



EMERITUS NO. 214 March 2019

An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be on held Friday, March 1, 2019 at 11am in the Provost's Conference Room (407 Administration Building)

Our guest speaker will be Thomas White, Professor of Physiology and Biophysics in the medical school of Stony Brook University

Bio: Thomas has been a member of the faculty since 2001. He received his BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Minnesota and his PhD in Cell and Developmental Biology from Harvard University. Prior to arriving in Stony Brook, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Geneva and an instructor at Harvard Medical School.

Topic: *"Connexin Genes and Human Disease"*

His research focuses on the intercellular communication provided by gap junction channels and the human diseases that result from mutations in genes encoding their proteins, the connexins. His general approach has been to study the consequences of disease causing mutations on the functional behavior of connexin channels using in vitro assays of channel permeation and gating, followed by the generation of genetically engineered mice where connexin genes have been mutated to mimic disease.

SAVE THE DATES FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AND SPEAKERS:

April 5: James Lattimer, Nuclear Astrophysics with a focus on Neutron Stars, Department of Physics and Astronomy. “How Heavy Elements are made”

May 3: **LUNCHEON**, 12-3pm in SAC Ballroom B
Nicole Sampson, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “SBU: The College of Arts & Sciences on the Horizon”

In Memoriam:

Robert Kerber 1938-2019 (*sent in from Chemistry Department*)

Robert Kerber, Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus, passed away on February 5, 2019.

Bob was born and raised in Connecticut by his parents Cyril Kerber and Mildred Kerber Visconti. He earned a BS degree in Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1960 and a PhD in Organic Chemistry from Purdue University in 1965. Then as a freshly minted Ph.D. he came to Stony Brook where he established a research career in what was then the relatively young field of transition metal organometallic chemistry.

Beyond the research laboratory Bob rapidly established himself as a most valued leader in Chemical Education and in Departmental and University Service. As he rose through the academic ranks Bob taught literally thousands of organic and general chemistry students. He was well known for his challenging and lively classes that often focused on real world problems. In multiple years he was chosen by the graduating chemistry seniors as the “Outstanding Chemistry Professor.” In 1986 he was awarded the President’s and Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching. In 2002 his extended contributions to teaching and education were recognized by the University as he was named Distinguished Teaching Professor.

For decades Bob was the front man for the Chemistry Undergraduate program serving as Coordinator or Director of Undergraduate Studies for over 25 years. During most of that time he also served as a general faculty advisor during summer new-student orientation programs. In 1977 he chaired the University Task Force that established the first writing requirement for all undergraduate students. Ten years later he was

again called upon to chair the General Education Committee which created the Diversified Education Curriculum (the DEC).

Indeed Bob's University service is legendary. He completed the trifecta, President of the College of Arts and Sciences Senate, President of the University Senate, and President of the Faculty Student Association.

Bob's love of chemistry never diminished. In his later years he became somewhat of a chemistry iconoclast writing a series of articles for the Journal of Chemical Education addressing common flaws and fallacies in chemistry education.

In 2011 the Chemistry Department celebrated Bob's career with a symposium as he retired with rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus. But, this did not end Bob's University or Department service. He became an active member and eventually Chair of the Stony Brook University Emeritus Faculty Association.

With his faithful dog Penny in tow, Bob remained a frequent visitor to the Department and was an active participant in the Department's alumni affairs. He was a key member of the team that put together the Leaders in Chemistry Wall (<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/chemistry/about/Tiles.php>), and of course, he is honored with his own tile on that wall.

Bob contributed greatly to the Department and the University, and he will be greatly missed.

Oakes Ames 1931-2019

Oakes Ames, Past Chairman of the Physics Department, passed away on February 12, 2019.

Oakes Ames, Age 87, died of Parkinson's Disease on February 12, 2019 at his home in Stowe, Vermont, where he received exceptional, loving care from his son Stephen and wife Heidi, and their children. Oakes was born in Boston, MA, attended Milton Academy, Harvard University, class of 1953, and received his Ph.D. in experimental nuclear physics from John Hopkins University in 1957.

He began his teaching career as an Assistant Professor of Physics at Princeton University, before moving to Stony Brook University, New York, where he ultimately became Chairman of the Physics Department. From 1974 until 1988, Oakes served as President of Connecticut College. He led the College through the challenging economic climate of the 1970's, and returned to New York in 1990, where he dedicated himself to environmental work and research in energy conservation. He became a supporter and board member of Environmental Advocates of New York for more than 20 years. Oakes was one of the founding members of Audubon New York's State Board and served there until 2012.

Always gentle, thoughtful, and kind, and often with a twinkle in his eye, Oakes

had many interests beyond his professional career. A lover of music, he was an accomplished pianist throughout his life, taking lessons into his 86th year. He is survived by his beloved wife Louise Kimball Ames, four adult children: Geoffrey (Connie) of Lafayette, CO; Michael (Enid) of Lyndeborough, NH; Stephen (Heidi) of Morrisville, VT; and Zoe Jax Kimball of Portland, OR; three siblings Edward of Riverdale, NY, Olivia Ames Hoblitzelle of Cambridge, MA and Joanie of West Tisbury, MA. and six grandchildren. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Gifts in Oakes' memory can be sent to Connecticut College, Environmental Advocates, or Audubon New York.

Participate in the Faculty Emeritus Documentation Project

The 2017-2018 academic year is a milestone in Stony Brook University history, as it marks the 60th anniversary of the institution. 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:

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 with any changes.

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

Events around Campus:

Women's Basketball vs Vermont: Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 2pm in the Island Federal Arena.

Renee Fleming - Staller Center GALA 2019 – March 2, 2019 at 8:00pm Staller Center Main Stage.

Hellenic Film Festival: (Films shown with English subtitles) Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 3:00 pm. And Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 2:00pm.

Family Orchestra Concert (University Orchestra): March 5, 2019 at 7:30 pm in Staller Main Stage.

Starry Nights March: Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 7:00pm, Recital Hall.

MET Opera- Live in HD- Die Walküre: Sunday, March 31, 2019, 12:00pm – Staller Main Stage

These and more Events can be found: <https://calendar.stonybrook.edu/>

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.