



TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Office of the Secretary of the Faculties

RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF
ALBERT D. ULLMAN
ADOPTED BY THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF
TUFTS UNIVERSITY
May 10, 1983

Albert Daniel Ullman is retiring from Tufts University after thirty-seven years of distinguished service. Throughout these years he has been the model of the good teacher and the responsible scholar. In his early professional days he sought the wise counsel of the "elder statesmen" of the academic community and of the broader community, as well; as years passed by, he gracefully and graciously moved to become the valued elder statesman whose counsel is sought both by colleagues and students.

The scientific rigor and clinical sensitivity which characterize his scholarly work had their roots in his graduate studies with his mentor, the distinguished psychologist O. H. Mowrer; for countless scholars who have studied with Al that rigor and sensitivity are hallmarks. His work was primarily in social psychology and deviant behavior. Much of his published work was in the study of alcoholism. There are some of us who remember a small party in the Coolidge Room celebrating his first book, To Know the Difference. It was a study of alcoholism; we enjoyed discussing problem drinking while sipping either wine or a non-alcoholic beverage. His second book, The Sociological Foundations of Personality, followed soon thereafter, and addressed an exceedingly difficult area. When submitting this manuscript to a colleague for review, Al modestly said he was offering his "term paper" for criticism.

Al is a native New Englander. He was born in Boston and received his early education in Milton, Massachusetts. He did his undergraduate studies at Yale (with a B.A. in 1940), and his graduate work at Harvard, completing his doctorate in 1950. He served on active duty in the U. S. Navy from 1942 to 1946. His first appointment at Tufts was in 1946 as a Research Assistant in Sociology. With a doctoral dissertation to complete and a young family to support, Al was a young man in a hurry. Few of us have moved so quickly in the academic world. By 1953 he was chairman of the Department of Sociology. The development of sociology both as a discipline and in its role in liberal education at Tufts is in large part due to Al's leadership and academic wisdom. An example of this leadership was in his direction of the first sociology group to be

part of the Tufts-in-Italy program in 1965-66. A program in community research evolved in the following years; Al was ably assisted by Professor Gilberto-Antonio Marselli of the University of Naples. To those who went to Naples, the experience of living, studying, traveling, and celebrating holidays as a community of professors and students was unforgettable (and often hilarious). Al entertained with fabulous tales of interviewing peasants and villagers in Valle di Maddaloni and Grazzanise, where no doubt they still remember the "professore" who was once mistaken for a tax collector. This leadership has continued, and in recent years his work with the social psychology program has been outstanding and has brought that field to an even more significant role in the Tufts' definition of the liberal arts.

The opportunity to be a scholar and teacher in an academic environment such as exists at Tufts is very important to Al. But, when asked to become an administrator for the University, he agreed, serving first as Dean of Liberal Arts, and then for five years (1968-1973), as Senior Vice-President and Provost. As an administrator Al will be remembered as the mentor, the listener, with a quick smile and ready wit, who could tell a young faculty member: don't do that; do this instead. Don't be stupid, keep your mouth closed and listen. When faculty governance and academic freedom were very much in dispute, Al's voice was the moderate but timely one. And long before the general recognition of the special problems which confront women in academia, Al was a champion for faculty women and women students.

Al's developed sense of the ways to a peaceful world and his sense of political process and participation prepared him for the rough and often dehumanizing days of the late sixties and early seventies. His office was one of those occupied; he did stand at the construction site during the confrontation, facing students, police and even angry dogs. His staff in Ballou will forever applaud his slamming the door of the Provost's office in the face of the SDS leader, who had come to evict him. Who else but Al should have paused for a brief nap in the lounge chair in his office during an early seventies drug bust.

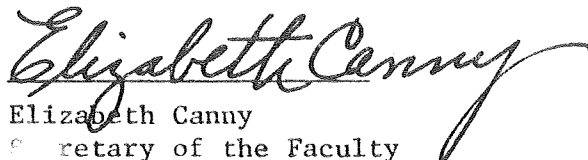
Both at their home in Belmont and in the Provost's house on the Medford campus, Althea and Al have always been the gracious hosts, and for many have made a home away from home. We have shared the joys of family with them; Ballou has never had greater flags flying than for the birth of their first grandson.

We wish Althea and Al many happy years, and know that their wisdom and graciousness has made Tufts a finer place.

For the Faculty,

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