

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS R. WAYNE DICKEY

Ronald Wayne Dickey, or Wayne as he was known to us, died unexpectedly on Monday, June 24, 2013. Wayne was born in Compton, California on March 12, 1938. He received a BA in physics from UCLA (1959) and worked as a computer analyst for Douglas Aircraft (1959-1960). He then entered graduate school in mathematics at the Courant Institute of New York University, receiving an MS (1962) and PhD (1965) under the direction of James Stoker. After a post-doctoral fellowship at the Courant Institute, he joined our faculty as an assistant professor (1967). Promotion to associate professor (1969) and professor (1972) soon followed. He also spent a seminal academic year (1971-72) at the University of Newcastle in England.

Wayne's research involved pioneering work on the mathematical analysis of the dynamics of elastic structures, such as bridges, beams, strings, membranes, and shells. His most influential research contributions are his papers on free vibrations and the dynamic buckling of beams and on models of string oscillations. The 1970s saw strong progress in the field of nonlinear elasticity, and during that period, he aided that development with his book entitled *Bifurcation problems in nonlinear elasticity*. It contains, as a reviewer noted, "an impressive collection of applications in so small a book." He also organized a major symposium on nonlinear elasticity for the then-UW Mathematics Research Center and served as editor of the proceedings.

Four students completed their PhDs under his direction.

There were two important services that Wayne performed for the mathematics department for many years. He was the advisor for the Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics (AMEP) undergraduate degree program, and he was the Van Vleck Hall building manager. He retired in January 2009, becoming professor emeritus.

An avid reader and woodworker, Wayne's main passion was sailing. He was introduced to the sport here in Madison and took to it like a fish to water. He received his BA in sailing on Lake Mendota, followed by an MS in a larger boat on Lake Michigan. For his PhD thesis, he sailed from Lake Michigan to Maine via the Erie Canal, New York City and the Cape Cod canal, an exciting dissertation indeed. Leaving the boat in Maine, he subsequently spent two months every summer sailing, mainly solo, along the New England coast. He died on his sailboat moored at his favorite anchorage in Northeast Harbor, at the southern tip of Acadia National Park, in Maine.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Barbara.

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