

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS IRVING M. PILIAVIN

Irving Morris Piliavin, professor emeritus of social work and sociology, died on November 19, 2009, in Oxnard, California.

Irv received his BS in math and physics and master's degree in social work from the University of California at Berkeley. After working as a social worker for several years, he returned to school and completed his doctorate in social work at Columbia University in 1961. Irv took a faculty position at UC Berkeley, receiving a distinguished teaching award and rising from assistant professor to associate professor. In 1970, after two years at the University of Pennsylvania, he moved to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he remained until his retirement in 1996.

Irv's research interests spanned the areas of disadvantaged youth, crime and delinquency control, and the evaluation of welfare reform and foster care programs. He maintained an active affiliation with the Institute for Research on Poverty, where he served as the associate director from 1980 to 1982. He served as consulting editor for the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, the *American Sociological Review*, and *Social Psychology Quarterly*. Irv was a special teacher and scholar. He taught several generations of undergraduate and graduate students, and he served as a mentor to numerous undergraduates (especially student athletes) and aspiring graduate students. His research uniquely combined detailed knowledge of the structure and performance of programs, the behavioral characteristics of people whom these programs serve, and the application of advanced statistical techniques. As such, Irv welded a humane approach to a rigorous scientific standard. This scholarly combination gained him the respect of rigorous social scientists as well as social service practitioners, a unique position in his discipline. He continued his research and writing until very near the end of his life.

Irv will always be remembered as a bit of a "Damon Runyonesque" character. He had a wonderful sense of humor and loved "games of chance." He took pride that, after learning to count cards in blackjack, he was once banned from London casinos. An accomplished poker player, Irv loved a "friendly game" as well as competing in satellite tournaments of the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas.

Wanting to keep Irv's indomitable spirit alive, a number of his colleagues, friends and admirers created a memorial which Irv himself helped design. The *Irving Piliavin Scholarship* will be awarded annually to a social work student whose research, like Irv's, is characterized by precision of measurement and the use of advanced statistical techniques in pursuit of real life problems. Contributions can be made via the University of Wisconsin Foundation.

Irv will be deeply missed by his wife, Jane Piliavin, professor emerita of sociology, his four children, Allyn, Libby, Mark, and Neal, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Maria Cancian
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