

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS LAVERN E. (ERNIE) MOLL

Lavern E. "Ernie" Moll passed away on December 27, 2001, after a long battle with cancer. He was born on June 27, 1925 in Wauseon, Ohio, where he graduated from Wauseon High School in 1943, and had already proven his artistic talents as yearbook cartoonist.

Ernie served in the U.S. Army in Korea as a communications specialist from 1944-46. Following military service he attended Ohio State University earning a B.S. in Education and graduating summa cum laude in 1949. He attended graduate school there in 1950. In 1951, he took a position with the Toledo Museum of Art School of Design where he taught sculpture, drawing, and design until 1960. Prior to coming to Wisconsin, he was an artist/designer with the C. J. Hoffman Corporation in Perrysburg, Ohio, where he produced works in sculpture for architectural and interior design applications.

A renowned sculptor and teacher, he joined the faculty of the Department of Art in 1964 where he taught sculpture for twenty-three years and served as area chair for Three Dimensional Studies. He was elected department chair in 1974 where he served with distinction and honor for four years. He also served the department as graduate program chair for five years and was a regular contributor to department administration through committee work, as an advisor, and through various writing and editing projects.

His reputation as "a walking encyclopedia of technical information and materials" was well noted by his colleagues and students. He had an intense curiosity and love for the mechanics of objects and would take things apart to closely examine the how and why of it's operation and process. He often invented and constructed unique gadgets, equipment and tools as solutions to problems to help facilitate friends' studio needs. He was a self-taught computer wizard and helped install the first computer system for the Art Department. He graciously remained "on call" at all times for assistance. He was an outstanding teacher and mentor whose warmth, compassion and concern will forever be remembered by his colleagues and students. He was named emeritus professor upon his retirement at the end of the academic year 1987.

His art has been exhibited in national and regional shows and in art galleries in many major cities, and his works are included in a number of museums and private collections including the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio and the Toledo Federation of Art Society. He created numerous commissions for public and private institutions and individuals. Ernie was an early practitioner in the use of fiberglass as a material for fine art sculpture. In an exhibition catalog he summarizes his creative impulse: "In art and life I am interested in ambiguity, surrealism, humor, and form. The methods people use to express (or conceal) their self-concepts are especially intriguing. My belief that all branches and disciplines of the arts are practiced for the same purpose, and only the means and materials differ, provides the impetus for my attempt to blur the boundaries between some of the ways art is produced. In my work I combine methods of illusion, as used in painting, with the actual three-dimensional forms of sculpture."

Ernie was a kind, humble genius who touched countless lives. He was a creative inventor, a true "Renaissance Man."

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