Memorial Resolution

Professor Albert J. Kruse (1894-1974)

Albert J. Kruse, Emeritus Professor of German, died on November 13, 1974, at the age of eighty. Born in Berlin, Germany, on August 17, 1894, Albert Kruse received his secondary education in his native city. He studied at the Universities of Berlin and Heidelberg and earned the doctor's degree at Berlin in 1925. He began his teaching career at the College Royal Francais in Berlin, a secondary school at which all instruction was conducted in French. He subsequently taught at the Humboldt Gymnasium, also in Berlin, for ten years. In 1938, he and his family immigrated to the United States. After teaching at Harvard University for six years, Albert accepted an appointment as Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of German at the University of Wisconsin Extension Division in Milwaukee. This was in 1946, and for the following twenty years, until his retirement in 1965, Albert was deeply involved in the development and growth of the German Department at that institution and, after the merger in 1956, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. For more than fifteen years, until June 1962, Albert served as department chairman. In 1962, he was promoted to full professor.

Albert was a gentleman with a broad cultural background, deeply rooted in the tradition of humanism and with wide-ranging interests that crossed the lines of many disciplines. He wrote on the League of Nations, and on foreign language teaching methods; he contributed to the Zeitschrift für Politik; for several years he was co-editor of the Zeitschrift für französischen und englischen Unterricht; and he was the editor of several English texts.

Albert was a devoted and excellent teacher, challenging his students, requiring of them to think independently, demanding but fair. He taught elementary German language courses, German conversation and composition, German literature, and, his favorites, courses in German civilization. It was especially in these advanced courses on German culture that he could bring his broad background fully to bear. Albert possessed the special ability to relate his topics to the proper historical and social background and to developments in literature and philosophy, in the arts and in music, in science and technology.

Albert's service to the University and to the Milwaukee community included memberships on various important University committees, primarily the Committee on Human Rights. For ten years, he was a group leader in the "Great Books" discussion series, and he gave numerous talks to the German Club, to foreign language teachers, and to community groups.

Those who had the good fortune to know Albert Kruse will remember him as a fine teacher, a friendly colleague, and a good friend. His love for lively discussions, his keen intellect and his wit, his vast knowledge--much of it acquired by experience and extensive travels--and his capacious memory for details gained him the respect and admiration of many.

Albert is survived by his wife, Ilse, and by two married sons, Jürgen and Ulrich.

Edward D. Holst
Gerhard Rauscher (Chairman)
Herman Weil