

**Memorial Minute for Jesse Jacob Josephs**  
**Delivered by Courtney Lannert, at the April 24, 2019 Faculty Meeting**

Jesse Jacob Josephs received his undergraduate degree, as well as a Masters in Science and his PhD, from New York University. After his World War II service as a Naval Engineering Officer, he began his teaching career at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, followed by appointments as assistant professor in the Department of Physical Sciences at the University of Chicago, and then in Physics at Boston University, where he taught for six years. Arriving at Smith in 1956, Jess - as he was known - received tenure in 1962.

During his time at the college, Jess served on numerous committees and boards (and was Treasurer of the Faculty Club!), but can be best remembered as an active member of the Physics Department.

Jess served as chair for over ten years (!), during which time he fostered the growth of the major... Through his regular teaching of the department's introductory courses, and his development of courses in musical acoustics - an area of particular interest to him - he strengthened efforts to increase interest in physics among students hesitant to pursue the sciences. This approach to his teaching and research extended beyond the classroom, as demonstrated by his public lectures on "physics for the non-scientist" and his regular outreach and engagement with institutions around the world on "science education for the non-scientist."

Jess authored and co-authored numerous books and articles - including *A Laboratory Manual for Physical Science*; *Syllabus for Physical Sciences*; *Question Book for Physical Sciences*; and *The Physics of Musical Sound* - and frequently served as a peer reviewer for the *American Journal of Physics* and the *National Science Foundation*. His research in the field of electronics and electro-

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luminescence also took him beyond the walls of academia to a staff position at MIT Lincoln Laboratories and the Mitre Corporation, where he developed radar enabling devices.

Throughout his career, he championed education for deaf students and worked closely with the Clarke School for the Deaf in this effort. This partnership - and his research interests - *also* took him across the globe - to Egypt, Greece, China, and numerous countries in South America and Africa - where he exchanged information with other schools on curriculum development, teacher training, and electronic diagnostic techniques and equipment.

During his many travels, he combined his love of musical acoustics and travel with his adoration for opera, hunting down local opera houses. He expressed an innate curiosity and passion for connecting with people from all walks of life.

Following his retirement from Smith in 1985, Jess and his family moved to Florida before settling in Haverford, Pennsylvania where he passed away at the age of 101 on July 24, 2018.