It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Emeritus Sheldon Chang, the founding Chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering. Professor Chang leaves behind his beloved wife Bridget; his sons Theodore, Andrew and Edward; his daughter Ingrid; and seven grandchildren.

Professor Chang was one of SBU’s founding members that help shape the university to its present status as premier institute of higher education. Born in Shanghai in 1920 he grew up during the Japanese occupation of China and studied Physics with CN Yang at the National Southwest Associated Universities in Kunming. In 1945, Prof Chang got out of China and went to Purdue University for his Doctoral research in the Department of Electrical Engineering. After completing his studies at Purdue, Sheldon spent a few years in industry, until in 1952 when he took up a faculty position at NYU and quickly moved up the ranks to Full Professor. In 1962, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers conferred the Fellow Award for his contributions.

In 1962, when SBU was still at the Planting Fields, Armen Zemanian and Dean Thomas Irvine convinced Sheldon to take up the challenging position of the Chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department, the position he held from 1963 to 1969 and later from 1979-1980. In 1983, Stony Brook recognized his contributions to service and research with a promotion to Leading Professor. For a brief period in 1971/72 Sheldon served as an acting Dean of the CEAS.

Professor Chang was a renaissance man, with a diversity of interests, publishing in the areas of electrical machinery; System Theory and Applications; Digital Processing; Network Theory; Electronics; Information and Communication Theory; Computer Application and Organization; and Modeling and simulation. He authored several books and had over twelve patents. Even after his retirement in 1991, Sheldon continued his research activities, and authored patents on cardiac assist devices.

Sheldon always had an air of infectious optimism, a delightful and charismatic demeanor. He respected his colleagues and openly shared lighter moments with staff, in particular, singing carols near the Holiday Seasons. We have missed since his retirement and we will cherish the moments that we shared.

Sincerely,

Serge Luryi

Distinguished Professor and Department Chairman

Electrical and Computer Engineering Department