

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

ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS GERALD MARWELL

Gerald Marwell, Richard T. Ely Professor Emeritus of sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died on March 24, 2013 in New York City. He was 76.

Marwell was one of the most distinguished and creative sociologists of his time. Primarily a theorist and social psychologist, his most influential work was theory and experiments concerning the “problem of collective action.” His experiments in the late 1970s set the stage for the emergence of widespread interest within Economics for experiments on the provision of public goods. With Pamela Oliver, he developed the “Theory of the Critical Mass,” using simulations as well as formal theory, and refocusing discussion of cooperation within large groups. But his wide-ranging interests were reflected in major articles and books on other topics as diverse as self-esteem, partisan voting in Congress, juvenile delinquency, student volunteers in the Civil Rights Movement, role relationships, gender differences, and religious participation. His unusual breadth also led Marwell to be asked to give special service to the profession, most importantly through his four-year service as editor of the *American Sociological Review*, the flagship journal of the American Sociological Association.

During his forty years at UW-Madison, Marwell contributed greatly to campus life. He served on many important College and University Committees (including an unusual four-year stint on the Graduate Research Committee, and the first Human Subjects Committee) and provided inestimable service to his own beloved Department of Sociology, which he helped build into a national powerhouse. There, along with service on countless committees, he served several years as Chair, several more as Director of Graduate Studies, and was a bedrock voice of reason, civility, and conscience and good cheer in all of its varied business. Marwell also taught, more or less constantly, through courses and conversation. He introduced the study of sociology to several thousands of undergraduates (and, when his courses were broadcast by PBS, untold numbers of others). He trained hundreds of graduate students, many now leaders in the profession. And he mentored dozens of younger faculty.

He shall be remembered always as a brilliant scholar and a friendly, demanding, kind, and indefatigable teacher and colleague.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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