

SUNY Board of Trustees Appoints S.N. Sridhar to Distinguished Professor Rank

Troy, NY., May 11, 2011. The Board of Trustees of the State University of New York, the largest public university system in the U.S., at its meeting yesterday appointed **Shikaripur N. Sridhar**, Professor of Linguistics and India Studies at Stony Brook University, to the rank of Distinguished Service Professor. This rank is above that of the Full Professor and is the highest faculty honor conferred by the university. Conferring this honor, SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher said, "we proudly recognize the extraordinary achievements of our teachers, scholars, and mentors, all of whom serve as stellar examples of SUNY's commitment to excellence."

"It is with great pride that we recognize the brilliant scholars and teachers whose service merits one of the SUNY distinguished ranks," said Board Chairman Carl T. Hayden. "The Board joins with the recipients' families and campuses in celebrating their academic, service, research, and teaching accomplishments."

The Distinguished Service Professorship is conferred upon instructional faculty at SUNY's state-operated and community colleges who have achieved a notable reputation for extraordinary service not only to the campus and to SUNY, but also to the community, the State of New York and/or even the nation, by sustained effort in the application of intellectual skills drawing from the candidate's scholarly and research interests to issues of public concern. Further, many candidates for appointment have rendered influential service contributing at the international level. To be eligible for the nomination, service must exceed the work generally considered to be a part of a candidate's basic professional work (professional committees, etc.) and should include service that exceeds that for which professors are normally compensated. More importantly, the service must extend over multiple years.

Professor Sridhar has been a member of the faculty at Stony Brook University since 1980. He has conducted extensive and influential research in descriptive, theoretical and applied linguistics, including bilingualism, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, second language acquisition, and World Englishes, especially with reference to Kannada and Indian languages. Sridhar is recognized as the world's leading authority on the linguistics of Kannada. He has authored three books, including *Kannada Grammar (Routledge)*, *Cognition and Sentence Production (Springer)*, and co-edited *Ananya: A Portrait of India (AIA, 1997)* and *Language in South Asia (Cambridge, 2008)*, and special issues of journals. His works have been widely cited, and reprinted.

Professor Sridhar has received research grants from the National Science Foundation, the Department of Education, and the American Institute of Indian Studies. He has been designated Senior/Superior Scholar in the Humanities by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has organized and been keynote speaker at many international conferences, served on the editorial boards of journals and been a program and research evaluator universities and funding agencies. He is co-founder of the leading organization of South Asian linguists, South Asian Languages Analysis (SALA).

Professor Sridhar co-founded the **Center for India Studies** at the Stony Brook University, serving as its Director from 1997-2002 and 2008 to the present. In developing the Center as a model of university-community partnership for academic, social and cultural enrichment, Professor Sridhar has successfully mobilized the Indian community in support of a multi-dimensional program of India Studies. The Center helps teach some 30 courses per year; sponsors visiting scholars, distinguished Lecture and Performing Arts series, and academic conferences; assists departments in their India-related initiatives; conducts Outreach Programs for school teachers, museums, public libraries, interfaith centers and civic organizations; offers scholarships; and hosts a rich reference library. *Ananya: A Portrait of India*, edited by Professor Sridhar and Dr. Nirmal Mattoo, and published by the Association of Indians in America, has been acclaimed as a splendid one-volume resource on Indian civilization. The Center has conducted four Summer Study Abroad programs in Bangalore. It is a resource consulted by major media, and was the chief consultant for the nationally broadcast PBS documentary, *Asian Indians in America*. Stony Brook's President Shirley Strum Kenny described the Center for India Studies as "the Jewel in the Crown of Stony Brook." Prior to the establishment of the Center, Professor Sridhar founded the India Society at Stony Brook in 1989 and served as its President until 1995. Professor Sridhar also successfully spearheaded the faculty effort for establishment of a new Department of Asian and Asian American Studies at Stony Brook, and served as its Founding Chair from 2002-8. The department teaches some 100 courses per year.

Reacting to the announcement, Professor Sridhar emphasized the crucial contribution of his wife and colleague, Dr. Kamal K. Sridhar, the vision and dedication of the Indian community on Long Island, the superb education he received in India and in the U.S., his great teachers, friends, colleagues, and administrators, and the Bhagavad Gita's value of "doing the right thing, without looking for personal reward," which his parents instilled in him. "I look forward to a time when the riches of Indian cultural and intellectual tradition become mainstream in America," he said.

Text of SUNY Press Release can be found at:

<http://www.suny.edu/sunyNews/News.cfm?filename=DistinguishedProfsRelease-FINAL.htm>