
**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Wayne R. Otto**

Wayne R. Otto of Middleton, Wisconsin was born on October 22, 1931 and died at age 86 on November 8, 2017. He grew up in Fremont, Wisconsin above the Farmer's Store on the banks of the Wolf River. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Diane Hammer, his daughter Eleni Otto (Greg Arnold), brother Roger (Joan), nephews Tim and Luke, stepdaughter Susan Eich, and former wife Shirley Bergen.

Professor Otto received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1953. He volunteered for the United States Marine Corps, serving two years and attaining the rank of Sergeant. He then taught high school English and served as school librarian for three years. Professor Otto then earned master's (1959) and doctoral degrees (1961) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He held faculty positions at the University of Oregon and University of Georgia before joining the UW-Madison faculty of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction for 30 years, in 1965.

Professor Otto consistently provided guidance and leadership to his colleagues on campus and throughout the nation regarding the development of reading research. He contributed to scholarship in reading education through his publications, his service, and through his mentorship of graduate students. He particularly contributed to reading scholarship through the authorship of 15 books, over 75 journal articles, over 30 monographs, and numerous book reviews. He also was the author of a witty, critically thoughtful, and provocative column for the *Journal of Reading* for 10 years.

Further, he was a prominent member of three significant reading organizations, the American Reading Forum (serving on its Board of Directors, Programs Committee, and Editorial Board); the National Reading Conference (also serving its Board of Directors); and the International Reading Association (serving in numerous leadership capacities). Professor Otto was elected to the national Reading Hall of Fame in 1992.

Professor Otto served our campus through his leadership of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction for two terms. He also co-directed the Wisconsin Research and Development Center for Individualized Schooling, an organization that became the world's largest center for educational research. Further, he admirably served our state, founding the Wisconsin Symposium on Reading, a collaboration among UW campuses that continues to be a forum for significant political, research, and pedagogical issues.

Professor Otto was a gracious, kind, and thoughtful person who cared deeply about equity in American education and research.

Respectfully submitted by the Memorial Committee:

Mary Louise Gomez

Thomas Popkewitz

Dawnene Hassett