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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA JANET CHASE LEMKE

Janet C. Lemke, emerita assistant professor of physical therapy, died on Sunday, February 20, 2005. Janet is survived by her husband, Allen Chase; three stepchildren; nine step-grandchildren, a brother, a sister, three nephews, and two nieces.

Janet was born on November 20, 1933 in Appleton, Wisconsin. After attending Valparaiso University for two years, Janet transferred to UW-Madison where she graduated with a B.S. degree in physical therapy in 1956. After graduation, she enlisted in the US Air Force, and served as staff physical therapist at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas and as chief physical therapist at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado. Upon discharge, Janet returned to Wisconsin to accept a physical therapy position at the Curative Workshop of Milwaukee. She soon became a clinical instructor for physical therapy students and, during that time, Janet developed a passion for teaching. She served for several years as the supervisor of Curative’s student training program, and then enrolled in Stanford University where she earned a master’s degree in physical therapy. In 1968, Janet accepted a faculty position in the physical therapy program at UW-Madison, a position that she held until her retirement in 1996.

At UW-Madison Janet taught undergraduate courses in the physical therapy treatment of adults and children with central nervous system disorders. In addition, she taught with nursing faculty in an interdisciplinary course in early intervention for children. She was also committed to graduate education, having served as major thesis advisor or thesis committee member for 28 students who earned master’s degrees in therapeutic science. Many of these individuals now hold academic positions in physical therapy.

As a faculty member, Janet was a dependable, tireless contributor to the physical therapy program. She served as its chair from 1982-1985 and was advisor to Phi Theta, the physical therapy student organization from 1972-1982. She served on the Center for Health Sciences Minority Affairs Committee from 1985-1996 and the UW-Madison’s Disability Action Committee from 1985-1992.

In addition to her university service, Janet performed exemplary service to the profession of physical therapy. She served as a member of the Wisconsin delegation to the American Physical Therapy Association, was a credential reviewer for the Wisconsin Medical Examining Board, and sat on Wisconsin’s Committee for the Revision of Nursing Home Codes. She served on and chaired numerous Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association committees. In 1997, Janet received the Wisconsin Physical Therapy Association’s Hall of Fame Award. She was the first recipient of this prestigious award that was established to honor an individual’s life-long contributions to the physical therapy profession.

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