

Resolution on the retirement of

William Jean Crochetiere

Adopted by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

William Jean Crochetiere first came to Tufts as a part time student in the College of Special Studies. He had gone to work for General Electric out of high school as a drafting apprentice and was enrolled in a program that G.E. sponsored at Tufts. Students worked full time in Lynn and took three courses a term in Medford. This led to an Associate in Science degree, after which Bill enrolled full time and received a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Tufts. Following this, he went to The Case Institute of Technology, where he earned a Master's and Doctorate in Biomedical Engineering.

In 1967 he returned to Tufts as an Assistant Professor in the then Department of Engineering Graphics and Design. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1973, and Professor in 1987. He was chair of the Department of Engineering Design from 1981 to 1989. After the 1992 reconfiguration, he joined the Mechanical Engineering department.

Over his time at Tufts, Prof. Crochetiere developed and revised courses in Systems Design, Biomedical Engineering, Machine Design, Automation, Electromechanical Systems, as well as Introductions to Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. Bill has been thesis advisor to countless graduate students, and mentor to numerous undergraduates, staying in touch, and in many cases, providing counsel long after they have left Tufts. His research contributions have led to significant innovations in a number of areas.

As a colleague, we note that in addition to a period as department chair, Bill has served on virtually every standing committee of the Faculty of Arts, Sciences and Engineering. Of particular note is his early service as chair of the University Committee on Persons with Disabilities, at a time when this problem was only being recognized as part of our responsibility.

Bill is a starter of things. He creates foundations which get built on. He joined the Engineering Graphics and Design Department just as its first students undertook a unique graduate program, which, for the next twenty five years brought together students from a variety of engineering backgrounds to work on the structure and implementation of multidisciplinary design. He started a biomedical engineering center, jointly with the Rehabilitation Institute of the Tufts New England Medical Center. This entity, which began literally in a closet, grew to a staff of two-dozen full and part time engineers, psychologists, linguists, education specialists and students. Building on the work initiated by him and some of his students, the center achieved a worldwide reputation in communication enhancement for the severely disabled. He was a founding member of the Tufts Center for Decision Making, one of the first efforts at interdisciplinary work across the faculty of Arts and Sciences.

No description of Bill's contribution to the Tufts community can ignore his wife Elaine. For more than three decades she was a vital part of the university, as a student, as a member of

special interest groups and as a good friend to countless others in our midst. We all mourned her premature passing in 1999.

In addition to his professional work, Bill's interests range far and wide. Automobiles may lead, with four or five on the property at last count; at least two in running condition. History of technology and especially mechanical technology: clocks, manufacturing, and transportation rank high as well. Add to these wine making, SCUBA diving and cycling and you get a picture of breadth and flexibility. It is difficult to find a topic he can't become interested in.

On behalf of the committee, I move that this resolution on the retirement of William Jean Crochetiere be spread on the permanent record of this faculty and that copies of it be sent to him, his daughter, Christin Crochetiere and his son, Kevin Crochetiere.