MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS PETER S. MACWILLIAMS

Dr. Peter S. MacWilliams, Professor Emeritus, Department of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, died on January 1, 2014, at the age of 68. He was born in Concord, New Hampshire, but was raised in Pleasant Valley, New York. He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from Cornell University in 1969. He joined a mixed animal veterinary practice in New York from 1969 to 1971. He then became a resident and graduate student in Clinical Pathology at The Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He completed his clinical training/research and received his PhD degree in Clinical Pathology in 1978. He also served as an Assistant and Associate Professor of Veterinary Pathology at the University of Saskatchewan during this time period.

He left Canada in 1979 to join the faculty as an Associate Professor of the then new School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University. When at LSU, he became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP). In 1981 he accepted the position of Director of Clinical Pathology of Hazelton Laboratories (now Covance) in Madison WI. In 1983 we were fortunate to recruit Dr. MacWilliams as an Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology to the then new School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison. He became a tenured Associate Professor in 1989 and a Professor in 1995. He remained in this position until his retirement in 2007 as Emeritus Professor. After retirement, he worked with Marshfield Laboratories (Veterinary Services) until 2011.

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Pete was a strong and capable leader, serving as Chair of the School’s Strategic Planning Committee, Chief of Staff for Diagnostic Services in the VMTH, Faculty Advisor for SCAVMA, and in many other positions. Dedicated to his specialty area and to organized veterinary medicine, he was Chair of the ACVP Examination Committee (1988-89) and President of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA, 1996). He was named WVMA Veterinarian of the Year in 1998 and received the Walter F. Rank Distinguished Professor Award in 2002.

Teaching was Pete’s greatest passion, and he was much beloved by students at all stages of their careers. He received the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award multiple times at Wisconsin and was nationally recognized in 2005 for his excellence as a teacher. He was awarded the Student AVMA Teaching Award in both basic and clinical sciences and received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1994. Students often selected him to deliver the keynote address at their graduation. Residents, graduate students, veterinary technicians, medical technologists, practicing veterinarians, and fellow faculty were all beneficiaries of Pete’s commitment, compassion, and gifts as a teacher. We knew him as a teacher extraordinaire, an outstanding clinical pathologist, a photomicrographer of the highest caliber, a valued colleague, a humorist, and a person of many other talents. He is sorely missed by all who knew him!

Memorial Committee:
John Oaks
Ronald Schultz, Chair
Chester Thomas
Karen Young