Memorial Resolution
Janet R. MacLean
(1917-2017)

Dr. Janet McLean was born on March 8, 1917 in Bennington, Vermont and passed away on December 14, 2017 at Lakewood Ranch Hospital, Florida. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Vermont in 1938 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Jan pursued graduate education earning an M.S. in 1953, Director of Recreation in 1955, and a doctorate of recreation in 1959 from Indiana University. She was a well-known national leader in the field of gerontology and the recreation and parks profession, and in addition to authoring numerous monographs, chapters, and professional articles, co-authored a leading textbook in the recreation and parks field.

Dr. MacLean was a demanding and consummate teacher. Jan's background as a former teacher of French, English, Speech and Theater in Vermont shaped her unique talents in the classroom and as a renowned speaker. Few professors can claim to produce so much during their academic careers and be so fondly remembered by countless students and alumni. As a former student and colleague of Professor Emerita Dr. Janet MacLean, I was privileged to share authorship with her, Dr. Rey Carlson and Dr. Ted Deppe on the classic 1979 textbook, “Recreation and Leisure, the Changing Scene,” 3rd. edition (Wadsworth).

In 1951, she met Dr. Garrett Eppley, Chair of Recreation and Park Administration Department (now the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Studies) in the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (now the School of Public Health- Bloomington). It was that chance meeting at a national congress in Washington, DC. with Dr. Eppley that led to Jan’s 32 year career at Indiana University.

In order to honor Jan for her many contributions to the park and recreation field, it seems appropriate to highlight a few of her accomplishments:

During her lifetime career at I.U., Dr. MacLean founded and became the first director of the Center on Aging and Aged in 1987. That year, she was named the Byron Root Professor of Recreation and Park Administration.

Jan was at the forefront of getting the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) to develop the National Council on Accreditation. In 1979, the department received program accreditation, one of the first undergraduate programs accredited prior to the formal recognition by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation (COPA, now the Council on Higher Education Accreditation) of the National Recreation and Park Association/American Association of Leisure and Recreational Council. Since then, the department has received continued accreditation approval by the Council on Accreditation for Recreation, Park Resources and Leisure Services spanning 39 years.

She served for five years on the President’s Council on Fitness, acting as a featured speaker at the White House Conference on Aging.

Dr. MacLean was President of the Society of Park and Recreation Education (SPRE) for which she wrote their initial bylaws. She was a dynamic speaker and conducted a multitude of workshops throughout the United States and abroad. She was also elected to and served on the board of trustees of the National Recreation and Park Association. As a result of her many accomplishments in education, she received NRPA’s special service citation as the Outstanding Educator of America.

Among her many awards and honors was the prestigious Vitae Bonae Award from Senator Richard Lugar in recognition of her leadership in promoting fitness and health awareness for older Americans. Of special note, she received the Sagamore of the Wabash, the top award given by Indiana’s Governor, and the SPRE Distinguished Service Award. However, she especially cherished the coveted Rocking Chair Award from the Sigma Delta Chi Society of Professional Journalists at Indiana University, which honors a retiring faculty whose career was most notably distinguished.
In recognition of Janet MacLean’s contributions to the university, the profession, and the world around her, be it resolved that this resolution be made part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council and that copies be sent to family members including her husband William F. MacLean, and her children Patricia K. Smith (Chris) and John R. MacLean.

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