

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR MASON A. CARPENTER

Professor Mason Andrew Carpenter died on September 22, 2011, following a year-long battle with cancer. He was 50 years old. Mason was the M. Keith Weikel Professor of Leadership in the management and human resources department and associate dean of evening and executive MBA programs, Wisconsin School of Business. Mason was known worldwide for his work on global business strategy. His research focused on corporate governance, social networks and global startups. In addition to his many articles on these topics in leading scholarly business journals, Mason wrote several books used in business education around the world.

Mason was born on April 13, 1961, to Edward and Marjorie Carpenter in Riverside, California. He spent his childhood and early adult life in California. Mason married Lisa Harris on December 5, 1987, beginning 24 years of marriage that carried them from California to France and Texas before settling in Wisconsin, where their two sons, Zachary and Wesley, were born.

Mason received a BS in finance from Humboldt State University in 1983, which included a one-year program in international business, political science, and policy at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. After graduation, he worked in banking. He then took the opportunity to move to Bordeaux, France, where he served as assistant to the chairman of Beaulieu Vineyards. While in Bordeaux, Mason earned both a French language diploma and, as part of his interest in wine, an advanced enology diploma.

Mason subsequently completed his MBA at California State University, Bakersfield in 1987. He returned to work in banking (and marketing management), rising to become a vice president at Bank of America. Mason then made the decision to pursue his PhD in business (strategy and organization science) from the University of Texas at Austin. He finished his PhD in 1997 and moved to Wisconsin to begin his faculty career.

At Wisconsin, Mason made major contributions in the areas of research, teaching, and service. As noted, he was known around the world for his research on business strategy. Within that field, his work examined the impact that top executives have on firms' decisions and success. More specifically, Mason examined how the compensation of executives, as well as their choices regarding their own development of particular profiles of human capital (e.g., amount of international expertise), influenced business strategy formulation, execution, and success.

Mason will also be remembered as an accomplished and inspiring teacher. He was steadfastly dedicated to engaging his students in deep questions of business and of life. He was first honored shortly after his arrival on the Madison campus, when MBA students selected him for their Professor of the Year award. In 2000, the School of Business gave him its Larson Excellence in Teaching Award, and he was named by *Business Week* magazine as one of two top-rated teachers in the UW's MBA program. His efforts earned him in 2002 a distinguished teaching award, UW-Madison's highest campus-wide honor for teaching.

Mason was a tremendous citizen not only at UW-Madison, but also in the profession. As associate dean, he was responsible for managing, expanding and raising the profile of the business school's MBA programs for working professionals. In addition, Mason served as an associate editor of the *Academy of Management Review*, the leading theory journal in the field, and as chair of the corporate strategy and governance division of the Strategic Management Society (SMS). In 2010, he received the SMS Outstanding Service Award. He also advised top management teams and business unit leaders from leading firms in North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Southeast Asia.

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Finally, some of Mason's attributes are difficult to convey on paper. He was always a positive and professional force in everything he did. He was always focused on moving forward and looking ahead. He had a great sense of humor and a twinkle in his eye. He had friends and colleagues all over the world, and many others knew him through reading his work. He was someone who made you proud. When recruiting a new faculty member or bringing in a distinguished visitor, or any other time the department or school wanted to make an especially good impression on someone, it was protocol to make sure Mason was involved.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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