



T. Alexander Pond

Professor Pond pursued his undergraduate and graduate education from 1947 through 1953 at Princeton University, earning his doctoral degree under the supervision of Professor Robert Dicke. He then spent nine years as a faculty member at Washington University before coming to Stony Brook as Chairman of the Physics Department during 1962.

He came with a mandate to build, which he grasped so firmly in hand, that even before his official date of appointment he was working toward helping us become more than we thought ourselves capable. During his years as Chairman, 1962-1968, he worked with extraordinary vision and effectiveness to set in place all aspects of the present departmental configuration transforming us from a small group with unexpressed aspirations to a graduate physics department with an international reputation. Later he turned his attention to leadership of the university and served in a variety of capacities including Executive Vice-President and Acting President.

He always had a deep commitment to excellence in undergraduate and graduate education and it was with recognition of this leadership in developing our graduate program that the T. Alexander Pond Prize was established and endowed.