

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS JURGEN F. H. HERBST

Jurgen Herbst, professor emeritus in the departments of Educational Policy Studies and History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died on Saturday, January 12, 2013, in Durango, Colorado.

Professor Herbst's long and distinguished career at the University of Wisconsin-Madison extended from 1966 until his retirement in 1994. Across those years, Jurgen grew in stature to become one of the foremost academicians writing on the history of education, focusing on both the United States and Germany. His rigorous research and scholarship helped to establish this field on a firm foundation, bringing newfound respect to what had often previously been considered as matters of secondary importance. His many well-regarded works and the range of his professional activities enhanced the tradition of excellence which has characterized UW-Madison as a leader in the production of scholars and teachers in the discipline of history, and in doing so he forged what are now strongly rooted ties between the UW School of Education and the College of Letters and Science.

Professor Herbst was born in Wolfenbittel, Germany in 1928. In 1948, he received a fellowship from the American Friends Service Committee to study at the University of Nebraska, where he received a bachelor's degree in geography (1950). Subsequently, he received a master's degree in American studies from the University of Minnesota (1952) and his PhD from Harvard University's program in the history of American civilization (1958). Prior to his arrival at UW-Madison, Professor Herbst was an assistant and associate professor at Wesleyan University, where he chaired the school's American studies program while teaching courses in history and education. During that time, between 1959 and 1966, he was also a visiting lecturer in history at Yale University (1962-1964) and a Fulbright lecturer in American civilization at the University of Heidelberg in Germany (1963).

Personally recruited to the University of Wisconsin-Madison by noted historian Merle Borrowman, Professor Herbst joined the Department of Educational Policy Studies (EPS) in 1966, with a joint appointment in the Department of History. Borrowman was instrumental in creating the EPS department in 1964, seeking to create within the School of Education a multidisciplinary unit committed to the study of education issues broadly conceived, especially in terms of highlighting the social, economic, and political factors (past and present) which shape educational policy. Jurgen was a perfect choice for the new program, having already demonstrated unique insights into American educational history, combined with a cosmopolitan understanding of European influences. Over the years, along with colleagues such as John Palmer, Carl Kaestle, Sterling Fishman, and Herb Kliebard, the EPS department developed an enviable reputation for outstanding scholarship in the field of the history of education, simultaneously building bridges across the UW campus.

Professor Herbst was a prolific writer, authoring seven books and literally dozens of book chapters, journal articles, essay and book reviews, and research reports. Among his best-known and most influential works are: *The German Historical School in American Scholarship: A Study in the Transfer of Culture* (1965); *From Crisis to Crisis: American College Government, 1636-1819* (1982); *And Sadly Teach: Teacher Education and Professionalization in American Culture* (1989); *The Once and Future School: Three Hundred and Fifty Years of American Secondary Education* (1996); and *Requiem for a German Past: A Boyhood among the Nazis* (1999). Professor Herbst was well-known for the rigor and intellectualism of his teaching, and he was regarded as "generous and kind . . . taking a personal interest in each student." He was also a devoted proponent of the "Wisconsin Idea," presenting on public radio lectures in the history of education while crisscrossing the state conducting public lectures and seminars. Among his many

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professional and service activities, Professor Herbst was a member of the National Academy of Education, president of the History of Education Society, chairman of the International Standing Committee for the History of Education, and chair of the City of Madison Ethics Board.

Professor Herbst was married to Susan Lou Allen Herbst for almost 61 years, ending with her death in 2012. He is survived by his two daughters, Stephanie and Anne Herbst, his son Kris, and one granddaughter.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Michael Fultz