

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS PHILIP E. MILES JR.**

Professor Emeritus Philip E. Miles Jr. of the University of Wisconsin-Madison died in Madison on November 8, 2011. He was born in Madison on December 27, 1929, and after graduating from Madison's West High School, he attended Harvard University, graduating in mathematics in 1951. He worked at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory for a year before starting graduate school. Phil's graduate study began at Harvard but was interrupted by service in the army. In 1961, Phil completed his PhD at Yale, working with Charles Rickart. His thesis was in functional analysis, a strong mathematical field both at Yale and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Loving Madison from his childhood, Phil wanted to return here after finishing graduate school. He joined the mathematics faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1960 and was an active faculty member for 40 years. He spent the years 1964-1966 on leave in California as executive director of the Committee on Educational Media for the Mathematical Association of America. In a student interview from 1993, Phil described that project as making instructional mathematical movies for college undergraduates and others, and we can see in them issues we still find pressing: pre-service training of elementary teachers, films for teaching calculus, and automated learning. Phil had a deep interest in mathematics education and was an early advocate of the use of new kinds of technology in teaching. However, while he was always open to new ideas and approaches, he coupled those interests with very high standards. After retiring, he continued to be a very active participant and leader in the department's mathematics education seminar.

Professor Miles took on a demanding and difficult job as associate chair of the mathematics department for many years. The chair position rotates every few years, and by continuing as associate chair, Phil provided continuity and great knowledge of how the university works. His knowledge and his commitment to excellence were of great assistance in making a big department with many diverse interests and backgrounds work smoothly.

In a 1976 interview conducted as a part of the UW Oral History Project, Phil discussed the ways that the university had already changed since he joined the department. When he came, the department was entering on a period of rapid expansion. (There had been a time in the recent past when the whole department could have gone down to Curt Commons and sat around a single table and solved all their business over lunch.) The rapidly growing department was changing its view of itself, moving from a situation in which people thought in terms of face-to-face dealings to thinking in terms of group dealings. If you wanted to talk about a matter of department interest, you'd have a meeting for that purpose and do the talking at that meeting, as opposed to dropping into somebody else's office and saying, "I've talked to X and he says this . . . ."

In addition to his lifelong interest in mathematics and education, Phil loved to enjoy the natural world through canoeing, gardening, birding and walking. He was a devotee of classical music and opera, an avid film-goer, and an insatiable reader with wide-ranging tastes but a particular fondness for murder mysteries. He liked to travel and shared many adventures around the world with his family. He was a prolific photographer and leaves behind many boxes of slides. His dry and sometimes subtle sense of humor was enjoyed by family, friends, and colleagues, and persisted through his last days.

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Phil is survived by his four children, Sara Miles Schiller, Katherine Miles Duren, Elizabeth Miles Waring, and Charles Erskine Miles, together with three stepchildren, nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren, in addition to other close relatives and friends.

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