

Resolution on the Retirement of Professor Robert Gonsalves

Adopted by the Faculty of Arts, Sciences and Engineering

Professor Robert Gonsalves is retiring from the Tufts Faculty this year after nineteen years of service. He graduated from Tufts in 1956. He served in the Navy, and then worked in industry, before earning his PhD degrees at Northeastern University in 1965. On graduation he joined the faculty of that institution.

Bob's PhD thesis was an investigation of signal processing techniques and early in his career he became interested in applying these techniques to images. His particular concern was the phase retrieval problem. This led to his invention of a method called Phase Diversity, which is widely recognized as an important contribution to the field.

While at Northeastern, Bob became active in local politics, serving as chairman of the Woburn School Committee from 1970 to 1975 and, let it be noted, as a McGovern delegate to the 1972 National Democratic Convention. He continues today to take an active part in Woburn civil affairs in his role as a Life Trustee of the Woburn Public Library, while his daughter Joanna is a city councilor.

Professor Gonsalves remained at Northeastern until 1985 when, at the urgings of the founders of the Electric Engineering department's Electro-Optics Center he returned to his Alma Mater to become its director. As Director he led a group of dedicated scientists with distinction from 1985 to 1994. Bob is not a shy person and in addition to his wise leadership it was his showmanship in informing outside groups of the activities of the Center and gaining their financial support that helped insure the effort was successful.

Having published over fifty papers in highly referred journals, Professor Gonsalves has earned an enviable reputation in his field. It was during his tenure as director that Bob was invited to join the Hubble Telescope Group on Image Processing after the telescope optics were found to be flawed. He also worked in television, processing films of the Kennedy assassination for, and appeared in, the Frontline program, "Who was Lee Harvey Oswald."

In 1994 Bob returned to his first love, undergraduate teaching, and his first concern, undergraduate students. In 1995 Electrical Engineering merged with Computer Science and soon after Bob took on the responsibility for the survey course in Computer Science, CS5, a course specifically designed for Liberal Arts students. While teaching this course he received one of his most prized possessions, the cutout of an apple, made from red construction paper, with the legend "An apple for the teacher." That apple adorned his office door for many years after. His dedication to teaching was rewarded in 2000 when he was given the Leibner Award for Excellence in Education and Advising.

Two years after leaving the Electro-Optics Center Bob was asked to take on another leadership position, the chairmanship of his department. The recent merger of Electrical Engineering with Computer Science created many delicate problems, such as allocation of resources and faculty recruitment, to be resolved. During his term as chairman, from

1996 to 1999, the number of computer scientists in the department more than doubled while the various concerns of his faculty were addressed with urbaneness and understanding.

It was at the end of this period that Bob returned to television, processing home movies from the thirties for the Nova production of "The Loch Ness Monster."

In 2001, after Electrical Engineering and Computer Science separated, Bob again assumed the chairmanship of Electrical Engineering, now called the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and ends his career at Tufts in that position.

Professor Gonsalves has been asked what he will do in retirement. He has been a consultant for over twenty companies during his career and could do some of that. He holds five patents and started his own company, Lexitec. He might found another. He has built two houses, including a contemporary solar home in Woburn, where he resides with his wife Pat, and is renovating a third. He has thought about going into construction. He has an interest in astronomy and may develop his ideas for processing star images to show planetary systems. He is sure he is going to Rio for Mardi Gras next year.

Bob leaves the campus with the deep gratitude of his many students, the admiration of his colleagues and the knowledge he has done his task well.

Be it resolved then that Professor Gonsalves be given the rank of Professor Emeritus, that this resolution be spread on the minutes of the faculty of Arts and Sciences, and that a copy be handed to him.

For the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Denis W. Fermental.