Memorial Resolution For Professor James Martin

James M. Martin, a Professor of Physics at UWM, died on November 13, 1988 after a short illness.

Professor Martin was born on January 2, 1922, in Lamasco, Kentucky. After attending Western Kentucky State College for two years, he served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946. He entered Vanderbilt University in 1946, and obtained his B.A. in physics in 1948 and his M.A. in 1949. During this period, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He continued his education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was supported by a variety of fellowships. He obtained his Ph.D. in physics in 1954.

From 1954 to 1956, Martin worked as a physicist in the research division of Pittsburg Plate Glass Company. He spent a year (1956-57) at the Batelle Memorial Institute at Columbus, Ohio, and joined UWM as an Assistant Professor in 1957.

He came during the first year of operation of the newly merged University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Jim was a very active member of the new Physics Department. He was very involved in developing and supervising undergraduate laboratory work and in the summer institutes for high school teachers which emerged in the immediate post-Sputnik years. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1961 and to Professor in 1964.

Martin chaired the Physics department during a major portion of the 1960's. This was a period of rapid development and change in the department: additional faculty were hired, and the M.S. and Ph.D. programs were started. By the time he stepped down in 1968, the department had reached its present size and our graduate programs were firmly in place. His leadership during this critical period was crucial. He always insisted on the highest standards in both teaching and research.
Throughout his career, Jim was a dedicated teacher. He carried one of the highest teaching loads in the department, often volunteering to go the extra mile. He was also a valued colleague, known for his penetrating human perspective and the homespun, gentle way in which he presented his views. He was always patient and willing to listen to other points of view. His dedication, humanity and counsel will be sorely missed.

Professor Martin is survived by his wife, Gloria, and daughters Margaret, Christine Rebecca and Sarah.

The Physics Department has established a Scholarship in Jim Martin’s name with the U.W.M. Foundation.

Yutze Chow
N. Papastamatiou
William Walters