

A Notable Woman - Fern Horn



Fern Horn, who taught home economics at UWSP for more than 20 years, was a leader in developing instructional materials for use by home economics teachers across the country.

A specialist in home economics curriculum development, Horn served as a consultant for the U.S. Office of Education and the education departments of several states. Before arriving at UWSP in 1966, Horn taught at University of Wisconsin- Stout, where she was acting dean of the home economics program for two years. She also served on the faculty of the University of Minnesota.

Horn received her undergraduate degree from UWSP, a master's degree from University of Wisconsin- Stout and a doctorate from Michigan State University. Beginning her teaching career in 1943 in the rural schools of Clark County, Horn later taught high school home economics in Eau Claire, Schofield and Mosinee.

Among her many career accomplishments, Horn researched and created teaching aids to assist instructors of mentally disabled students for the Wisconsin Department of Instruction.

The American Home Economics Association cited her in 1979 for serving as a member of its council for professional development. In addition, Horn represented the association at international gatherings in Helsinki, Finland, and Ottawa, Canada.

In 1980, she was given University of Wisconsin- Stout's alumni distinguished service award, its highest recognition of a graduate. In 1982, the Home Economics Teacher Education national organization honored her by publishing her biography in a yearbook entitled "Seventy Significant Leaders."

Due to illness, Horn retired from UWSP at the age of 56 and was granted the honorary title of professor emeritus. She was 62 when she died of cancer in 1986 at her home in Milwaukee.