

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS HOWARD L. HARRISON

Howard L. Harrison, emeritus professor of mechanical engineering, passed away on January 24, 2006. He was born in Farmville, Virginia on February 16, 1923. He completed his BS degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Washington in 1949 graduating magna cum laude and was made a member of Tau Beta Pi, Pi Tau Sigma, Sigma Xi, and Phi Beta Kappa. He continued to complete his MS degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Washington in 1950. While completing his undergraduate degree, he met and married his first wife, Lois. They raised two children, Kenneth and Sinden. Lois preceded him in death and he subsequently married Ruby Stevenson in the fall of 2002. He is survived by Ruby, Sinden, and Kenneth.

After completing his MS at the University of Washington, he moved to Minneapolis, where he worked until 1958, initially as a design engineer and later as supervisor of the Machine Controls Division of Honeywell.

In 1958, he chose to return to academia and help expand the field of controls engineering. Accepting a faculty position here at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Mechanical Engineering, he developed and taught a number of graduate and undergraduate classes in controls engineering and mechanical design. He also developed a very successful graduate program with a significant number of MS and PhD alumni who have had distinguished careers.

Professor Harrison also helped strengthen the UW faculty in controls engineering by nurturing John G. Bollinger who subsequently became faculty in controls engineering here and later became dean of the College of Engineering. Together, Howard Harrison and John Bollinger authored one of the best respected controls engineering texts entitled Introduction to Automatic Controls. The text was issued in two editions and was produced in many printings. It presented a multi-disciplinary approach that made the material useful for design engineers.

Professor Harrison also co-authored another very popular text entitled Dynamic System Analysis, with another colleague in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Emeritus Professor Norman Beachley. This text had a strong practical application theme that was very consistent with a controls engineering orientation.

In addition, Howard Harrison was sole author of a textbook entitled Control System Fundamentals. This, too, was a well-written text, especially suitable for controls engineering practitioners.

During the last 12 years of his active time on the faculty, he developed courses on "Society and Technology", "Technological Considerations in Public Issues", and "Systems Techniques" all of which were focused on applying systems concepts to socio-technical problems. He also served on a number of College of Engineering and campus-wide committees covering these areas and served on the PhD committees of 6 non-engineering students from these areas.

Professor Harrison was active in departmental leadership, serving as chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering from 1967-71. He also served on the Faculty Senate from 1970-74 and again from 1978-83.

Throughout his career, his colleagues and friends knew him as a clear, dispassionate thinker with great insight, wisdom, and wit. Those attributes served the UW-Madison campus, the College of Engineering
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and the Department of Mechanical Engineering well and made immeasurable contributions to the growth of his field. Howard was always generous in sharing his insight, particularly with young faculty members, for whom he was superb mentor. His spirit lives on with all who knew and worked with him.

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