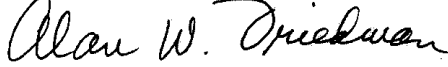


## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR  
THOMAS JOSEPH O'HARE**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Associate Professor Emeritus Thomas Joseph O'Hare, Department of Germanic Studies, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary  
General Faculty and Faculty Council  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**IN MEMORIAM  
THOMAS JOSEPH O'HARE**

Thomas Joseph O'Hare, teacher, mentor, and Associate Professor Emeritus of Germanic Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, passed away on March 14, 2017 at the age of seventy-nine. Tom was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, but found his way to Wisconsin where he studied at Dominican College in Racine and received his B.S. at Marquette University in 1959. He returned to South Dakota State University for his M.A. in German and Zoology, and then moved to Austin where he received his Ph.D. in Linguistics with a thesis on "The Linguistic Geography of Eastern Montana" at The University of Texas in 1964. After two years teaching linguistics in Indonesia and then Egypt 1964-66, he became one of many faculty members in the Department of Germanic Languages with ties to Wisconsin (Lee Hollander, Winfred Lehmann, Robert King, Janet Swaffar, and John Weinstock). Such links also led to his most significant publication as a co-author, with Winfred P. Lehmann and Christoph Cobet, of *German: Language and Culture* (New York, Holt, Rinehart and Winston [1972]).

The focus of Tom's effort at UT Austin was primarily teaching all aspects of the German language to a wide range of students, from those engaging the language for the first time to graduate students needing German to be able to read scholarly articles in that language. Among his specialties were first- and second-year intensive courses and correspondence courses, which he pioneered and continued to teach even in retirement. He also occasionally taught graduate courses on language pedagogy, German dialectology, and German phonology. He always enjoyed employing linguistic principles to reading German and interpreting German literature. He was also the first Director of the UT Language Laboratory (1966-74). In addition to his classroom teaching, he liked to meet in individual office sessions with his Ph.D. students enrolled in the Reading German program. In all of his interactions with students and colleagues, he was a master at lightening up lives with his great gift of humor. We remember fondly and miss receiving his emails full of jokes and cartoons. He was an early proponent of enhancing courses with personal emails once this medium became available.

Over and above his teaching duties, Tom seemingly could never say no to graduate students wanting him to serve on their dissertation committees. The lion's share of these were in the Butler School of Music, numbering well into the hundreds, and many coming after his retirement. Faculty and students throughout the Butler School came to appreciate not only his masterly reviews of their written documents, but even more his ebullient and joyful curiosity and his great enthusiasm for their work. He and his wife Mary were devoted attendees of countless student recitals, academic presentations, and ensemble concerts. He was also active as a court-certified translator, specializing in scientific and medical texts.

While at The University, Tom rekindled a flair for repairing vehicles, especially old Hondas. But he also enjoyed the challenge of rebuilding older British sports cars such as Triumph, MG, and Austin-Healeys. As he put it once: "I seem to have been blessed with a knack for making accurate diagnoses of automotive problems."

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Tom retired in 2000 and became Associate Professor Emeritus. He is survived by his wife Mary, their four children, and seven grandchildren.

This resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of John M. Weinstock (Chair), Robert A. Duke, and Hans-Bernhard Moeller.

Distributed to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts on October 31, 2017, and posted under “Memorial Resolutions” at <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home>.