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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA ANNE L. MINAHAN

Professor Emerita Anne Louise Minahan died on July 29, 2005 at age 80. She was born in Madison, Wisconsin, the daughter of Daniel and Isabelle (Waterman) Minahan.

Anne earned her B.A. in labor economics and M.A. in guidance and personnel at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1960, she received a master’s in social work from the School of Social Administration at Ohio State University. Much of Anne’s professional and academic career was centered around the UW System. She was social director of Memorial Union at UW Madison from 1949-1958. In 1963, she joined the faculty at UW Milwaukee’s School of Social Welfare and served as chair of the Social Work Extension until 1967. In 1968, she was hired as an assistant professor at the School of Social Work at UW Madison where she remained until her retirement as a full professor in 1986. She served as the school’s director from 1977-1980.

In 1973, Anne co-authored, with Professor Allen Pincus, the book, Social Work Practice: Model and Method, which revolutionized the way social work practice was viewed and taught. The book, translated into dozens of languages, became the standard social work text in schools of social work throughout the United States and in many other countries. It introduced the ideas of systems theory, change agents, client system, target system, and action system into the social work profession. In addition to numerous scholarly articles in social work journals, Anne was the editor-in-chief of Social Work, the journal of the National Association of Social Workers from 1979 - 1982 and was editor-in-chief of the 18th edition of the Encyclopedia of Social Work. In 2003, Anne was named an NASW Social Work Pioneer in recognition of her profound contributions to the social work profession and social work education.

Anne was a leader in national, state, and local social work organizations. She served on the board of directors of the National Association of Social Work from 1970-1973, and was a delegate to the House of Delegates in the Council on Social Work Education for four years. In 1972, recognizing her years of service to the National Association of Social Workers Wisconsin Chapter, Anne was named Wisconsin Social Worker of the Year.

In addition to her many outstanding contributions as a social work scholar, Anne was also an outstanding teacher. She had an uncanny ability to help students move from an understanding of the conceptual base of social work into translating those concepts to practice principles and strategies. Her outstanding teaching continues to have direct benefits for the many clients of her hundreds of social work students, the agencies in which they work, and the society-at-large.

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