



*Brown honored by
Dean Robert Clark and
Edmund A. Hajim '58
at the Hajim School
Commencement ceremony
this past May.*

Christopher M. Brown Retires

Chris Brown, "CB" to many of his colleagues, retired on June 30. He was one of the founding members of the Department of Computer Science and is the first to retire since it was started by Jerome Feldman in 1974.

Brown began his academic career at Oberlin College where he earned a BA in philosophy, focusing on linguistics and the new field of artificial intelligence, in 1967. He received his PhD in information sciences from the University of Chicago in 1972 for work on robotics and machine vision and did postdoctoral research at the University of Edinburgh from 1972 to 1975. He joined the new Department of Computer Science at Rochester in 1975.

In his four decades with the University, Brown's research touched nearly every important area of computer vision, and

many others in robotics as well as in the broader field of artificial intelligence.

With Dana Ballard, Brown founded the Computer Vision Laboratory, which became a seminal institution in the then new field of machine vision. Together they published *Computer Vision* (Prentice Hall, 1982), that was for many years a defining text of the field. The laboratory pioneered the concept of active vision, which is now central to the field, and created the world's second binocular robot head (and the first fast one) to study how the human ability to saccade (move the high-resolution center of vision rapidly between points of interest) might provide a model for effective use of computer resources for visual tasks.

Early in his career at Rochester, Brown and his colleagues secured a series of multimillion-dollar block grants from the

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the National Science Foundation. These grants were instrumental in building the infrastructure and continuity that allowed the department to become a world-class research institution. He served as chair from 1983 to 1987 and has provided continuous leadership on several core committees with special attention to both graduate and undergraduate curriculum development.

Brown served as primary supervisor for 16 doctoral students, including Rick Rashid, now senior vice president for research at Microsoft, and Yiannis Aloimonos, currently at the University of Maryland and a leader in computer vision. He supervised several postdoctoral fellows, including Kyriakos Kutulakos, now a senior professor at the University of Toronto.