Memorial Resolution for Associate Professor Marie Merkel

Marie Merkel, former Associate Professor and Counselor, died of cancer on November 24, 1975 at the age of 69.

Miss Merkel was born in Wausau, Wisconsin June 20, 1906 and her early education and employment were in this region. She attended Marathon County Normal School, receiving her diploma in 1926, and her first teaching job was in a rural county school. After attending Milwaukee Teachers College she received teaching certification in 1927. Her Bachelor’s in Education was received from the University of Hawaii in 1938 and her Master’s in Education from Mills College, California in 1940. She pursued further graduate studies at Stanford University earning certification in counseling in 1942.

While teaching at Madison East High School Miss Merkel was called to Wisconsin State College-Milwaukee to assume the position of Assistant Dean of Women. While at Wisconsin State College-Milwaukee Miss Merkel became well known for her recognition of human needs and her constant efforts to meet these needs. Many campus innovations may be attributed to her sincere desire to be of service.

As Assistant Dean of Women, she recognized the need for general counseling services and in short order became the Director of the College Counseling office and assembled a new and excellent staff. This department merged with the UW-Extension Counseling Department in 1956 when UWM was created.

Through Miss Merkel’s work in this Counseling Department she saw the special needs of the increasing number of foreign students on campus and became their official advisor. This led to the development of a Department of Foreign Students though Miss Merkel remained with Counseling. Soon her interests in foreign students extended to similar groups on other campuses, and in recognition of her service, she was made an honorary life member of the International Club of Milwaukee.

Later she helped found the Campus Religious Council and the Retired Faculty Association and was a vital member of numerous campus committees and community organizations. For a number of years she also served as a dormitory head resident.

Miss Merkel was loved by the students and admired by her colleagues and maintained contacts with many of them throughout the years. She will be remembered by them for the warmth of her personality, her delightful sense of humor, and her never failing loyalty as a friend.

Miss Merkel resigned from UWM in August, 1966 to become a counselor at North Central Technical Institute in Wausau in order to take care of her invalid mother. She retired from North Central Tech after the death of her mother and
made her home with her sister, Mrs. Elsie McCullough in Lake Mills, Wisconsin where she immediately continued participation in community organizations.

Besides her sister, Miss Merkel is survived by a brother, John, Washington, D.C. and a niece, Dr. Margot Peters, Lake Mills.

Arden Eichsteadt
Pierce Kramer
Charlotte Wollaeger