MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS MORRIS MARDEN

Morris Marden, who died at the age of 86 on October 19, 1991, was an exceptional individual in a number of respects. He was, above all, a dedicated mathematician and the recognized world expert in his field. He was the author of numerous research articles, one as recently as 1989, and his book *Geometry of polynomials* is known throughout the world as an important reference for both mathematicians and engineers.

His entire professional career was spent at UWM and its predecessor institutions. After having graduated from Harvard with his Ph.D. in 1928, he was given a National Academy fellowship and studied in Europe for two years. There he became acquainted with most of the leading mathematicians of the time and established friendships that continued throughout his life. He returned to the US and was hired by the University of Wisconsin Extension in Milwaukee as an assistant professor in 1930. He continued with the Extension until its merger with Milwaukee Teachers College to form UWM in 1956. Much of the research for which he is known was carried out during this period even though such activity was not encouraged at the time.

At the time of the merger he was a strong advocate for making UWM a research institution. Through his reputation and friendship with Madison faculty, he was able to convince the Board of Regents that UWM be allowed to offer graduate degrees. The Department of Mathematics, under his chairmanship, was the first to do so, and was authorized to offer a Master’s degree in 1958 and a Ph.D. in 1963. Other departments soon followed the lead of Mathematics and were authorized to offer the doctoral degree as well; UWM was allowed to form its own graduate school in 1964. UWM's first Ph.D's were granted in June, 1966; not surprisingly, both were in mathematics, one under Professor Marden's direction.

At the height of his career Professor Marden was invited to give numerous talks at major institutions around the world. He also traveled to the Middle East as a member of American Professors for Peace in the Middle East. Throughout his life he was actively involved with the Jewish community and with the State of Israel, particularly its universities and research institutes.

In 1981 he and his wife Miriam established the Marden Fund, which has supported prizes to undergraduate and graduate students at UWM who engage in independent scholarly activities in mathematics. His desire was to give students the kind of encouragement to explore mathematics that he had received in his undergraduate days at Harvard. The fund also supports a public lecture series designed to bring distinguished mathematicians to UWM.

Professor Marden was made UWM’s first distinguished professor in 1963 and continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1975. After his retirement he continued his research and lecturing as distinguished professor emeritus until well after his 80th birthday.

His legacy includes not only the six students who wrote their Ph.D. dissertations under his direction, but countless others who attended his lectures. These were always beautifully constructed and models of clarity in a difficult field. More than one student was motivated to study the field of mathematics because of him. A former student from Asia wrote him, “I model my lectures after yours.” Others could do well to model not only their lectures but also their professional lives after his.

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