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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN WALBERG ANDERSON

John Walberg Anderson, professor emeritus of anatomy, died in La Jolla, California on January 24, 1999 at the age of 71. He was born in New York City on December 3, 1927 and later moved to Washington, DC where he graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1945. He served in Korea as a Pfc. photography instructor before continuing his studies at Swarthmore College, graduating in 1950 with a B.A. in Zoology. In 1952, John completed his M.S. at the University of New Hampshire, and in 1956 he was awarded the Ph.D. from Cornell University.

John joined the Madison faculty in 1956 and retired in 1990 as emeritus professor of anatomy. He taught histology, neuroanatomy, interviewing skills, and introduction to clinical medicine in the Medical School. In an administrative capacity, John served as assistant dean for students of the Medical School. In addition, he was director of the B.I.C.E. (Birth/Infancy Continuity Experience) Program and affiliate professor of Family Medicine and Practice. He served on many university committees and generously served the Madison community throughout his career. He also organized an enrichment program to enhance science education in the inner core schools of Milwaukee. He recruited many colleagues who traveled to Milwaukee to give presentations to these schools over a period of several years.

John had a lifelong love of classical music and played several instruments with various musical groups in Madison. He organized “music at noon” when students, faculty, and staff could enjoy live music performed by local musicians during lunchtime on Wednesdays each fall semester.

After his retirement, he and Professor James H. Stewart of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction collaborated to organize the Institute for Multicultural Science Education on the Madison campus. This program is based on the idea that science instruction should include active participation by the students, who generate answers to scientific questions by making observations, and seeking ways to solve problems. To do this, John and Dr. Stewart designed a cooperative learning approach using “Fast Plants” developed by Professor Paul H. Williams of the Plant Pathology Department. Continuing his interest in learning and teaching, John then accepted the position of dean of program at Pendle Hill, a Quaker retreat center in Wallingford, Pennsylvania. There he had the opportunity to develop innovative instructional programs for the institution. Following retirement from that post in 1994, John returned to Swarthmore College where he initiated and secured an unpaid appointment as director, Swarthmore College/Chester Upland Science Education Partnership, to develop a low-budget science program primarily for minority students in an impoverished school district. This science program was accepted into the curriculum by the Chester, Pennsylvania School District in 1997.

Though struggling with malignant melanoma, many of John's last months, spent in southern California with his devoted wife, were special for him.

Professor Anderson is survived by his wife Janet (Jeri) Anderson of LaJolla, California; his daughters Kristin Macleod of Solana Beach, California, and Susan Anderson of Madison, Wisconsin; and his son, David Anderson, of Madison, Wisconsin. In addition to his family, Professor Anderson is missed by his many friends in Madison and across the country.

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