DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS SCOTT GREER

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

When Scott Greer joined the UWM faculty in 1974, the Urban Affairs and Sociology Departments instantly achieved new visibility in the academic world. One of the most distinguished urbanists in the nation, Scott was recruited to help formulate our interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in urban studies. He was superbly qualified for the task.

Beginning his life in the most un-urban town of Sweetwater, Texas, and going on to Waco (Baylor University) for his undergraduate education, Scott's earliest creative efforts were literary. He founded and edited a small magazine (Crescendo). After college he spent some years of transition, following a Bohemian lifestyle, writing and surviving on odd jobs.

In 1952, Scott obtained one of the first two Ph.Ds granted by UCLA's Sociology Department, writing a landmark dissertation about minorities in union leadership (later published as Last Man In). He directed a small but ambitious urban laboratory at Occidental College in Los Angeles, and worked as assistant director of the Metropolitan St. Louis Survey. In 1957, he was recruited to Northwestern University, directing its Center for Metropolitan Studies for several years, and he stayed there (as Professor of Sociology and Political Science) until moving to UWM.

Scott was a prolific and highly influential author. In The Emerging City (1962), he argued for a view of the city that went well beyond the formalistic cliches of the time, emphasizing that urbanism meant an increase in societal scale and that we must look at corresponding changes in social organization. In Governing the Metropolis (also 1962) he dealt with what has become a perennial problem--how the metropolis, a new form, is hampered by the narrow constraints of its archaic political units. All in all, he authored or edited some two dozen books and many articles and book reviews. With his wife, Ann, he shared not only a 30-year companionship but a close professional collaboration, and thus in recent years his interests broadened to include her interest in health care institutions and health policy. He was professionally active and in great demand, delivering distinguished lectures at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Winnipeg, and the University of Illinois, Champaign, and serving as president of the Midwest Sociological Association in 1978-79.

Scott Greer's colleagues mourn the passing of a distinguished colleague. But beyond his academic distinction, they and his students will remember him as truly erudite. He read voraciously. Everything he read seemed to tie in to a complex, sophisticated view of social phenomena--a view that he was always eager to share. His scholarship was broad, inclusive, and ultimately humanistic. Never did he display a trace of pomposity. His view of the academic world was whimsical, and not always reverent. His sensitivity, civility, and humor leavened the atmosphere for all who knew him.

Scott Greer was born October 25, 1922. He died January 25, 1996.

Ronald Edari, William Mayrl, and Joan Moore