

2010 Hall of Fame Honoree



Dr. Tom M. Mitchell
Class of 1969

Dr. Tom M. Mitchell is the E. Fredkin University Professor, and Chair of the Machine Learning Department at Carnegie Mellon University. Most of his time is spent doing research in cognitive neuroscience, artificial intelligence, machine learning and natural language processing. In addition to publishing over 100 technical papers and several books, he has testified to Congress on topics related to his research. Last year, he appeared on the CBS news magazine, “60 Minutes” to discuss his research on how the brain represents word meanings. Dr. Mitchell was recently elected a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, one of the top honors for engineers in this country, for his “pioneering contributions and leadership in the methods and applications of machine learning.”

Tom is the son of Robert and Louise Mitchell. He grew up in Apalachin and attended Ross Corners Elementary and Vestal Junior & Senior High School, graduating in 1969. While at Vestal schools, he was especially influenced by his fourth-grade teacher, Mr. Griffith, and by his high school math teachers, Mr. Putney and Mr. Houghey, whose enthusiasm for learning rubbed off. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering at MIT in 1973, and then attended Stanford University, where he received his Master’s and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering. He taught at Rutgers University from 1979 until 1986, when he moved to Carnegie Mellon University.

Tom lives in Pittsburgh, PA, with his wife of 37 years, Joan Stuckey Mitchell. They often get up to the Vestal area to visit his sister, Sharon Tracz, and her family in Owego and his mother, Louise Mitchell, who still lives in Apalachin. Tom and Joan have two daughters, Shannon (Jeremy) Dahl and Meghan (Alex) Little, and four grandchildren. In his spare time, Tom likes to windsurf, play guitar, jog, ski, play tennis and garden.

Tom Mitchell’s Web site is www.cs.cmu.edu/~tom.