

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR JOHN A. HOOPES**

John A. Hoopes, professor of civil and environmental engineering, passed away on March 1, 2013. Throughout his career, John conducted basic and applied research in fluid mechanics. But he was most passionate about teaching, both in and out of the classroom. He was so devoted to the university enterprise that retirement never entered his mind; he was fully engaged with his classes and research when pancreatic cancer struck him in the fall of 2012. Service was second nature to him, on behalf of his students, colleagues, and broader community. Throughout his life, he demonstrated uncommon civility and unwavering commitment to helping others.

John was born in Berkeley, California on March 29, 1936. He received his BS and MS degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, where he was also a member and president of the Acacia Fraternity. During this time, he married the former Janet Holden in 1959 and began a family. Two years later, he moved his family to the East Coast, earning a PhD in 1964 from the hydro-systems program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology while also serving as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves.

After receiving his PhD, John and his family moved to Madison, Wisconsin where he began a 49-year career on the faculty of what is now the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Although John and his wife were separated in 1985, they remained close. John and Janet were devoted to their three children, Elizabeth Jane Barber, Wesley John Hoopes, and Thomas Holden Hoopes, as well as their five grandchildren, Daniel Isaac Hoopes, Genevieve Mary Hoopes, John Zachary Hoopes, Sarah Kathryn Hoopes, and William David Hoopes.

Throughout his career at the University of Wisconsin, John conducted research in fluid mechanics and hydraulic engineering. He was interested in both understanding fluid transport processes and mixing of dissolved and particulate substances, as well as applying this understanding to the measurement, design, and control of flows in natural and constructed systems. Early in his career, he made significant contributions to the fundamental understanding of dispersion of solutes in groundwater. Recent research topics included air sparging for in situ remediation of contaminated groundwater; tidal power generation; entrainment of fine-grained sediment by wind, seiche, and storm generated flows in rivers and lakes; and design of submerged vanes for control of stream geometry. In recognition of his research accomplishments, he received two prestigious awards from the American Society of Engineers (ASCE) — the Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize and the Karl Emil Hilgard Prize.

Professor Hoopes was a remarkably dedicated teacher. He emphasized fundamental concepts and was rigorous and demanding. At the same time, he was highly accessible to students, both undergraduate and graduate. He helped students learn both in and out of the classroom, often spending hours in one-on-one tutoring sessions in the laboratory. He won numerous UW College of Engineering Polygon Outstanding Instructor awards and received the ASCE Engineering in Education Award in 2006.

Professor Hoopes was the quintessential departmental good citizen. He was a long-time member of the department's academic committee, served as advisor to the ASCE student chapter, and chaired the accreditation committee. He was also the faculty advisor of the UW-Madison Undergraduate InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. In this capacity, hundreds of students, domestic and international, benefited from his counsel and assistance.

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John's colleagues knew him to be imperturbable. If he encountered a problem, he went about fixing it, rarely claiming credit for his quiet, behind the scenes engagements. As a result, he did not always receive full credit for his many contributions to students, staff, and faculty. He is greatly missed by all who had the privilege to know this kind, generous and caring person.

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