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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR AMY LING

Amy Ling, professor of English and director of the Asian American Studies Program died August 21, 1999, after living with breast cancer for four years. She was born in Beijing, China on May 28, 1939 and emigrated with her family to the United States when she was six years old. She attended Queens College in New York City, graduating cum laude in 1959, and then went on to earn a Masters Degree in English and American literature at the University of California-Davis in 1962. She taught English in Taiwan, lived in Paris, served as an editorial assistant in New York, studied Chinese painting, and taught English to disadvantaged and minority college students before working on a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at New York University. She completed her dissertation "The Painter in the Lives of Thackeray, Zola, and James" in 1979.

A woman of adventurous imagination and enormous courage, Amy Ling swiftly traveled beyond her academic training to pioneer the emerging field of Asian American Studies. She argued for the inclusion of writings by ethnic minorities and women in the literary canon, examining works by many nineteenth and twentieth century Asian American authors, including Diana Chang, Edith Eaton, Winnifred Eaton, Sui Sin Far, Chuang Hua, Maxine Hong Kingston and Han Suyin. Her books include Between Worlds: Women Writers of Chinese Ancestry (1990) and Chinamerican Reflections, a chapbook of poems and paintings (1984). In addition, she worked with other prominent scholars to co-edit numerous field-defining anthologies that mapped the terrain of Asian American and ethnic literature. These books include The Heath Anthology of American Literature (with Paul Lauter and others, 1989), Asian Americans: Comparative and Global Perspectives (with Shirley Hune and others, 1991), Imagining America: Stories from the Promised Land (with Wesley Brown, 1991), Reading the Literatures of Asian America (with Shirley Lim, 1992), Visions of America: Personal Narratives from the Promised Land (with Wesley Brown, 1993), Oxford Companion to Women's Writings in the U.S. (with Cathy Davidson and others, 1995), and Mrs. Spring Fragrance and Other Writings of Sui Sin Far (with Annette White-Parks, 1995). Her edited volume, Yellow Light: The Flowering of Asian American Arts was released in 1999, shortly before her death. She also left unfinished a cultural history of Madam Butterfly entitled Butterfly's Shadow.

Amy Ling joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin in 1991 after having taught at Trinity College, Harvard University, Queens College, Georgetown University, Rutgers University, Brooklyn College, the City College of New York, and Chengkung University, Taiwan. She worked tirelessly to build the Asian American Studies program on campus, even as she served on numerous committees and boards across the country. In classes, and as an adviser, she was a source of inspiration and support to students. She also lectured widely at home and abroad, presenting her work on Asian American studies in Portugal, Spain, Russia, Taiwan, China, Australia, Japan and Italy, among other places. She was honored for her contributions with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for the Study of Multiethnic Literature of the United States (1997), the Woman of Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Minority Women's Network (1998), the University of Wisconsin System Woman of Color Award (1999) and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Asian American Studies Association (2000).

Blessed with a lively sense of humor, a ringing laugh, and a delight in beauty, Amy was also a talented poet, painter, photographer, seamstress, and singer. Her joyful energy was a gift to colleagues, students, family and friends. She is survived by her husband, Gelston Hinds, and two teenage children, Arthur and (continued)
Catherine. While the Asian American Studies program continues to flourish as a visible embodiment of her efforts, Amy Ling is also remembered on this campus by the Amy Ling Scholarship Fund, and a memorial bench on the Lake Mendota shore path, where she often delighted in the open views.

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