MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
FOR PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN L. BLUM

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee community is deeply saddened by the passing of Professor Emeritus John L. Blum, on April 12, 1995, at the age of 77. Professor Blum was a member of the faculty from 1963 to 1985. He served as Associate Dean (Sciences) in the College of Letters and Science from 1967 to 1969, and was the Chair of the Department of Botany, before it became a part of the Department of Biological Sciences in 1984.

Professor Blum was born in Madison, Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he earned the B.S. degree in 1937 and the M.S. degree in 1939 in Botany. He was a graduate assistant at the University of Missouri, 1940-41, and was an Assistant Professor Biology at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., 1941-1943. In World War II he served with the U.S. Army's Field Hospital in the European Theater of Operations from 1943 to 1945. During this tour of duty he met his wife-to-be, Anna, in the town of Othee, Belgium. After return from service, he rejoined the Biology Department at Canisius College from 1945 to 1951, and in 1951 he continued his graduate studies at the University of Michigan where he earned the Ph.D. degree in 1953. He returned to Canisius College and advanced to the rank of Professor. In 1963 he joined the Department of Botany at UWM and remained here until his retirement in 1985.

Professor Blum's specialty was in the field of Algology. He taught courses in this discipline and studied the distribution and ecology of the algae of streams and flowing waters, of salt marshes and of inland lakes. One of the most significant phases of his work was to utilize algae as indicators of pollution. A number of his publications were on the systematics, behavior and distribution of species in the genus Vaucheria. With his graduate students, he studied members of this genus from such distant places as Iceland and
Australia. Professor Blum was also one of a three-member committee which initiated biological studies in Lake Michigan. This committee was the forerunner of the present Center for Great Lakes Studies. He was also knowledgeable about higher vascular plants, especially those of aquatic habitats. In 1980 he published a booklet on the wildflowers of Lake Park. This reference is very helpful to students and casual visitors interested in the plant life of the park. In his travels to Europe, Africa and throughout the U.S., he collected and prepared many plant specimens for the Department Herbarium.

The fine Arts, particularly music, were another integral part of Professor Blum's life. He composed several marches that were performed by the UW-Madison marching band during football games. In 1950 he wrote a Catholic Mass. His favorite composers were Schubert and Mozart, but at social events in his home he sometimes played Gilbert and Sullivan songs on the piano. He also played the trombone and during his recuperation from surgery, in 1992, he taught himself to play the flute and the flugelhorn. His daughter, Colette, mentioned that he recently completed writing a musical, "The Joy Hotel", a witty satire on our world today. The setting for this work is in Niagara Falls, and it raises some environmental issues.

His other interests included collecting first editions of science books and travel. He spoke French and German fluently, which made trips with Mrs. Blum very interesting. In the community, he served on the board of the Milwaukee Fair Housing Council.

Professor Blum was a member of a number of scientific organizations, including: the American Phycological Society, The Society of the Sigma Xi, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.
In addition to his wife, Anna, he is survived by three daughters, Colette (Ronald) Meister, Suzanne Blum, Annette (James) Rolfsmeyer and seven grandchildren.

Professor Blum was a warm and friendly person, and always available to discuss academic or departmental matters with faculty and students. His daughter, Collette, gave this impression of her father: "he taught us the evils that prejudice can cause in the world, to never stop learning and to take care of our planet".

Robert Costello
Helen Kittsley
Jakob Loewenberg
Peter Salamun
Thomas Schuck