
**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Philip Howard Lewis, Jr.**

Philip (Phil) Howard Lewis Jr., age 91, passed away on July 2, 2017. He was born on September 4, 1925, in Robinson, Illinois, 20 miles from his hometown of Lawrenceville, Illinois. Professor Lewis served a distinguished career in the Department of Landscape Architecture from 1964 to 1995.

Lewis graduated from Lawrenceville Township, Illinois High School in 1943. He enlisted in the Air Corps upon graduation and completed the training program at Hondo Air Base in Hondo, Texas, where he received navigation training. He concluded his service with the Air Corps in 1946. Training, he later told us, helped him visualize urban growth patterns from the night time satellite imagery. He attended the University of Illinois on the G.I. bill, receiving a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture in 1950. Lewis then enrolled at Harvard University and completed a summer internship with the National Park Service in 1952, where he learned about governmental agency interdisciplinary efforts to maintain the landscapes under their jurisdiction. His thesis focused on the Everglades Inventory and Development Study. He completed his MLA at the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1953.

On June 13, 1953, Lewis married Elizabeth Alice Thompson, a botany student at Radcliffe College. They were married for 58 years until her death on February 1, 2012. Lewis was awarded a Charles Eliot Traveling Fellowship in Landscape Architecture for his work on the Everglades. The fellowship allowed Lewis and his newlywed to travel to Europe for a year-long honeymoon and period of discovery. They viewed the landscapes of England, Scotland, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. These experiences sparked Lewis's interest in museums, communicating with the public, and the creation of spaces for buying local products.

After returning from Europe, Lewis returned home and worked for the University of Illinois Bureau of Community Planning from 1953 to 1963. Lewis was the director of the Recreation and Open Space Study of Illinois from 1958 to 1961. Here he identified environmental corridors and landscape personalities that were used to guide planning efforts. Lewis was later recruited by Wisconsin Governor Gaylord Nelson to serve as the Director of the State of Wisconsin Recreation Resource, Research and Design, Department of Resource Development, where he served from 1963 to 1965. Environmental corridors were again identified in the Wisconsin State Recreation Plan to help guide planning decisions and public land purchases in the state. In 1995, Gaylord Nelson, the father of Earth Day, recalled that "The Wisconsin inventory and analysis, plus similar studies done under Professor Lewis's direction of the great lakes basin, the Upper Mississippi valley, and the states of Illinois and Alaska which were supported by the National Park Service, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, the Illinois State Housing Board, and the U.S. Land Law Review Commission, are a core prototype of a national inventory and analysis."

Lewis transitioned to a professorship at the University of Wisconsin Madison, where he went on to be named the chair of the Landscape Architecture Program from 1964-1972. Lewis also became the founder and director of the Environmental Awareness Center (EAC), part of the School of Natural Resources and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Over his academic career, he had joint appointments with the Department of Landscape Architecture, Department of Urban & Regional Planning, and the University of Wisconsin-Extension where he taught undergraduate and graduate design courses. He was also a visiting professor in the School of Design at Harvard University from 1976 to 1977. Lewis received the prestigious ASLA medal in 1987 and shortly before his retirement in 1995 was named the Jens Jensen Professor of Landscape Architecture.

During his tenure as a Professor at the University of Wisconsin, Lewis advised and mentored a generation of professionals emphasizing a pragmatic sense of environmental responsibility. Gary A. Brown, FASLA said of his late colleague: “He was always looking at the big picture and patterns created on the landscape not only by development, but also by its many natural features unique to the region.” Ken Keeley, ASLA, a landscape architect and former student of Lewis, said that he “had an underlying optimism about the work he was doing and the work that landscape architects could do.”

Lewis contributed to the origins of geographic information systems technology with his concept of using transparent overlays of mapped resource qualities for environmental planning. The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) presented Lewis with its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000. Lewis, along with Ian McHarg and Angus Hills, are credited with the development of the natural resource inventory approach and map overlays as a crucial part of the regional design process. His work and concepts are outlined in his book; *Tomorrow by Design, A regional Design Process for Sustainability* written in 1996.

Lewis applied much of his vision to real world problems via his Extension appointment and outreach efforts to communities across the State. In his home county of Dane, the County Board of Supervisors dedicated the Madison Environmental Corridor System to Phil and Elizabeth Lewis, now known as the Lewis Nine Springs E-Way, on September 12, 2013. The dedication recognized Phil as the father of the E-Way and his wife, Elizabeth (Libby), for her 26 years of service on the Dane County Parks Commission.

Lewis’s extraordinary record of distinctive contributions to this University and our State, his vision for protecting the environmental resources of the planet, and dedication to the Wisconsin Idea are unsurpassed. The University of Wisconsin-Madison owes Lewis a great measure of thanks for his dedicated and inspired leadership.