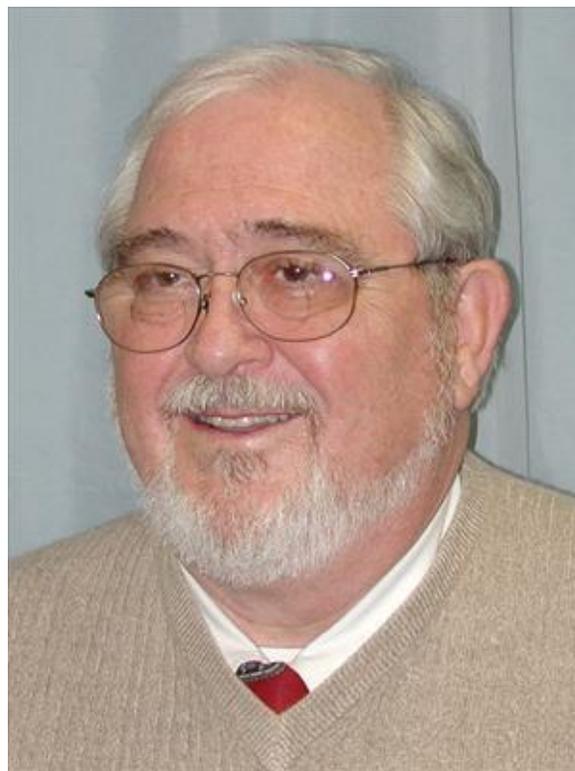


## IN MEMORIAM

### **TOM ROOP**

1937 - 2017

Tom Roop , professor of biology at FMU from 1972-2004, passed away in January 2017. After graduation from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, in 1959, Tom began teaching Biology at East Aurora High School in Lancaster, New York. He earned a Master's Degree in 1963 from Canisius College in Buffalo, NY. and a Ph.D. from Florida State University in 1972. Tom then accepted a position at Francis Marion College, now Francis Marion University. There he enjoyed an illustrious career. He was awarded the Francis Marion College Distinguished Professor Award in 1980 and later received the Helm's Award for the South Carolina Top Science Educator of the Year. During his tenure at Francis Marion, Tom was named as the J. L. Mason Professor of Health Sciences Professor of Biology and Coordinator of Biology Pre-Professional Programs, an endowed Chair. Based on nomination by his students, Dr. Roop was named to the 2000 Edition of Who's Who



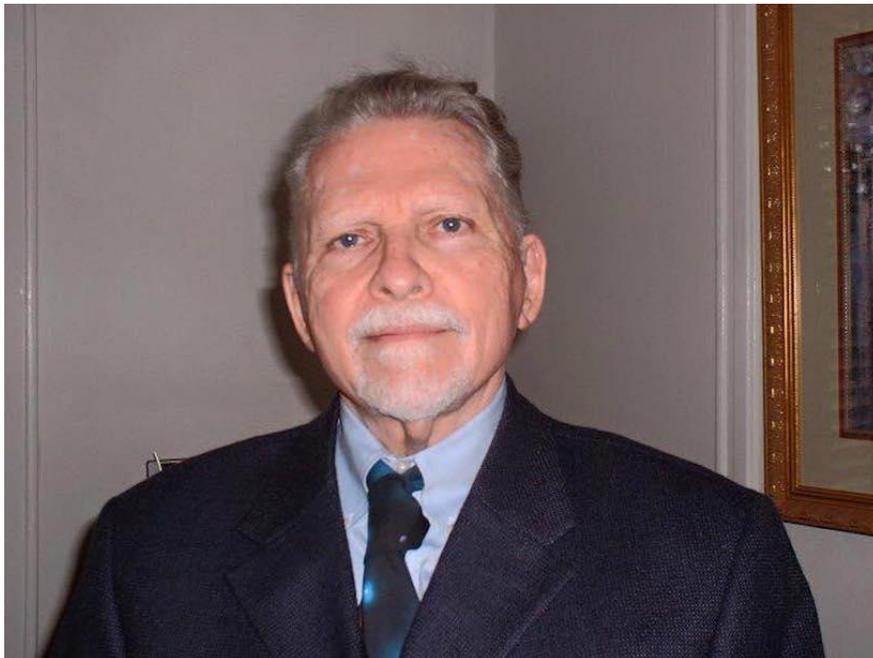
Among America's Teachers. He proudly served as the Ars-Medica Society faculty advisor. The preparation of his students brought an outstanding acceptance rate to medical schools in the state and across the nation. He was inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society. Noteworthy is the fact that Dr. Roop helped found the South Carolina Governor's School of Math and Science. He worked tirelessly with the South Carolina Academy of Science, serving in various capacities: Board Chair; Chair of the Teacher of the Year Committee, and Judging Coordinator. He also serve on the Board (Long-Range Planning Committee and Council Member) of the South Carolina Academy of Science. In 2005, he received the Service Award from the South Carolina Academy of Science. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Art's Alive, serving on their steering committee for 10 years. Dr. Roop retired from Francis Marion University in 2004 as Professor Emeritus. Far beyond his many professional accomplishments, Tom valued most his relationships with his students. He taught and inspired generations of nurses, doctors, teachers, and others. He stood ready to open his mind and heart to each and every one of his students and by so doing, welcomed them as "family." Long after their graduations, his life continued to be fueled and warmed by their outpouring of love and affection. He was a teacher in the finest sense, a mentor and a friend. Memorials may be made to the Tom Roop Scholarship Fund, FMU Education Foundation, P.O. Box 100547, Florence, SC 29502-0547, or to the charity of one's choice.

## IN MEMORIAM

### JOHN LOREN SAFKO

1939 - 2016

Dr. John Loren Safko Sr., USC Columbia Distinguished Professor Emeritus, died June 15, 2016. Born in San Francisco, he received a degree in Physics at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio and completed his Ph.D. at the UNC, Chapel Hill. He brought his bride, Peggy Jean Safko, to Columbia to begin his distinguished career of 38 years in Physics and Astronomy at the University of South Carolina Columbia. Dr.



Safko created and maintained an innovative self-paced astronomy program and study guide which flourished for more than 30 years. John was very active in the Southern Atlantic Coast Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers and served as the treasurer of the South Carolina Academy of Science for more than 30 years. John also served on the SCAS Board (Long-Range Planning Committee and Council) for decades. Through his activities, John enabled outreach to high-school teachers and students throughout South Carolina. He was a published author and co-author of astronomy and physics research books. Dr. Safko loved his students and often had 500 enrolled students in a semester. John was an avid participant and contributor to the local arts and science community. He was a loving husband and father with a great sense of humor and a kind heart. In addition to his wife of 53 years, he is survived by his daughter Tanya Safko Dooley; son, John Loren Safko, Jr.; daughters, Cynthia Scott, Robin Scott, and Vickie S. Dickinson; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The SCAS honors John's 30+ years of service with us and all those he positively impacted.