

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS BENJAMIN NOBLE

Ben Noble, professor emeritus of computer sciences and mathematics, died January 5, 2006 at St. George's Nursing Home, Barrow-in-Furness, England.

Ben Noble was born on May 1, 1922 in a small fishing community in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. At the beginning of World War II he took the B.Sc. in radiophysics at the University of Aberdeen. He spent the rest of the war at the Admiralty Research Laboratory, doing experimental work in underwater acoustics. After World War II, he took the M.A. in mathematics at Cambridge. Instead of taking a Ph.D. he chose to join the Cambridge Mathematical Laboratory as an advisor on numerical methods. There he was influenced by the building of EDSAC, an early digital computer. This was followed by a period in industrial research with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (now BP) in England, from 1949 to 1952. Ben married Denise Teresa Marguerite Lindsey on December 24, 1952 in Keele, Newcastle-under-Lynne.

He then returned to the academy. From 1952 to 1955 he was first a research fellow and later lecturer at Keele University, Staffordshire, which had just started up as the first new university established in England since 1910. He then moved to the Royal College of Science and Technology (later, the University of Strathclyde) in Glasgow. There he took the D.Sc. (an English degree for independent research, without a supervisor) from the University of Aberdeen.

In 1962 he emigrated to the United States, where he held a visiting position at the Mathematics Research Center from 1962 to 1964. From 1964 to 1985 he was professor of mathematics and computer sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This appointment included permanent membership in MRC from 1964, and he served as its director from 1975 to 1979. He became a citizen of the United States in 1975. He retired in 1985 with the rank of professor emeritus of mathematics and computer sciences. At that time Ben and Denise moved back to England's Lake District, Broughton Mills. Later they moved to Barrow-in-Furness to be nearer their son, John Ben. Denise preceded him in death on July 5, 2004.

During his career, Noble had broad research interests, including linear algebra, Fourier transforms, mixed boundary-value problems, integral equations, variational methods, computational methods, and (after he retired) multiple scaling and the numerical solution of antenna arrays. He has written four books and supervised fourteen students on various topics. He described himself as "Jack of all trades, master of none".

Noble's visiting appointments during his professional career included posts at the Courant Institute, Oberlin College, Hertford College (Oxford), and the University of Lancaster, England. In addition to his research and administrative activities, Professor Noble was an innovative teacher and educator. For example, in the early 1970's he introduced an audio tape laboratory to assist students studying linear algebra.

Professor Noble is survived by his son John Ben, his daughter Anna, her husband Bill and his step children Sandie, Tessa and Tim and their families.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Seymour Parter
Wayne Dickey