

In Memoriam: Allan Henry Morrish:



Allan Henry Morrish was a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of physics at the University of Manitoba, Canada.

After completing his high school in Winnipeg, he received a B.Sc. degree from the University of Manitoba in 1943, an M.A. degree from the University of Toronto in 1946, and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago in 1949 specializing in nuclear physics.

From 1953 to 1964, Dr. Morrish was with the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis, where he held the rank of professor from 1959 to 1964..

He served 21 years as head of the Department of Physics at the University of Manitoba from 1964 to 1985.

The Department of Physics (now the Department of Physics and Astronomy) owes a debt to Professor Morrish for his role as an architect of its current status and structure as one of the highly successful departments in teaching and research in the world today. I believe that his activities in the department were of great importance to him on a personal level.

During his career Dr. Morrish established himself as a world authority on condensed matter physics and in particular on all aspects of magnetism. He made significant contributions also to the field of magnetism at low temperatures involving liquid helium as the coolant in the 4 K range. His book “The Physical Principles of Magnetism” is recognized as a classic work in the field and is still used as a text book in graduate courses world-wide. He has written over 250 papers and has served on many national and international committees.

He was active in many national and international activities and received recognition from a number of organizations. He was:

- * President of The Canadian Association of Physicists 1974 to 1975
- * Awarded the CAP gold medal for achievements in physics 1977.
- * Elected a fellow of The Royal Society of Canada
- * Appointed as a Guggenheim fellow, a fellow of The Institute of Physics (U.K.), and a fellow of The American Physical Society.

At the time of retirement Allan received the status of Distinguished Professor Emeriti from the University of Manitoba.

Professor Morrish was a real “made in Manitoba” success story.

Many of us will have anecdotes and remembrances of our interactions with “Big Al” in the large office in 301 Allen. His mixture of hard-headedness and passion for Physics is something that was inspirational. His passing is a great loss for all of us. The Department of Physics and Astronomy extends its heart-felt condolences to his family.

Allan had a special interest in helping students at the U of M. Should friends so wish, donations in remembrance may be made to the Centennial Scholarship Fund at the University of Manitoba (Physics), Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manitoba R3T 2N2. A service for Allan was held at Fort Garry United Church, 800 Point Road, Winnipeg at 11:30 a.m., September 1, 2010.