Dr. Frank C. Colcord. Dr. Colcord was instrumental in building a modern political science department at the University. In 1969 Dr. Colcord left the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to Chair the Department of Political Science at Tufts University, a job he held for more than a decade.

Frank was born in Rockville Center, New York, and served in the Navy in World War II. He graduated from Middlebury College and then went to work for the Department of State. He later worked for the Bureau of the Budget but began to feel the pull of academia and enrolled in the doctoral program in political science at MIT. His scholarly focus was urban politics and his research focused on urban transportation systems. In 1980 Colcord was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences where he worked assiduously to improve the academic side of the University. He also worked at fundraising and became known as the “dancing dean” for his ability to do the light fantastic at black tie galas. He returned to his first love, teaching, in 1987 and remained in the department for a number of years before retiring.

In retirement he continued the life of the mind, enrolling in and then teaching in a program for senior citizens at Harvard University. To the end he remained in touch with many of his former Tufts students. He took personal responsibility for mentoring new members of the department long before we called it mentoring. Often, he was the first person to welcome new members of the department, and did everything he could to ensure colleagues felt a sense of community. Frank C. Colcord, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, passed away in 2006. He represented what is best about Tufts University and will always be in our hearts.

The Department of Political Science established The Frank Colcord Lecture Series made possible by a generous endowment left to The Department by our beloved friend and Professor Frank C. Colcord.