Memorial Resolution

Associate Professor Frieda Voigt (1899-1973)

Mrs. Frieda Voigt, née Meyer, Emeritus Professor of German, was born January 29, 1899, in Chicago, Illinois. She attended the National Teachers' Seminary in Milwaukee, and received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1922. The following years she spent in Nebraska, first as a high-school teacher of English, then as a graduate student and graduate teaching assistant of German. In 1925 she married the German poet, Rudolf Voigt. While teaching at the Milwaukee Center of the University of Wisconsin Extension Division, she continued her graduate work and received her Master's Degree from The University of Wisconsin in 1937. She became Assistant Professor of German at the Milwaukee Center that same year and served subsequently as Acting Chairman of the Department of German from 1941-46. In 1959 she was promoted to Associate Professor at the recently merged institution of UWM where she continued teaching until her retirement in 1967. She died on September 5, 1973, in San Rafael, California, where she had moved in June, 1971.

Throughout her career, Frieda was completely dedicated to her calling as a teacher. She had a keen interest in everything German and was accomplished in conveying that interest to her students. Her constant concern was their progress and development, and no task was too great if they were involved. Her warmth and friendliness, her encouraging and cheerful efforts in helping them in the classroom as well as on a personal basis, made "Frau Voigt" a very special person to all who knew her.

In the course of her career, Frieda wrote numerous articles and book reviews for professional journals and Milwaukee newspapers. Her continuing research topic was a critical bibliography of German writers in America from 1885-1935, a project she pursued until the time of her death.

Her contributions outside the classroom were numerous. She served on many University committees and held several offices within the University and in professional organizations. In addition to her service as Acting Chairman of the Department of German, she at one time was Secretary of the Faculty at the Milwaukee Center. She was also secretary, then president, of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German which she had helped organize, and was later elected Third Vice President of the national organization. Among the other learned societies and professional organizations in which she held membership were the Modern Language Association, the Central States Modern Language Teachers Association, AAUP, AAWW, and the Milwaukee County Historical Society.

Long committed to the cause of peace, Frieda was active in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Her community involvement extended to such organizations as the UWM Women's League, in which she
held the office of president, the International Institute of Milwaukee, the National Teachers' Seminary Alumni Association, the Wisconsin Sprach-und Schulverein, the Milwaukee Goethe Haus, and the Unitarian Church.

Those who had the good fortune to know Frieda Voigt will remember her as one of the most dedicated members of the faculty community. The multitudes of students who benefited from her forty-two years of teaching, as well as the scores of colleagues and friends with whom she worked so cheerfully and untiringly, know that she was a teacher and a friend of the finest sort, one to be emulated and never forgotten.

She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. William Epstein of San Rafael, California. The Resolutions Committee requests that a copy of this Memorial Resolution be sent to Mrs. Epstein.

Martha Best
Irene M. Bozak
Robert A. Jones (Chairman)
Gerhard Rauscher