Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison

On the Death of Professor Emeritus Edward R. Fadell

Edward R. Fadell passed away on January 11, 2018 in Madison. Ed, as he was known to us, was born in Niagara Falls, New York on March 8, 1926. He received a B.A. from the University of Buffalo (1948) majoring in mathematics and classical languages. He went on to graduate studies at Ohio State University. There, he met his future wife, Pat (Patricia Lou Eiselt). Ed received an M.A. (1950) and Ph.D. (1952) in Mathematics from Ohio State University. His thesis advisor was Paul Reichelderfer. Ed was then appointed a Benjamin Pierce Instructor (1952-1955) at Harvard University. He and Pat married during this period. Following the Instructorship, Ed came to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he spent the remainder of his academic career: Instructor (1955-1956), Assistant Professor (1956-1959), Associate Professor (1959-1962), and Full Professor (1962-1998). He spent multiple sabbaticals at the University of Heidelberg (1972-1973, 1980-1981, 1989-1990, 1994) where his good friend Albrecht Dold, the well known algebraic topologist, was on the faculty. He also had sabbaticals at the Institute for Advanced Studies (1963-1964) and the University of California-San Diego (1968-1969) as well as extended visits to several universities in Italy: Pisa (1985, 1990), Calabria (1985), Milano (1994).

Ed’s area of research was algebraic topology, initially mainly fixed point theory. Subsequently he became interested in the topological methods that are of use in analysis. He had a long term collaboration with his Mathematics Department colleague, Sufian Husseini. Their research was in the direction of fixed point theory and loop and configuration spaces. The latter work has been very influential and culminated in their joint monograph *Geometry and Topology of Configuration Spaces* published in 2001 by Springer. In addition to the monograph, Ed wrote about 60 papers, 20 of them jointly with Husseini. His outstanding research gained him an international reputation and he was often invited to give lectures throughout the world.

Ed loved teaching and was an excellent teacher. He received the Emil H. Steigler Memorial Teaching Award in 1960. There were 22 students who completed Ph.Ds under his direction.

Music was an important part of Ed’s early education. He played the clarinet in school bands and orchestras and sang in school and church choirs. His interest in music continued in Madison. He sang tenor with the Madison Philharmonic Chorus for over 25 years. He several times sang “Kalinka” and “The Cherry Tree Carol” at the Tudor Dinners that took place at the Memorial Union. He also sang several minor tenor roles in Madison Opera productions such as the emperor in Turandot. The highlight of his opera experience was singing the leading role of the stuttering tenor, Vasek, in Smetana’s *The Bartered Bride* in which some of us feel he stole the show!

Ed was an enthusiast in whatever he did. In addition to mathematics and music, he was an avid sports fan. He enjoyed playing softball, golf, and bridge, and was a master at the grill and in the kitchen. Ed is survived by his brother, Albert; daughter, Elizabeth; son, Richard; daughter-in-law and three grandchildren.

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