

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR GREGORY C. REINSEL

Gregory C. Reinsel, professor of statistics, died suddenly and unexpectedly on May 5, 2004, while jogging. He was 56 years old. He is survived by his wife Sandy, son Chris, daughter Sarah and daughter-in-law Jenny.

Greg was born in 1948, in Wilkensburg, Pennsylvania. He received his BS in 1970 and his MA in 1972, both in mathematics, from the University of Pittsburgh. Four years later he was awarded a Ph.D. in mathematics and statistics, also from the University of Pittsburgh. He then joined the Department of Statistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he remained until his untimely death. He was promoted to associate professor in 1983 and to full professor in 1987. Greg was always a diligent, hard-working and energetic contributor to departmental governance, highlighted by his two years as associate chair (1995-97) and his four years as chair (1997-2001) of the department.

Greg's expertise was focused in the area of time series, a branch of statistics having applications in areas as diverse as economics, ecology, engineering and meteorology. Indeed, an important area of Greg's work focused on analyses of the depletion and then recovery of the ozone layer since the 1970s. He was a key statistician in what has been called the "Tiger Team" of atmospheric scientists and statistical researchers on ozone and temperature. This group has published over 30 articles in top-ranked scientific journals representing numerous major breakthroughs and just recently was awarded the 2005 Stratospheric Ozone Protection Award by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency specifically in recognition of this collaboration between scientists and statisticians.

At the same time that Greg was doing his ozone work, he was also making deep and important methodological contributions in univariate and multivariate time series, generalized and random effects models, and spatial statistics. His career includes over 70 refereed journal articles and three books, and he supervised the dissertations of 11 PhD students. Each of his publications was deep, thorough, and exemplified a scholarly brilliance that few achieve. For 28 years Greg was highly respected and valued by the department's graduate students for his careful and thorough presentation, and for the invaluable preparation he gave them for their dissertation work. With a sense of whimsy appreciated by Greg, the graduate students in statistics once voted Greg the "Best dressed faculty member." More serious recognition of his talents and his impact in the field came from his being awarded fellowship in the two most important professional societies of his discipline: the American Statistical Association, and the Institute for Mathematical Statistics.

Despite his extraordinary talents and contributions, Greg was an intensely modest man. During department seminars, he would often remain quiet until the very end of the seminar and question period, and then raise his hand. His question almost always began by saying: "I'm not sure I really understand the idea -- I don't think I know very much about it..." and then Greg would ask a question which invariably demonstrated tremendous insight and clarity, capturing the very essence of the speaker's material. He demonstrated similar modesty, and similar brilliant insight, in all of his scholarly activities: in department meetings, in student exams, and in his international work with physicists, meteorologists and atmospheric scientists.

Few of us knew Greg's private life at all: not until his death were we aware that he was an avid fan of James Bond movies, or that he was a highly knowledgeable amateur historian of World War II. Greg had a love for basketball and participated in it throughout his life. At the time of his death, he was still playing with the Madison School and Recreation Department program. Greg also ran 5K's and won a medal for his running at the Badger State Games.

(continued)

The department has lost a rock-solid colleague and friend; the university and the global scientific community have lost a brilliant mind and dedicated contributor.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Murray Clayton

Michael Kosorok

Rick Nordheim

Grace Wahba

Robert Wardrop, chair