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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS HERBERT R. HARVEY

Herbert R. Harvey, professor emeritus of anthropology and a specialist on the indigenous cultures of Mexico, died in December 2005, at age 74, in Bellingham, Washington. Born in May 1931 in Cornwall, New York, and raised in Newburgh, New York, he took his B.A. at Tusculum College (1952) and his Ph.D. at Harvard University (1962). While pursuing the Ph.D., Harvey served as a research assistant at Harvard, at the University of Chicago Law School, and at Texas Technical College. He also worked as a consultant to the Department of Justice (Indian Claims Section, Lands Division), a calling that he pursued until the late 1970s. He began his teaching and research career at the University of Wisconsin as an instructor of anthropology in 1962, and joined the faculty as an assistant professor of anthropology in 1963. He retired as a professor of anthropology in 1994, when his struggle with multiple sclerosis made it difficult for him to continue his career as a teacher.

Herbert Harvey began his anthropological and ethnohistorical work in Mexico in 1957-58 with linguists Morris Swadesh and María Teresa Fernández de Miranda. He subsequently conducted demographic, health, and family planning research in rural areas of that country, and in 1970 took part in establishing the Center for International Population Research in the College of Letters and Science at UW-Madison. Fluent in Spanish and Nahuatl, he conducted ethnohistorical research in Mexico’s archives. He also worked with several Aztec codices that revealed information about agriculture and land titles in the early colonial period. At UW-Madison, he taught courses on cultural anthropology, social theory, the archaeology of Middle America, and the Indian cultures of Mesoamerica and Mexico.

He is survived by his daughters Lisa and Michele, and a granddaughter.

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