Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Terrence Staples Millar II

Terrence (Terry) Staples Millar II was born on September 18, 1948, and grew up in rural Michigan, where he met his lifetime partner and eventual spouse of 50 years, Susan Bolyard. Terry served in the U.S. Marine Corps during 1967-1969. Upon his return from the Vietnam War, he resumed his studies in mathematics at Cornell University, earning a Bachelor’s degree in 1970, followed by a PhD in 1976 under the direction of Anil Nerode.

During the 1980s, Terry was one of the world’s leading researchers in computable model theory, an area which had been started by the Novosibirsk school of algebra and logic under Mal’cev and Ershov as well as, in the West, work of Fröhlich and Shepherdson, Rabin, and Nerode; and for a decade, Terry and Goncharov from Novosibirsk, both with coauthors, ended up proving the same results independently and almost simultaneously, but leaving many questions open to the current day.

In the late 1980s, computable model theory fell briefly out of fashion, and Terry remembered his other great talent, administration, first serving for many years as Associate Dean in the Graduate School and finally as assistant to the Provost. Terry was instrumental in helping the UW-Madison to win the $300 million NSF project commonly called Ice Cube, which is the world's largest neutrino detector located at the South Pole and encompassing a cubic kilometer of ice. Ice Cube was built during the time period 2004-2011, and for many years, Terry was the person responsible for oversight of the project, involving 44 collaborative institutions in 12 countries.

Terry worked tirelessly and passionately to bring together mathematicians and educators to improve K-12 math education in US public schools. One of his major initiatives in this area was SCALE: System-Wide Change for All Learners and Educators, a $35 million NSF funded program to improve math and science education in the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Madison Metropolitan School District, Denver Public Schools and Providence Public Schools. The Middle School Math Specialist Program, a series of in-service math content courses, is now required for all middle-school math teachers in the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Diversity and access to excellent education opportunities for all was another of Terry’s passions. In the early 1990’s he was involved in the establishment of the Mathematics Department’s Wisconsin Emerging Scholars (WES) program: an opportunity for calculus students to attend extended sections focused on complex problems with access to peer mentors. Participation in the program has had a significant effect on closing the achievement gap for students from underrepresented groups in mathematics. Terry continued his support of the WES program even after retirement in 2015. He was also instrumental in starting the Graduate Education and Research Scholars (GERS) program in the College of Engineering, a fellowship program to provide professional development and peer support for students from underrepresented groups in engineering.

Terry had a vision for institutional change, always defining a path forward for where UW-Madison needed to be many years into the future. He appreciated that the strength and greatness of UW-Madison is derived from all groups and collaborations amongst them. This was evident by his staunch support of the university and academic staff, graduate students, women and people from underrepresented minority groups on campus, as well as a wide variety of interdisciplinary STEM initiatives.
Terry was first and foremost a devoted spouse, father, grandfather and friend. He delighted in all things family and friends, including good food, cello music, Frisbee golf and Grandpa Math. He was blessed to be surrounded by love in the 16 months after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, which took his life on March 19, 2019. Terry is survived by his wife Susan Millar, daughter Jessica Millar, son Matthew Millar, brother Bruce Millar, sister Leslee Flanagan, and five grandchildren Sara and Lora Kenyon, and Adara, Sterling, and Matthias Millar. He will be greatly missed by these and other extended family members, as well as by the many friends and colleagues who have been deeply influenced by his vision for a more inclusive academy, his determination to bring about lasting change, and his mentorship and support.