

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS MAURICE GRAS

Maurice Gras, emeritus professor of French literature, died peacefully on November 29, 2003, in Stoughton. He was born on February 11, 1928, in Draguignan, France. He studied law at the University of Aix-en-Provence, worked in Paris and served in the French army in 1952-53. He became a teaching assistant at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1954, and essentially spent the rest of his career at this university, retiring as a full professor in 1991. His specialty was French Renaissance literature, especially the theater; he published a major study of the 16th-century dramatist Robert Garnier in 1965. This book was followed in 1971 by a co-authored anthology of French literature and thought. Maurice Gras's skills were most evident in his teaching on the undergraduate level, where he was a popular lecturer in French civilization and thought. He served as chair of the Department of French and Italian in 1976-79, and director of the Junior Year Abroad in Aix-en-Provence in 1974-75 and 1988-89. In 1987 he received a Certificate of Recognition from the Wisconsin chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF). He devoted much time to the French House and the various activities surrounding the French major.

When he retired, then Chancellor Donna Shalala wrote: "Altogether, your scholarly expertise, your talents as an inspiring teacher, your perennial enthusiasm, your "no fuss" administrative style, your generosity, your attentiveness to others and your selfless dedication have been an inspiration to your students and colleagues alike... We know that, like your friend Voltaire, you will continue to *cultiver votre jardin*, literally and metaphorically." Indeed: Maurice Gras was a long-time resident of Cooksville, where he and his life partner, Hank Bova, restored a beautiful 19th-century house, cultivated an extensive garden, and contributed to the architectural revival of southern Dane county.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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