

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA MARGARET WARD ORSINI

Dr. Margaret Ward Orsini, professor emerita of anatomy, died on December 13, 2004. Margaret was born in LeRoy, New York, on March 18, 1916. She was educated at Mt. Holyoke College and graduated with a BA with honors in zoology in 1937. She earned a PhD in histology and embryology in 1946 from Cornell University. From 1946 to 1949 Margaret was an instructor at Duke University. Margaret joined the University of Wisconsin Department of Anatomy in 1949 where she initially held a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She subsequently held positions in the Department of Anatomy as a research associate and project associate. Margaret was appointed to the rank of assistant professor in 1969, promoted to associate professor in 1971, and promoted to professor in 1973. She retired in 1987.

During her 38 years at the University of Wisconsin, Margaret consistently made important contributions to the understanding of female reproductive anatomy and physiology, and she amassed a very substantial bibliography of over 40 peer-reviewed publications. Her research was supported by the NIH or the National Science Foundation throughout her career.

Margaret was honored by several invitations to give lectures on her research. She participated in numerous professional societies. Margaret was a charter member and director (from 1972-1974) of the Society for the Study of Reproduction. She was a charter member of the International Society for Research in Reproduction and also a fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Science.

Margaret was a founding member of the Madison Branch Animal Care Panel and helped organize a course entitled "Basic Course for Animal Caretakers," in which she also taught. She was educational representative on the Wisconsin Branch of Animal Care Panel (formerly Madison Branch) for several years.

In 1949 Margaret married Count Gian Napoleone Giordano Orsini, a professor of comparative literature at the University of Wisconsin. Margaret was predeceased by her beloved husband, Gian, who passed away in 1976. She was proud of her Yankee and Scottish heritage and of becoming, through her marriage, an Italian countess. She enjoyed her pet cats, her motorcycle, and travel with her husband and later with friends. She was a member of the Altrusa and the Madison Literary Club.

Margaret died on December 13, 2004, at 88 years of age at Harbor House in DeForest, Wisconsin. She is survived by her cousin, An Boyer of Madison, several nephews and nieces, including Kathleen Haygood, Jean McNary, and Diane Coons. In Margaret's later years, as Alzheimer's disease took its toll, Tina Gomoll of Midwest Home Care provided devoted support and assistance.

Margaret made many important contributions to our understanding of the female reproductive function. She was a wonderful person and colleague and had a great heart. She is missed.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
John Harting, chair
Linda McDonald