Memorial Resolution
for
Emeritus Associate Professor of Geography Karel Bayer

Emeritus Associate Professor of Geography Karel Bayer died on January 10, 2012. Born in Czechoslovakia on May 8, 1931, Karel joined the Geography Department at UW-Milwaukee in 1968, and remained a member of the UWM faculty for 33 years, retiring in 2000.

Originally trained as an atmospheric scientist, Prof. Bayer drastically changed his research interests in mid-career to ethnic studies, biblical geography, and regional geography of Slavic countries. Karel was a dedicated teacher of large numbers of both undergraduate and graduate students from across the University throughout his career. Specifically, he created Geography 114 “Geography of Minorities in the United States”, which remains the only cultural diversity general education class offered in Geography. Karel served diligently the Department of Geography, the College of Letters and Science, the Russian and Eastern European Studies Committee, and the University in many and varied ways.

In addition to his scholarly endeavors, Karel Bayer was a dedicated husband to his wife Vera, and a kind and compassionate colleague. Love of his native Czech Republic throughout its transformation to freedom and democracy was paralleled by his deep affection for the United States, his adopted nation. We, his colleagues, mourn the loss of his cheerful friendship, and wish his spirit eternal peace.

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