

This edition of the Journal of Mathematics and Culture is dedicated to our colleague and friend Professor David Davison of Montana State University. Professor Davison was a pioneer in his work with Native Americans and the important contributions he made to the field of Ethnomathematics. Shockey recalls meeting Dr. Davison in the 90's and it was with much enthusiasm as a new academic to Ethnomathematics to have the opportunity to visit with and learn from a distinguished colleague. Dr. Davison impressed Shockey as a kind and gentle person, with rich insights that influenced my thinking about the mathematics education of Native Americans.



Dr. David Malcolm Davison, 75, a passionate and dedicated educator of 50 years and a part of the Montana State University Billings campus and the Billings, Montana community for more than three decades, passed away on December 12, 2011.

David Davison was a worldly man with his educational roots in Australia. He worked at MSU Billings for 32 years and was a mentor and father-figure to many of his university colleagues.

Dr. Davison earned his B.A. degree in Mathematics in 1958 and his B.Ed. degree in Educational Measurement in 1961 from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and his Ed.M. (1973) and Ph.D. (1974) degree in Mathematics Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to his graduate studies at the University of Illinois, he taught mathematics in Melbourne Public Schools for eight years and at Monash Teachers College for four years. After the completion of his graduate studies, he returned to Australia where he was a Senior Lecturer in Mathematics Education from January 1974 until May 1977. In September 1977, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Elementary and Secondary Education at Eastern Montana College. The Montana Board of Regents granted him Professor Emeritus status in spring 2010. David Davison remained active at the university on a post-retirement teaching and scholarship arrangement. He continued teaching up until his death.

Dr. Davison co-authored eight textbooks in mathematics, published more than 50 papers in mathematics and teacher education journals, made more than 100 presentations at national and international meetings. His educational passion and reach extended beyond the classroom. Dr. Davison received several awards: Burlington-Northern Award for Outstanding Teaching (1986), Faculty Excellence Award (1996), MSU Billings CEHS Partnership Award (2002), ASMSUB

Outstanding Teacher Award (2009), and the Benedict J. Surwill Lifetime Achievement Award (2009). He was also recognized for his service to the gifted and talented community by several awards from the Association for Gifted and Talented Education. David dedicated his career to the Native American population in Montana. Many of his publications in Ethnomathematics were grounded by this work with Native populations.

He served as President of the Northwest Association of Teacher Educators, as President of the Montana Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, as Vice President of the Research Council on Mathematics Learning, and as Vice President of the International Study Group on Ethnomathematics.

In addition to his passion for education, he also was a deeply committed Christian man. He was a charter campus advisor to MSU Billings Chi Alpha chapter, helping to start this Christian organization. He was involved with college- and high school-age ministry at Faith Chapel, where he was a faithful attender/supporter for over 20 years. He was known by many as a Bible scholar. He loved to read, run, and play golf.