Memorial Resolution for Professor Durward C. Layde

With the death on June 22, 1993, of Durward C. Layde, a life that included close to a half-century of devotion to teaching in the University System came to an end.

Beginning with three years as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, "Duby", as his friends knew him, spent forty-three years in his profession - and his profession was teaching. He received a B.A. degree from St. Norbert College in 1933, and the Ph.D. degree from UW-Madison in 1940. The early years of his career were spent in the UW Extension Division, ending when he became one of the original members of the UWM Department of Chemistry. At UWM he served the Department as Assistant Chairman and as Chairman. Along the way he coordinated, in 1974, the move form the north wing of Lapham Hall to the new Chemistry Building. During his tenure as Department Chairman, he fought a courageous battle against cancer, coming back after difficult surgery to serve the Department for several more years.

From the beginning of his career, Duby's focus was on teaching. He taught, literally, thousands of undergraduates with a real sense of mission. A quote from something he once wrote claimed, "...there is an elementary side to any theory and it can be taught accurately if not completely to the students of elementary chemistry." He consistently worked to keep his material relevant and up-to-date, rewrote and revised laboratory exercises designed to maintain interest as well as to instruct. His textbook on laboratory procedures went through three editions. Duby was interested in his students as individuals and prided himself on learning as many names as possible and then surprising the student with a personal response. He never appeared to be rushed - always had time for a student with a question. He was recognized nationally for his devotion to content as well as procedure - serving the American Chemical Society for many years as co-author of standardized exams.

Durward Layde was a devoted family man. He and his wife, Mary, raised five children in a closely-knit, loving family. Four of those children today are physicians, one is a businessman.

He taught all kinds of students, raised a large family, served as Chairman of an often contentious department -- but no one, no one at all, can remember ever hearing him raise his voice in anger. Durward Layde was truly a "gentle" man.

M.E. Schaff
D. Bennett