Professor Henry J. Schmandt (Political Science, Urban Affairs) died in Florida on December 25, 1993. He had joined the UWM faculty in 1959, and 18 years later retired for personal reasons. He continued his service, research, and publication in urban studies after his retirement from UWM in St. Louis, where his career began, and also in Florida.

Schmandt’s recruitment to UWM was the first major stop in an effort to focus the social studies and humanities faculty on an urban mission. Then Vice President Fred H. Harrington had negotiated with the newly created Ford Foundation a million dollar grant to the University of Wisconsin for research, instruction, and public service (extension) related to urban issues. A Ford program director, Professor Coleman Woodbury, came to Madison under the grant, and he in turn recommended Schmandt to the Milwaukee campus as an extremely promising person in the field of urban studies.

Schmandt graduated from Washington University in 1941 and after U.S. Army service 1944-45, completed a doctorate in political science at St. Louis University in 1950. He taught briefly at St. Ambrose College (Kansas) and the University of Detroit before joining the St. Louis University faculty as Associate Professor in 1953. He co-authored (with Paul Steinbicker) Fundamentals of Government (1954) and wrote History of Political Philosophy (1960), both published by Bruce, a Milwaukee publisher. In the 1950’s he became actively involved in metropolitan studies: as staff member for Missouri State Reorganization, the Metropolitan St. Louis Survey, Metropolitan Community Studies (St. Louis), and the city of Berkeley (California) Charter Commission. As a result, between 1951 and 1959 he wrote or co-authored four monographs and articles in this relatively new field.

Immediately upon his arrival in Milwaukee, Schmandt turned his attention to two goals. The first was the development of an increased capacity at UWM to contribute to an urban mission. A major result was the assembling of a faculty that could be incorporated into a Department of Urban Affairs offering a master’s degree combining scholarly competence and activist inclinations. When the department was launched in the College of Letters and Science in 1963, Schmandt was its chair, and he was for a decade the center of its innovative instructional program. The department has survived as a Master’s degree program, but in 1986 its faculty and program were incorporated into the Urban Studies Program with its Ph.D. degree.

Schmandt’s second initiative was in the metropolitan Milwaukee area. He became close advisor to UWM Chancellor J. Martin Klotsche in his relations with the Milwaukee community and as chairman of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Study Commission, as well as being a member of and consultant to the new Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Among the many publications, both books and articles, Schmandt authored while on the UWM faculty were The Milwaukee Metropolitan Study Commission (with William H. Standing, 1965), and Milwaukee: A Contemporary Urban Profile (with John C. Goldbach and Donald B. Vogel, 1971).

During his 18 years as a UWM faculty member Schmandt made a major contribution to undergraduate and graduate teaching, community service, and urban studies through nationally acclaimed research and publication.

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