



**Dr. Richard Levin, First Chairman of the Stony Brook University English Department**

**Eric W. Kaler, Provost and Senior Vice President** to: Torre, F. Jason

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To: All Faculty and Staff

I regret to inform the campus community of the passing of Dr. Richard Louis Levin, Professor Emeritus of English at Stony Brook, who died on October 30, 2009 at the age of 87. Professor Levin was a founding member of the original faculty of the SUNY College on Long Island at Oyster Bay, which in 1962 became SUNY at Stony Brook. There he was the first chairman of the English Department.

An eminent Shakespearian, Levin received many awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, an appointment as a Fellow at the National Humanities Center, and a Fulbright Fellowship to teach at Tel Aviv University. He published scores of articles and three scholarly books, the first of which, *The Multiple Plot in English Renaissance Drama*, won the Explicator Award for "the best book published in 1971 in the field of English or American Literature." His *New Readings Vs. Old Plays* appeared in 1982. His third book, *Looking for an Argument*, which was published in 2003, reflects Levin's wit and his rigorous interest in scholarly debate, which continued through his productive retirement. He is survived by his wife, Muriel, his sons, David and Daniel, and his granddaughter, Isabella.

Details of a memorial service to be held at the University will be announced at a later date.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Kaler  
Provost and Senior Vice President