Bradbury Seasholes

Bradbury Seasholes served Tufts University and the Department of Political Science with distinction for thirty-two years. Through his teaching, scholarship, administrative positions and counseling of thousands of students, Seasholes displayed a record of extraordinary achievement.

Seasholes was born and raised in Ohio and received his undergraduate education at Oberlin College. At Oberlin Seasholes pursued a doctorate in his major, Political Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. At Chapel Hill, Seasholes sailed through his courses, orals, and dissertation with honors and gained his first teaching experience as well. His dissertation dealt with “Negro,” now “Black” and/or “African-American,” political participation; an area to which he later made significant contributions.

At Chapel Hill he met visiting Professor Robert Wood from MIT who enticed Seasholes to Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Political Science Faculty. With is new Ph.D. he worked with Wood at The Institute and the Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies on research and scholarly papers. In 1962, at the annual Tufts Assembly on Massachusetts Government, Seasholes met Professor Robert Robbins, Chair of the Department of Political Science, and Lincoln Filene Center Director, Franklin Patterson. These two professors, impressed with the Seasholes-Wood paper and Seasholes’ solid Political Science credentials made Seasholes an offer to come to Tufts University. Thus, Seasholes came to Tufts in July, 1963 as Assistant Professor of Political Science and Director of Political Science for the Lincoln Filene Center. He worked with considerable energy and dedication in many kinds of academic and real-world enterprises.

Seasholes and his colleagues published a joint-study, *Negro Self-Concept: Implications for School and Citizenship* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1965) which was based on a pioneering conference at The Center in September 1963. This book included Seasholes’ research on Negro political socialization based on previous and then more recent research. It became a seminal work for many future and advanced studies in this field. At The Center, in addition to teaching in the Department of Political Science, Seasholes administered the Robert A. Taft summer workshops, directed the many programs of the Northeastern States Citizenship Project including annual youth conferences, directed the annual Tufts Assembly on Massachusetts Government and edited the annual Assembly conference publication, engaged in continuous research on political socialization, became involved in the many Center inner-city projects on race relations, and lectured and consulted in Malaysia and Indonesia on political socialization in these nations of diverse cultures under the sponsorship of the Department of State. In 1965 his work on race relations took him South where he participated in the march to Selma, Alabama.

In 1974 Seasholes began to devote full-time service with the Department of Political Science and continued his courses in American Government and Urban Politics. The most experimental of his courses was field work in government where he managed well over 600 internships for Tufts students in the Greater Boston area. He was associated with Dr. Edgar Berman, personal physician to Hubert Humphrey who was inspired by Vice President Humphrey to maximize college students’ direct participation and involvement in urban government and politics. Directing the Berman Program in Greater Boston, Seasholes fashioned a pioneering internship program which enables students to spend
time in the machinations of government and politics in the offices of government officials. His work became a model for many other institutions of higher learning to provide intensive, but vibrant learning experiences for thousands of other students.

In his community of Newton, Massachusetts, Seasholes made many contributions to local government and organizations. Many faculty and foreign students experienced a warm haven of hospitality and mutual learning in the Seasholes home in addition to his infectious humor and his devoted and valued friendship.

*Information for the Bradbury Seasholes biography was obtained through the Tufts University Archives.*