

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR AND DEAN EMERITUS IRA LAWRENCE BALDWIN

Ira Lawrence Baldwin was born near Oxford, Indiana on August 20, 1895. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Purdue University. In 1926 he came to Madison to pursue his Ph.D. degree in the Department of Bacteriology, thus beginning a long and meritorious career with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He served successively as professor of agricultural bacteriology, assistant dean of the College of Agriculture, chairman of the Department of Agricultural Bacteriology, dean of the Graduate School, and dean of the College of Agriculture. He was founder and honorary director of the Wisconsin Academy Foundation. In 1948 he was appointed the university's first vice president of academic affairs and in 1958 he became special assistant to the president. His thesis advisor was E. B. Fred, and throughout his career, Baldwin remained Fred's close associate and colleague.

Professor Baldwin served on the Joint Staff of the State Coordinating Committee for Higher Education at its inception in 1956, and played the key role in the formation of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In 1966 he retired as vice president emeritus and emeritus professor of bacteriology, but continued work for the university in international agriculture until 1971. In addition to the central roles he played in university administration, Professor Baldwin carried out major activities for the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, the Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, the Office for International Rural Development, the Agency for International Development, and the Society of American Bacteriologists (and its successor, the American Society for Microbiology). He was the first administrator of the Technical Assistance Project in Higher Agricultural Education, assisting Indonesia to develop colleges of agriculture. He was secretary-treasurer and president of the Society of American Bacteriologists, and was chairman of the Board of Governors of the American Academy of Microbiology. He was involved in numerous activities for the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, as well for the National Science Foundation.

As a scientist, Professor Baldwin was recognized for his research in the fields of general and soil bacteriology, industrial fermentation, and the physiology of microorganisms. He was co-author with Professors Elizabeth McCoy and E.B. Fred of the classic work on root nodule bacteria, a major work in the field of agricultural bacteriology. This work was an early and very significant forerunner of the whole field of agricultural biotechnology.

During World War II, from 1942 to 1945, Professor Baldwin was the lead scientist and administrator of the Biological Warfare Project under the Chemical Corps of the War Department. He was responsible for setting up the facility on biological warfare at Fort Detrick, in Frederick, Maryland, a facility that remains active to this day. During this war period, Baldwin also continued his administrative duties at the University of Wisconsin. Although he was in charge of Fort Detrick, he remained on the university payroll, being paid with funds contributed to the university by the Army under contract. According to his autobiography, this arrangement had distinct advantages when working in a military organization. If he had worn a uniform, there would always have been someone higher up who he would have answered to, but "...as long as I wore a red tie I could say no to anybody..."

Ira Baldwin married Mary Eliza Lesh in 1920 and they had two children, Helen Lucille Baldwin and Robert Lesh Baldwin. Following the death of his wife in 1952 he married Ineva Reilly Meyer. When he died on August 9, 1999 at Tuscon, Arizona, two weeks shy of his 104th birthday, he was survived by his wife, his two children, a sister Phoebe Baldwin Foster of Oxford, Indiana, seven grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild.

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Professor Baldwin's activities for his family, his scientific discipline, his university, and his country, are vast. The transcription of his oral history conducted by the university in 1995 amounted to 577 pages. His generosity, acumen, and good judgment were remarkable. He was universally liked, fondly remembered, and broadly respected.

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