

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ARNOLD MILLER

Professor Emeritus of French Arnold Miller died in Tucson, Arizona, on August 22, 2008, just two days short of his seventy-seventh birthday. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Arnold was educated at Columbia College (BA in Philosophy and French in 1952), Harvard University (MA in Linguistics in 1954), the University of Paris (1957), and again at Columbia University (PhD in French and Romance Philology in 1968).

Fluent in French, German, and Russian, Arnold's international experience was extensive. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany from 1954 to 1956, at the height of the cold-war period. He conducted advanced research in Russia in 1962-63 and again in 1976. After studying in Paris in 1957, he returned to France as director of the Wisconsin-Michigan Program in Aix-en-Provence in 1972-73 and as a fellow at the Camargo Foundation in Cassis in 1979-80. With his usual sense of humor, he noted his "sensible" migration from cold to warm climes, and with his usual sense of consistency, he and his wife Evelyn moved from Madison to Tucson in 2007, although they retained warm ties with many friends here and were planning a return visit at the time of Arnold's death.

Arnold spent his entire twenty-nine-year career at UW-Madison, progressing through the ranks to that of professor in 1977. His scholarly career combined an impressive knowledge of the French eighteenth century with an interest in the Soviet Union and its understanding of the principles of the French Enlightenment. Arnold published a landmark study on the Soviet reception of Denis Diderot and remained involved in Franco-Soviet contacts, subsequently publishing several studies on Rousseau's political thought as it was understood at the time of the Russian Revolution. His research and numerous publications remained centered on the political thought of the eighteenth century (Diderot, Rousseau, d'Holbach) and on the conception and sources of the *Encyclopédie*. During his career he was honored with grants from the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Philosophical Society, the Camargo Foundation, and the International Research and Exchanges Board.

In addition to his graduate courses and seminars on eighteenth-century literature and philosophy, Arnold was noted for his courses in advanced composition and conversation for both undergraduate students and public school teachers. Professor Miller was always exacting in his standards, exemplary in his sense of fairness, and unstinting in support of his students and colleagues. His love of camaraderie, conversation, and food led him and Evelyn to dine often at the French House and to set up a student prize in his name.

Endowed with uncommon generosity and wisdom, Arnold transcended labels like "conservative" or "liberal" and used his well-honed sense of irony to disarm trendiness and pomposity alike. Such was his command of language, in both French and English, that, when faced with a question of grammar or usage, colleagues invariably turned to Arnold, not only for the correct answer, but for an explanation frequently accompanied by a well-tuned witticism. One of his favorite sayings, borrowed from Alexander Pope, was "be not the first by whom the new are tried, nor yet the last to cast the old aside," which he applied to various departmental issues in ways that invariably led to consensus and progress. He served the department as associate chair, summer chair, and long-time undergraduate advisor. A man of strong character and convictions, yet willing to compromise for the common good, Arnold Miller was a model of the academic professional.

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Arnold is survived by his loving wife Evelyn of Oro Valley, Arizona; his children and their spouses: David of Maplewood, New Jersey, and Diane of Tuscon, Arizona; and his granddaughter Miriam Ruth Buchanan of Maplewood, New Jersey. He is remembered and revered by his many colleagues and friends, in Madison and around the world.

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