

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS HERBERT M. HOWE

Herbert M. Howe, professor emeritus and former chair of both classics and integrated liberal studies (ILS), passed away on Tuesday, June 29, 2010, in Fort Atkinson. He was 98. His spouse and colleague in ILS, Evelyn Mitchell (Eve) Howe, passed away two days later, at age 94. The Howes had met at St. Francis House 70 years ago.

The son of Wallis and Mary Locke Howe, Herb was born in Bristol, Rhode Island, on March 21, 1912. He received his AB from Harvard in 1934 and his MA in 1941 and PhD in 1948 from UW-Madison. In 1941, he married Evelyn Grace Mitchell. He taught at Brooks School, North Andover, Massachusetts, from 1934 to 1940 and at Pomfret School, Pomfret, Connecticut, from 1942-48.

A skilled storyteller, students flocked to his courses on Greek and Latin medical terminology, ancient religion and the early church, and classical mythology. He chaired both the classics department and the integrated liberal studies program. In the 1950s, he and his wife Eve served as mentors and surrogate parents to students in a Ford Foundation program allowing gifted high school sophomores to enter the university early. These students later established an endowed professorship in ILS in the Howes' names. During his 34 years on the UW-Madison faculty from 1948 to 1982, he taught about 26,000 students – more, he believed, than any other faculty member in the history of UW-Madison. Throughout his career he was noted for his wit and popularity as a professor. Many former students remained close to him until his death.

In 1952, the UW Press published his *Classics in Translation*, a two-volume set of Greek and Roman literature written with colleague Paul McKendrick for an ILS course on Greek and Roman culture. Together, the two volumes became the press' all-time, top-selling title; the paperback edition remains in print today. He also provided the translations for colleague Barry Powell's book, *Classical Myth*, also a top textbook in its field. He continued translating into his 90s, and at 94 was co-author of an article by Henry Schutta on the anatomist Johannes Wepfer. To improve his teaching of medical terminology, he studied anatomy, and later gave his body to the UW Medical School. He donated 15 gallons of blood and often included in exams the question: "Have you given blood? If not, why not?"

In 2000, Herb was named Badger State Athlete of the year. He was an internationally ranked Masters swimmer who held numerous national and international records for his age group and swam competitively until he was 88. He calculated that in his life he had swum over 25,000 miles, further than the distance around the earth.

Herb and Eve lived a "green lifestyle" long before the invention of the term and bicycled or walked everywhere from their near West-side home. Deeply committed Episcopalians, they met and remained active at St. Francis House in Madison.

Herb is survived by three children, Evelyn (Charles) Payson, Herbert M. Howe Jr. and Emily (Richard) Wilson; five grandchildren, Lavinia (David) Klein, William Payson (Melissa Luck), John (Lisa) Payson, Abigail Wilson and Christopher Wilson; and seven great-grandchildren, Brandon, Rebecca and Ethan Klein, and Nathan, Ben, Callie and Charlie Payson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and two sisters.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
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