Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Keith Yandell

Keith Edward Yandell was a member of the Philosophy Department from 1966 until 2011. He died in Madison on April 28, 2020. Keith was a skillful teacher and an acclaimed scholar. Keith was awarded a WARF Named Professorship and named it after his deceased senior colleague, Julius Weinberg. Keith and Julius disagreed philosophically, but that did not stand in the way of their friendship. The same was true of Keith’s relationship to other members of the Department. Philosophers disagree a lot, perhaps more than academics do in other fields. Keith upheld and strengthened the Philosophy Department’s tradition of tolerance and collegiality.

Keith was born in Davenport, Iowa on July 16, 1938. He earned B.A. and M.A. degrees from Wayne State University, and a PhD from Ohio State University. Starting in 2004 and continuing after his retirement from UW-Madison, Keith was an Affiliate Professor of Philosophy at the Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL.

Keith’s fields of expertise included History of Modern Philosophy, Metaphysics, Ethics, Indian Philosophy, but Philosophy of Religion was his central focus. It was characteristic of Keith’s scholarship that he sought to connect philosophical questions about religion with central questions that arise in other areas of philosophy. In this way, Keith opposed the rising tide of specialization.


Keith also published several series of connected articles - on the problem of evil, on the epistemic status of religious experience, on David Hume's philosophy of religion, on the supposed ineffability of God, miracles, and religious experience, on Indian philosophy, and on the relationship of religion and morality.