

## **Resolution on the retirement of Martin L. Zelin**

Adopted by the Faculty of Arts, Sciences and Engineering

Today marks the retirement of Professor of Psychology Martin L. Zelin after 38 years of service to Tufts University and to his students.

Marty was an undergraduate at Columbia University and did his graduate work at Northwestern University. While a graduate student he took a class taught by one of the world experts in the use of the Rorschach test. One of his course assignments was to administer this test to someone and report on his interpretation. The friend of a friend who volunteered to be his subject intrigued him, and later she (Myrna) became his wife. Marty received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 1964, after which he accepted a position at Queens College in New York. He was recruited to move to Tufts University in 1966 in part because Acting President Len Mead felt that the Psychology Department at Tufts needed some shaking up. At that time Psychology at Tufts University had two components: there were the faculty who did the bulk of the teaching, and then there were the researchers who staffed the Institute of Psychological Research who had little contact with undergraduates. Marty's hire was part of a move to break up that separation. In addition, the administration believed that his research expertise could help the Department of Psychiatry in the Medical School. So he was given a joint appointment as Assistant Professor of Psychology and as Chief Psychologist in Psychiatry. Marty came up for tenure after three years here and remained half time at the Medical School until 1982.

Marty brought to Tufts University a background of using computers in data collection and analysis. In 1966 this was unusual in Psychology. His first lecture at the Medical School was on the use of computers in Psychiatry. One of his most important research papers demonstrated and validated an objective way of measuring anger and dissecting out the expressive and attitudinal components from the cognitive components. This multi-factor analysis required computers. Marty was an advocate at Tufts for increased faculty access to computing and had one of the first accounts on one of our early shared access systems. He also has served on numerous faculty committees evaluating computer needs, including the initial Task Force on Computing Resources at Tufts. The result of his participation can be seen in many things that those of us who are younger take for granted, including high-speed internet access in the dorms and academic buildings. In addition, he was one of the early advocates of incorporating computers into all of the Psychology laboratory courses. Finally, he has long been one of the people within the Psychology Department to whom others could turn to for computer help.

One of Marty's most important contributions to the university was the development of the Psychology/Clinical major. This is also his proudest accomplishment. In the 1970s this future major developed out of his desire for a graduate program in clinical psychology. He wrote a Training Grant and submitted it to the National Institute of Mental Health. After much discussion with NIMH, he modified his proposal to focus instead on undergraduates and to also include a plan for attracting minority students. That Training Grant was eventually funded for eight years and supported the Interdepartmental Mental Health major. This major gave undergraduates not only course work in mental health, but also experience working with patients and clients under the supervision of Clinical Psychologists and Psychiatrists. The program also gave the students a

real perspective on what to expect from graduate training if they chose to go to a doctoral program in Clinical Psychology. In the process Tufts students over the years helped hundreds of patients from the local communities. In 1984, the major became the Psychology/Clinical major and it has been graduating 30-40 seniors each year ever since. Many of these students specifically mention the important role Marty has played in their intellectual development at Tufts. He has certainly been a tireless supporter of the major and of the students. In addition, his original commitment to minority recruitment has remained. At a recent celebration of his retirement, Professor Gerald Gill lauded Marty for the role he played in encouraging so many African-American students in their professional aspirations and for his role in their successful applications to graduate school.

Marty has contributed to the field of Clinical Psychology through his early publications on aggression and fantasies, and through his professional activities. From 1968 to 1999, he had a private practice in which he helped many patients, and he has been very active in the Massachusetts Psychological Association. He is now a Life Fellow of that organization.

Marty Zelin has been an important part of Psychology at Tufts for many years and the entire community will miss him. His friends, like myself, will miss his advice, his love of tennis and poker, and his tireless advocacy for undergraduate education in Clinical Psychology. Marty, our best wishes as you move on to this next phase of your life.

*On behalf of the Department of Psychology, I move that this resolution on the retirement of Martin L. Zelin be spread on the permanent record of this faculty and that copies of it be sent to him and his wife, Myrna, and to his children, David and Royin.*

*May 19, 2004*

*Read by Professor Joseph DeBold*