

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBERT W. HAMMEL

Robert Warren Hammel, emeritus professor of pharmacy administration at the School of Pharmacy, died at his home in Madison on December 18, 2004 at the age of 79. He was born on May 7, 1925 and raised in Prairie du Chien. His life-long work ethic and discipline were learned there during his humble beginnings while he was raised by his mother and working on his grandparent's truck farm. The local pharmacist noted the energetic and 'all business' young man, gave him a job, and, after high school graduation, got him interested in going to Madison to study pharmacy.

Bob's B.S. in Pharmacy at UW-Madison was interrupted during World War II when he enlisted and earned his commission in the Navy. He returned to finish his senior year with the G.I. Bill helping to finance his education. Bob was a letter winner on the UW Boxing team, continuing the sport he learned in high school with his pharmacist employer and mentor as coach. After graduating with his pharmacy degree in 1948, he worked in several jobs as a pharmacist in community pharmacies, interspersed with a second tour of active duty when he was recalled by the Navy during the Korean conflict.

He returned to the UW and completed an M.B.A. with emphasis in marketing in 1956 and continued toward his Ph.D. in pharmacy with specialization in pharmacy administration. In 1958 he accepted a faculty position at the UW School of Pharmacy and finished his Ph.D. in 1959. He remained on the faculty for 32 years until his retirement in 1990.

'Doc' Hammel was one of the faculty pioneers in the academic discipline and graduate programs in pharmacy administration. Under his direction, a graduate program was approved at UW in 1960 and candidates entering the program thereafter earned M.S. or Ph.D. degrees in pharmacy administration. Dr. Hammel supervised 30 masters and 14 doctoral students. Bob was a major figure in shaping the discipline of pharmacy administration through his mentoring of graduate students, and through his involvement and leadership in professional, academic, and scientific associations, particularly early in his faculty career but also throughout his career.

Professor Hammel's passion was pharmacy law and regulation. When offered the vacant faculty position at the School of Pharmacy in 1958, he agreed with one proviso; he wanted to work on a law degree after he was established in his faculty position. His ambition for a law degree never was satisfied, because he never had time to take classes. But, through his independent efforts and voracious reading of trade press and literature, he was an unimpeachable expert in pharmacy laws and regulation. He shared his expertise in legislative public hearings, was expert advisor on legal, legislative, or interpretive matters for the Pharmacy Examining Board, and routinely provided advice for practicing pharmacists about conforming with state or federal laws.

For his graduate students, he was an enthusiastic mentor and it was a challenge to keep up with him. He worked hard and he expected all of his graduate students to do the same. One former student noted it was common for him to be in the office seven days a week with hours that ended much after midnight. A large proportion of the long hours were spent in one-on-one sessions with his large group of struggling graduate students; he indeed was an accessible and accommodating advisor. The success of his many graduate students derives from the cues they took from their mentor; his direction, standards, and intellectual curiosity set the tone.

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Although Bob generally was quiet and modest, he received numerous recognitions for his achievements and contributions. In 1978, he was the first recipient of the American Pharmaceutical Association Research Achievement Award in Economics and Administrative Sciences. He received the Reed Peterson Award for Faculty Excellence in Pharmacy Administration from the National Association of Retail Druggists in 1987, and a Distinguished Service Award from the Wisconsin Pharmacists Association in 1988. In 1990, Bob was awarded a Citation of Merit from the UW School of Pharmacy. In 2001, David Sanders, a successful businessman, dear friend, and graduate student contemporary of Bob Hammel, established an endowed faculty chair in Bob's name to honor him in perpetuity.

Bob's naval vernacular and unusual expressions, rugged outdoors spirit (an avid hunter and fisher), office filing system with books and papers taking up nearly every horizontal surface and organization by yellowing from age, and always available strong instant coffee, combined with his perpetual military crew cut, snappy bow tie, and smoking pipe in hand gave him a definite style of his own.

Bob Hammel was a seminal figure in the discipline of pharmacy administration. His leadership and dedication to research and graduate education established UW as a central force in advancing the developing academic area and creating a legacy of graduate trained individuals and direction for the discipline. We strive to continue his heritage.

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