

CITATION

On the occasion of his recognition as PROFESSOR EMERITUS
and his RETIREMENT
REVEREND THOMAS A, SCHOEN, S.M.

Father Tom is a quiet, unassuming man who is a great leader and affected many at the University. Additionally, he is literally the father of our department! Father Tom was known as "Mr. IT" back in the days before UDIT even existed. His importance to the University, the College, and the department cannot be overstated. It would be safe to say that without Father Tom, our department might not even be in existence today.

Father Tom began his career at the University of Dayton in the Mathematics department, where he went about his work as a member of the faculty. He taught classes, advised and met with students, and was a quiet presence. As a logician, he became fascinated with the logical process of developing instruction sets for computers. His fascination with computers grew quite rapidly to the point that it replaced Father Tom's interest in Mathematics. At that time, the late 1950s, there was no Computer Science department or program at the university. The hours that Father Tom spent in self study convinced him of the need for computer science as an undergraduate discipline at the University of Dayton. He joined with other faculty in the development of the program.

Father Tom went about this task in his quiet way, developing his expertise in computer science. He became a prime mover in the development of the program which eventually became the basis for the Computer Science department. Father Tom was chair of the department for its first 17 years! The discipline he imposed upon himself was also imposed upon all students who came in contact with him and they were the better for it. The computer science department and Father Tom became synonymous. In his simple and humble way, he gained the affection of all who came in contact with him. Father Tom's vision has provided solid footing for a computer science department that is one of the 10 oldest in the country. I am almost certain that, even in retirement, Father Tom will continue pursuing his fascination with computers.

Written by: Jim Buckley
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