

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITA AGATHA A. NORTON

Professor Emerita Agatha A. Norton died on January 24, 2011 in De Pere, Wisconsin. She was 92. Born on September 4, 1918 in the town of Rockland, Wisconsin to Timothy and Alice (Kane) Norton, she graduated from East De Pere High School and then continued her education at the University of Wisconsin-Stout (then called the Stout Institute).

As a teenager, Professor Norton wanted to study foods and nutrition because she loved high school chemistry and had a friend who was a dietitian. But while at the Stout Institute earning her bachelor of science degree in home economics education, she discovered that she loved teaching. In recognition of her scholarly achievements, she was initiated into the Tau Chapter of the honor society Phi Upsilon Omicron in 1938. She graduated in 1939.

Her teaching career began in the cities of Richland Center, Green Bay, and Brookfield, where she taught home economics for 17 years. Norton's belief that many home economics programs would benefit from more instruction in design prompted her to earn a master of science degree in related art through summer courses from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1948. She turned down several university positions in order to continue teaching adolescents, but finally in 1956 accepted an offer from the related art department (later combined with another program and named the Environment, Textiles, and Design Program, now the Design Studies Program) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she taught courses relating to apparel design, interior design, and textile arts.

As chair of the department from 1965 to 1972, Norton demonstrated her commitment to meeting students' changing needs. Throughout the 1960s and into the 1970s, students were increasingly interested in professional training; recognizing this, Professor Norton developed and introduced options for students in the areas of interior design and apparel design. These options soon became majors in interior design and apparel design.

In collaboration with Professor Hazel Paschall, Professor Norton instituted a dual degree option for apparel design students, which gave them the opportunity to spend a year at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and graduate with a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison and an associate's degree from FIT. This was the first visiting student program at FIT, which was later expanded to include textile design students as well. Other colleges and universities across the country soon followed suit and established their own collaborations with FIT. These partnerships have continued, and currently there are approximately 25 institutions sending over 200 students per year to FIT.

Due in large part to these new majors, enrollment in related art grew dramatically under Professor Norton's tenure. During her many years of teaching, she was well known for her commitment and dedication to her students; encouraging them to learn to draw and to sketch their designs was just one of many ways in which she deepened their understanding of the curriculum and helped them prepare for their future careers. She retired from teaching in 1986.

Out of an interest in ethnic arts and crafts, Professor Norton traveled to numerous regions around the world including East Asia, Northern Europe, the Balkans, the Middle East, Central and South America, Eastern Canada, the Caribbean, and widely within the United States. While traveling, Professor Norton enjoyed painting, sketching and photographing the sites she discovered. Her works have been displayed at the local, state, and national levels. Two exhibitions were particularly meaningful to her: In 1966, one of her

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textiles, a hooked wall hanging entitled *Indian Corn*, was displayed at the North Central Regional Crafts Exhibition in Milwaukee; photographs of it later appeared in the January 1973 issue of the *Journal of Home Economics*. In 1978, the American Home Economics Association published another photograph of her hand-crafted textiles (this one entitled *Reflections*) in its journal. Both pieces were added to the AHEA's permanent collection.

Professor Norton was an active member of the American Home Economics Association for many years; she became a life member in 1958 and often spoke at its meetings and served on its committees. In the early 1970s she contributed a regular column entitled "Art Abstracts" to its journal featuring reviews of recently published books on art and crafting techniques.

Agatha shared many good times with friends and colleagues and was a faithful Badgers season ticket holder. Her most cherished times were those spent with her nieces and nephews. She moved back to the De Pere area in 2003 to be closer to her family.

Agatha is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Donald J. and Norma Norton of De Pere and their children: daughters Monica Norton, Anne (Donald Jr.) Kamps, Colleen (Jeff) Loppnow, Michelle (David) Anderson, and Noreen (Jeff) Borchardt; and sons Kevin Norton, Sean Norton, Michael Norton, and Timothy Norton. She is also survived by many grandnieces and nephews: Paul and Olivia Kamps; Makayla and Caleb Loppnow; James Anderson; Colin, Simon, and Emerson Borchardt; and by a godson, Tom Vanden Berg.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Timothy and Alice Norton; sisters, Florence, Mary, and Catherine (Edward) Driscoll; and three infant brothers, Edward, Edwin and Joseph Norton.

Agatha was a longtime, dedicated member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Madison. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, January 29, 2011 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church with Rev. John H. Harper officiating. The burial was at Mount Olivet Cemetery in De Pere, Wisconsin.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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