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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA LOUISE CLARISSA SMITH

Louise Clarissa Smith, associate dean emerita and professor emerita of the School of Nursing, died June 9, 2000 in Topton, Pennsylvania.

Professor Smith was born in Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania on January 27, 1911. She received a BS in education from the University of Pennsylvania in 1932, and a diploma from the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing, Baltimore, Maryland three years later. She earned an MS from the University of Pennsylvania in 1941 and her Ed.D. from Teachers College, Columbia University in 1955.

Her early career was in public health nursing, including work with the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) in Arkansas. As a captain with the USPHS from 1944-1946, she was a supervisor and consultant in nursing with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, serving in Egypt and Greece.

Throughout her later career as an educator she was committed to the inclusion of public health nursing in the school's curriculum. Her research and special area of interest was continuity of care between the hospital and the patient's return home.

Professor Smith was on the faculty at Teachers College, Columbia University, when she first came to Wisconsin as a member of a research team, headed by Helen Bunge, who later became dean of the UW-Madison School of Nursing. This team from the Teachers College Institute of Nursing Research and Service conducted the first statewide study on nursing education in the state, completed in 1955.

In 1961, she came to the School of Nursing as professor of nursing, and two years later was appointed assistant dean. During this time the School of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee was established, initially as a branch of the school on the Madison campus. Professor Smith made frequent trips to Milwaukee to serve as teacher, adviser and liaison for nursing students. She was also responsible for administrative work on campus and public relations with the community. She assisted in recruitment and orientation of the first dean of the UW-Milwaukee, School of Nursing.

On the Madison campus, Professor Smith provided leadership in baccalaureate development, as well as teaching history of nursing to undergraduate students. She participated in the development of the graduate program in nursing including the addition of more doctorally prepared nurse faculty; she also taught in the program.

Throughout her tenure, she was concerned about the welfare of students and the recruitment of minority students and faculty. From 1970 to 1975 she served as project director of the school's equal opportunity program. She was very supportive of young faculty members, and had great respect for the ability of others, and unusual skill in recognizing the potential in other people.

Professor Smith was a member of the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of University Women, and a Fellow in the American Public Health Association. She served as president of the Wisconsin Public Health Association from 1971-72, and four years later she was named an honorary member of that organization for "superior ability, character, and leadership in promoting the course of public health."

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She was a member of a number of honor societies: Pi Lambda Theta, Kappa Delta Pi, Sigma Theta Tau. In 1972 she was named an honorary faculty member of Phi Kappa Phi for her work with the equal opportunity program.

In her retirement she volunteered with the Madison Literacy Council. She was certified as a Braille transcriber by the Library of Congress, and contributed to the work of the Volunteer Braillists of Madison for many years.

She was a devoted Badger fan, so much so that in her later years she watched only the replays of Badger football because she couldn't stand the suspense of watching the game without knowing the final outcome.

She moved to Topton, Pennsylvania in 1999 to be near her only niece, Mary Lou Haddad, who survives her.

Louise Smith had a vision of greatness for the School of Nursing and worked tirelessly toward that goal. Her contributions to the school were exemplary.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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