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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA BEATRICE E. DONALDSON DAVID

Professor Emerita Beatrice E. Donaldson David, age 96, died on November 25, 2008 at Oakwood Village West, Madison, Wisconsin. She was born in Boone, Iowa on September 12, 1912 to Carl and Anna Donaldson. She married Carl John David in 1971 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Professor David graduated from Boone Junior College and in 1933 received a BS degree from the University of Nebraska. After a year as a dietetic intern at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, she was Blair County, Nebraska nutritionist. From 1935 to 1937 she was administrative dietitian in the Children’s Hospital, University of Iowa Hospitals. For the next five years she was head dietitian in the Babies Hospital of the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. During that time, she studied for and received her master’s degree from Teachers College of Columbia University. From 1942 until 1952 she was on the faculty in the Institution Management Department of Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. During that time she completed graduate study for a PhD in institution management with minors in education and food science. As a student she was elected to the honor fraternities of Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Nu, Phi Upsilon Omicron, Psi Chi and Sigma Delta Epsilon/Graduate Women in Science.

In 1952 Professor David joined the faculty of the Foods and Nutrition Department of the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an associate professor where she taught and directed research in food service administration. She was promoted to full professor in 1960. She retired from the Department of Food Science in 1978.

Professor David had a great commitment to working with students. Her undergraduate teaching supported basic dietetic education on campus. She was instrumental in expanding opportunities for undergraduates to apply principles learned in the classroom in working food service situations. With graduate students, she didn’t merely have them carry out her research program but involved them in all stages of research so they would be prepared to establish their own research programs. Former graduate students recall Professor David as a wonderful role model and use her style of mentoring graduate students with their own students. They laud her as having high expectations that stimulated them to strive for excellence. They point out that she didn’t just provide opportunities for development of their strengths but actively directed them in positive ways to strengthen their weaknesses. Professor David worked with other faculty in the Department of Food Science as well as in business, engineering and microbiology in developing integrative research projects with her graduate students. She also provided detailed editing of written work that was essential in students getting published in appropriate journals.

During her professional career Professor David was active in several professional organizations at the local and national levels. She was president of the Iowa Dietetic Association, a charter member of the Association for the Advancement of Food Science Research and the Association of Hospital Food Service Administrators. She served on the executive board of the American Dietetic Association as food administration section chair and on the executive board of the American Home Economics Association as chair of the institutional administrative section. She also served as chair of the editorial board of the Journal of the American Dietetic Association.

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Professor David received several recognitions during her academic career. Most notable include: in 1978 she was selected to give the Lenna F. Cooper memorial lecture at the annual meeting of the American Dietetic Association; in 1983 she received the Copher Award, the highest tribute awarded annually to a member of the American Dietetic Association; and in 1989 she was recognized with an outstanding alumnus award from the College of Home Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Professor David was preceded in death by her husband Carl David. She is survived by nephews Dr. John Y. Donaldson of Omaha, Nebraska and Thomas A. Hillishiem of LaCrosse, Wisconsin; nieces Mary Ann Gordon of Alliance, Nebraska and Julia Sterzinger of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin; a sister-in-law Doris Hillishiem of LaCrosse, Wisconsin and her very dear friends Peggy and Forrest Jafuta.

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