Memorial Resolution – Steve Rader
April 14, 1966 – May 24, 2013

Steve Rader, the Physics Department Director of Computing, died on May 24 at the age of 47. His distinguished career in Physics spanned 13 years. Prior to Physics he worked at WiscNet from 1997-2000 and at the Space Science and Engineering Center from 1991-1997, for a total of 22 years at the University.

Steve is survived by his cherished family: his wife, Vicki Tobias; daughter, Ariella Rader; parents, Benjamin and Barbara Rader of Lincoln, Neb.; and sister Anne Rader, her husband Ken Gatter, and her sons Alex and Aiden Gatter, all of Lake Oswego, Ore.

Steve Rader was responsible for supporting almost 500 users that make up the Department's research and academic communities. Steve started by providing support for the High Energy Physics (HEP) group and played a vital role in the revolutionary growth in computing resources following his start in March, 2000, through collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Condor group, in such projects as the Grid Laboratory of Wisconsin (GLOW), the Center for High Throughput Computing (CHTC) and the Open Science Grid. He was instrumental in the set-up and support of the Tier-2 Computing Center for the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) Experiment at the CERN Large Hadron Collider, which enabled the Wisconsin CMS group to play a leading role in the 2012 Higgs Boson discovery.

After serving the HEP group, Steve was invited to expand his role to all of the Physics Department in April 2007. He implemented a number of important new systems and made many improvements. He was very focused on what the end result would be for members of the physics department. He did more than manage the systems – he talked to people to learn what they needed the systems to do. He had a passion for helping computer systems work for people.

Steve's arrival in both the HEP group and the Physics Department heralded a much-appreciated stability and reliability in computing that greatly enhanced the Department's research and academic missions. He instituted effective and responsive monitoring, tracking of reported problems, reliable backups, enhanced mail service and robust networking. He restructured the Physics Department web pages, automating their creation and presenting a modern and inviting web presence.

In his gracious and easy-going manner Steve assuaged computing fears and helped members of the department to achieve their computing goals with his confident expertise. He was a great listener who sought to understand people's problems before recommending a solution. He led and mentored a very able team of computing professionals who now carry his legacy forward. Steve was a wonderful, talented and kind colleague and friend. He will be greatly missed and always remembered.

Respectfully submitted,
Wesley H. Smith, Bjorn Wiik Professor of Physics