

**RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN GENE KREIFELDT: PRESENTED BY
JAMES P. O'LEARY ON MAY 14, 2001**

Adopted by the Faculty of Arts, Sciences and Engineering and placed in the Archives of
Tufts University

John G. Kreifeldt was born and grew up in Manistee, Michigan, on the shore of Lake Michigan. After high school, he joined the U.S. Navy and served for three years, part of the time as an electronic technician aboard a destroyer. After his discharge, he enrolled at the University of California at Los Angeles where he received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. From there, he went to MIT where he received a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering, and the degree of Electrical Engineer. He completed his formal education at Case Western Reserve University, where he received a Doctor of Philosophy, also in Electrical Engineering, with a specialty in Biomedical and Human Factors Engineering.

John came to Tufts in 1969 as an Assistant Professor. In 1974, he was promoted to Associate Professor and became a full Professor in 1979. Over the intervening time, he played a major role in many aspects of the University. He introduced and taught courses at every level, advised and mentored hundreds of students, and served on numerous committees.

John's research was extensive and varied. He worked on the problem of collision avoidance in the machines used in cancer radiation therapy and then extended these concepts to work with NASA on the problems of aircraft traffic control. His work on the latter problem in the nineteen seventies has recently been cited as the basis for the next generation of air traffic control systems.

John also worked on problems in automated analysis of microscopy slides for pathological conditions. Some of the ideas generated there, as well as his work with multidimensional scaling, led to a new approach to image analysis.

John conducted extensive investigations in the area of man-machine interaction, which was really his first love. Along with his students, he identified key parameters, developed methodologies for measuring them, and literally went around the world, advocating better, safer product design. His work involved such diverse design problems as making toothbrushes more effective, making razors easier to use, and shaping lasts so that shoes fit better.

The biggest contribution John made to Tufts was the founding and directing of the undergraduate program in Engineering Psychology. This program broke new ground in a number of ways. It was the first and the only undergraduate program in the country dealing with ergonomics and human factors engineering. It was also the first program at Tufts that permitted students enroll in either the College of Engineering or the College of Liberal Arts. Hundreds of students have attended this unique program and gone on to related careers in the industry, government, and academia. It can be noted that this program played a role in making the Engineering College more attractive to female students.

John contributed his skills and knowledge in many ways. He served as a consultant to the Federal Government's Consumer Product Safety Commission and helped to write regulations that kept unsafe products out of the market place. He served as meeting chair and editor for the Human Factors Society, and as a technical expert on human factors for UNESCO. John was an expert witness in a number of personal injury cases in which product design problems led to the accidents.

John introduced the first courses in operations research at Tufts and continued to explore modes of dealing with problems in stochastic systems and other kinds of uncertainties. His latest efforts in this regard are in the area of Fuzzy Logic which, he has assured us, is logical and not fuzzy.

John expects to stay in his home in Winchester, where he has a collection of Native American and Asian Art, a garden that produces beautiful flowers that he has so generously shared with the occupants of Anderson Hall, and the harpsichord he constructed some thirty-five years ago.

We wish him a long and happy retirement there and hope that he will continue to share his talents with this faculty.

On behalf of the committee, I move that this resolution on the retirement of John Gene Kreifeldt be spread on the permanent

record of this faculty and that copies of it be sent to his two sons Alex Kreifeldt and Max Kreifeldt.