

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
ON THE DEATH OF
PROFESSOR EMERITUS AND ASSOCIATE DEAN EMERITUS CHESTER H. RUEDISILI**

Chester H. Ruedisili, age 92, died May 9, 2002. Born and educated in Wisconsin, he received his B. A. in mathematics (1933) and his Ph. D. in counseling/psychology (1941) from the University of Wisconsin. From 1936 until his retirement in 1980, he served the university as a professor and administrator. This remarkably long career included several years of part-time teaching in the psychology department (fondly remembered by former students at their fiftieth class reunion in 1994) and continuous service first as an assistant and then as an associate dean for student academic affairs in the College of Letters and Science. His legendary devotion to the college spanned the tenure of six deans, and was marked by determined efforts to maintain the highest academic standards.

After heading the student academic affairs office of the college for almost two decades. Chet founded the L & S honors program in the early 1960s and headed that program with great enthusiasm, energy, and integrity until his retirement. He tirelessly promoted the program by encouraging faculty members to create honors courses and seminars, obtaining grants to help student research on senior honors theses, championing honors students for awards, and fostering college sponsorship of undergraduate research before it was the fashion to do so. His accomplishments are captured by a former student's letter in a Madison newspaper on the occasion of Chet's retirement: "...Ruedisili provided thousands of students with an education more interesting and rewarding than they could have otherwise expected. But his best characteristic isn't the administrative skill that helped him mold a great educational program. More important are the everyday kindnesses and concerns he showed his individual students in helping to deal with their personal problems."

Among Chet's off-campus professional services were active membership in the National Collegiate Honors Council and a year's assignment (1950-51) to help establish academic services in Japan's university system. On his return, he became an adviser to Japanese students on our campus. Always deeply committed to tolerance and fairness, Chet, while still a decidedly junior faculty member, was one of the members of the University Club who, in 1944, signed a letter urging fellow-members to vote to reverse (as they did) a previous club decision to discriminate against an African-American graduate student's application for housing.

Married for almost 67 years to Jeanette Haberman, Chet was a loving and attentive husband and parent of three sons. With family members, he enjoyed square dancing, tennis, camping, gardening, travel, and canoeing. The Ruedisilis lived for many years in Shorewood Hills, where Chet had served on the School Board, until illness in the last few years required Chet and Jeanette to use care facilities first in Madison and then in Soldiers Grove. He is survived by Jeanette, his three sons (Lon, Neal, and Todd), and grandchildren.

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