

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ARTHUR DODD CODE

Arthur Dodd Code, professor emeritus of astronomy, died on 11 March 2009, from complications of a longstanding pulmonary condition. He was 85 and spent more than 40 years on the UW astronomy faculty. He had served as chair of the astronomy department and director of UW's Washburn Observatory from 1958 through 1968. He retired in 1995 as Joel Stebbins and Hilldale Professor. He was a distinguished scholar, administrator, and pioneer of the development and use of instruments above the earth's atmosphere in space, where they can obtain observations available by no other means.

Code was born in Brooklyn, New York, on 13 August 1923. To pursue his interest in astronomy, he entered the University of Chicago in 1940, but his education was interrupted by service in the US Navy. After the war, and still without an undergraduate degree, he entered the graduate program of the University of Chicago at Yerkes Observatory. He earned his PhD in 1950 with a theoretical study of stellar atmospheres under the supervision of Nobel Laureate S. Chandrasekhar. After graduation he briefly joined the astronomy faculty of the University of Virginia and came to UW from 1950 to 1956, after which he joined the faculty of the California Institute of Technology and the staff of Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories.

Code returned to the UW in 1958 as director of Washburn Observatory and chair of the astronomy department. The Soviet Union had launched the first space satellite in November 1957. Code responded to the invitation of the newly formed Space Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences, asking astronomers to propose packages for a 100-pound satellite to be placed in orbit. In the fall of 1958, NASA was founded, and Code's proposal for an orbiting ultraviolet observatory led to the establishment of the UW's Space Astronomy Laboratory. It has been an active component of the astronomy department ever since.

Code was convinced that observations from space had great potential because the blurring and absorption of the earth's atmosphere are eliminated, opening up the vital ultraviolet portion of the spectrum that is unavailable to ground-based observatories. His first major project was a package of seven telescopes aboard NASA's first Orbiting Astronomical Observatory. Arguably, the program represented a greater advance over the technology of its time than did the Hubble Space Telescope. The supporting spacecraft electronics malfunctioned immediately following a 1965 launch, but a second launch in December 1968 was very successful. The Orbiting Astronomical Observatory operated for four years. Its observations revolutionized our knowledge of the physical nature of hundreds of astronomical objects.

Code was instrumental in helping NASA evaluate the use of shuttle-astronaut-operated telescopes for testing new astronomical instrumentation. He was the principal investigator for the Wisconsin Ultraviolet Photo-Polarimeter Experiment, an instrument developed by UW faculty member Ken Nordsieck. This instrument flew on two shuttle missions and successfully explored the new field of ultraviolet spectropolarimetry.

Code was interested in ground-based research as well, especially careful measurements of the fundamental energy distributions of stars. He was instrumental in bringing the UW astronomy department into national prominence by recruiting young scientists. Outstanding among these was Professor Donald Osterbrock, who left CalTech to join him in Madison. According to Jesse Greenstein, then-chair of the CalTech Astronomy Program, when Code and Osterbrock left (for the UW), "they took astronomy with them." Osterbrock eventually left the UW and became the director of the Lick Observatory of the University of California.

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Code served the astronomical and national communities through committees and elected offices. He was president of the American Astronomical Society. He was active in the formation of the Associated Universities for Research in Astronomy, the national organization that provides observational opportunities on large ground-based telescopes to astronomers who have no ties to observatories funded privately or by states. He later served as chair of its board of directors. He was instrumental in establishing what became the Hubble Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland, and in 1981 served as its founding interim director. He was vital to the establishment of the WIYN Observatory (named after consortium members Wisconsin, Indiana, Yale, and the National Optical Astronomy Observatory) and later served as observatory scientist. With its 3.5-meter telescope at Kitt Peak, near Tucson, AZ, WIYN is a major research facility of UW. Code served as president of the commission on "Astronomy from Space" of the International Astronomical Union.

Code was the recipient of many honors and awards. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the International Academy of Astronautics, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal (NASA's highest honor).

Code contributed greatly to the UW and to astronomy because of his breadth of ability and experience in both theoretical and observational astrophysics. His expertise in astronomical instrumentation gave him an unusually broad basis from which to assess opportunities and attack problems. He will be long remembered by faculty, students, staff and friends.

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