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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA MARION W. LONGBOOTHAM

Professor Emerita Marion W. Longbotham died Saturday, May 3, 2003 at the age of 85. She is survived by her son, Tom (Dorothy) Longbotham of Westfield, six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, six great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by a loving cousin, Sally (Bob) Ash of Eau Claire, who helped her in her later years. In addition, she is survived by her long-time friends and companions, Patricia and Reuben Borgen and their two daughters, Trisha and Tracy of Mazomanie, Wisconsin.

Marion grew up in the Rice Lake area of northern Wisconsin. She graduated from high school in 1934. Upon graduation she attended the Stout Institute where she received her bachelor’s degree in home economics in 1938. She then became a home economics instructor in Evansville, where she taught from 1940-1943. In addition, she helped her parents in the greenhouse and florist business and worked in Winnebago, Rusk, and Chippewa counties as an extension home economist before returning to graduate school at the University of Illinois-Urbana.

Upon completion of her master’s degree in 1957, Marion returned to the University of Wisconsin as a member of the campus Department of Home Management and Family Living in the School of Home Economics. As an extension specialist in home management and housing, she worked with the county-based faculty and directly with Wisconsin residents on housing problems, household management, and selection, care and use of household equipment. In addition, she authored numerous circulars and resource packets on topics such as shopping for a mobile home, household repair, and selecting and prolonging the life of household appliances. Many of her publications were intended for those with limited incomes.

In 1970, she received a three-year $80,000 grant to train managers of public housing for the elderly. Once the funding ended, the managers saw such a great need for additional training that they formed their own organization. She also played an important role in extension programs relating to energy conservation in the early 1970s. Her work in home ownership counseling with the Oneida Housing Authority involved teaching about energy conservation, finances, and household maintenance to new homeowners. After a long, satisfying career, she retired from the faculty in 1979.

Professor Longbotham was also a member of several professional organizations including the American Home Economics Association, the Wisconsin Home Economics Association, the Wisconsin Association of Extension Home Economists, the National Association of Extension Home Economists, Epsilon Sigma Phi, and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Marion enriched the life of her colleagues and friends throughout her academic career. Through her teaching she instilled lifetime skills in those she taught and was a great member of the UW-Extension team. For these reasons Marion Longbotham will be greatly missed.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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