

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS SAUL T. EPSTEIN

Saul T. Epstein, professor emeritus physics, died February 27, 2010, in Madison, WI at the age of 85. Born June 14, 1924, in Southampton, NY, he earned the PhD in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1948. Following an appointment at the Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton) in 1947-1948, he was an instructor in physics at Columbia University from 1948 to 1951. After two one-year appointments at Stevens Institute and Boston University, he became an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln) in 1954 and was promoted to professor by 1963. In 1963 he was recruited to UW-Madison with a joint appointment as professor of physics and a member of the Theoretical Chemistry Institute; after 1970 his appointment was completely in physics. He retired in 1988.

Saul was an accomplished theoretical physicist and was the author of more than 100 scientific papers. His early work was on quantum field theory, and he was proud of having attended as an unofficial observer the Shelter Island Conference (1947) where quantum electrodynamics became a coherent research area. In that period he published with J. R. Oppenheimer and A. Pais. His later work evolved to topics of atomic physics. A major part of Saul's scientific career from the early 1960s to 1990 was in the field of quantum chemistry. As a scholar known for his keen intelligence and clarity of thought, he played an important role in keeping the field of quantum chemistry from bogging down in confusion. He was able to keep track of the subtly different approximations used by the quantum chemists and what was included, approximated, or neglected in the various approaches. He gave a connected account of his work in his book *The Variation Method in Quantum Chemistry*.

Saul was a very active and careful reviewer of scientific papers. He appreciated a letter forwarded to him by an editor about a paper Saul had refereed. The author was disputing the review and asked, "Why don't you get someone who knows the subject, like Saul Epstein?"

As a teacher, Saul was known for his clear and concise explanations of difficult topics. He was major professor for four PhDs at UW-Madison. Two of them have had very distinguished careers: J. D. Garcia, Department of Physics, University of Arizona; and Michael F. Barnsley, for a long time at Georgia Tech and now at the Australian National University, Canberra. Saul also assisted several young theorists in chemistry and physics and helped other graduate students overcome hurdles in their research projects.

He was a fellow of the American Physical Society and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1971.

He was pre-deceased by his wife of 58 years, Jean Epstein, in 2006. He is survived by three children, Joanne Weinstein and Peter Epstein of Madison, and David Epstein of Chevy Chase, MD, and by seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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