

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA ELAINE MARKS**

Elaine Marks, professor emerita of French and Women's Studies, died October 6, 2001, in Dallas, Texas, from pneumonia related to lung cancer. Professor Marks' ground-breaking books on Colette and Simone de Beauvoir, on the Jewish presence in French literature, and on diverse strands of French feminism, helped make her one of the most widely recognized and respected authorities on French studies in the world today. She was one of the seminal scholars in the field of women's studies. Her numerous honors and awards included a term as president of the Modern Language Association of America (1993), a Guggenheim Fellowship (1992), the University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (1993), a distinguished Alumni Award from New York University (1994), and the rank of Officier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques bestowed upon her by the French government in 1994.

After graduating magna cum laude from Bryn Mawr College in 1952, Professor Marks earned an M.A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania; she received her Ph.D. from New York University in 1958. She held posts as instructor, lecturer and professor at New York University, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, but she spent the bulk of her teaching career, twenty-two years in all, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, from which she retired as Germaine Brée Professor of French and Women's Studies in December, 2000. She taught a wide variety of graduate courses and more than twenty different undergraduate classes, including pioneering courses such as Motherhood and/in the Feminist Inquiry, Lesbian Culture, and French and Italian Jewish Writers of the Twentieth Century. She inspired two generations of readers (including, on occasion, the children of former students) and inspired many of her students to pursue their own successful academic careers.

Professor Marks held several important administrative positions, both within the university and outside it. She was chair of the Women's Studies Program from 1979 to 1982, and chair of the Department of French and Italian from 1992 to 1995. She was also on more than twenty major university committees, including the Humanities Divisional Committee, the Graduate School Research Committee, and the University of Wisconsin Press Committee. She was extremely active in the profession, serving on the executive and selection committees for the MLA, the ACLS, the National Humanities Center, the Advisory Council on the Future of French Studies in the U.S. and several other national organizations. As an editorial board member for six academic journals and an evaluator of more than a dozen major graduate programs in French, Elaine Marks was one of the most respected authorities on French studies in the United States.

Professor Marks was an extraordinary teacher, scholar, and colleague. She was never afraid to challenge accepted beliefs or to question decisions made more out of expediency than reflection, and she proved time and again that expecting the highest standards in all areas of university work benefits us all. She was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Professor Marks is survived by her partner, Dr. Marianne Schwob-Ferrara, of Dallas, Texas. She was predeceased by her partner, Professor Yvonne Ozzello of the Department of French and Italian, in 1999.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE  
Richard Goodkin, Chair  
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