

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA JANE N. GRAFF

Professor Emerita Jane N. Graff died Thursday, August 7, 2008 at the age of 81. She served the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 32 years as professor in the Department of Related Art within the School of Home Economics and Department of Family Living as an extension specialist in housing, providing program support to county extension faculty. Upon her retirement she was awarded professor emerita in the Department of Environment, Textiles and Design, School of Family Resources and Consumer Science, currently the School of Human Ecology. She is survived by her good friends and adopted family, John and Linda Merrill.

Jane's parents' professional interests became the foundation for her own. At Iowa State University her mother Irma Camp taught apparel and interior design, and her father was district supervisor at the Iowa Agricultural Extension Service. After Jane's graduation in applied art from Iowa State, Jane worked for several years in the interior design bureau of the Armstrong Cork Company in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In 1956 she completed a master's degree in art at the University of California, Los Angeles followed by a position of instructor and extension specialist in home furnishings at Michigan State University.

In 1959 Jane became a faculty member at University of Wisconsin. Professor Graff's specialization was focused on the design of the home environment as it impacted the Wisconsin family. She employed newsletters, radio, television and other media in efforts to reach a variety of audiences throughout the state. She published extension publications such as "Adapting Your Home: Meeting Your Needs in Later Years" and "Controlling Home Noise," some with her long-time colleague Professor John Merrill and some still in print. In the 1970s she developed resources on historic quilts, designed textiles and taught textile design and printing at workshops for 4-H leaders. Her interest in textiles was instilled through her mother's long friendship with New York textile designer Mariska Karasz.

Professor Graff's interest in textiles was reignited with the discovery of several Karasz textiles in the Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection in the School of Human Ecology and friendship with the first curator of the collection, Ruth Ketterer Harris. Jane's involvement in the collection continued for many years, including her appointment to the advisory committee for the collection. In this capacity she served as an active volunteer and a loyal donor of time, expertise and financial resources. Her deep commitment to the collection culminated with the endowment of a research assistantship for the collection.

Professor Graff was active for decades in many other organizations including the Wisconsin State Historical Society Library, leadership in state and local genealogical societies, Wisconsin Public Television, and playing the recorder in the UW Early Music Festival, which reflected her early love of the piano and cello. Jane was a longtime member of Grace Episcopal Church where she served in many capacities including the Grace Altar Guild and member of the Grace Rectors Guild. There her knowledge of historical and liturgical textiles proved to be invaluable.

After retirement she added travel throughout Europe, including biking with friends. Jane was a woman who preferred few words and generous actions. Many will miss her helping hands. Her generous contribution to the university will continue long into the future, as graduate students are provided the opportunity to explore the world of textiles so important throughout Jane's life.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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