



Stony Brook University

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

TO: University Senate  
FROM: Dennis N. Assanis, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
DATE: February 9, 2015

**REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE**

***Dr. Yacov Shamash Takes New Role as Special Advisor to SUNY Chancellor on STEM Education: Steps Down as CEAS Dean to Focus on VP for Economic Development***

Dr. Yacov Shamash will be stepping down as Dean of Stony Brook University's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences upon the hiring of his successor. We have been fortunate to have such an accomplished higher education leader serve as the Dean of CEAS for twenty-two years. Yacov will continue to serve as Stony Brook University's Vice President for Economic Development. In parallel, he has been asked to work with SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher as a Special Advisor to the Chancellor for STEM Education and Research. In this role, he will expand upon his earlier work with SUNY on homeland security, cyber security and energy. He will also play a key role in the promotion of SUNY's SPIR programs.

During his tenure as CEAS Dean, Yacov has more than doubled undergraduate enrollments from 1065 to 2655, with SAT scores increasing from 1140 to 1325, and significantly increased graduate enrollments from 598 to 1512. He also fostered programs to diversify the CEAS' student enrollment and increase access for underrepresented students, including developing the Women in Science and Engineering program. Under his leadership, the CEAS faculty increased by 45 percent from 112 to 162, which includes the recruitment of prominent faculty whose distinctions include 30 NSF CAREER and Presidential Young Investigator Awards, the National Medal of Science, the National Medal of Technology, members of the National Academy of Engineering, and 12 SUNY Distinguished Professorships.

Yacov has significantly increased CEAS' academic breadth through the establishment of three new PhD programs in Biomedical Engineering, Computer Engineering and Technology, Policy and Innovation; five new master's programs in Biomedical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Systems Engineering, Information Systems, and Optoelectromechanical Systems; and six new bachelor's degree programs in Technological Systems Management, Biomedical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Chemical and Molecular Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Electrical Engineering Online. In parallel, he launched the MBA program when he served as Dean of the Harriman School of Management and Policy between 1995 and 2003. Furthermore, Yacov was instrumental in the establishment of SUNY Korea, which currently delivers CEAS' academic programs in Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, and Technology Systems Management.

Dr. Shamash spearheaded the efforts that grew annual research expenditures within CEAS from \$5M to \$3M. During his tenure, CEAS won two NSF Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers and a DOE Energy Frontiers Center, as well as earned the designation of the campus' second NYS Center for Advanced Technology and three NSF Industry University Cooperative Research Centers. In 1995, Yacov led SUNY's colleges of engineering to create the statewide Strategic Partnership for Industrial Resurgence (SPIR) program for \$2M/year. Stony Brook's cumulative results include more than 2,000 projects completed with more than 400 companies, helping company partners win more than \$95M in competitive federal awards.

Yacov has also engaged in numerous, successful philanthropic efforts on behalf of CEAS. He obtained a \$3M grant from CA, Inc. and New York State to help double the number of undergraduate students in Computer Science and Computer Engineering, received a \$1M State grant to help establish the Civil Engineering program, tripled the number of undergraduate scholarships, and substantially increased overall giving to the College, including the establishment of its first endowed chair.

Dr. Shamash played a pivotal role in raising \$86M for new CEAS facilities at Stony Brook University, including \$25M for the Heavy Engineering Building expansion, \$20M for the Biomedical Engineering Building, and \$41M for the Computer Science Building. He also raised another \$163M from the economic development efforts he has been leading, including \$50M for CEWIT, \$45M for AERTC, \$6M for the Calverton Incubator, and \$62M for the Innovation and Discovery Facility.

### ***Statement on rescheduled classes due to weather cancellations***

Due to the recent weather related cancellations it is necessary to make arrangements to address the loss of instructional contact hours. Following meetings with the Provost and Deans, the following plan was developed in order to meet instructional obligations in west campus programs. This plan does not apply to the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing, the School of Dental Medicine, the School of Health Technology and Management, or the School of Social Welfare.

To address the Monday cancellations, Friday March 6th and Friday March 27th will follow a Monday schedule. All Monday classes will meet in their assigned rooms at the assigned times on these Fridays.

Faculty of Friday only classes and Tuesday only classes who missed class on Tuesday January 27th are given the following options:

- Arrangements can be made to hold the class on a Saturday.
- Our colleagues in TLT are eager to consult with you about how they can be of assistance in helping you make up for the unfortunate loss of face to face classroom time. Please consult <http://it.stonybrook.edu/snow> for further information.
- For smaller classes, faculty may negotiate an alternative with their students.

All faculty should make their students aware of their specific arrangements during the next week of class. Faculty should then inform their Chairs who in turn will notify the Dean's Office of

their arrangements.

Faculty must accommodate students who are unable to attend makeup classes due to religious and or other personal conflicts. Students must notify their instructor of this issue immediately to make other arrangements.

If additional cancellations become necessary we will make further accommodations and arrangements.

### ***2015-2016 SUNY Faculty Diversity Program***

The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) is pleased to announce the Faculty Diversity Program (FDP) for the 2015-2016 academic year. The program is budgeted to provide partial salary support to SUNY state-operated campuses for a limited number of new assistant professor level appointments. The purpose of this program is to advance diversity and inclusive excellence by encouraging the recruitment, retention and promotion of outstanding scholars from different backgrounds, including individuals from groups who have historically been underrepresented in higher education.

