



The University of Vermont
FACULTY SENATE

Resolution in Memoriam

Robert G. Arns
Emeritus Professor of Physics
1933 – 2019

Presented by Matthew White
Assistant Professor of Physics
May 16th, 2019

The UVM Department of Physics is sad to report that a beloved colleague and friend, Dr. Robert G. Arns, Emeritus Professor of Physics, passed away on April 6, 2019. Born in Buffalo, NY, Bob graduated from Canisius High School, graduated summa cum laude from Canisius College, and then earned his Ph.D. in nuclear and particle physics from The University of Michigan.

Dr. Arns taught at SUNY Buffalo and at The Ohio State University, and in 1977 moved to The University of Vermont as Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs (Provost) and Professor of Physics. Physics was a great love for Bob, and after eight years as Provost, he returned to teaching in the Physics Department. Except for three years as Dean of the College of Engineering and Mathematics, Bob remained in the Physics Department until he took early retirement in 1999. Bob was truly dedicated to the University of Vermont.

Bob was a dedicated student and curator of the history of science, both at UVM and beyond. He spearheaded efforts to preserve experimental equipment and scientific records, and to use the historical pieces in practical learning experiences for UVM students. Bob's legacy lives on, as hundreds of students and visitors every day pass by the physics museum pieces that are proudly displayed in the entrance to Discovery Hall, sparking scientific curiosity in generations to come.

He was a passionate artist, painting under the pseudonym of Mutin. His later works were based on the astrophysical images from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. Many of his works were presented in two one-man shows and a joint show with his daughter Sue.

Arns published on a variety of subjects, including experimental nuclear physics, physics pedagogy, management, and the history of science. His work on the development of the transistor was recognized by the 1998 IEEE Life Members' Prize in Electrical History. His colleagues and friends will remember him fondly for his sharp wit and his many years of generous service to physics department.

Catherine A. Paris
President, Faculty Senate

E. Thomas Sullivan
President, University of Vermont