MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

for

Dr. Carlos Dominguez
Department of Spanish & Portuguese

Dr. Carlos Dominguez, Assistant Professor of Spanish & Portuguese, died of cancer in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on December 23, 1986, in his 37th year of life. He taught his classes until the week before Thanksgiving, but his condition worsened rapidly and he returned to his family in Ecuador only a week before he died.

Professor Dominguez came to UW-Milwaukee in 1983 with a Ph. D. from Stanford University. After completing his studies at the Universidad Catolica de Guayaquil in 1973, he entered Vanderbilt University for a B. A. in English and Spanish before going on to Stanford for his graduate work. He had already published two articles on the Mexican novelist Juan Rulfo, but his main scholarly work was to be on the poetry of the Spanish Golden Age, especially the work of Saint John of the Cross. He was particularly interested in the movement in 16th century Spain and Italy to recast secular poetry in the form of religious allegory, and just recently he had published articles on this topic in Romance Notes and Papers on Language and Literature. At his death he left a number of completed articles on Golden Age poetry and on Spanish American literature, and an unfinished book on religious allegory. His reputation was already at the point where the Ministry of Culture of Ecuador invited him this past fall to become editor of a series of Ecuadorian literary works of the colonial period, a project very dear to his heart.

His teaching here extended from a graduate seminar on literary theory to introductory courses in conversational Spanish. He was director of the department’s Spring Semester in Mexico in 1985 and would have led the program again this semester. He was active in the programs of the Center for Latin America and the Center for 20th Century Studies, where he was a fellow in the fall of 1984. He was also becoming known in Milwaukee community circles, and barely a month before his death read a paper before a local Spanish studies group.

His impact on students and colleagues in his brief career at UWM was remarkable. Known as a stimulating but demanding teacher, he had built up a following among students of language and literature alike,
since he did not perceive the arbitrary distinction between these two aspects of our discipline. He was respected for his knowledge and loved for his humanity, in its broadest sense, by a growing number of scholars beyond our narrow field. We can do no better than to quote from a letter written by a faculty member in another department who was auditing one of his classes: "I can remember one particularly scintillating lecture in late October. It was a discussion of the poetry of St. Teresa, who in a certain way had turned the tables on the Renaissance tradition by describing her relationship to God in terms of erotic ecstasy. What a lecture it was. That day her passion became his passion; her vision, his vision. His own affirmation of life rose up jubilantly in the face of the death he was silently facing."

Santiago Daydi-Tolson
Oliver Myers
Vicky Unruh