energetic. He maintained a large laboratory and enjoyed consistent funding largely through NASA, and together with Thora Halstead was a prime mover in 1984 in the establishment of the American Society for Gravitational and Space Biology (ASGSB) - name now modified to Research rather than Biology, ASGSR.

Abe had a distinguished scientific career covering a diverse range of topics and subjects. He participated with his Ph.D. mentor from Cornell, F.C. Steward, in the 1975 joint Soviet-USA Biological Satellite Cosmos 782 mission by flying totipotent cells of carrot capable of developing into full grown somatic embryos. This was 'a first,' and over the years was followed by many experiments with aseptically cultured higher plants and plantlets in space.

Abe received numerous awards and held offices in various Societies. He specialized in cell and tissue culture for cloning purposes and was able to integrate that aspect of the research into spaceflight experiments and in the cultivation of various tropical plantation crops like banana, plantain, African oil palm, rubber etc. Daylily and its hybrids were also studied in-depth and served as "a subject" for research in space at low grav.

### **Charles Wurster (1930-2023), SOMAS**

Charlie Wurster was that rare academic who made an impact on the world beyond the walls of the academy. As early as 1962, while teaching at Dartmouth, he noted and began to worry about the effects of DDT – that miracle pesticide – on bird and animal life (and later, on humans). When Wurster came to Stony Brook to join the biology department in 1965 he soon made an alliance with Victor Yannacone, a lawyer in Patchogue, and they moved to the use of injunctions and lawsuits, plus a good deal of lobbying, to block such activities as spraying local ponds with DDT. Within a few years they organized the Environmental Defense Fund – the EDF, now with 3 million members and an annual income of \$300 million. Quoting Elena Conis, a historian at Berkeley, Wurster was a major

groundbreaker in that he knew the path to follow was one of “putting health at the core” of environmental work. He retired from Stony Brook in 1995 but left an enduring legacy. (A full obituary appeared in the Washington Post, July 25).

### **Eric Lampard, (1922 – 2023) Department of History**

Eric E. Lampard was a senior historian of major repute when he came to Stony Brook from Wisconsin in 1970, part of the History Department’s pushed to support its growing status as part of a research University.

Lampard was from Southampton, England. He went to the London School of Economics (LSE), though his undergraduate career was interrupted by four years in the Royal Marines that included combat in southeast Asia. He pursued his graduate work at Wisconsin and then, after some years at Smith College and then at Wisconsin, he came to Stony Brook. Lampard’s areas of expertise were (soft) economic history and the process of urbanization. An early study of the dairy industry in Wisconsin has remained a classic and, even after retirement - imposed by the old mandatory retirement rule – he continued to be an oft-consulted guru in his field. A number of his graduate students attended his 100th birthday and testified to his sharp wit until the very end.



### **PARTICIPATION NEEDED:**

#### **"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/>

## 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.

## Stony Brook University history:

Access information about the project and the questionnaire at:

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/libspecial/archives/collections/facultyemeritus.php>

Historis of departments and units. Gerrit Wolf, a new member of our ranks, has written a history of the evolution of the College of Business at Stony Brook. The University Archives, under Kristen Nyitray, welcomes all such efforts. You might want to turn your thoughts in this direction.



## CAMPUS EVENTS:

- Tuesday, September 5, 2022: Corrine Bailey Rae  
7:00 PM – Staller Center Recital Hall
- Thursday, September 14, 2022: CELT Monthly Discussion – Teaching in the Age of Generative AI  
12:00 PM ZOOM (Info Below)  
During these Zoom discussions, you can ask questions, share your AI stories, and discuss effective practices around generative AI.  
<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/91763637108?pwd=YkhndGZFaGl3RkRIL2VSWTVSVWFKQT09>  
Meeting ID: 917 6363 7108  
Passcode: 606456
- Saturday, September 23, 2022: CommUniversity Day  
12:00 – 4:00 PM – Academic Mall  
"Neighborhoods" will be stationed throughout the mall area for visitors to explore. From music to medicine, from food to fun, we invite you to experience all that Stony Brook has to offer.

More Events and information can be found: <https://calendar.stonybrook.edu/>



## EMERITUS FACULTY ASSOCIATION (EFA) MEMBER UPDATE:!

**EXTRA, EXTRA** we are 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 Faith Mirabile at [faith.mirabile@stonybrook.edu](mailto:faith.mirabile@stonybrook.edu) with any changes. Please remember, we are **only** using your Stony Brook emails.

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

Please contact Joel Rosenthal, Chair of the Retirees Committee on the local UUP executive committee with any problems or questions about your union status or related matters.  
[joel.rosenthal@stonybrook.edu](mailto:joel.rosenthal@stonybrook.edu).



**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.



**WELCOME BACK!**