

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS RICHARD H. OSBORNE

Richard Hazelet Osborne, professor emeritus of anthropology and medical genetics, passed away on October 30, 2005, in Port Angeles, Washington. He was 85. Born in 1920 in Kennicott, Alaska, and schooled in Fairbanks, Osborne entered the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in 1939. In 1941 he joined the U.S. Army Air Force as a navigator, and served throughout World War II in the Pacific theatre of operations. Following the war, he resumed his undergraduate studies at the University of Washington, taking the B.S. in zoology and the B.A. in anthropology in 1949. After a brief stint of graduate study at Harvard University in 1950, Osborne transferred to Columbia University to pursue an interdisciplinary Ph.D. degree under Thaddeus Dobzhansky in genetics, anthropology and health sciences from 1950-56.

Osborne was a pioneer in the interdisciplinary study of genetics, anatomy, and population biology to answer questions about human medicine and evolution. He became a professor of genetics and preventive medicine at Albert Einstein Medical College at Cornell University in 1957. His work subsequently included research at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York between 1958 and 1964, and a professorship in both anthropology and medical genetics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1964 until his retirement in 1985. Osborne authored several books and dozens of papers on genetics, including genetic-environment interactions in human diseases, dental genetics, anthropology, and polar research. He was also editor of the *Journal of Social Biology* for 36 years, which he steered away from its origins in the controversial field of eugenics.

Osborne is survived by his first wife, Barbara White Osborne; their children Susan, Richard, and David; and their three grandchildren, John, Paul, and Megan. He is also survived by his second wife, Barbara Teachman Osborne; their daughters Lisa and Michele; and their granddaughter Hailey.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Kenneth George
Sissel Schroeder