

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

CLIFFORD F. WEIGLE (1906 – 1981)

Whenever Stanford journalism alumni meet, one of two names almost always mentioned with warm affection is that of Clifford F. Weigle. Professor Weigle, for 35 years a member of the Stanford faculty, died at his campus home on March 13 after an extended illness.

Known chiefly for his commitment to journalism as a profession and for his deep personal interest in the welfare of students, Cliff Weigle became a lifelong adviser and friend to most of those who passed through his classes. He followed their careers with genuine interest and took great satisfaction in the professional development of his former students. As a teacher, adviser and administrator he played a major role in the growth of Stanford's journalism program into one of the nation's top ranked.

A native of California, Clifford Weigle was born in San Francisco on September 17, 1906, a few months after the disastrous earthquake of that year. He was valedictorian of his class at Burlingame High School and entered Stanford in the fall of 1925, following in the footsteps of his father who was graduated in the class of 1895. Cliff received his A.B. degree in 1929, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa that same year, and went on to a M.A. in 1936. He did further graduate work at UC-Berkeley and the University of Minnesota. As an undergraduate, Cliff majored in social science with a journalism emphasis. His graduate work was in history, with a specialization in the history of the American press, a field in which he later became one of the nation's leading authorities. Besides history, his other interests were in newspaper writing and editing.

Following graduation from Stanford, Cliff joined the editorial staff of the *San Francisco News*, quickly moving up from reporter to assistant city editor between 1929 and 1934. At the *news*, he helped develop Stanford's pioneering course "City Practice," which introduced journalism students to the real life experience of working newspaper reporters and editors.

The success of this course and Cliff's enthusiasm for teaching brought about an offer to join the Stanford faculty in 1934 with the rank of instructor. He taught at Stanford, rising to the rank of associate professor, until 1948 when he left to become Dean of Journalism at the University of Oregon. In 1950 the lure of Stanford proved too great and Dean Weigle returned as professor of journalism and associate head of the then Institute for Journalistic Studies which later became the Department of Journalism and Communication. In 1962 this unit was combined with the Institute for Communication Research and a broadcasting and film unit into the present day Department of Communication.

In late 1945, Professor Weigle was selected, along with four of his Stanford colleagues, to serve as "key personnel" in the education program set up in Europe by the Army after VE Day. He served on the staff of Shrivensham University study center until 1946 when he returned to his former post at Stanford.

In 1961, Professor Weigle was named Executive Head of the Department of Journalism and Communication, and in 1962 first Executive head of the newly created Department of Communication. In 1968, he was named the first holder of the endowed Paul C. Edwards Memorial Professorship, named for a longtime associate on the San Francisco News and former member and president of the Stanford Board of Trustees. In announcing the appointment, the then Associate Dean of Humanities and Sciences wrote Professor Weigle: "I know that the award is only a fair recognition for the tremendous job you have done in building up the department over the years here at Stanford."

Nationally, Professor Weigle was active in a number of professional organizations. He was a member of the American Association of Teachers of Journalism, the American Association of University Professors, Sigma Delta Chi (professional journalism association), Alpha Delta Sigma (advertising), and the American Association for Education in Journalism. He held offices in ASTJ and Alpha Delta Sigma (vice president) and Sigma Delta Chi (treasurer). He also was chairman of the history and research committees of AAEEJ.

Professor Weigle's research interests, besides history of the press, were in the fields of facsimile newspaper reproduction and readership measurement techniques. In 1942 he was named a member of the Board of Editors of the *Journalism Quarterly* and in 1969 chairman of the "Publisher of the Year" award committee of the California Press Association.

In addition to his teaching and departmental administrative duties, Cliff served the University in a wide range of capacities from the Student Affairs Committee to the Stanford Bookstore Board of which he was president. He also was a member and chairman of the University's Committee on Radio and its successors; from 1942 until his retirement a member of the executive committee of the Stanford chapter of Phi Beta Kappa; member of the University Publications Committee; and member of the Registrar's Committee on Advising and chairman of its Subcommittee on Registration. In 1967 he taught for one quarter at Stanford in France.

Professor Weigle was married in 1930 to Margaret Sturrock, a high school classmate, who survives him. They had two children, Marion, who died as a child, and Charles, who lives in Palo Alto. As a person, Cliff Weigle was gentle, quiet, friendly and courageous. He had strong religious convictions and commitments, but these were not of the type that produce narrow and aggressive dogmatism nor, at the other extreme, bland and uncritical tolerance and the rejection of standards. He was open to new ideas, but careful to weigh their implications, distrusting simplistic solutions to complex human problems. He served for several years as a Trustee, and also as an officer, of the Stanford Canterbury Foundation, an organization supporting the work of the Episcopal Church on campus. And he was active in the affairs of All Saints Church in Palo Alto.

In his passing, the profession of journalism lost one of its most dedicated and knowledgeable supporters; Stanford alumni in journalism lost a faithful friend, and the faculty a thoughtful, generous and resourceful colleague. We express our deepest sympathy to his widow, Margaret, and to other members of his family.

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