Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor James Baughman

James L. Baughman, the Fetzer Bascom professor of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died March 26, 2016, after a brief illness. He was 64.

Jim, as he was known to his friends, joined the School of Journalism and Mass Communication faculty in 1979. Trained as a historian, he developed a national reputation for his work on the history of twentieth century American journalism and broadcast news. A gifted and popular teacher, he regularly taught courses on the history of mass communication as well as a variety of reporting classes. In 2003, Jim won the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award.

Jim was born in Warren, Ohio, Jan. 10, 1952, the son of Lewis E. and Ann B. Baughman. He grew up in Warren, attending Warren City Schools. He earned his BA from Harvard in 1974 and in 1981, his Ph.D. in history from Columbia, where he studied with the well-known scholar William E. Leuchtenburg.

Jim was a fine scholar. He wrote four books, including Television’s Guardians (1985), Henry R. Luce and the Rise of the American News Media (1987), The Republic of Mass Culture (1992), and perhaps most importantly, his history of U. S. television from the late 1940s through the early 1960s, Same Time, Same Station (2007). At the time of his death, he was at work on a history of American political reporting during the latter half of the twentieth century.

Jim was an outstanding citizen of the university. He served two terms as director of the School of Journalism, from 2003 to 2009. He oversaw the School's successful centennial celebration in 2005 and helped to establish the Center for Journalism Ethics several years later. As director, he gave many public service talks. He was the first recipient of the Ken and Linda Ciriacks Alumni Excellence Award in 2005, sponsored by the Wisconsin Alumni Association.

Jim served on the Wisconsin Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights from 1985 to 1992, the last two years as chair. He was also chair of the advisory committee of the UW's Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture.

Friends and former students will remember Jim's humor and skill at mimicry. No UW faculty member did a better imitation of Eleanor Roosevelt, Bill Clinton, or Ronald Reagan. They also will recall his devotion to the Cleveland Indians baseball team.

Survivors include his wife and best friend, Michele (Mickey) Michuda, as well as his brother, Milton (Julia) of Columbus; nephew Thomas (Yvonne) of Paso Robles, CA; and niece Kate of New York City.