

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS LEROY ASERLIND

Leroy Aserlind, emeritus professor of special education, died at his island home in Livingston, Montana on January 9, 2006, surrounded by Margot, his wife of 55 years, a daughter and three sons.

Professor Aserlind obtained his Ph.D. from UW-Madison in 1963 and was then appointed assistant professor in the Department of Behavioral Disabilities (known today as the Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Special Education). He was promoted to associate professor in 1968, to full professor in 1972 and served as department chair for five years beginning in 1971. He provided 25 years of meritorious service to the university before retiring in January of 1989.

From 1965-70, Professor Aserlind directed a U.S. Office of Education project that provided one of the first programs for preparing teachers of students with developmental disabilities, and from 1964-1974 he directed a Special Education Instructional Materials Center that served as a model for other states. In the early 1980s, he began teaching an introductory special education course titled "The Exceptional Child" and he co-authored a textbook that was adopted for such courses by many universities across the nation. Professor Aserlind's introductory course was enjoyed by non-special education as well as special education undergraduates and it soon became one of the larger lecture courses on campus. Students often commented that the course had a profound effect on their awareness and understanding of handicapping conditions. Through this course and his leadership in state and national organizations, Professor Aserlind became an influential advocate of persons with disabilities.

Professor Aserlind taught graduate seminars with the same insight and vigor that characterized his undergraduate teaching. He chaired the department's Graduate Studies Committee for several years and led in the development of graduate procedures and regulations. He served on over 100 doctoral committees, many of which he chaired as major advisor. A significant number of his doctoral students now hold faculty or administrative positions in leading national and international universities.

As a scholar, Professor Aserlind was well-published in respected special education journals and he served on the Editorial Advisory Boards of two of those journals. He presented over 100 papers at colleges and professional meetings in the United States and Europe. His service to the university was also extensive. In 1981 he became chair of the Recreational Sports Board. From 1981 to 1986 he was a member of the Campus Planning Committee. Within the School of Education, he chaired the Equity Action Committee, and served on the Information Technology Committee, the Academic Planning Council, the Administrative Council and several school-wide search and screen committees.

Professor Aserlind's passion for teaching was equaled by his passions for skiing, fishing, and travel. He was a certified member of the Professional Ski Instructors of America and he directed the Tyrol Basin Ski School for two decades. His retirement years were filled with skiing, fly fishing, travel, involvement in community projects, and visits with friends, children, and grandchildren. He fished in the river that surrounded his island retirement home. He served on the Montana Governor's Yellowstone Task Force and he and Margot pursued their life-long love of world travel. Their last trip together was completed in September of 2005 when they journeyed the Silk Road, following the ancient trade route from Pakistan to China. Their 2005 Christmas cards to university friends, sent shortly before he passed away in January of 2006, ended with a statement that he and Margot were well and counting their blessings over and over every day.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
William Gardner
Sara G. Tarver, chair