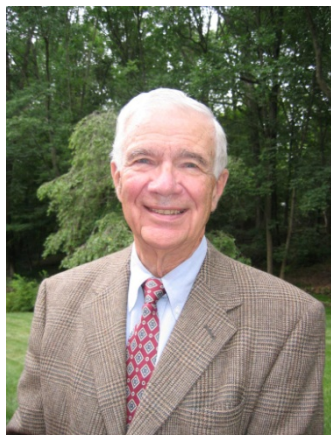


ALAN MAC RAE, PhD '60



Thanks for the "Physics Matters." I enjoyed reading about all the activities in the Physics dept. There is an amazing variety of research in the department. As far as the question of 1 or 2 issues a year - that's your call. I imagine that there is lots of work just to get each issue out so you must be the person who answers that question.

I'm sorry to hear about the closing of the Physics library. Back in Steele Hall days, there was a part-time librarian who catered to the student's needs. I knew that I had arrived when I was able to get a key to the library to use during all hours of the day! That place got lots of use. The Thursday afternoon "tea" sessions were held there before the colloquia. The "teas" were very popular with the students, primarily due to all the food that was served. We had an arrangement with a bakery down on James street to give us their 1-3 day old donuts and other baked goods. That assured a good audience at the Colloquia. Are these Thursday afternoon Colloquia still being held? Are they listed on your web page? (I should look for myself.)

I was interested in the list of awards on page 19. As a long time yearly contributor to the Henry Levinstein Fellowship, I have often wondered who received this Fellowship, what kind of work was done and what has happened to the recipients. Why don't you publish the names and citations of the recipients of all four of these awards? That might stimulate more donations. You could also publish a description of the people behind these names. For instance, I would bet that few (if any) people in the department now know who Neil F. Beardsley was. Do they? It would be nice to have a story about him - he was very nice to me and the others in Henry's lab. I will long remember him. He attended my going-away party and cried as one of his children was leaving.--- a great person. Is there a formal ceremony that is held every year where these awards are made? I would be delighted to attend it. I knew all four of them. Speaking of Henry, "What is the status of the Levinstein memorial display?" I have not heard about this since Ruth Benedict left.

Another suggestion for material in "Physics Matters" would be to list the names and citations of all the past students, as well as existing staff, who became members of the American Physical Society. This idea was triggered off by a copy of the Univ of Conn Magazine (attached) with their list of past students who became members of the National Academy. I received this magazine "out of the blue" with no idea why it was sent to me. Anyway, it would be interesting reading. Thus, publish the names/citations plus a few words about the SU Physics dept students who were elected to the National Academies. I have no idea who they all are, but Hermann Gummel (who is shown on the back page) and I are members of the NAE. I haven't seen Hermann in almost 10 years. On page 19 you listed the names of the PhD recipients and their present affiliations. Much to my surprise and disappointment, none of these people have ended up in an industrial setting. Does that mean that industry is not hiring Physics PhDs? If so, that is tragic - the country needs to have a viable R&D activity in the companies of the country - that is the primary source of the new ideas where new products come from. --- but that is the subject for discussion over a few beers

Again, thanks for publishing "Physics Matters." Keep them coming.