

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

ON THE DEATH OF DEAN AND PROFESSOR EMERITUS JAMES C. HICKMAN

James (Jim) Charles Hickman passed away on September 10, 2006 following a bout with cancer.

Jim Hickman was born on August 27, 1927 in Indianola, a rural town in Iowa. Because he was too young to serve in the military during World War II, during the summers of 1944 and 1945 he worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho as a lookout and smoke chaser. Hickman had a great love for the outdoors and would return to this position during his college summers. After graduating from high school in 1945, he spent 16 months in the U.S. Air Force. Part of this assignment was spent as a historical writer in post World War II Tokyo. It is here that we see the first evidence of Hickman's love of history. Following his stint with the Air Force, Hickman attended Simpson College in Iowa, where he received a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1950.

His life as an actuary began at the University of Iowa, where Hickman spent 1950-1952 earning a master's degree in mathematics with an actuarial science emphasis. He was then employed for five years at Banker's Life (now Principal Financial) in Des Moines, Iowa, working as a life actuary. He became a fellow of the Society of Actuaries in 1958 and an associate in the Casualty Actuarial Society in 1959. Hickman returned to graduate school at the University of Iowa in 1957 and received his Ph.D. in 1961. He joined the Department of Statistics faculty at Iowa after graduation.

Hickman joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1972 and retired in 1993. He served as dean of the School of Business from 1985-1990 when he helped engineer some far-reaching changes that are still being felt today. Hickman excelled in teaching, administration and in serving the profession and the public.

Hickman was a superb classroom teacher and was recognized for his teaching, research and service efforts through the 1985 Gaumnitz Distinguished Faculty Award given by the School of Business. Teaching is concerned with knowledge dissemination, and Hickman viewed his role as an educator in a much broader context than most university faculty. An examination of his resume shows over one hundred published discussions, reviews, research reports, and essays published by Hickman. This amazing record spanning forty-eight years of activity demonstrates that Hickman believed in the synergy between knowledge creation and knowledge dissemination. Hickman's discussions of other scientists' research served to deepen the profession's understanding of new ideas as well as foster broader acceptance. Hickman was an academic who believed in teaching practicing actuaries and other academics through his ability to see connections among related fields of inquiry. For those who attended academic conferences with Hickman, many recall that he was frequently called upon to give a synopsis of the conference contributions that often spanned many fields. Hickman was an actuary who could see the "Big Picture."

Given his ability to communicate and to see the big picture, it is not surprising that Hickman was asked to take on a major leadership role at the institution he had been serving for many years. Hickman proved to be an adept administrator and was not afraid to try new ideas. As dean, Hickman developed a public and private partnership between the State of Wisconsin, alumni of the School of Business, and corporations to provide funding for a new building for the School of Business. A pioneer in public-private partnership, his innovative approach to development as dean of the School of Business is now the model that nearly all of the construction on campus has followed since 1985. The University of Wisconsin has benefitted greatly from Hickman's ability to see the big picture.

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The actuarial profession has benefitted not only from Hickman's scientific contributions and teaching efforts but also his work on the professional infrastructure. Hickman received the American Academy of Actuaries' 1997 Farley Award and the Society of Actuaries' 2000 John O'Conner Award. These awards honor actuaries who have made exceptional contributions to the profession as volunteers.

Hickman believed deeply in the importance of service to the public. In 2004, he wrote the following about past-president of the Society of Actuaries, Ernest J. (Jack) Morehead: "For me, the enduring message from his life is that an individual and a profession are measured by their service to the public. Jack was a giant according to this yardstick and, also, many others." Hickman was also a giant according to this yardstick. He was one of the founding trustees of the Actuarial Foundation, a non-profit organization that serves the public by harnessing the talents of actuaries. Hickman played a critical role as a board member of the American Players' Theatre, helping to rescue this Wisconsin-based outdoor Shakespearean theatre group from bankruptcy in the 1990's. As a board member of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Wisconsin, he spearheaded the concept of providing state universities with \$250 million dollars for medical care research when the organization went private in the early 2000's. These are just a few examples of his many service activities.

Hickman had a deep interest in history that manifested itself not only in his personal but also his professional life. As part of the 50th anniversary of the Society of Actuaries, Hickman wrote a series of historical essays with Linda Heacox that described highlights of the evolution of actuarial science in North America. In the same vein, Hickman (1999) wrote an article entitled "Actuaries who have made a difference." Here, he chronicled the lives of three actuaries: Richard Price (1723-1791), Elizur Wright (1804-1885) and M. Albert Linton (1887-1966). Of them, he wrote that we will "look backward at actuaries who have made a difference. This remarkable group did more than contribute actuarial ideas or successfully manage an insurance enterprise. They were active participants in the movements of their time. They were noticed. They may not have changed the direction of history, but things haven't been the same since their times." James C. Hickman (1927-2006) belongs in this group; he was a remarkable actuary who made a difference.

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