MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

for
Dr. Joseph G. Baier
Michael F. Guyer Professor of Zoology

Dr. Joseph G. Baier, Guyer Professor Emeritus, died January 14, 1990, in Phoenix, Arizona, his home after retirement. He was 81 years old. He was an active member of the faculty of UWM and one of its predecessor institutions for 42 years.

Born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, on February 12, 1908, Joseph Baier obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Zoology from Rutgers University in 1928 and 1929. He then entered the doctoral program in Zoology at the University of Wisconsin where he completed the Ph.D. degree in 1932, under the direction of Professor Michael F. Guyer. His masters and doctoral research involved the application of immunological techniques to animal systematics, a new and innovative experimental approach at the time.

In 1932 Dr. Baier was appointed Instructor in the Zoology Department at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Extension Center. He served as Chair of that department until 1956 and rose through the academic ranks to Professor (1945). In his capacities as chair and professor Joe built a strong and respected two-year program of zoological study. He also developed a productive research program and provided the resources (including a penthouse laboratory suite) for his colleagues in Zoology to get started on research careers.

Because of his long involvement with the Milwaukee Extension Center, and the respect in which he was held by the UW faculty, Professor Baier was a leader in the efforts to form the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He was an influential member of the several committees which laid the groundwork for the merger of the Extension Center and the Wisconsin State College at Milwaukee. He played a vital role in insuring that the Madison traditions of faculty governance and excellence in scholarship were continued at the new institution.

When UWM was established in 1956, Professor Baier became the first dean of the College of Letters and Science. In this position he continued to promote the building of strong academic programs and research productivity which led the way for the rapid growth of graduate programs in the 1960s. By the time he left the deanship in 1966, UWM was well on the road to becoming the first-class academic institution it is today.

From 1966 until his retirement in 1975, Professor Baier continued as an active and diligent member of the Zoology Department and of the university at large. He served two 3-year terms on the University Committee and was chair of that committee in 1968-69 and 1969-70. In 1969, in honor of his many years of productive and distinguished service he was named Michael F. Guyer Professor of Zoology.

Although we remember Joseph Baier for his excellence in teaching, scholarship and administration, we also recall his friendliness not only to us but to all members of the university community.

After his retirement Dr. Baier and his wife Thelma moved to Phoenix, where he became immersed in a long-standing hobby, restoring antique clocks and other time pieces. Recognized nationally as an expert in this field, he was a Fellow of the National Association of Antique Watch and Clock Collectors.
Joseph Baier is survived by his wife Thelma, his three children, and their families--Warren and Doris Baier, Gloria and William Bartfelt, and Judy and David Peterson; six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Although Joseph G. Baier accomplished much in his long career, he will be remembered most for the crucial role he played in the formation and early development of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He was one of several outstanding leaders who assured for UWM a strong start by preserving here the University of Wisconsin traditions of faculty governance and scholarship while also asserting a special role and unique opportunities for UWM as an urban institution.

Robert Costello
Helen Kittsley
Peter Salamun
Eldon Warner
Charles Weise