

**Memorial Resolution**  
**PROFESSOR EMERITUS WILLIAM RAYMOND BRENEMAN**  
**The Luther Dana Waterman Professor of Zoology**  
**(June 3, 1907 - January 31, 1992)**

Wholehearted commitment to a cause, to an individual, or to an institution is a rare (but much admired) trait. Much of William R. Breneman's adult life was dedicated to the welfare and development of Indiana University and to expanding the intellectual horizons of its students. For many years the strength and breadth of his contributions exerted a significantly positive impact on all members of the university community.

William R. Breneman ("Bill" or "Brene") was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. He attended Manual High School and in 1930 received the A.B. degree from Indiana Central College. In the same year he married Mary Alice Petty of Peru, Indiana. They had been married 60 years when Mrs. Breneman preceded him in death by little more than a year.

After graduation from Indiana Central, Brene came to Indiana University and in 1934 earned his Ph.D. in Zoology. He was a National Research Fellow at the University of Wisconsin for a year and a faculty member at Miami University of Ohio (1935-36) before returning to Bloomington to join the Indiana University faculty. Thus, at the time of his retirement in 1977, Brene had been a member of this faculty for 41 years. During this long tenure he brought distinction to Indiana University by his teaching, research, and service. He was a professor in the fullest sense of the word.

With respect to teaching he was well-informed about his subject, able to communicate this knowledge with great skill and recognized the importance of treating each student as an individual. This was no easy accomplishment since he taught more than 25,000 students in General Zoology and Endocrinology. His teaching skills also were evident in his well received textbook, *Animal Form and Function*. His lecture, *Kalamazoo to You*, given as the final Z103 lecture before Christmas vacation, became a campus tradition. In this lecture he adroitly combined solid information with humor and reverence to describe the formation of the earth and the biological history of mankind by relating their chronology to the distance between Kalamazoo, Michigan and his lecture desk on the IU campus. The lecture always attracted standing-room-only crowds of students, faculty, and alumni. Brene received the Frederick Bachman Lieber Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Sigma Delta Chi Brown Derby Award for the most popular professor, the Senior Class Teaching Award, and the Arts and Sciences Alumni Teaching Award. Perhaps the greatest honor in recognition of his teaching ability occurred two years after his retirement when the students of the pre-med, pre-dent honorary, Alpha Epsilon Delta, established the W. R. Breneman lecture series that continues as a yearly event.

Besides being an excellent teacher, Brene was an accomplished researcher. The work that he did as a graduate student and as a NRC Fellow pioneered studies in, what was then, the embryonic field of Endocrinology. His list of publications and invitations to speak at international symposia indicated continual growth within the field. His research in developing and perfecting bioassays for the anterior pituitary hormones made highly important contributions to our understanding of the control of endocrine secretions and to our understanding of pituitary-hypothalamic-gonadal interactions. His careful investigations into the effects of extracts from the plan *Lithospermum ruderale* upon the hypothalamus and anterior pituitary gland had significant implications for our understanding of contraceptive agents and fertility problems. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Indiana Academy of Science. He received long term funding from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and private industry. Thirty-five students received their doctorates under his direction. Recognition of his accomplishments in research resulted in his appointment in 1962 as the Luther Dana Waterman Professor of Zoology.

Breneman's common sense, wisdom, and organizational ability were sought and sued by Indiana University in many areas of service. For example: Brene was Sigma Xi local chapter president, officer in the men's Faculty Club, Faculty Council member for 20 years, Big Ten Faculty Representative for ten years, member of many search committees including two Indiana University presidents, Chairman of the Zoology Department, Grand Marshall of Indiana University, and one of three faculty members who did monumental service on the University Self-Study Committee. The 1965 Self-Study Committee's year-long examination of every aspect of the university provided guidelines for maintaining and enhancing Indiana University's position among institutions of higher learning. Why he participated in so many activities, an involvement that many colleagues would consider an infringement on research time, is seen in a quotation from his reply to a trustee who had praised his performance on a particular committee assignment:

Your praise is unnecessary because I feel that anything I can do to serve Indiana University represents an obligation on my part. The University has been overly generous to me and I deeply appreciate everything.

A written comment to Breneman by Fernandus Payne, who at one time was simultaneously Chairman of Zoology, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dean of the Graduate School is pertinent here:

Just as important, in a different way, as election to the National Academy, the loyalty to your University and to the welfare of your students is exhibited by few.

Happily, the institution that he loved so much and served so well presented him with an Honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1985.

The sense of responsibility and loyalty that characterized his commitment to Indiana University also encompassed his family, the Methodist Church, and Indiana Central College (University of Indianapolis) which presented him with its Distinguished Alumnus Award and an honorary degree.

This memorial resolution will become part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council. Copies are to be sent to his children, William and Bruce Breneman and Miriam Clark, and to each of his grandchildren.

James P. Holland  
Carol J. Zeller  
Frank J. Zeller