

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA ALICE THORNGATE

Professor Emerita Alice Thorngate, age 96, died on 22 February, 2002, at the Attic Angels Retirement Home. Miss Thorngate was born in North Loup, Nebraska, on 17 September, 1905. Although she lived only a few years in Nebraska, she maintained a staunch allegiance to her native state. In the mid 1920's her family moved to Milton, Wisconsin, where she attended Milton College.

Her intention was to major in Latin, but in her junior year her interests changed, and she graduated with majors in biology and chemistry. She hoped to work in a laboratory, but job prospects for women were not promising. Therefore she returned to school to prepare for a career in public school teaching and then taught high school biology and chemistry for two years.

But she continued to look for a job in a laboratory. By chance she learned of a 12-month laboratory training course offered at the Wisconsin General Hospital in Madison. She applied and was accepted in the fall of 1931. After completing this course, she spent a brief period as a combination receptionist, x-ray and laboratory technician in a physician's office.

In 1934 she began her distinguished 42-year career as a university teacher when she was asked to assume responsibility for instruction in the Wisconsin General Hospital's Clinical Procedures Laboratory. This training course evolved into the baccalaureate degree program in medical technology. The curriculum won final approval of the University Faculty in 1937. Miss Thorngate played the major role in the establishment and growth of the medical technology program for the next 39 years. After her retirement in 1976 she published a comprehensive history of the program entitled "That Far Horizon".

As a teacher (she was known as "teach" by most of her students) she was a rigorous but gentle task master. She had that special quality possessed by superior teachers: she expected and received high standards of performance while continuing a warm, personal relationship with the small class under her supervision for the final 12 months of the baccalaureate program. After she retired, her former students and fellow teachers established a medical library at the University Hospitals in her honor.

Beyond medical laboratory education, she had wide ranging interests in the arts and environmental causes. She was an enthusiastic bird-watcher and promoted the activities of the International Crane Society, among others. Medical technology education was, however, her primary focus. The course that she established continues to grow and remains one of the outstanding programs of its kind in the United States.

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