

## Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison On the Death of Professor Emeritus Ved Prakash

Professor Ved Prakash passed away in Madison, Wisconsin, on August 14, 2018, at the age of 86. He was born on January 28, 1932, in Cialkot, India.

Professor Ved Prakash joined the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Wisconsin in July 1965. He served on the faculty for more than 30 years, including two separate terms as Department Chair, and he remained active with the department and with his UW colleagues for many years after his retirement in 1998.

Professor Prakash earned his Ph.D from Cornell University in Public Administration, Government, and Urban and Regional Planning. Previously he had earned 2 degrees from the University of Lucknow in India: a Bachelor of Arts and a Master's degree in Economics. He had also served as professor of Economics at Lucknow, lectured at the India Management Institute in Calcutta, and spent time working for the Government of India.

Ved's work throughout his career covered many aspects of urban and regional planning but centered around financial planning for urban and regional development. He had a holistic, interconnected world view that applied to his scholarship, consulting, and personal relationships. Professor Prakash placed high value in making connections between people.

Beyond his teaching, Professor Prakash is remembered fondly for his many service contributions – both as a faculty member and chair. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning had only officially formed a couple of years before he joined the faculty and had encountered some headwinds shortly after its beginnings. Ved's careful attention to detail then and throughout his career helped the department stay on track, allowing students, faculty and others to pursue their goals and responsibilities. Current faculty, staff, and students remain grateful for his steady hand and leadership.

Among his many contributions, Professor Prakash practiced great initiative and enthusiasm for bringing international students from all over the world to UW and making his department a welcoming environment. Colleagues recall that social gatherings at his home for the international students were warm events, and often recalled by those students decades later as among their most memorable and positive experiences at UW. He also taught several courses that were most applicable to international students interested in financial planning, and some of those graduates went into high positions in their governments, well skilled in the matters of finances, planning and development.

Ved was known and especially appreciated as a good colleague - sensitive to others on the faculty and staff, and always with a wry smile and wit. His colleagues from the time recall his major role in engaging many student and faculty in international planning and consulting work with projects that took them around the world together. His extensive travel included work with the university, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Habitat International, USAID, and the United Nations. He continued sharing his experiences following retirement as an active member of the Plato Learning Society, Association of Indians in America, and Kiwanis International.

In reviewing his materials, department faculty recently found a copy of Professor Prakash's doctoral dissertation. Beyond the clear writing and analysis, his personal comments in the

acknowledgements reflected well his personal priorities: He recognized the Ford Foundation for their support of his time at Cornell and for his dissertation research in India; he recognized his advisors and collaborators and those who took the time to meet with him and discuss planning issues; and for his final comments, he wrote of his family and expressed his deepest appreciation for the sympathetic understanding, encouragement, and assistance from his wife, Raj.

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the University of Wisconsin-Madison are fortunate to have known Professor Ved Prakash as a faculty colleague. He was a significant and important presence in the department and is remembered with great fondness and appreciation.