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In Recognition of Mary Fee...

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IN RECOGNITION OF MARY FEE . . .

On May 31, 1977, Mary Fee retired from the University of Wisconsin-Madison after 24 years of teaching and inspiring dance students. Dance Dimensions commends her for a job well done and is pleased to reprint the following testimonials which appeared in the program for "A Gala Celebration Honoring Mary Fee".

Curtis L. Carter

During the past five years, I have enjoyed stimulating conversations with Miss Fee concerning dance. As a Visiting Lecturer in her graduate seminar, I enjoyed her probing questions and the unique blend of science and aesthetics that she brings to dance. Mary Fee has served the Dance Division of the University of Wisconsin with loyalty and dedication during a period of transition and change. Her leadership in dance education as director of the graduate program has challenged a generation of students who now occupy positions of leadership in dance departments across the country. Miss Fee's approach to dance education successfully links the frontiers of scientific research on bodily movement and perception, philosophy, and research in aesthetics: all of these elements are essential to a full understanding of dance as movement education and as a form of art.

Miss Fee has also served outside the University as a founding member of the Wisconsin Dance Council, and she has contributed nationally to the work of dance organizations such as the American Dance Guild and the National Dance Association. Miss Fee sees herself as a dance educator, an educator who serves in a university setting with dance as her subject. Through her teaching and through her students, she has helped to define the concept of a dance educator.

The retirement of Miss Fee marks the end of the second generation in the history of the University of Wisconsin Dance Division. This past history has been a major impact on dance in America. There is great potential to build upon the foundations

laid by Miss Fee, Miss Kloepper, and before them, Miss H'Doubler.

More than ever before, there is a need for solidly based dance scholarship and research. The Wisconsin tradition of a philosophy of dance grounded in science and aesthetics, of which Miss Fee has been a significant part, provides an important foundation for a future generation of dance scholars, educators, and creative artists at the University of Wisconsin. The past represents a challenge; the future is not to repeat that past, nor to rest on past glories. The future is to develop new goals and new leadership in response to the needs of dance for the next century.

(Dr. Carter is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Marquette University. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the American Dance Guild, and was Chairman of the ADG Conference in 1976, titled "Dance Into the Future: Trends, Resources and Environments". He is a writer on dance aesthetics and a dance critic.)