

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR JUDITH LEE GEROW CROXDALE

Judith Lee Gerow Croxdale of Madison died suddenly of a heart attack on June 14, 2002. Judy was born on August 27, 1941 and grew up in Modesto, California. Judy began work on a degree in English at the University of Colorado and then married Michael Croxdale in 1960 and had a son. Upon her divorce in 1966 she resumed her academic studies, this time in botany at the University of California-Berkeley. She got an A.B. and then Ph.D. from Berkeley under Professor Donald Kaplan. Judy's first professional position was at the Virginia State University (now Virginia Polytech.) but in 1979 she was recruited to UW-Madison. She rose through the ranks of assistant, associate, and full professor of botany.

Judy's research focused on plant morphology. In the 1970s she worked on morphogenesis in the fern *Davallia* followed by work on the formation of submerged leaves in *Salvinia*. In the 1990s Judy started an extensive investigation of pattern formation in leaves, especially the patterns that determine the spacing of stomata. In the most recent work from Judy's lab, it was shown that genes that affect trichome development also affect stomatal patterning, indicating that there is a central epidermal patterning mechanism that operates independently from cell type-specification programs.

A fun part of Judy's research was applying her expertise to pattern development under altered gravitational conditions. She was part of a team that was involved in perhaps the first crop produced in space when potato tubers were grown on the space shuttle. Judy analyzed the structure of the tubers grown in space. Judy's research program attracted many visiting scientists and provided many opportunities for undergraduates to participate in her laboratory.

Judy was frequently invited by leading journals to write on pattern formation in plants. Judy was also recognized for her scholarship with an invitation in 1999 to become editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Plant Growth Regulation*. Under her leadership, the journal assumed new prominence as a place to find timely reviews of topics related to the regulation of plant growth. Judy taught Principles of Plant Development, Structural Plant Development, and Plant Microtechnique courses. She also led a Colloquium in Teaching College Biology each fall, a course to help graduate students prepare for the teaching aspects of their careers.

Judy was very active in university service. Within the Department of Botany she was chair of the Teaching Assistant Assignment Committee for many years and chaired the Awards Committee. At the university level Judy participated in a wide range of committees including the Undergraduate Teaching Improvement Council Committee. Judy was perhaps most active in college committees. As chair of the College of Letters and Science Curriculum Committee, Judy guided the college through important reforms. Judy was active in groups such as Women in Science and Engineering and worked hard to encourage women graduate and undergraduates' participation in the sciences. Judy was chair of the midwest section of the American Society of Plant Physiologists in 1993-94.

Judy was a very independent, adventurous woman. Like many academics she spent a lot of time on her career but she also had many other interests. Judy was a pilot for a number of years. She had a particular love for contemporary and emergent art. Judy rode her bicycle as often as she could and advocated for the rights of bicyclists. Judy was particularly committed to exercise and a healthy lifestyle, for several years teaching aerobics, making the circumstances of her death so surprising to those who knew her.

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Judy is survived by her son Leyton and daughter-in-law Lisa of Seattle, Washington, and brother Michael Gerow and mother Winifred Liberini of Modesto, California. She was preceded in death by her father, Harold Gerow.

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