

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS CLAUDE E. LEROY (1919-2005)**

Claude E. Leroy passed away at age 85, on Friday, March 4, 2005, at his home in Madison, Wisconsin. Professor Leroy was born on November 24, 1919, in Lake Mills, Wisconsin, and graduated from Lake Mills High School in 1937. In 1941, he graduated from the UW-Madison with a bachelor's degree in French and in 1946 completed the master's program in Spanish. During World War II, Claude Leroy worked for the United States' Office of Censorship, monitoring foreign broadcasts; he then returned to the UW-Madison as an instructor of Portuguese from 1943 to 1947, a position he would hold again in 1950 to 1951 and 1960 to 1963. He would be granted the rank of assistant professor in 1964 and then promoted to the rank of associate professor of Portuguese in 1968, in which capacity he served in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese until his retirement from the UW-Madison in 1983.

During his years at the UW-Madison, Claude was an important force shaping the Portuguese program. He was director of the Luso-Brazilian Section of the National Defense Education Act's Latin American Language and Area Center at the UW-Madison (the first such center in Portuguese established in this country). He was also a member of the Faculty Committee on Student Academic Affairs, as well as serving on various departmental committees throughout his career. Professor Leroy was also invited to serve on extra-university boards, such as advisory committees for the development of Portuguese studies and teaching materials in the United States. He co-edited, with Professor Lloyd A. Kasten, Erico Verissimos' *Gato Preto em Campo de Neve*, published by Holt & Co. for classroom use in 1946; and his *Português para principiantes* (2 volumes; first published in 1964) became a highly acclaimed beginning Portuguese textbook, which is still used today at Madison, as well as at other institutions, in its latest edition revised and co-authored by Professor Severino João Albuquerque and Mary H. Schil.

In between his years at the UW-Madison, Professor Leroy taught Spanish at UW-Green Bay from 1947 until 1948 and was then director of the Instituto Cultural Brasileiro-Norte Americano (the inter-cultural center sponsored by United States' Information Agency [USIA]) in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from 1948 to 1950. He crossed the Atlantic in 1954 to take up a position as interpreter for the Brown-Raymond-Walsh Construction Company in Madrid, Spain, from 1954 to 1958. He then traveled back to South America to become the director of cultural and language courses at the USIA inter-cultural centers in both Venezuela and Brazil from 1958 to 1960.

Professor Leroy's love of travel and people not only determined his career and life, as he took up positions in many countries over the years, but continued as he traveled to Europe, Africa, Australia and New Zealand during retirement. Claude made friends easily and kept up his correspondence across the globe; his address book resembled more an international register than a mere listing of names and addresses.

Professor Leroy was a long-time advocate for the protection of animals and the environment. He contributed to and worked for those causes throughout his life and was a generous sponsor and member of many organizations, local and international: he was an active member of the Dane County Humane Society, the Audubon Society of Madison, and the Madison Area Cagebird Association of Wisconsin (M.A.C.A.W.), among others. He himself was a true bird-lover, owning and raising parrots and cockatoos for decades.

Professor Leroy is survived by his feathered family: Huey, Bandit, Bucky, Brewster and Peanut; and his sister, Carol Curtis of Indiana; eight nieces and nephews: Bruce (Ginger) Bade of Alexandria, Virginia; Rick (Bonnie) Bade of Irmo, South Carolina; Barbara (Mike) Ingram of Lake Mills, Wisconsin;

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Charles (Cynthia) Bade of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Mary Bade of Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Joan Minguey of Las Vegas, Nevada; Arthur Minguey of Florida; and Mark (Shannon) Minguey of Las Vegas, Nevada; and seven grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Claude was a beloved teacher and remembered by many for his lively classroom style, which made learning Portuguese a pleasure under his instruction. He was also a valued colleague, who will be remembered for his wit, endless capacity for punning, generous nature, and gentle spirit. He will be deeply missed by all who had the great fortune to cross his path.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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