

Resolution on the Retirement of Allen Everett

Adopted by the Faculty of Arts, Sciences and Engineering

The faculty of Physics and Astronomy join with the remainder of the faculty of Arts, Sciences and Engineering to express our warm appreciation of our colleague, Allen Everett, on the occasion of his retirement after 44 years of service to Tufts University. Allen joined the Tufts faculty in 1960, immediately after receiving his PhD. in theoretical physics from Harvard University. He had previously earned a BA in physics from Princeton University.

Allen began his career by studying the structure of small nuclei such as the deuteron. However he soon turned his attention to high-energy particle physics. Experiments at large accelerators constructed during the 1960s revealed the existence of dozens of new types of subatomic particles; clearly there was much here for theorists to explain! Allen used the S-matrix approach in his attempts to help formulate the theory of the interactions between the new particles.

In 1973, at the urging of his graduate student, Allen began to look into the question of tachyons, particles hypothesized to travel faster than the speed of light. Almost certainly there are no tachyons; nevertheless in a series of papers Allen was able to apply sound physical reasoning to analyze this remote possibility.

Allen became the chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department in 1977. His principal accomplishment as chair was to bring two outstanding theorists to Tufts: Alex Vilenkin and Larry Ford. After stepping down as chair, he joined with his two recruits to found the Tufts Institute of Cosmology. Cosmology is the branch of physics that seeks to understand the evolution of the observable universe. Allen has applied his expertise in particle physics to contribute at the exciting interface between fundamental particle theory and cosmology. Tufts is now recognized throughout the world as a center of excellence in theoretical research in cosmology.

During Allen's career at Tufts, he has taught nearly all of the courses offered in our curriculum, ranging from Introductory Physics to the most advanced graduate courses. Allen created a popular undergraduate course for non-science majors titled "Time Travel". Perhaps the students enrolling in his course expected to learn about the possibilities of time travel; however as Allen instructed them in well-established physical principles they learned instead about the impossibilities of time travel!

Allen has contributed widely to the management of academic affairs at Tufts, both at the university level and at the department level. He served as the Arts and Sciences Parliamentarian, chaired the Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee for several years, and served on the Committee on Student Life. At the department level he has served for many years as the Chair of the Committee on Academic Awards.

While Allen may not believe in travel through time, he does believe in travel through space, and especially the enjoyments of such travel! After his retirement, Allen and his wife Mary Lee, a Tufts alum with degrees in biology, will continue their worldwide tours. When he is in the area, Allen has promised to maintain a presence at Tufts. We look forward to his continuing participation in department seminars and cosmology group lunches, and we expect he will be called back to teach a course on occasion. As he returns to Tufts in the coming years we look forward to renewing our friendship with him and hearing reports of his visits to the exotic locales of the world. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Be it resolved that this resolution be spread on the minutes of the Faculty of Arts, Sciences and Engineering, and that a copy be delivered to Professor Everett.

May 19, 2004

Read by Professor William P. Oliver