

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

ON THE DEATH OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS JULIAN M. SUND

Julian M. Sund, emeritus associate professor of agronomy, died in Madison on August 16, 2004 at the age of 94. Professor Sund was widely recognized and respected as a researcher and teacher of Wisconsin and midwest pasture and forage crops. He was an innovative teacher of basic agronomic and forage crop principles for the Department of Agronomy and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Farm Short Course curriculums. He was one of the first individuals at the university to introduce auto-tutorial techniques as a teaching aid in laboratory exercises.

Julian Sund was born on May 28, 1910 on the family farm near Westby, Wisconsin. After graduating from high school, he spent a short time at Luther College in Iowa before accepting a position with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service at Coon Valley. Sund worked for the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) camp in the valley to establish conservation projects applied to farms. During the winter months, he perfected his skills of persuasion and education through visiting farmers and convincing them to sign their farm for a conservation plan, skills that would later be valuable in teaching students of agronomy. This conservation plan developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture established the pattern of land use now prevalent throughout the midwest.

Sund enrolled in the University of Wisconsin, College of Agriculture in 1938. He received his B.S. degree in 1942 and his masters degree in 1943. He was invited to join the faculty and subsequently became an associate professor in the Department of Agronomy. Sund was a member of numerous professional and academic societies including the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Gamma Sigma Delta, Delta Theta Sigma, and Phi Sigma. He retired in 1976 after 33 years of service to the University of Wisconsin and was granted emeritus status.

Sund's research contributions to grassland farming were in the areas of pasture renovation, comparison of permanent with rotational pastures on cropland, grazing management studies, nitrogen accumulation in plants, nitrogen dioxide production in silos, and extensive studies of rates and depths of seeding when establishing forages. Results of this research had a major impact on the dairy industry in Wisconsin especially in the establishment of new stands of forage and in elucidating the health dangers to man and animal of nitrous dioxide in silos. These results were published in both scientific and popular journals and used extensively by university extension personnel. Sund received the "Merit Certificate Award" from the American Forage and Grassland Council in recognition of these outstanding research accomplishments.

Sund was responsible for teaching the introductory agronomy course and the forage crops course in the college Farm Short Course program. Later in his tenure Sund also was active in teaching off-campus sections of the short course. During his tenure he taught approximately 5100 students in these courses. In 1967 he was one of the first at the university to introduce innovative audio-tutorial techniques into laboratory periods associated with these courses. This was a self-taught procedure to give students hands on experience and provide flexibility into the students' schedules such that the student did not have to conform to a rigid time frame. This laboratory teaching procedure was enthusiastically accepted by the students. He was recognized for this outstanding achievement by being awarded the Agriculture Award by the Farm Short Course Alumni Association. He was an excellent student advisor and advisor for the undergraduate Agronomy Crops and Soils Club.

The morning coffee break was important for Julian. It often occurred at the former Rennebohm Drug Store at the corner of Randall and University Avenue. He explained this as a need stemming from his Norwegian ancestry.

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Professor Sund is survived by his wife Dorothy Grinde Sund, whom he married in 1948; children, Karen (John) Currie, David (Laurie), Richard (Gail), Barbara (Mitch) Despen, and Thomas: grandchild; Adam Despen; brothers, Kenneth and Merlin; sister, Eleanor (Merlin) Norskog.

We have lost a true friend, scientist, and gentleman, but his life serves as a professional and humanitarian example for all of us.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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