

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA LOUISE ARMINTA YOUNG

Louise Araminta Young, professor emerita, University of Wisconsin, died February 15, 2005 in Madison, Wisconsin at the age of 94. She was born in Los Angeles, California on September 17, 1910, the daughter of James Halden Young and Ida Blanche Crawford Young. Her earlier years were spent in Romania, where her father was in the oil business. The family returned to the United States in 1917 due to WWI.

Following graduation from the Emlenton, Pennsylvania high school, she attended the University of Colorado for one year then transferred to the University of Illinois where she received her B.S. degree in Home Economics Education. In 1947 she received an M.A. degree in Family and Consumer Economics from the University of Missouri.

Professor Young began her teaching career in the Lawrenceville, Illinois school system, served as home economist and district leader in Home Economics Extension, University of Illinois, and was instructor in family economics and management, University of Missouri, before coming to the University of Wisconsin in 1945 as instructor and extension specialist in family and consumer economics. She was promoted to professor in 1950, and chaired the Department of Consumer Science for many years. In the late 1960s she served as acting associate dean, School of Home Economics for one year. She retired from the University of Wisconsin in 1976 after 31 years of service.

Even after her retirement Louise continued to support the Department of Consumer Science with a graduate fellowship. Her legacy will live on as we award this annual fellowship in her honor. Louise remained actively involved and shared her vision for the department until the last few days of her life.

Louise was known throughout the state for her expertise in various aspects of family financial management and estate planning and for her publications on these topics. Widely circulated were her publications on keeping financial records, planning spending and adhering to a budget, assessing insurance needs, consumer shopping and credit, making a household inventory, and early on, tips on simplifying your housework. Professor Young's innovative team approach to farm and family financial management education, including her workshops for couples, served as a model for programs in other states. Her department often sent her to the Annual Outlook Conference held in Washington, D.C. by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She was the first woman to be honored by this group when, in 1958, she was awarded their Superior Service Award for her outstanding work in the State of Wisconsin. Among her many contributions was serving as chair of a national committee to promote the study and adoption of the metric system in the United States.

Professor Young was a tireless and active leader during both her professional and retirement years. She served on the Board of Directors of the Madison Gas and Electric Company from 1973 to 1987. Louise was the first woman in the state to be appointed to a utility corporate board of directors. The consumer movement was at its peak and the company believed that they should have a university faculty member from the consumer field among their directors. She also served as a director and as treasurer of the University of Wisconsin Credit Union.

She held offices in various professional and civic organizations at the local, state and national level including the American and Wisconsin Home Economics Associations (now the American and Wisconsin Associations of Family and Consumer Sciences) where she served as trustee (1975-1980) and president (1979-1980) of the Foundation and State Presidents' Unit. From 1964 to 1966 she was chair,

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vice-chair and secretary of the Family Economics-Home Management Section of the American Home Economics Association. In 1985 she was honored with the Award of Merit from the Home Economics Alumni Association of the University of Illinois. In recognition of her national leadership she was presented the Distinguished Service Award (1991) by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences. In 2003 she received the Mentor Award from the Wisconsin Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Louise was honored as a distinguished fellow of the American Council on Consumer Interests in 1974 after serving as national president. In 1960 she was a charter member of the Wisconsin Consumer League and subsequently secretary, vice-president, and president. She was an active member of Madison Area (MAREA) and Wisconsin Retired Educators Association (WREA), serving as vice-president of MAREA from 1983-1992.

Family and consumer sciences honoraries such as Phi Upsilon Omicron and Omicron Nu benefited from her leadership. She received the Phi Upsilon Omicron Florence Fallgatter Distinguished Service Award (1984). Her professional involvement included Zonta Club of Madison (International Women's Service Organization), membership in AAUW and Epsilon Sigma Phi, national extension honorary. In 1978 she was honored with the Madison Downtown Rotary Senior Citizen Recognition Award.

For many years Louise was an active member and elder at Christ Presbyterian Church, serving as an elder from 1977 to 1983 and heading the Gifts and Memorials Committee. Louise is survived by one niece and five nephews and was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and two sisters. Interment was in the Lawrenceville, Illinois City Cemetery.

She was a mentor to many of us in the extension family. Her expertise, ability to communicate with scholars, practitioners, students and families made others aspire to her professionalism. She had an understanding of and empathy for consumers and their problems, especially those related to money and various lifestyles.

Louise will be greatly missed by all who knew her and treasured her friendship and loyalty. We admired her leadership and courage, her dedication to our profession, and her support of others. Young professionals especially benefited from her wisdom and strength of character. We are privileged to have had her in our University of Wisconsin community.

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