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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS CLAUDE STANLEY HAYES

Claude Stanley Hayes, professor emeritus (1983) of communicative disorders at UW-Madison, died on September 6, 2003 in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida at the age of 81 following a battle with metastatic cancer. He is survived by his wife Dorothy Morgan Hayes, his son Steven Hayes, his daughter Ann Hanrahan, her husband Michael, and their two children Kristi and Benjamin.

Claude began academic work in 1940 at Eastern Illinois University but his education was interrupted by World War II, during which he served for three years in Eisenhower’s headquarters command. Following his military service, he completed an undergraduate degree at Eastern Illinois, and then went to Northwestern University to study audiology, a new discipline stimulated largely by returning military personnel with hearing impairment. He earned a master’s degree and (in 1951) a doctoral degree. His early career included three years at Walter Reed Army Hospital, during which he held an adjunct appointment at the University of Maryland. In 1954, Claude became executive director of the Junior League Speech School in Atlanta, and an associate professor at Emory University.

In January of 1958, Claude was hired as an assistant professor by Gladys Borchers, then chair of the University of Wisconsin Department of Speech. With that appointment, he became the first full-time audiologist in the nation’s first college-based speech and hearing clinic (founded in 1914). The late 50’s and early 60’s were times of rapid growth for the institution and for the University Speech and Hearing Clinics. With growth often comes turmoil. During that time, Claude’s inherent calmness, tolerance, candor, and boundless good spirits proved invaluable.

In 1966 Claude was named director of the University of Wisconsin Speech and Hearing Clinics. A year later, Dean Leon Epstein appointed Claude inaugural chair of the new Department of Communicative Disorders. His 12-year term as chairman coincided with growth in enrollment, faculty, and external support for research and student training. It also occurred during a time of crisis at the university. In 1968, amidst demonstrations, police and military presence on campus, and the bombing of Sterling Hall, Claude’s response to student angst was characteristically constructive. He counseled communication. Toward that end he helped students in the department organize ways to assist other members of the campus community to convey their thoughts and feelings, of whatever persuasion, to elected officials.

He was elected fellow of American Speech-Language Hearing Association, having served that organization in several leadership capacities related to education and training. He also held leadership roles with the Wisconsin Speech and Hearing Association.

After his term as department chair, Claude renewed his passion (one shared by his wife, Dorothy) for children with hearing loss. It is noteworthy that throughout his career, Claude’s curriculum vitae listed Dorothy’s credentials as an educator of the deaf and audiologist. This was at the core of a shared commitment to address the needs of deaf or hearing-impaired children.

During the 1960's and 70's, Claude was often referred to by colleagues in what was then called the Wisconsin Audiology Conference as “the dean of Wisconsin audiologists” in recognition of his contributions to education and training. A year before he retired, in an annual review of his performance, Dee Vetter, then department chair, named him a “departmental treasure.” Many retire with respect, but not always with affection. Claude earned both.

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In the early 80s, Claude was diagnosed with cancer. His treatment was difficult. After 25 years of service at the university he resolved to spend more time with his family. Claude retired in 1983, but taught part-time as his health allowed. Dorothy retired two years later and they moved to Florida where Claude pursued other interests, including service in community and religious organizations.

Claude is remembered by his colleagues as a gifted administrator, a dedicated clinician, a demanding but encouraging teacher, and a mentor to generations of students. In particular, former students recall with gratitude the many times “Claudio-Audio” and Dorothy welcomed them to their Bayfield Terrace home in Madison. Those informal meetings with faculty, clinical instructors produced as much personal and professional insight as what happened in classrooms and clinics. Claude Hayes will be remembered and he will be missed.

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