

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS LEONARD UHR**

Leonard Uhr, emeritus professor of computer sciences, died on October 5 at his home in Madison. He was 73 years old.

Professor Uhr earned his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1957, served several years on the faculty there, and moved to the University of Wisconsin faculty in 1965. As one of the initial members of the UW Computer Sciences Department (which had been established only a year prior to his joining), Professor Uhr was instrumental in initiating the department's curriculum and research in artificial intelligence, and he was centrally influential in shaping their maturation and evolution over his entire 26 years as an active faculty member. He regularly taught both undergraduate and graduate courses, was a successful research scientist, and was a much-sought-after mentor of graduate students. He retired from teaching in 1992 but remained active in research and publishing.

Professor Uhr's research and writing focused on computer perception and learning, and on the use of parallel computer architectures for artificial intelligence in general and for computer vision in particular. He was quite expert in many aspects of human neurophysiology and perception, and a central theme of much of his research was to design computational structures and processes based on his understanding of how the human nervous system works.

On these topics, Professor Uhr published seven books (as author and/or editor) and nearly 150 journal and conference papers. His seminal work was perhaps an article written in 1963 with Charles Vossler, "A Pattern Recognition Program That Generates, Evaluates, and Adjusts Its Own Operators," reprinted in *Computers and Thought*, edited by E. Feigenbaum and J. Feldman. He served as Ph.D. major professor for 20 students, many of whom have gone on to become in their own right important contributors to artificial intelligence research and related areas of computer science.

Professor Uhr was a true intellectual, an independent thinker, a scholar in love with ideas new and old, and a gentle man. His passion for developing new insights made knowledgeable use of and always manifested genuine respect for the thoughts and perspectives of others -- whether those of his students, his UW colleagues, or his colleagues and intellectual predecessors elsewhere.

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