

## The Will Miller United Academics Memorial Internship

Will Miller, union organizer, activist, teacher, and scholar began his 35-year career in the UVM Philosophy department in 1969. In the mid 1970's, he started the first of many union drives on campus that led to an eventual victory. As a crucial part of this process, he successfully lobbied the Vermont legislature to declare the university a public instrumentality for the purpose of labor relations; without this, unionization would have been impossible. To make clear how inequitable salaries were, Will started a tradition by putting a list of the earnings of all UVM faculty, staff, and administrators on reserve in the library. When he transferred it to his webpage, it got more hits than any other page on the UVM website.

Will never, however, let his work organizing work interfere with his commitment to his students. He was an excellent and caring teacher and a faculty advisor to any number of left-leaning student organizations including the Student Political Awareness and Responsibility Collective (SPARC), the Radical Student Union, the Gadfly alternative student newspaper, and the Union of Concerned Students. When a group of students moved into tents on the campus green demanding that the university divest its holdings in apartheid era South Africa, Will was there, with support, advice and with the wisdom always to follow their lead.

Will was a dedicated and accomplished teacher, an effective organizer and, perhaps most importantly, a kind and gentle soul.

To honor Will Miller, the Executive Council of United Academics has established an internship to provide a student each year with the opportunity to learn about labor and the political economy from the point of view of UVM's union work.

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