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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS RANDOLPH S. THRUSH

Randolph S. "Ranny" Thrush, professor emeritus of counseling psychology, died peacefully with grace and dignity on March 26, 2000, at University Hospital. Thus ended the career of a pioneering counseling psychologist and teacher. Professor Thrush studied and worked at several of the major universities where the field of counseling psychology was born and nurtured in its early years.

Ranny Thrush was born (January 24, 1931) and educated in Ohio. He graduated in 1951 from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio. In 1952 he received a master's degree in psychology from Bowling Green State University. Then, following a two-year stint in the United States Army at the Army Medical Research Laboratory in Fort Knox, Kentucky, he entered The Ohio State University, receiving a Ph.D. in counseling psychology in 1958. His postdoctoral years were spent as a researcher, lecturer, and consultant at the Ohio State University in the Department of Psychology, the Systems Research Group, and Children's Hospital.

In 1961 he accepted an academic position in the Department of Psychology at the University of Missouri. The University of Missouri, along with Minnesota, Ohio State, and Maryland, has the distinction of housing one of the first and most prominent counseling psychology programs in the United States. Ranny left Missouri after attaining the rank of associate professor and accepted a position as head of the Department of Psychology and Sociology at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Professor Thrush began his career at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1967 as the director of the Student Counseling Center, where he continued until 1973. As director of the Counseling Center, he was highly supportive of research, counselor training, and professional development. During this time period, he was a key figure in helping to create three professional organizations for counselors, all of which continue to flourish today. These organizations are the Big Ten Counseling Center Staff Association, the Wisconsin College Personnel Association (WCPA), and the Wisconsin Association for Practicing Counselors in Higher Education (WAPCHE). As Ranny intended, these organizations have provided counselors from different locations the opportunity to work together on common issues and to learn from each other.

In 1969 he became an associate professor in the Department of Counseling and Guidance and in 1972 was made a full professor. He continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1995. During his career at the UW-Madison he was instrumental in moving the Department of Counseling and Guidance to a counseling psychology department accredited by the American Psychological Association. He served as both training director of the doctoral program and as a liaison to the professional psychology community.

Ranny will be remembered for his contributions to professional psychology in the state of Wisconsin. He was a founding member and charter board member of the Society of Clinical and Consulting Psychologists, serving as its president in 1980-81. He also served as an administrative council member and president of the Wisconsin Psychological Association, which elected him a Fellow in 1992. In recognition of his service to the profession, he was honored with the Karl Heiser Award from the American Psychological Association in 1992. On a local level he was the professional psychology member of the Madison Downtown Rotary, proudly serving as its president in 1984-85. Many counseling psychology graduates of the UW-Madison have him to thank for working toward their eligibility for licensure as psychologists.

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Professor Thrush was a mentor and major professor to many counseling psychology graduate students who today hold prominent positions as academics and professional psychologists. His commitment to professional education and training is reflected in his wish to donate his body to the UW Medical School so that he could continue to do the work that he loved, which was to teach young people.

Professor Thrush is survived by his wife Jody, daughters Valerie and Lisa, and four grandchildren.

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