MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—MILWAUKEE
ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR MARIAN SILVEUS

Marian Silveus, Professor of History, died unexpectedly from a skull fracture on
November 13, 1958. Her death brought a deep sense of loss to both her colleagues and
friends and to the many students who met her as their teacher and kept her as their friend.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 26, 1904, Marian Silveus attended
schools there and in nearby Homestead. She received her B. A. cum laude with distinction
in history from Radcliffe College, her A. M. and Ph.D. (1932) in American History from the
University of Wisconsin, with a dissertation, unpublished, on The Campaign of 1896.

For five years, 1932-1937, she was Librarian of the Historical Society of Western
Pennsylvania, coming as substitute in History to Milwaukee State Teachers College in
February, 1937. After teaching history at Maryland College for Women during the follow-
ing year, she returned to Milwaukee in September, 1938, and remained here, a valued mem-
ber of the History Department, until her death.

Professor Silveus was in frequent attendance at professional meetings in her field.
She was a member of the American Historical Association, the Mississippi Valley Historical
Association, and the American Studies Association. Her interest in her profession and in
social justice led her to support allied societies: the American Association of University
Professors, the American Federation of Teachers, the World Affairs Council, the American
Civil Liberties Union, the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Scholarly articles by Dr. Silveus appeared in the Western Pennsylvania Historical
Magazine and the Dictionary of American Biography. She cooperated in editing the Great
Demobilization and other Essays, by Frederick Logan Paxson, and produced an unpublished
History of Wisconsin State College for local circulation. At the time of her death she
had ready for publication a study in the field of American Culture from the letters of
Edmund Tweedy.

Dr. Silveus was remarkably effective with students of widely varying abilities and
interests. While she was quick to discern and nurture intellect in superior students, no
student's problem was too trivial, no question was too simple, for her patient, sympa-
thetic attention. Her weekly discussion groups at her home contributed to the cultural
development of hundreds of students who participated over the years. As adviser regard-
ing graduate scholarships, Dr. Silveus helped many students to obtain Woodrow Wilson,
Fulbright, and Ford Foundation grants and followed their graduate work with keen interest.
She was the moving spirit in founding, in 1953, the Delta Phi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta,
honorary fraternity in history.

Dr. Silveus' capacity for cooperation and fellowship with her colleagues earned
their high regard and warm affection. She was a productive force on academic committees.
She spent endless hours editing a useful Faculty Handbook. Her genuine interest in people
and her vibrant sense of humor won friends from all parts of the University community.
Her life exemplified with power and generosity of spirit, the values she cherished. Of
these, not the least were integrity, profound respect for the dignity of every human
being, the obligation to seek freely and fearlessly for truth, and an abiding faith in
democratic processes and ideals.

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