

A Notable Woman - Alice Peet Faust



Alice Peet Faust, widely known for her hundreds of pairs of earrings as well as her expertise in theatre arts, retired at the same time as her last husband, Registrar Gilbert Faust, in 1985. Together, their service to UWSP amounted to almost three-quarters of a century.

Alice Peet came to campus in 1961 after serving as a Methodist missionary in Santiago, Chile, and teaching high school and college in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Ohio.

An Ohio native, she moved to Madison as a child, earning her three degrees at University of Wisconsin Madison. She served in stateside duty in the Navy during World War II.

"Miss Peet" married Gilbert Faust, a widower, in 1971. She gained two daughters and grandchildren, which are very important to her.

The couple traveled extensively. Their globetrotting included trips to locations in Africa, Europe, South America, Russia, the South Pacific, and Australia. They even took one of their grandchildren with them on their travels around the world.

Faust described her career as "getting paid for having fun as a teacher." In addition to her classroom duties, she served in 1965 and 1973 and again from 1978 to 1984 as chair of the theatre and dance department, and as director of the Arts and Lectures Series for several years. Under her tenure as chair, dance was added to the curriculum making it "one of the few programs in the country where theatre and dance are so closely linked," she said. Faust remained active as a director for community theatre productions.

One of the high points of her career was her success in 1970 in directing "Rosencranz and Guildenstern Are Dead," which advanced in competition to the regional American Theatre Association's College Festival and was ranked first runner-up.