

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS BERNARD HARRIS

Bernard Harris, professor emeritus of statistics, was born on June 20, 1926, in New York City, and died January 28, 2011, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

An academically precocious youngster, Bernie graduated from high school at a young age and entered City College of New York. His college education was interrupted by military service, where he was assigned to the Counter Intelligence Corps. He finished his bachelor's degree in business administration at City College in 1946. Bernie changed his academic focus to mathematics and statistics, earned a master's degree from George Washington University in 1953, and in one year, completed his doctorate at Stanford University in 1958.

During the years between his master's and doctorate degrees, Bernie worked as a statistician at the U.S. Census Bureau and as a mathematician for the National Security Agency. After completion of his doctorate, Bernie became an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Bernie came to Madison in 1964 and held the position of professor in the Mathematics Research Center from 1964 to 1985 and in the Department of Statistics from 1966 to 2002. After his retirement from UW-Madison, Bernie joined the faculty of the newly formed statistics department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was an adjunct faculty member there until his death.

Bernie was a member of many commissions and advisory boards for the government, including a review board of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Statistics Task Force for the FAA/DOD Committee on Material Properties. He was an elected fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the American Statistical Association. He was proud to be one of the founding members of the Section on Risk Analysis for the American Statistical Association and served as its first chair. He was a member of the Classification Society of North America and served on its board of directors. He was also a member of the International Classification Society and the American Mathematical Association. He was a recipient of the Pioneers of Science Award.

His contributions to risk analysis, reliability, probability, and statistical inferences with application to open DOD questions was recognized in 1982 with the U.S. Army Wilks Award for Contributions to Statistical Methodologies in Army Research, Development and Testing. Bernie's work continued to address current problems in his later years, with recent work concerning mathematical methods in combating terrorism.

Bernie was the author of the book *Theory of Probability* and the editor of *Spectral Analysis of Time Series* and *Graph Theory and its Applications*. Bernie published hundreds of articles and reviews in professional journals. He was most proud of his work in random mappings, combinatorics, reliability and risk analysis. Bernie taught a mixture of undergraduate and graduate courses.

In addition to his academic interests, Bernie enjoyed a wide variety of music (classical, opera and jazz), reading in several languages, gourmet cooking, films and doing the *New York Times* crossword puzzles in ink. He loved to create simple and complex puns. Bernie was a member of the Beth Israel Congregation in Madison.

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Bernie married Anita (Greenberg) in 1949. He and Anita had four children: Shelley Nolte, Mark Harris (Katherine), David Harris (Susan) and Susan Handrich (Tom). Anita died in 1977, and Bernie married Susan Stephens Burns in 1983, becoming stepfather to Laura Burns (Brad Sinner) and Erin Charles (Jesse). He was the proud grandfather of Laura Boss, Madeline and Andrew Harris, Max and Ben Handrich, Duncan Charles and Milo Burns.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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