

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

**ON THE DEATH OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITA MERYL MILES**

Meryl Miles, a devoted and caring teacher of human anatomy, made that subject come alive for physical and occupational therapy students at UW-Madison for thirty-three years.

Meryl was born on June 28, 1911, in Jackson, Michigan. She received her bachelor's degree in physical education and certificate in physical therapy in 1932 from the University of Wisconsin. She received her master's degree in anatomy from Washington University in St. Louis in 1944, where she studied the pathogenesis of scoliosis.

Before beginning her teaching career, Meryl worked as a physical therapist from 1932 to 1943 – for two years at Wisconsin General Hospital, four years at the Convalescent Home of Children's Hospital of Michigan, and five years at the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in St. Louis, Missouri.

Meryl returned to the University of Wisconsin in 1944 as an instructor in the Department of Anatomy and assumed full responsibility for the teaching of gross human anatomy to the physical and occupational therapy students. She was appointed an assistant professor in 1946 and was promoted to associate professor in 1954. She continued her teaching until retirement in 1976.

Meryl was the students' favorite professor in their professional physical and occupational therapy programs, and most students regarded her as the embodiment of their professional training programs. Thin and muscular, she was the students' favorite reference when they were studying surface anatomy. It was not unusual to find her on the floor or standing on a table in the laboratory demonstrating various muscle groups, and using her students in the same manner when one or another had a prominent muscle group or significant anatomical feature. When not in the student laboratory or lecturing, Meryl devoted herself to preparing detailed dissections of body parts such as hands, feet and pelvis for the students to examine. She prepared and continuously revised a set of course notes on the musculoskeletal system that students used as a basic reference for years into their professional practices. Those notes still serve as the basis of the current course materials. Former students have shared that Meryl was so anxious to have them all succeed that they would devote extra hours to studying so that they "would not disappoint Miss Miles."

In addition to her studies of scoliosis, Meryl continued her research interests at UW-Madison through collaboration with several colleagues in the anatomy department in human studies of electromyographic recordings during normal voluntary movement. Meryl's detailed knowledge of the structure and function of the human musculoskeletal system played a key role in the successful completion of those studies.

Following her retirement in 1976, Meryl Miles again became an undergraduate student and audited many courses that interested her here on her home campus. For several years she focused on the Russian language and other courses on Russia, a country that had always fascinated her. She culminated those studies with a tour of Russia and then continued to sit in on other courses of interest when she returned. Meryl was a strong supporter of the American Players Theater in Spring Green and was a member of the Bascom Hill Society.

Meryl Miles died in Madison at Meriter Heights on April 12, 2005, in her 93rd year. She is survived by two nieces, Mary (Mrs. Phillip) Gleb of Vashon Island, Washington, and Ruth (Mrs. Kenneth) Babich of Marlette, Michigan.

Now reaching retirement age themselves, physical and occupational therapists who had Meryl Miles as a professor near the end of her career still recall her professional demeanor and her care and concern for her students, while making sure that they learned their anatomy. For her entire teaching career, more than 3,000 professionals in rehabilitation experienced that care and concern. She has a special place in their hearts.

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