

May 24, 2004

To: All Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

It is my sad duty to inform you that Professor Stewart Harris died on Saturday while running, an activity he had passionately enjoyed. We have lost a long-time, much respected, member of our university community.

Professor Harris earned his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1965 and came to Stony Brook the following year as an assistant professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He served as chairman of the department of Mechanical Engineering from 1978-1984, and as Dean of the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences from 1983-1992. He used statistical theoretical physics methods to study transport properties at the microscopic level. Colleagues in his department cite Harris' book Introduction to the Theory of the Boltzmann Equation as a beautiful work. He was a reviewer for many journals including the Physical Review, Physical Review Letters, The Journal of Chemical Physics, Molecular Physics, Journal of Mathematical Physics, The Journal of Physics, The Journal of Statistical Physics, Science, American Scientist, and Mathematical Reviews. He spent two sabbaticals at the University of Surrey in England as Visiting Research Scientist and also took leaves at Princeton University, and Columbia University. He was a member of Sigma Xi, The American Physical Society, and The American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

In recent years he became interested in applying statistical physics methods to environmental problems, and he created and taught the extremely popular course Pollution and Human Health, a DEC H course.

He is survived by his wife Helen, his son Charles, and his daughter Laura.

The funeral services will be held tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. at the I. J. Morris Funeral Home, 21 East Dear Park Road in Dix Hills (631-499-6060). Guests may arrive by 11:00 a.m. to offer their condolences to the family. Internment will immediately follow the service at Mt. Ararat Cemetery.

Robert McGrath, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs