

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS LEONARD A. LARSON

Leonard Larson, emeritus professor of physical education, died on November 21, 2003 at his daughter's home in Annandale, Virginia at the age of 97. He was preceded in death by his wife Margaret and his daughter Anne, and he is survived by his daughter Janet (Herold).

Leonard was born in Warren, Minnesota on February 2, 1906, and attended Concordia College in Morehead, Minnesota where he received the B.A. degree in 1929 with a major in mathematics. He was a student athlete at Concordia where he was a two-way player at end on Concordia's first winning football teams of 1927 and 1928. He earned all-conference honors during his senior year, and he was recognized in 1928 as a Concordia "Honor Athlete" for his classroom and athletic achievements. He was inducted into the Concordia Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991. His career in education began as a teacher at Pelican Rapids High School in Minnesota from 1921-31.

Leonard next enrolled at Springfield College (Massachusetts) where he received a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's degree in education in 1933. Leonard also served as an instructor, professor, and director of health and physical education at Springfield College from 1931-1945. During the period he taught at Springfield College, Leonard also pursued doctoral training at New York University where he received the Ph.D. degree in physical education in 1938. He co-authored the third edition of his mentor J.H. McCurdy's highly popular text, The Physiology of Exercise, the following year.

Leonard served in the United States Air Force (USAF) from 1942-45, earning the rank of major. He was the officer in charge of physical fitness and physical fitness research and testing procedures at USAF Headquarters in Washington, D.C. during his military service. Following his discharge from the Air Force, he served as a research associate at George Washington University from 1945 to 1946. This was followed by an appointment at New York University where he held the rank of associate and full professor from 1945 to 1960. He replaced the legendary J.B. Nash as chairman of the Department of Physical Education at NYU in 1953. Leonard authored or co-authored 14 text books and over 60 published research papers. He also organized and edited The Encyclopedia of Sports Medicine and Science in 1971.

Leonard Larson was recruited to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he was appointed professor and director of the Department of Physical Education for Men in 1959. He served in this capacity until the close of the 1974-75 academic year, and he became an emeritus professor in 1975. During his years at UW-Madison, Leonard coordinated efforts to develop a joint graduate program comprised of professors from the former Department of Physical Education for Men and the Department of Physical Education for Women. This effort resulted in one of the first Ph.D. programs in physical education offered in North America. This joint graduate program eventually evolved into a single Department of Physical Education, and this multi-disciplinary unit served as the foundation for the current Department of Kinesiology. One of Leonard's goals was to develop a strong academic unit in physical education, and he successfully recruited leading exercise scientists in physiology, psychology, motor learning, sociology, and sports medicine. The distinguished research faculty assembled by Chairman Larson attracted students from all over the world, as the UW was universally recognized as the leading graduate training program in the exercise sciences. This recruitment effort also led to the development of an exercise program for faculty and staff, and it also served as the foundation for what has come to be known throughout the world as cardiac rehabilitation.

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Leonard was also responsible for having the Central Office of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), the leading scientific and professional organization in exercise and sport science, relocated from Ann Arbor, Michigan to UW-Madison in the late nineteen sixties. The ACSM Central Office was housed on the third floor of Camp Randall Stadium for a number of years, and the highly acclaimed journal, Medicine and Science in Exercise and Sports, was started in those humble surroundings. The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) was established in 1954, and Leonard was one of the original founders. He was also the last of the surviving founders of this remarkable organization. Leonard served as president of ACSM from 1969-70. His many contributions to the field of sports medicine in general and ACSM in particular have been truly impactful. He received the ACSM Citation Award in 1973 and the Honor Award in 1978.

Leonard and Margaret moved to North Dakota following his retirement from UW-Madison, and he remained physically active gardening and maintaining his land and fruit trees. When interviewed by the ACSM historian, Dr. Jack Berryman, on his 97th birthday, Leonard stated that: “It was physically working that has kept me alive this long.”

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