

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

ON THE DEATH OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EVELYN BLASKA OWENS

Evelyn Blaska Owens, social work pioneer and civic leader died on April 24, 2002, at age 91. Born in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, on July 4, 1910, Professor Owens was on the faculty member of the School of Social Work from 1961 until her retirement in 1976.

Professor Owen received her B.A. degree from Mt. Mary College in 1931 and her M.S.S.W. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1952. During the depression, Professor Owen's was a virtual "one-person" social work agency in Dane County. Working with the Dane County Outdoor Relief Department until 1942, she would pack her car early in the morning with food, clothing, and limited funds, and drive around the county distributing these to needy families and individuals. From 1943-1955 she was a social worker with the Division for Children and Youth, State of Wisconsin, the Dane County Juvenile Court, and the Dane County Department of Public Assistance. In 1955 she was named assistant superintendent of the Wisconsin School for Girls where she remained until she joined the faculty in 1961.

During her 15 year tenure at the School of Social Work, Professor Owen's coordinated the school's Field Program, where she had the primary responsibility for placing 150-200 social work students in field internships each year. She taught courses on social work methods and in the area of alcoholism, including our undergraduate Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse course, a large lecture with 220 students per semester. She was a skilled administrator and a gifted teacher.

Professor Owen exemplified the importance of university/community relationships. She was active in numerous important social programs in the community. Her concern about the lack of resources in the community for people with alcohol and other drug problems resulted in her helping to found the Rebos (sober spelt backwards) Halfway House in Madison, and the Dane County Detoxification Center. She was appointed to two terms on the Governor's Citizen's Advisory Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs, and was a member of the Department of Public Instruction's Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Professor Owen's continued her commitment to public service well into her retirement, especially in her home community of Sun Prairie. The school, the university and the community will miss Professor Owen's many contributions to her students, colleagues, and the citizens of our state.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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