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An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association

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Emeritus Faculty Association news December 2015

Next Meeting: New location: Friday, December 4th at 10:30am in the **Chemistry building room 412.**

Our speaker will be Dr. Sam Parnia of the Dept. of Emergency Medicine at SBU Hospital. A leading expert on the scientific study of death and cardiac arrest, Dr. Parnia is Director of Resuscitation Research at the State University of New York. He graduated in medicine from the University of London (1995) and was awarded a PhD in cell and molecular biology (2006) before completing critical care training at Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York. As well as publishing in leading medical peer reviewed journals he is the author of the New York Times best seller, *Erasing Death* (2013) and *What Happens When We Die* (2006). His work has featured in CNN, NBC, USA Today, Newsweek, Time.com and the BBC.

His topic will be "Exploring What Happens When We Die." While many concepts regarding the nature of death and hence what happens when we die have existed for millennia, recent scientific advances have indicated that death being a biological process can now be studied through the objectivity of science. While philosophically, it has traditionally been considered implausible to reverse death after it has taken place, medically speaking advances in the field of resuscitation science starting about 50 years ago and in particular over the past 10 years have challenged this notion.

Current optimal methods include the use of hypothermia, extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation, and mechanical cardiopulmonary resuscitation, while future research indicates a possible a role for direct inhibitors of apoptosis and novel oxygen delivery methods. An unintended consequence of these discoveries aimed at developing new lifesaving measures is that science is also inadvertently expanding our knowledge of the mental and cognitive experience of death with major ramifications for any discussion regarding the question of what happens when we die. For the first time in history, many people have thus gone beyond the traditional threshold of death and have come back to relive and recount their experiences.

In Memoriam: Estelle James

Dr. Estelle James, Professor Emeritus at Stony Brook University, recently passed away on October 13, 2015. While at the University, she served as Professor (1972-1994), Provost (1975-1979), Chair of the Economics Department (1982-1986), and Professor Emeritus (1994-2015).

Dr. James served as a Member, President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security, 2001-2002. She was lead economist at the World Bank, and lead author of the book *Averting the Old Age Crisis*, which provided recommendations that influenced the pension policies of 40+ countries around the world. Her work at the World Bank affected the lives of millions of people. Her most recent research focused on the gender impact of pension policies. She was also one of the founding figures in the study of nonprofit organizations, based on her research in the 1980s. Her first major publication was the book *Jimmy Hoffa: Labor Hero or Labor's Own Foe*, which involved, among other things, her posing as Hoffa's stenographer.

Dr. James received her BS from Cornell School of Industrial Relations in 1956, with the highest average in the history of the school at the time and her Ph.D. in Economics in 1961 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). When she entered the PhD program, MIT was actively debating whether the university should continue accepting women. The major position, as she entered, held that MIT was too hostile an environment for women. Beyond brilliance, it can only be imagine the level of perseverance a female student at the time needed to stay on track at MIT. (e.g., see: <http://1964.alumclass.mit.edu/s/1314/2015/club-class-main.aspx?sid=1314&gid=55&pgid=11879>)

Dr. James was part of the first cohort of women in the Economics Doctoral Program at MIT, and one of few women in her generation in the economics profession (at her

first position, she was not allowed in the faculty club because she was a woman). She was a student of Paul Samuelson at MIT.

She is survived by her daughter, Deborah James; son, David Lazer; brother, Sidney Dinerstein; grandchildren, Isabel James, Liana Bernt, Sarah Bernt; devoted partner, Albert Caron. She was predeceased by her husband Ralph James (from whom she was divorced), Harry Lazer, and longtime companion Sam Levine.

More information and pictures (including with President GW Bush) available on her website: estellejames.com

Message from Michael Lake regarding the Long Island Science and Engineering Fair: I am a former graduate student at Stony Brook, having earned my PhD in biochemistry and structural biology as a member of Hermann Schindelin and Caroline Kisker's lab in 2003. I first became involved with LISEF as a volunteer judge when I was a third year graduate student during the 2000-01 academic year. I enjoyed my experiences so much I have remained a volunteer for the group to this day.

Currently, we are in desperate need of qualified judges to help evaluate approximately 400 student projects in over 17 disciplines. Judges are typically asked to evaluate and score between 8-12 projects depending on the category. As you all have judged for our fair in the past, we are hoping you would like to do the same this year as well!

I am asking for your help in spreading the word of our need for judges. We are asking all qualified individuals (faculty, post-doctoral associates, graduate students, engineers with field experience) to consider assisting us on either or both days of our fair (Monday, February 9th, 2015 and Thursday, March 12th, 2015). We have the greatest need for judges on the February 9th date.

I have attached a letter from LISEF that may further explain our goals. To register as a judge, please go to our website www.lisef.org and follow the instructions below:

- 1) Click the “**LISEF Judges**” button (under the image slideshow).
- 2) Click the “**Register Now!**” button.
- 3) Select and enter a username and password, your e-mail address, name, degree (or degree status), phone contact numbers, and employer name and address and click the “**Continue Registration**” button.

- 4) Confirm that your login information is correct on the screen and click “**Continue Registration**” button.
- 5) Select the date or dates you would like to judge at the fair and select your top **3** choices of category preference. Select the number of years you have previously served as a judge for our fair and if you would like to recommend a colleague for judging, fill in those fields as well. Finally, click the “**Complete Registration**” button.

Please visit the Provost’s Lecture Series website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/provlec.shtml> for further updates.

If you would like receive your copy of the newsletter via email instead of snail mail please send your name, address, and current email address to *Alison Gibbons* at: alison.gibbons@stonybrook.edu

Visit our website: To visit our website, first go to the University website at www.stonybrook.edu, click on "For Faculty and Staff", and then on "Emeritus Faculty Association". 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.


