

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR EMERITUS JOHN T. McNELLY**

John T. McNelly, Evjue-Bascom Professor Emeritus, died in Madison on June 5, 2014 at 90 years of age. John joined the faculty of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication in 1966. He specialized in the study of Latin America and became recognized as one of the leading scholars in the field of international communication. More than that, he was a valued colleague and friend to many. He retired in 1988.

John was born October 2, 1923. He graduated with a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin in 1946 and was recognized as the outstanding graduate in his class. He later received the Wisconsin Alumni Association Award for his contributions to UW.

Before becoming a scholar and teacher, John was a journalist and editor. He worked for the Associated Press in Milwaukee for four years during the early 1950s, and then for the well-known international news agency, Reuters. He was the editor of newspapers in Idaho and California before becoming the news editor for the University of Wisconsin News Service in 1956.

As a graduate student at Michigan State University, and later a young faculty member there, he began studying mass communication audiences in Latin America, working with such well-known scholars as Huber Ellingsworth and Paul Deutschmann. John, who was fluent in Spanish, brought this line of research to the University of Wisconsin. He traveled often to South America to conduct field research and to teach there, and he became recognized as the leading authority on media audiences in this region.

John was extraordinarily generous with his time and helpful to his colleagues. Graduate students and junior faculty members, especially, found in him someone who was genuinely interested in their work and eager to offer encouragement. He was equally engaged in the affairs of the university and his profession. At UW, he served on numerous committees, including the Executive Committee of the Division of Social Studies and the Fulbright-Hays Fellowship Committee. He was a member of the editorial boards of the top journals in his field and was Associate Editor of *Journalism Quarterly* from a number of years. Internationally, he was a UNESCO consultant. The University of Wisconsin Regents recognized his achievements in 1982, naming him an Evjue-Bascom Professor. In 1988, the International Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conferred on John its Distinguished Service Award.

There was much more to John, of course, than his professional accomplishments. Young faculty members and senior colleagues alike always looked forward to talking with John about the issues of the day. He was soft-spoken, modest, thoughtful, and had a lively interest in politics. He was an avid bicycle rider and was known to have biked to professional conferences as far away as Minneapolis. He also enjoyed playing tennis. He was a devoted family man. His friends and neighbors remember a gracious person of good humor, who enjoyed hiking, and later in life, simply visiting with them on his front porch.

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John is survived by his wife, Pamela (nee Thompson); his daughter Barbara; his son Duncan (wife Linda); and a granddaughter, Laura. He was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Ariana, who died in 1994.

Respectfully Submitted by Memorial Resolution Committee (SJMC)
Professor Stephen Vaughn (Chair)
Professor Robert Drechsel
Professor Emeritus Sharon Dunwoody