Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Sufian Husseini

Sufian Husseini passed away in Salem, Oregon on December 30, 2017 after a lengthy illness. Professor Husseini was born in Jerusalem on October 15, 1929. He received B.S. (1953) and M.S. (1954) degrees from Rutgers University. He continued his education towards a Ph.D. in Mathematics at Princeton University, receiving it in 1960. His thesis adviser was Norman Steenrod, a well-known algebraic topologist. On obtaining his Ph.D., Dr. Husseini received a prestigious Moore Instructorship at MIT (1960-1962). In the Fall of 1962, he joined the mathematics faculty here at the University of Wisconsin as an Assistant Professor. He spent the rest of his career in Madison, being promoted to Associate Professor in 1965 and Full Professor in 1968. He also had visiting positions at Oxford University in 1967-1968 and 1971-1972 as well as in Mexico City for the summer of 1963.

Sufian’s research was primarily in algebraic topology, initially on manifolds and cell complexes and on fixed point theory. When he began a long term collaboration with his math department colleague, Edward Fadell, the research on fixed point theory continued, but they also initiated studies on topics such as loop and configuration spaces. This work resulted in a number of beautiful and influential papers exploring applications of algebraic topology to diverse topics in analysis, manifold theory, economics and mathematical physics. It gained them an international reputation. Their joint monograph *Geometry and Topology of Configuration Spaces* published in 2001 by Springer is a highly regarded reference. In total, Sufian wrote over forty research papers and two books. He was often invited to give lectures at mathematics conferences throughout the world.

Fifteen students received Ph.Ds under his direction.

Sufian was a source of knowledge and inspiration for students and faculty alike and known for his astute insight in mathematics and beyond. Together with his wife Barbara he generously hosted many mathematicians and contributed in important ways to our department for forty years.

Sufian is survived by his wife, Barbara. He will be missed.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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