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**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison  
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Klaus L. Berghahn**

Professor Emeritus Klaus Berghahn passed away in Madison, Wisconsin, on November 1, 2019, at the age of 82. A member of the UW faculty for 40 years until his retirement in 2007, he was an internationally known scholar, a master teacher, a prominent academic citizen both on our campus and throughout the world, and a passionate humanist who served as an energizing role model for students as well as colleagues.

Born on August 5, 1937, in Düsseldorf, Germany, Berghahn completed his doctorate at the University of Münster in 1967 and moved to Madison with his wife Doris to assume an appointment as assistant professor in the Department of German. He was among the new core faculty that revitalized the program in the 1970s and that secured its reputation as one of the most highly regarded German departments in the nation. His success and his stature are reflected in the many prestigious research awards conferred by the University (Humanities Institute Fellow, 1972–73; Romnes Fellow, 1976–81; Mid-Career Award, 1986; Vilas Associate, 1988–90; Senior Fellow of the Institute for Research in the Humanities, 1989–94; Weinstein-Bascom Professorship in German and Jewish Studies, 1999–2004; DAAD or Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Professorship, 2004–2007; and Hilldale Award for Excellence in Research and Teaching, 2007).

In addition, Berghahn received outside research awards (American Philosophical Society, 1969 and 1973; Schiller Medal of Jena University, 1984; American Council of Learned Societies, 1985; and German Academic Exchange Service, 1996–97, 1999). He also shared his expertise through invited lectures on campuses around the world and as a fellow at the University of Bielefeld's Center for Interdisciplinary Research (1980–81), as the Zinn Fellow at the University of Giessen (1983), as a senior fellow of the Franz Rosenzweig Research Center for German-Jewish Culture at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (1993), and as guest professor at the Free University of Berlin (1979), University of Michigan–Ann Arbor (1984), and University of California–Davis (1989). To crown his career upon retirement, he was honored with the Federal Cross of Merit by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Berghahn's intellectual engagement was focused on three distinct but related areas of investigation. He began his academic career as an eighteenth-century specialist, working on Enlightenment aesthetics and especially on the classical German writer-thinkers Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller. Treating more and more explicitly the utopian and emancipatory energies in eighteenth-century Germany, he began to extend his reach into a second area of expertise, the relation of German-Jewish thinkers to German philosophy and the history of anti-Semitism. This in turn developed into a third focus on interdisciplinary German studies, which culminated in his founding—and directing—of the Center for German and European Studies on the UW campus through a major grant initiative that brought in a million-dollar investment from the German government in 1998 (with ongoing generous funding from the German Academic Exchange Service to this day). The Center became the cornerstone for the campus European Alliance / Center for European Studies and since its founding has generated hundreds of PA-ships and RA-ships for graduate students in many departments in the College of Letters and Science. Berghahn also hosted an entire entourage of powerful guests in his capacity as Center director, from the former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, to German and Swiss ambassadors, to the head of the German Federal Reserve Bank, to three governors from German states, to delegations from Wisconsin's German sister state of Hessen. Throughout his career he

embodied the Wisconsin Idea that extended the work of the University far beyond the borders of our campus and at times right into the offices of state and international leaders.

Berghahn's meticulous and challenging research was the basis of his well-deserved reputation. His publications include four monographs, seven editions (some of which have become classics), ten edited and co-edited anthologies, four special journal issues, and nearly ninety book chapters and articles, not to speak of countless encyclopedia entries and book reviews. The natural outgrowth of his exceptional scholarly production was a rich and diverse career as a teacher, typified by his enthusiastic encouragement of the learning process and his willingness to share ideas with both undergraduate and graduate students. For fifteen years he was the German Department's advisor for all post-MA graduate students, and he successfully directed 30 dissertations. His commitment to teaching and advising extended beyond the German Department through his affiliation with the History Department and his active participation in establishing the Center for Jewish Studies, with which he remained formally affiliated as a member of its Executive Committee until his retirement.

Berghahn played an important role as a citizen of the University and the profession. He sat on virtually every committee at the department level and served as department chair from 1994 to 1997. He was a member of numerous College and University committees, including the UW Senate, the Humanities Division Executive Committee, the Graduate Research Committee, and the Graduate School Executive Committee. Outside the University he held several prestigious elected and appointed positions in the Modern Language Association, and he served on program committees for the major German professional organizations (American Association of Teachers of German, German Academic Exchange Service, International Association of Germanists). In addition, he was one of the most active participants in and co-organizers of the German Department's annual conference, the Wisconsin Workshop, and he himself was responsible for having convened nine noteworthy international conferences on this campus (including three successful Burdick-Vary symposia at the Institute for Research in the Humanities, the 2004 Kant workshop, and the 2005 Schiller workshop). A catalyst for creative thought, Berghahn was in the vanguard of those who knew how to bridge the interests of various groups, departments, and disciplines in his roles as teacher, scholar, and administrator.

The Department of German was fortunate to have had Professor Berghahn as a colleague for four decades. We, his students, colleagues, and friends will miss him.