

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA F. MARY FEE**

Frances Mary Fee, professor emerita, died on January 26, 2008 in Stuart, Florida. Born in Fort Pierce, Florida in 1910, she received her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and a Master of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin Dance Program in 1953. She served on the faculty of the Dance Program from 1953 to her retirement in 1977.

Although exposed to dance as an undergraduate physical education major, Mary Fee had varied careers before starting graduate study at the UW. After teaching one year at Granada College in Mississippi, she went to New York and earned a certificate in Dalcroze eurhythmics. Returning to Fort Pierce, Florida, she taught high school physical education and tap dance in her own studio. Coming out of the depression she worked in the Florida State Circuit Court as a court reporter. From 1939 to 1945 she served in the WAVES (Navy Women's Reserve), becoming a Lieutenant Junior Grade.

Her graduate work introduced her to the creative teaching methods and philosophy of Margaret H'Doubler, the UW's pioneer dance educator, who was her mentor and inspiration. Because of her music and eurhythmics background she was especially intrigued by H'Doubler's emphasis on rhythmic movement and an understanding of the kinesthetic sense as key components in learning and developing skill in dance. After H'Doubler's retirement in 1954, Mary Fee taught and expanded the rhythm coursework in the undergraduate and graduate dance curricula and developed sophisticated progressions for training dancers in the creative use of time and rhythm. She published several articles on her bio-feedback theory of rhythmic ability. She also developed a notation system to illustrate her analytical approach to learning movement. In her system, simple symbols represented bodily sources of kinesthetic information to aid in developing rhythmic skills. Although written some years ago, her last article, "A Theory of Rhythmic Ability as Inspired by the Writings and Sayings of Margaret H'Doubler" was recently published in *Margaret H'Doubler: The Legacy of America's Dance Education Pioneer* (Cambria Press, 2006).

Mary Fee was involved with dance on many levels. She was active in the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (AAHPER) at the national, district and state levels and conducted lecture-demonstrations in dance and movement at organization conferences. She was elected chairman of the Midwest Dance Section of AAHPER for 1958-60, of the National Dance Sections for 1961-64, and served on the Committee Revising the General Division of AAHPER from 1964 to 1966. She was also an active member of the Committee on Research in Dance (CORD). In 1976 she received the Honor Award from the Wisconsin Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation for her contributions to the advancement to the profession. A member of the Wisconsin Dance Council in its founding days, she received its Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997. From 1954 to 1962, Mary Fee served with Louise Kloepper as co-chair of the Dance Program, from 1954 to 1975 she directed the UW-Madison dance graduate program, and from 1975 to 1977 she was chair of the UW Dance Program.

Professor Fee continued and further refined the pioneering work of Professor Margaret H'Doubler, who established dance as an academic discipline, through her further development of dance movement theory and the conceptual framework that was the basis for teaching creative dance in education. She was greatly respected as a colleague, teacher, graduate advisor and friend.

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