



Henry B. Silsbee

Henry S. Silsbee earned his Ph.D. degree at Harvard in 1951 based on pioneering precision work in molecular physics. He continued and expanded his investigations in adiabatic demagnetization techniques during the next decade. He came to Stony Brook in 1964 as an outstanding physicist and educator. His initial idea was to use atomic and molecular beam techniques to improve the limit on a bound on the electric dipole moment of the neutron. However, instead of pursuing this research, “Hank”, as he is fondly remembered, chose to turn his attention, talents and energy into building our laboratories. It was hard work, but once accomplished, he devoted himself to our graduate program in 1970. This was the activity that totally engaged his interests until his retirement in 1995. His efforts and attention to detail had a significant impact on the educational and research program that exists today.

He is also remembered for his passion for world travel, visiting over 150 countries. During one of his trips to the South Pacific, he recognized that the University of Apia, Samoa needed updated physics books. His love of education inspired him to gather and send to Samoa the needed duplicate texts contributed by Stony Brook faculty.