MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
PROFESSOR HIROOMI UMEZAWA

Hiroomi Umezawa, a Professor and later Distinguished Professor in the Department of Physics from 1966 to 1975, passed away on March 24, 1995 in Edmonton, Canada, after a short illness. He was seventy years old. He is survived by his wife, Tamae, his sons, Ado and Rui, and three grandchildren.

Hiroomi Umezawa was a famous physicist when he joined the Physics Department at UWM in 1966, after much vigorous persuasion. His prestige, wise counsel and dedication were vitally important in those early days of the Department’s development. He played a major role in the establishment of a Ph.D. program in 1967, one of the first two such programs on campus at the time.

Umezawa was born on September 20, 1924 in Kurihashi-machi, Japan. After the war, he joined the remarkable Japanese effort that helped create the modern version of Quantum Field Theory. He received his Ph.D. from Nagoya University in 1952, and later became Professor at the University of Tokyo. He left his post at the University of Tokyo to accept a position at the University of Naples, Italy, where he stayed until he joined UWM. In 1975, he accepted the prestigious Killam Memorial Professorship of Science at the University of Alberta in Canada, where he remained until his retirement.

Hiroomi Umezawa was one of the preeminent Quantum Field Theorists of his generation. He spent his entire professional career refining and extending the subject and finding new areas of application. He applied Field Theory to High Energy Physics,
Condensed Matter Physics, Nuclear Physics, and Statistical Physics. His interests were very broad: he is the author of a theory of the brain which received wide attention. His scientific work was marked by extreme originality.

The broad range of Umezawa’s interests allowed him to interact with both theorists and experimentalists in our Department; some of the collaboration established here continued until the time of his death. He was a superb mentor of younger colleagues and students: his former students hold high positions in universities in North America, Europe and Asia. He kept in touch with them, and was often asked for advice and help long after graduation. He was always happy to provide both.

As a person, Umezawa was a man of the world, steeped in the history and literature of both East and West. He was a good and generous friend, and many of us here feel the poorer for his passing. His and his wife Tamae’s hospitality were legendary. Their guests were always assured of a sumptuous meal and hours of fascinating conversation.

Hiroomi Umezawa’s life was rich and fruitful. He had a profound impact on his discipline and his many students and friends. Our campus owes him much for his contributions in the heroic initial stages of our transition to a research university. He deserves our thanks and remembrance.

Yutze Chow
Moises Levy
Nicholas Papastamatiou