Salary support will be provided for three years and distributed annually as follows:

- 2015-2016 – 80% of negotiated salary up to \$80,000 and up to \$5,000 for research & professional development;
- 2016-2017 – 75% of negotiated salary up to \$50,000 and up to \$5,000 for research & professional development;
- 2017-2018 – 25% of negotiated salary up to \$15,000 and up to \$5,000 for research & professional development.

Faculty appointed under this initiative will be required to submit a written three-year spending plan and itemized budget for an active research program and once approved will be awarded up to \$15,000 to support those efforts. These funds will be disbursed to the campus, and faculty will have up to three years to expend the research support. The Faculty Diversity Program is highly competitive. SUNY institutions are strongly encouraged to nominate outstanding scholars who have attained a record of distinction early in their academic careers, exhibit promise for scholarly productivity of the highest quality and have a demonstrated ability to work in diverse learning environments. Only individuals nominated by the Chief Academic Officer are eligible for consideration. Conversely, the review process will also take into consideration the department and/or institution's demonstration of commitment to diversity. A brief statement indicating support of the candidate (i.e. mentoring and/or other institutional markers that indicate a level of commitment to the candidate's success) will be required.

A complete dossier will consist of the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae;
- Candidate's statement of interest;
- Published work or writing sample;
- Three reference letters;

- Evidence of candidate's ability to respond effectively to the learning needs of students from diverse backgrounds;
- Home department/academic unit or dean's evaluation of candidate's academic record;
- Chief Academic Officer's recommendation for appointment; and
- Statement on the candidate's contribution to enhancing campus diversity.

The deadline for submission of a complete dossier in hard-copy format to Marsha Pollard, Associate Chief Academic Officer, is February 10, 2015. All submissions will be reviewed by the Chief Academic Officer, and only individuals nominated by the Chief Academic Officer are eligible for SUNY consideration. Nominators will be apprised as to whether their nominee will be forwarded to SUNY for further consideration by February 13, 2015.

### ***Annual Faculty Achievement Dinner***

Stony Brook University's award-winning faculty were honored at the 22nd annual Faculty Achievement Dinner on Wednesday, February 4, 2015. The dinner, hosted by the Office of the Provost, paid tribute to distinguished faculty who have received prestigious awards from July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. These awards recognize SBU's world-renowned faculty for teaching, research and scholarly excellence.

Dennis N. Assanis, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Brookhaven Affairs, hosted the honorees at Lombardi's on the Sound to highlight their accomplishments. In addition, two honorees—Kenneth A. Dill, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Laufer Center for Physical and Quantitative Biology, and Professor R. David Bynum, Professor of Biochemistry and Cell Biology and Associate Director for the Center for Science and Mathematics Education—shared details on the work that resulted in their awards.

Faculty awards and distinctions honored this year included: the Abel Wolman Award, the Balzan Prize for Mathematics, Chancellor's Excellence Awards, Distinguished Professorships, a Fulbright Award/German-American Fulbright Commission, Guggenheim Fellowships, an Indianapolis Prize Winner and Finalist, NSF Career Awards, an NSF Collaborative Research Award, an NSF Eager Award, NSF Early Career Awards, Fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellows of the American Chemical Society, Fellows of the National Academy of Inventors, Fellows of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, the Hiatt Prize in the Humanities, a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Fellowship, a Pulitzer Prize in Drama, a Sloan Fellowship, and many other notable distinctions.

### ***New M.F.A in Film***

On January 8, 2015, the State recognized Killer Films and Southampton Arts' pioneering new approach to academic instruction in filmmaking, and approved a new M.F.A. Degree in Film at Stony Brook University, the first in the SUNY system. Focusing on the practical advice and lessons our indie production company has compiled from almost 30 years in the indie film business, with more than 80 films under our belts and four films produced in 2014 alone, we are

offering a new take on instruction in film, at State University of New York prices—and at two prime locations, Stony Brook Southampton and Stony Brook Manhattan.

As we set out to devise this new program, our aim quickly became singular—to match the reality of the film business today. Revolutionary change in technology has made filmmaking accessible. Students are coming to film programs with greater literacy in visual storytelling than ever before. At Southampton Arts, we have the luxury of starting at ground zero to envision a new model for instruction that embraces new platforms for distribution. The approach is a juxtaposition of the big picture and an embrace of the film business, as it exists today, as well as hands-on and experiential, with the emphasis on the production of new work for writers, directors and producers.

### ***February 2015 Provost Lecture***

On Friday, February 13, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Earth and Space Sciences Building, Room 001, the Office of the Provost, co-sponsored with the Departments of Anthropology, Ecology and Evolution, and Linguistics, will host our Darwin Day Lecturer, Mark Pagel. Pagel, a Professor of evolutionary biology at Reading University, UK, and a Fellow of the Royal Society, is one of the world's most distinguished evolutionary biologists. He has contributed significantly to our understanding of how to construct evolutionary trees and has applied these accomplishments to understanding the evolution of our written language. His book *Wired for Culture: Origins of the Human Social Mind* (WW Norton) was named one of the best science books of 2012 by *The Guardian*.

In his talk, entitled “The Evolution of Languages: An Evolutionary Biologist’s Perspective,” Pagel will address that human beings speak approximately 7,000 mutually unintelligible languages around the world, giving our species the curious distinction that most of us cannot understand what most other people are saying. This talk will explore the origins of our unique language capability, ask whether any other species could speak, and highlight the remarkable features of language that allow it to evolve and adapt much like genes do, meaning we can trace its evolution back thousands of years into our past.