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An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association

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Emeritus Faculty Association news October 2015

Next Meeting: Friday, October 2nd at 10:30am in the Javits room, library 2nd floor. Professor Godfrey will talk on the subject of Lucretius. “Lucretius is a man of mystery. We know very little, if anything about him. His long, elegant and beautiful work *On the Nature of the Universe De Rerum Natura* is a work of genius and unlike anything the Romans produced. He is a follower of Epicurus and Democritus and explains the atomic theory. He also dismisses organized religion and the fear of death. A fairly recent work by Stephen Greenblatt *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern* won the national Book Award. The book traces how the MS was found and disseminated, after being lost for several centuries.”

Professor Godfrey tells us about himself: I have been at Stony Brook 50+ years and have taught Latin and Classics during those years. I also was President of the Union for 7 years. I was dragooned by Bob Kerber and Norm to lead the Senate for 2 years. In addition, I was the founding father of EOP/AIM, and director of Upward Bound and other funded programs to help underrepresented students prepare for college.

In Memoriam: David Smith

Our colleague David Smith died suddenly on Friday morning, August 28th. Not everyone may realize what a large role he played in our organization. For the better part of two decades, with the modest title of “web-master”, he was the mainspring of the Association, the rapporteur of our talks, the editor (and writer of most) of our monthly newsletter, the searcher for, and keeper of, our whereabouts and vital statistics. He was the first to learn, and communicate, when one of us died, moved, or achieved some late-life fame. He was tireless, energetic, and painstaking in his wholly volunteer, uncompensated labor. In return he received one thing: the soapbox of the newsletter from which to broadcast his usually well-informed and often radical (or at least provocative) views. These he never signed, leaving the impression that the chairs, co-chairs, steering committee, or all the several hundred emeriti shared the opinions he expressed. Usually, many of us did, but putting a break, or muffler, on David’s megaphone proved impossible, and perhaps ultimately undesirable. It’s hard to imagine how we will manage without him. It’s not merely that few could do what he did, but that few would be willing to step into his large and onerous shoes. The Emeritus Association will be poorer without him. It will miss him as webmaster, colleague, and friend. It extends our profound condolences to his family.



Photo Credit: Jim Gilson

October 8, 2015: Josh Levs

The Myth of the Modern Dad: What the New York Times, Pew Research, and Everyone Else Got Wrong

Josh Levs is an investigative journalist, expert on issues facing modern families and author of *All In: How Our Work-First Culture Fails Dads, Families, and Businesses—And How We Can Fix It Together*. After 20 years of reporting for NPR and CNN, Levs, a father of three, focuses his book on dispelling myths about today's dads and moms, and explaining the necessity of new policies such as paid family leave. *All In* shows that men and women gain from these changes. Levs follows the money, detailing how and why the best family-friendly programs benefit businesses and the economy. He tells his own story of taking on a policy at Time Warner that prevented him from being able to care for his newborn, preemie daughter and sick wife. As a result of his legal action and the publicity surrounding them, the company revolutionized its policy, making it much better for dads and moms. The change made the company better and stronger. Levs has received six Peabody Awards and two Edward R. Murrow Awards. A scholarship was awarded in his name at his alma

mater, Yale University, and he was named a Journalist of the Year by the Atlanta Press Club.

Co-sponsor: The Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities

Abstract: False claims about modern dads are everywhere. They're in headlines of alleged "surveys," shared in popular blogs, even published by the most prestigious news organizations. In this talk, Josh Levs shows the disastrous effects these lies have on families and businesses. They propagate the laws, policies and stigmas that maintain a sexist infrastructure and keep the American workplace stuck in the "Mad Men" era. Women and men are hurt equally by these myths, he says, and it's up to the current generation of parents to end them once and for all, he argues. Levs offers simple steps and pragmatic solutions to bring the United States into the 21st century, allowing men and women the chance to build real work-life balance.

Thursday, October 8, 4:00–6:00 pm, Simons Center Auditorium, Room 103

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

Brown bag tradition: The steering committee wishes to remind new members and old about the ongoing tradition of brown bag lunches in the Javits room immediately following each month's talk. Please take advantage of this opportunity to socialize and catch up with news of old friends.

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.


