MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR PROFESSOR WILLARD J. BRANDT

Professor Emeritus Willard J. Brandt died Saturday, October 8, 1988 of lymphoma cancer in St. Joseph’s Hospice, Marshfield, at the age of 74. He was born on June 28, 1914, in Reedsburg, Wisconsin.

Professor Brandt began his career in education as a teacher in a one-room rural school in 1933, after which he served as principal and teacher in a state graded-school. In 1942 he became an instructor at Marathon County Normal School, Wausau, and then a high school general science and biology teacher in the Delavan Junior and Senior High Schools. He came to Milwaukee in 1947 to teach at UWM’s predecessor institution, Milwaukee State Teacher’s College. In 1949 he received his Ph.D. Degree in Educational Administration, Supervision, and Curriculum from UW Madison. In 1956 he was awarded rank of Professor of Educational Administration and Supervision at UWM and in 1960 was appointed Assistant Dean for Education Extension and Teacher Certification in the School of Education. In addition to his service at UWM he took leave a number of times to administer educational programs for the Peace Corps, and the Libyan (1958), Viet Nam (1967), and Japanese (1978) governments.

Professor Brandt was active and held leadership positions in numerous professional organizations, including the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, American Association of University Professors, Association for Supervision and Curriculum and Development, Phi Delta Kappa, National Adult Education Association, and the World Council for Curriculum and Instruction.

Upon his retirement in 1979 Willard was recognized for his many years of dedicated service to UWM and school districts in south and eastern Wisconsin. He was a gentle man, who served with genuine dignity, charm, and flair. He took time to find out people’s needs and invariably went the extra mile (often many miles) necessary to help meet them. His capability to see beyond problems to ways they could be resolved resulted in UWM’s School of Education Extension programs developing into a strong and vigorous support system for local school districts. His success in making UWM into an accessible resource to them was summed up as, “Where There’s Will, There’s a Way,” a poetic tribute composed for his retirement celebration. The legacy of good-will and cooperation that he so effectively built remains to this day as the base of the School’s and the University’s commitment to educational outreach and the region’s recognition of UWM as a resource for the solution of local problems.

After his retirement in 1979, he and his wife, Georgiana, lived at their Florida home during the winters, and at their northern Wisconsin lake home during the summers. At both locations he enjoyed gardening, fishing, and woodworking, being known as a master of the latter. He and “Georgie” as she was affectionately known to all his colleagues, also traveled extensively to visit their many friends and family members. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, Lennis, a son, Willard, and five grandchildren.

Submitted by the Department of Administrative Leadership