

Office of the Provost, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-1401



## EMERITUS NO. 204 December 2017

An occasional newsletter for the Emeritus Faculty Association

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### Emeritus Faculty Association News Dec. 2017

#### **Next Meeting:**

Our next meeting will be on held Friday, December 1, 2017 at 11 am in the Chemistry Seminar Room 412. Our guest speaker will be Jennifer Anderson, Associate Professor of Atlantic History at Stony. The title of the talk will be: Long Island's Sugar Barons: Provisioning the Plantation Complex in Early America

**Brief synopsis:** Today, we don't think twice when we stir a teaspoon of sugar into our favorite hot beverage. Yet sugar—now such a ubiquitous substance—has a fascinating history filled with human drama. Its cultivation and consumption in the Caribbean contributed to the expansion of "New World" slavery, vast environmental destruction, and major economic transformations. A lesser known aspect of this history is Long Island's long association with the West Indian plantation complex, from the 17th to 18th centuries. In this talk, Professor Anderson will highlight her new research on Josiah Martin, and other of Long Island's so-called "Sugar Barons," who achieved wealth, power, and status through their West Indian ties. All in the service of satisfying America's sweet tooth!

**Bio:** Jennifer Anderson is Associate Professor of Atlantic History at Stony Brook University. She holds a PhD in History from New York University. Her recent book, *Mahogany: The Costs of Luxury in Early America* (Harvard Univ. Press, 2012) examines the complex history of the colonial tropical timber industry. Her new research delves more deeply into historical ties between Long Island and the Caribbean. Her

article, entitled “A Laudable Spirit of Enterprise: Re-Negotiating Land, Natural Resources, and Power on Post-Revolutionary Long Island,” (in *Early American Studies*, 2016) won the Murrin Prize in Early American History. A specialist in public history, Jennifer has served as a consultant to numerous museums and historic sites in the greater New York region.

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## **Participate in the Faculty Emeritus Documentation Project**

The 2017-2018 academic year is a milestone in Stony Brook University history, as it marks the 60th anniversary of the institution. In an effort to document and preserve the unique and varied experiences of the university’s emeritus faculty, a questionnaire has been designed to elicit the personal reflections of faculty members’:

- impetuses for accepting academic positions at Stony Brook University.
- early experiences on the campus.
- views on the evolution and growth of the institution.
- contributions to departments and to the university.
- interactions with academic and administrative leadership.
- views on the institution’s role in the community (local and wider).
- assessments of the university’s mission and successes as a research university.

**Your participation is vital to documenting Stony Brook University history.**

Access information about the project and the questionnaire at:

<http://www.library.stonybrook.edu/special-collections-university-archives/university-archives/>

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If you would like receive your copy of the newsletter via email instead of snail mail please send your name, address, and current email address to *Alison Gibbons* at: [alison.gibbons@stonybrook.edu](mailto:alison.gibbons@stonybrook.edu)

Visit our website: To visit our website, go to the University website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/emeritus/index.html>

It always contains the latest emeritus news (click on "Next Meeting"), a list of members' email addresses, a list of officers, newsletter archives and many other useful links.

