



Memorial Resolution

Sherwin T. Love
(May 18, 1951 – October 1, 2024)

Department of Physics and Astronomy
Purdue University

Professor Sherwin T. Love was a distinguished theoretical physicist, devoted teacher, and respected colleague whose decades of service enriched the academic and intellectual life of Purdue University.

Professor Love joined the Purdue faculty in 1984 as Assistant Professor. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1987, and to Professor in 1991. Over the course of his career, he established himself as a leading scholar in quantum field theory and its applications to elementary particle physics. His research addressed fundamental questions in dynamical symmetry breaking, supersymmetric field theories, and the renormalization group, contributing to deeper understanding of the theoretical foundations of modern physics.

He earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in physics with highest honors from Drexel University, followed by a Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1978. Prior to joining the Purdue faculty, he held research positions at Fermilab, the Max-Planck-Institut für Physik, Purdue University, and the University of Washington, building an international reputation in theoretical particle physics.

Sherwin was especially admired for his dedication to graduate education and recruitment of students for graduate school. He taught advanced courses—including Quantum Field Theory—with clarity, rigor, and deep intellectual commitment. His excellence in teaching was recognized repeatedly through the Ruth and Joel Spira Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching, reflecting the profound impact he had on generations of students.

Professor Love received a U.S. Department of Energy Outstanding Junior Investigator Award early in his career, and in 1999 was named a Fellow of the American Physical Society. His APS Fellowship citation for the Division of Particles and Fields reads:

“For the introduction and calculation of electron-positron annihilation energy-energy correlations in quantum chromodynamics and for contributions to the study of dynamical symmetry breaking in quantum field theory.”

Beyond his scholarly achievements, Sherwin was known for his thoughtful mentorship, high standards, and steady encouragement of young physicists. He led Departmental efforts on graduate admissions for many years. His legacy endures in the accomplishments of his students, the strength of the theoretical physics program at Purdue, and the many colleagues who valued his insight and collegial spirit.

Sherwin was a frequent visitor to the Department during his retirement, during which time he penned a 2024 Cambridge University Press monograph publication, entitled, “The Role of Symmetry in the Development of the Standard Model.” His home was filled with unique antiquities from around the world. He also amassed an impressive wine collection, from which he shared generously.

The Purdue community remembers Professor Sherwin T. Love with gratitude and respect, honoring a life devoted to science, scholarship, and education.