

Martin Jay Sherwin was born in Brooklyn and educated at James Madison High School and Dartmouth College, where he was captain of the lightweight crew, his passion at that age, graduating in 1959. After four years in the Naval Air Force in the Pacific, where he became interested in history and U.S. policy toward Japan, Marty started graduate studies at UCLA, where he earned his PhD in history in 1971. His revised dissertation on the decision to drop the atomic bomb was published by Alfred Knopf in 1975 as *A World Destroyed: The Atomic Bomb and the Grand Alliance*, a brilliantly revisionist book which won the Stuart Bernath Prize of the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations as well as the American History Book Prize of the National Historical Society, was nominated for a National Book Award and was the runner-up for the 1976 Pulitzer Prize. It has been published in Japan to critical acclaim and new editions have appeared in English in 1987 and 2001 of a book that is still widely read and admired three decades after it was first published.

In 1980, after a distinguished teaching career at University of California, Berkeley Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania, Marty accepted a position at Tufts, and in 1982 was named the Walter S. Dickson Professor of English and American History. At Tufts, he was a creative and innovative teacher, whose pathbreaking courses on the Nuclear Age and the Vietnam War became legendary highlights of a Tufts undergraduate education. In 1985 and again in 1986, Professor Sherwin was awarded the “Professor of the Year, Silver Medal Award” by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Marty was also a visionary educator, who conceived, founded, directed and was executive producer of the Global Classroom Project (1998-2002), which before the era of podcasts and video conferencing created a “space bridge” program that employed TV satellite technology to link university students at Tufts and in Moscow for interactive discussions about such important issues as the nuclear arms race and the environment. The programs were broadcast throughout the Soviet Union and on selected PBS stations.

Marty has also advised many documentary films and television programs and was senior advisor to the John Adams/Peter Sellars opera, “Wonders Are Many: The Making of Dr. Atomic,” based on his research on J. Robert Oppenheimer, the brilliant nuclear physicist and director of The Manhattan Project that created the atomic bomb. In addition, he was the co-executive producer and NEH project director of the PBS documentary on Oppenheimer’s Russian counterpart: “Stalin’s Bomb Maker: Citizen Kurchatov,” on Igor Kurchatov, the first scientific director of the Soviet Union’s nuclear weapons program. It is a tribute to Martin Sherwin that he has been honored in Japan and in Russia, where he was appointed Honorable UNESCO Professor of Humanities in Mendeleyev University.

Professor Sherwin also been honored in the United States, where he received fellowships from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Sloan Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Rockefeller Foundation and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which also elected him to membership this year. He has also held endowed visiting appointments as

the Cardozo Fund Visiting Professor of American History at Yale University and as the Barnette-Miller Visiting Professor of International Relations at Wellesley College, and been a visiting scholar at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton and at Harvard's Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History. In 1993, Marty answered the call of his alma mater and went back to Dartmouth as Director of its John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding.

Fortunately, he returned to Tufts in 1995, for some of his best years were still ahead. He was again an inspirational teacher for new generations of students, with pioneering courses such as the year long course on the history and physics of the nuclear age that he co-taught with Gary Goldstein. Marty also returned to his biography of J. Robert Oppenheimer with new energy and insight, in collaboration with Kai Bird. Proving that quality in intellectual life is more important than quantity, their long awaited book, *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, was published to critical acclaim in 2005 and went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for Biography, the National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography and the English Speaking Union Book Prize. It was a crowning achievement in an already distinguished career and it capped Marty's final year at Tufts.

Tufts has been fortunate to have had Martin J. Sherwin on its faculty for more than two decades. As a teacher, administrator and scholar he has been an innovative contributor to the classroom, the curriculum and the intellectual life of this university. He has also been a generous colleague and an inspirational mentor to some of the best students to graduate from Tufts during those years. Moreover, during years in which the quality and standing of this university has risen dramatically, Martin Sherwin has epitomized that excellence and been on the cutting edge of those changes. Tufts is proud of his achievements and both regrets and celebrates his retirement.

On behalf of the History Department, I move that this resolution on the retirement of Martin J. Sherwin be inscribed on the permanent record of this faculty and that a copy of it be sent to our very special and justly celebrated colleague.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia G. Drachman
Chair
May 16, 2007

Gerald Gill
Deputy Chair