

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS MILTON O. PELLA

Professor Emeritus of Curriculum and Instruction Milton Orville Pella, a widely respected professor of science education, died on August 21, 2010 at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. The improvement of K-12 science education was the primary focus of his research and teaching. His contributions to the field, in Wisconsin and around the world, helped to develop programs, curriculum, and initiatives that are still active today.

Apart from his international consulting and military service, Dr. Pella lived his entire life of 96 years in Wisconsin. He was born near Kenosha, in Wilmot, attending elementary and high school in Burlington. He earned his BE degree at the Milwaukee State College and both his MS and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Pella became a faculty member at the UW-Madison in the Department of Education in 1950, joined the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in 1962, and became professor emeritus in 1980 upon his retirement. From 1942 to 1946, Dr. Pella spent four years in the military, receiving an Army Commendation Ribbon for his distinguished service as an educator. Early in his career, he taught at Wyler Military Academy, Delavan Elementary School, and the University of Wisconsin High School.

Dr. Pella served as a science education consultant to governments and universities in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Mexico and India, maintaining strong relationships with science educators abroad throughout his career. He directed the Ford Foundation Arab Science Teachers Program at the UW in 1964 and served as an advisor to several international teacher-training and research programs, such as The American University in Beirut and a secondary school for gifted students in science and mathematics in Turkey.

Known simply as “Doctor” to his students and as “Milt” to his colleagues and friends, Dr. Pella served as major professor to more than 125 MS students in science education and over 60 PhD students. He authored several secondary and middle school science textbooks and published more than 16 science education research studies. Dr. Pella’s contribution to science education in Wisconsin included working with the Wisconsin State Department of Public Instruction to create the position of science supervisor. He initiated the formation of the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers in 1954. Nationally, he participated in the first National Science Foundation Science Teacher Program. He was a member and served as a president of the Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers and the National Association of Research in Science Teaching. He was also a member of National Science Teachers Association, acting as director from 1950 to 1960.

Dr. Pella is survived by two sisters-in-law; a brother-in-law; many nieces and nephews; friends and former students. He was preceded in death by his wife, Germaine; his parents; sister, Selma; brothers, Orville and Kenneth; a niece and nephew.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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