



Dr. Harry Kalish, Founder of Stony Brook Psychology Department

Eric W. Kaler Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

To
re
F.
Ja
so
n

09/21/2009 01:56 PM

Please respond to mapollard

To: All Faculty and Staff

I regret to inform the campus community of the passing of Dr. Harry Kalish. Dr. Kalish died in his home in Cupertino, California on September 11, 2009, at the age of 88. His service in the Coast Guard enabled him to attend the University of Iowa under the GI Bill, and he received both his bachelors and doctoral degrees in psychology at the University of Iowa. While still a graduate student, he published a highly cited article on conditioning of fear with Brown and Farber, and he became known for his work on how learning a fearful response in one situation generalized to other similar situations. Following his graduation from Iowa, he held positions at Duke University, the University of Missouri, and Adelphi University.

In 1961, he founded the Psychology Department at Stony Brook University and hired faculty with strong research missions in physiological, social, developmental, clinical and experimental psychology. Due to Kalish's vision and excellent hiring, by 1978, the Department of Psychology was ranked 18th in the US in research and scholarly productivity. Kalish, a clinical psychologist himself, believed in the merits of a then relatively unknown approach to the treatment of clinical problems called behavior therapy. In building the clinical program, he hired faculty who conducted research on these cutting edge behavior therapy treatments. In the 1960s and early 70s, Stony Brook was one of the very few programs in the United States to embrace behavior therapy, which has become widely accepted worldwide.

The clinical program that Kalish and Director of Clinical Training, Professor Leonard Krasner, built became very well known across the US for training graduate students and postdoctoral fellows interested in behavior therapy, and it is now ranked 9th nationally by US News and World Report. Following his time as Chair of Psychology at Stony Brook, Kalish served as Vice President for Liberal Studies at Stony Brook. He was a Fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science and the American Psychological Association. He was married to Millie Kalish, and he is survived by a sister, Shirley, two sons, Douglas and Gregory, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. The family welcomes donations payable to the Stony Brook Foundation for the Kalish Psychology Scholarship. Donations should be payable to the Stony Brook Foundation and sent to Jane MacArthur, College of Arts and Sciences, Melville Library, E320, Stony Brook, NY 11794-3391.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Kaler

Provost and Senior Vice President