Memorial Resolution for Gertrude Katherine Esche

Gertrude Katherine Esche was born Gertrude Stoessel November 20, 1910, and died in Milwaukee, August 31, 1966. As a student at the University of Wisconsin she was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa and in 1932 received her B.S. degree (Education) and in 1941 her M.A. (French) degree. She taught French and mathematics at West Division High School in Milwaukee from 1934 to 1946. She had a long association with the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee since all during the period of her teaching in the Milwaukee School System she taught evening classes in French at the University of Wisconsin Extension in Milwaukee. In 1946 she became a full-time instructor in French at the University of Wisconsin Extension, holding that position until 1951. In addition, from 1949 to 1951 she was Adviser to Women (scholastic affairs) and Secretary to the Faculty with the rank of Assistant Professor in Administration. In 1949 she was married to William R. Esche. Her husband and their only son, Philip, survive.

For many years, in addition to the work of her own household, Mrs. Esche had the care of her mother and aged grandmother. Because of these family duties, she withdrew from teaching in 1951. She came to the new University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee in 1962 as part-time acting assistant to the Associate Dean of Letters and Science and continued this work until her death. For some years before her death she also taught part time in the Department of French and Italian.

Her life, although not long, was filled with a variety of interests and her unfailing enthusiasm made her a valued member of many groups. Among her activities are listed membership in the Cultural Relations Committee of the Milwaukee Public Schools editor of the Bulletin of the Modern Language Teachers Association of Wisconsin Education Association, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Association of Teachers, chairman of the French section of the Modern Language Teachers Association of Wisconsin Education Association, and the Modern Language Association of America.

Music played an important role in her life. For thirty years she was a soprano soloist in the choir of the Kenwood Methodist Church. During that period she participated in many activities of the church, holding offices in various organizations.

Mrs. Esche's good nature and cheerfulness and her ability to organize work efficiently, combined with her solid scholarship, proved to be great assets in her work both in instruction and in administration. Her experience in each field helped her work in the other, and her emphasis on maintenance of high standards as well as on understanding of students was appreciated by both faculty and students. She contributed to the development of both the dean's office and her department.

Martha Best, Chairman
Merlin Hayes
Genevieve Meyer
David Murray