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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA BARBARA HUGHES FOWLER (1926-2000)

Yes, I too, like the old poet of the city,
should like in the lavender evenings to walk out
upon my own balcony and there learn
for the first time from yellowed letters that then
in the rejecting misery of my youth I was
by those I loved most truly loved.

Barbara Hughes Fowler, professor emerita, died on February 10, 2000, at University of Wisconsin Hospital. A dynamic teacher with a professional career that spanned more than five decades, Barbara was born in 1926 to Clara and Fay Hughes in Lake Forest, Illinois. She took her B.A. in classical humanities at the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1949 and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr College in 1955. Barbara then returned to Madison as a lecturer in 1963 and advanced to full professor in 1976. In 1980 she was named John Bascom professor of classics.

During her tenure at the university, Barbara published numerous scholarly articles and books on Greek poetry, particularly tragedy, and Greek art. Her academic research in ancient Greek poetry was enriched by her own considerable poetic talents, which led to translations in various languages, ancient and modern, as well as original verse evoking an elusive sense of place. Upon retiring from the university in 1991, Barbara devoted herself to translating, and published translations of ancient Egyptian, medieval Irish and medieval Portuguese poetry.

A popular and devoted teacher both at the graduate and undergraduate levels, Barbara trained and placed a generation of ancient Greek scholars at institutions such as the University of Cincinnati, Kent State University and Wellesley College. In the days before formal mentoring programs, Barbara served as a dedicated, highly effective advisor, confidante and role model to women graduate students and junior faculty. She cared deeply about the status of women at the university and tirelessly worked to improve their situation.

Barbara also enjoyed a long and active administrative career at the University. She served on over 20 campus committees and chaired many of them, including the University Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the UW Libraries. During her tenure as chair of the Classics Department, she brought a distinctive touch to departmental governance.

Barbara delighted in her two daughters, Jane Clokey of Madison, and Emily Fowler of Reno, Nevada, and her four grandchildren, Alexander and Andrew Clokey, and Anne and Benjamin Herald. Her long and happy marriage to Murray Fowler, professor emeritus of linguistics, lasted 42 years, until his death in 1999. She will be deeply missed by all those whose lives she touched.

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