

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

**ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS DEAN O. CLIVER**

Professor Emeritus Dean O. Cliver died Monday, May 16, 2011, at his home in Davis, California, after an intense battle with prostate cancer. Dean was born March 2, 1935 in Oak Park, Illinois, and grew up in the nearby Chicago suburb of Berwyn. Dean attended Purdue University where he earned a BS and MS in animal husbandry in 1956 and 1957, respectively. Dean then went to Ohio State University where he earned his PhD in dairy science in 1960. It was there that he met and married his wife, Carolyn, with whom he shared life for the next 50 years.

Following completion of his PhD, Dean took a postdoctoral position at the U.S. Army Biological Laboratories in Fort Detrick, Maryland. Two years later, he joined the Food Research Institute, which was then at the University of Chicago, as a research associate in foodborne viruses. Dean joined the University of Wisconsin as an assistant professor in the Department of Bacteriology when the Food Research Institute moved here in 1966. He was promoted to associate professor in 1967 and professor in 1976. He remained on the UW-Madison faculty until 1995, when he retired to join the faculty at the University of California, Davis. He retired from UC Davis in 2007 but remained active in national and international food safety committees until his death.

Dean was a respected and widely published member of the worldwide scientific community, with his work taking him to countries in Europe, Asia, North and South America. In his work with foodborne diseases, Dean was often called upon for information by members of the media, as he was known for his ability to make science understandable to non-scientists. He was a food science communicator for the Institute of Food Technologists, for which he shared his food safety expertise with the media. He spent much of his career investigating foodborne viruses. This is a subject that has seen renewed attention in recent years as a result of recognition that the majority of foodborne disease cases are caused by known or unknown viral agents. His expertise in foodborne viruses was recognized by his service on national committees (National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods) and international committees (head of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Food Virology) addressing this important public health issue.

Dean had broad interests and was involved in other areas of study during his career. These included a study of wood cutting boards and food safety, which led to surprising findings that garnered considerable attention. He also became involved in the cryptosporidium outbreak in Milwaukee in 1993. He edited and co-edited several textbooks in foodborne diseases that were widely used. During his career, he published more than 80 peer-reviewed articles and contributed many book chapters on foodborne viruses, and he guided the thesis projects of several graduate students. While at UW-Madison, he taught Foodborne Disease Hazards (Bacteriology 350) for many years to campus undergraduates.

Dean provided a unique and refreshing voice to scientific discourse. His professional and personal life was marked by independence of thought and action. Dean cut an interesting and unforgettable figure. His large frame, bearded visage, distinctive booming voice, and unique sense of humor are familiar to all who knew him. His command of the English language and willingness to point out the foibles of the written word were well known to all. His keen sense of humor was not restricted to the usual topics. He published a tongue-in-cheek opinion article in the *Wisconsin State Journal* lamenting the fate of the Belgian Velcro, “darling little creatures” whose skins contained hooks and loops used in the process of mating, that were being slaughtered in large numbers for the convenience of humankind. In a not too surprising outcome, the newspaper received numerous replies. Some did not recognize the tongue-in-cheek nature of the original

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article. Others offered concerns about the impending demise of the free ranging Nauga, used to make Naugahyde, which were being hunted to near extinction, and factory farming of ester squirrels used to create polyester. Dean's business card referred to his academic degrees being earned in "the cow, with area of concentration at the rear." He referred to his research career as leading him "to see the world as if peering outward through the anal orifice: this reverse proctoscopy confers a unique viewpoint."

Dean was devoted to his family. He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Carolyn Elaine Cliver; his children Blanche "B.C." Cliver (Margaret Cliver), Frederick Cliver (Laurel Galvan), Carl Cliver (Robert McKinney), Marguerite "Mickey" Cliver, Yadata Tadassa and Deirdre "Deedee" Horton; and his grandchildren Da'Vonn and Deon Cliver. His wife, Carolyn, was a social worker with Dane County Family Services during their time in Madison. Together she and Dean were strong supporters of local charities and institutions. Dean Cliver was a singular individual whose unorthodox insights were delivered with a strong dose of pragmatic reasoning and seasoned with a unique sense of humor. He will be missed.

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