Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus William Hachten

William Andrews Hachten, professor emeritus and former director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died May 15, 2018, at Hebron Oaks Nursing Home in Madison. He was 93.

Bill joined the faculty in 1959 after earning his doctorate in mass communication from the University of Minnesota. Bill taught courses on media law, international communication and news reporting and editing. His training was in media law and his first book, *The Supreme Court on Freedom of the Press*, won the 1968 Delta Sigma Chi award for research on journalism.

He served as director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication from 1975 to 1980 and retired from the university in 1989.


Bill was born in Wichita, Kansas, to George C. and Emma Andrews Hachten and grew up in Huntington Park, California. He attended Stanford University on a $750 football scholarship in 1942. He played there for only one year before joining the Marine Corps’ V-12 program, an officer reserve program. The Marines sent Bill to University of California, Berkeley to attend classes and play football in 1943 and 1944. He was then called to active duty, reporting to Parris Island. Shortly after he arrived, he learned that he had been named to the 1944 All-America football team. Bill was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1945 and sent to Camp Pendleton, California. While there, the United States dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which effectively ended the war. After the war Bill returned to Stanford where he played football for the 1946-47 season and completed a degree in journalism. He was then drafted in the 13th round by the New York Giants of the National Football League. He played for one season before a knee injury ended his playing career.

Bill then earned a master’s degree in journalism from UCLA, starting a decade-long career as a professional journalist after graduation. His first reporting job was with the Long Beach (California) Press-Telegram. In 1952, Bill married Harva Sprager, who he had met at UCLA where she was an instructor. They had been married for 54 years when Harva died in April 2006.

Bill is survived by his daughters Elizabeth Hachten and Marianne (Jim) Cotter, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.