

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

**ON THE DEATH OF DEAN AND PROFESSOR EMERITUS GLENN S. POUND**

Glenn Simpson Pound, professor emeritus of plant pathology, dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and acting chancellor of the university (1977) died on July 6, 2010 at his home in La Jolla, California at the age of 96. He leaves a legacy as a transformational leader of one of the nation's ranking agricultural colleges.

Born in 1914 in Hector, Arkansas, the son of a country schoolteacher, Pound received schooling that fostered a love of language, history and science. He married at 18 to Daisy Cole, and the couple's 71 years together were dedicated to the well-being of others. Throughout Glenn's career, Daisy provided essential support and gracious hospitality. Together they were a powerful team. With the savings from years of successful sharecrop farming of cotton, spinach and onions in south Texas, the young couple pursued their college educations at the University of Arkansas, followed by Glenn's PhD in 1943 in plant pathology at the UW-Madison with J.C. Walker.

Pound's contributions to the WWII effort are legendary. When the source of Dutch and Danish seed for cabbage, an essential component of the Russian diet, was cut off by the German occupation, seed for embattled Russia and Ukraine was produced in the Puget Sound region of Washington State and airlifted 'through the back door' via Alaska. However, the Washington cabbage crops were failing due to an unknown disease in 1942. In his first assignment in 1943 with the USDA in Mount Vernon, Pound helped restore an ailing cabbage seed production industry by eliminating the debilitating cabbage viruses. Among his many contributions to plant pathology, this is the one that he cherished most.

In 1946, Pound returned to plant pathology at Wisconsin, and it was not long before his attributes of leadership were recognized. In 1954, he was elected as departmental chair, where he became known for his vision, astute judgment, decisiveness, and administrative efficiency. In his office he operated from a large table whose top was always clear but for a jar of sharpened yellow pencils, a single yellow pad and a telephone. As an interview or phone call concluded, the pencil and writing pad came out, and within minutes the response was written and given to the typist. He never took work home. He was also a lucid orator. His reports and speeches were meticulously researched and crafted, beginning with relevant historical context, building to the salient points, and ending by a proffered opinion or perspective of the issues. His narrative was direct and frequently punctuated with the colorful vernacular that revealed his rural southern roots.

Glenn Pound's personal narrative can be found in *With One Foot in the Furrow: The Second Generation, 1940-1964*.

Professionally, Pound served as secretary for the American Phytopathological Society from 1953 to 1956, chaired the 50th anniversary celebrations of APS, served as president of APS in 1959 and was elected fellow in 1965. His interest in international agriculture emerged from consultations he conducted for the Rockefeller Foundation in 1960 and from his role in the establishment of the University of Ife in western Nigeria.

As dean, Glenn Pound led the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences through a transformative period of growth from 1964 to 1979. Early in his tenure, Pound changed the name of the college from Agriculture to Agricultural and Life Sciences in recognition that the growing life sciences supported much of the college's accomplishment in agricultural disciplines. The 'Pound years' are chronicled by John W. Jenkins in

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chapter 6 of his 'A Centennial History' *A history of the agricultural and life sciences at the university of Wisconsin-Madison*. Among new buildings on the agricultural portion of campus during Pound's tenure were Russell Laboratories, Steenbock Library, the Meat and Muscle Biology Laboratory and the Animal Sciences Building — the latter funded by a tax on oleomargarine through a political deal that Pound helped negotiate. Undergraduate enrollments more than tripled during his administration, with most of the growth coming from urban areas. The percentage of women students in the college rose from eight percent to 40 percent during the same period. At the request of the secretary of agriculture, Pound headed a committee to evaluate the quality of science and agricultural research in general in the USDA. The landmark 'Pound Report' of 1972 documents 20 recommendations and was nationally acclaimed for its candor, rigor and insight. One such recommendation led to the formation of a competitive grants program within the USDA. The report's impact is still considered formative in directing agriculture and research today. During Pound's tenure, the college also took on international projects, helping to establish research and educational institutions in Nigeria, Brazil and Indonesia. Many CALS scientists worked in those nations during the 1960s and 1970s, and many students from those countries came to Madison to study.

A defining personal characteristic of Glenn Pound was his enduring sense of institutional loyalty founded on a deeply held belief that to hold a position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison was a great privilege. The idea of entitlement was antithetical to him. He would not accept the notion of faculty members negotiating on behalf of themselves.

Glenn Pound would hold with distinction the position of dean for 15 years. He stands with Harry Russell as one of the great deans of the college. As quoted in an editorial from the *Wisconsin State Journal*: "Pound is recognized as a primary builder of the nation's ranking agricultural college. But above all he was a 'university citizen' who worked to bring the benefits of the university to all the people in the spirit of the Wisconsin Idea."

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