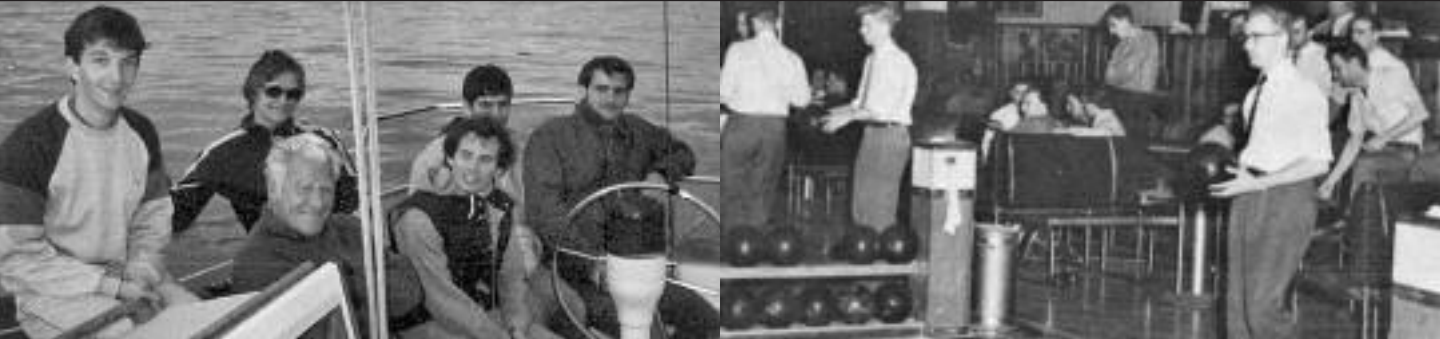


“I don’t think I ever saw Bob without a smile and an **encouraging** word for every student who came in contact with him. I remember his help in getting me a small job with the

*Newark Star-Ledger* reporting the results and details of NCE basketball games. One fond memory of Bob Swanson and his wife Dot was the Friday night **dances** in the gym. It was

through the efforts of Bob and Dot that we acquired many of the **social** graces that engineers of that time were supposedly lacking.”  
**Hank Krauss, EE '54**



invited students and alumni to join them in outings on their boat. The couple also organized picnics and opened their home to students, who often dropped by with their dates after on-campus social events. Bob was class advisor to the classes of 1952 and 1955, and to the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity. As a former student said in a 1955 article in the *NCE Alumnus*, “He is always ‘Johnny-on-the-spot’ in forming some new club or activity. But, on an hourly rate, he is undoubtedly paid less than any prof in the college.”

Bob Swanson has been recognized many times by NJIT. He achieved the rank of full profes-

“The Class of 1954 dedicates this yearbook to Mr. Robert Swanson to honor and thank him for his unselfish dedication to the students of NCE, not only in athletic and physical education programs, but also in helping us **balance** our social and intellectual development.”

**Class of 1954**  
50th Anniversary Yearbook

sor and was awarded professor emeritus status at his retirement. He received the Allan B. Cullimore Distinguished Service Medal in 1984. He was inducted as a charter member of the NJIT Athletics Hall of Fame in 1986 for his leadership in developing “an athletics program of excellence and status.”



The Robert and Dot Swanson Athletics Endowed Scholarship Fund honors “Mr. and Mrs. S.” by helping NJIT to advance their philosophy of educating the whole student. The fund will raise \$250,000 to support an endowed athletics scholarship that will allow a scholar-athlete to reach his or her full potential both in the classroom and on the playing field. Such scholarships allow the university to sustain its unique educational and social mission – making higher education accessible to as broad a segment of society as possible – and permits our coaches to recruit the best and brightest student-athletes from around the world.

The Swanson Fund is a component of the \$5 million Highlanders Athletics Campaign that will support improved athletic facilities and programs as well as scholarships.

For more information about contributing to the Highlanders Athletics Campaign, contact Khatmeh Osseiran-Hanna, director of development and planned giving,

973-596-8548  
osseiran@njit.edu



**THE**  
**ROBERT AND DOT SWANSON**  
ATHLETICS ENDOVED  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND



**NEW JERSEY**  
**INSTITUTE OF**  
**TECHNOLOGY**

## About Robert F. Swanson

For 34 years, Bob Swanson was teacher, coach, mentor, confidante and friend to the students of NJIT. As chairman of physical education and athletics, and director of student activities, he made it his mission to educate the whole student, balancing the rigorous academic curriculum with an active program of physical education and social activities.

Mr. S. – as he was nicknamed by the class of 1952 – joined the faculty of Newark College of Engineering in 1947, shortly after completing 50 months of artillery service in World War II. He was the college's first full-time physical education instructor, faced with the challenge of designing and organizing a formal athletics program in an institution that had previously put very little emphasis – or resources – into this area.

"A college-trained man must be a well-rounded individual **capable** of taking his place in the whole of society, rather than a specialist detached from business associates, family and community...



"It was at one of Bob's Friday night dances that I met my **love, Mary, who became my bride of 49 years. Bob has been the inspiration for many who, like myself, found their bride to be, married, and had families. I wonder how many fewer children and grandchildren would be in this world if not for Bob's unselfish and dedicated efforts to bring budding engineers together with women from other colleges. It provided a social experience that many of us will never forget.**" **John Abate EE '54, ScD EE '67**

His strategy was to encourage and support students to follow their own interests and skills, which led to the establishment of intramural teams and

Physical **education**, with its implications for health, community living and worthy use of leisure time, [helps to develop] a well-rounded individual."

Robert F. Swanson 1949

leagues in badminton, soccer, basketball, bowling, cross-country, softball and judo.

Swanson also recognized that his highly-focused and career-oriented students – many veterans like himself – were lacking in opportunities to develop social skills. That led to the establishment of the legendary Dance Club. Swanson and his wife, Dot, served as dancing instructors (even though he had to resort to books and diagrams and even a few lessons of his own on the side to stay ahead of his students). Female students from nearby colleges and nursing schools were bused to campus every Friday night. Within a few years, the Dance Club became the largest and most popular student activity at NCE.

The Yacht Club was another innovation – the Swansons were avid sailors and often

**YES**, I want to support the Robert and Dot Swanson Athletics Endowed Scholarship Fund at NJIT.

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Donors to the Robert and Dot Swanson Athletics Endowed Scholarship Fund will be recognized in the Highlanders Athletics Campaign, as well as the Highlander Athletic Fund. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. NJIT charitable registration number CHO1981