MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Professor Emerita Ethel W. Kunkle (1908-1981)

Ethel Wright Kunkle, Professor Emerita in the Departments of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Psychology, passed away following a brief illness on December 8, 1981. Professor Kunkle had been a faculty member of UW-Milwaukee and its predecessor institution since 1954.

Ethel received her B.S. degree from Teachers College, Columbia University in 1933, her M.S. degree from Northwestern University in 1938, and her Ed.D. from Northwestern in 1954. Prior to joining the UWM faculty, her positions involved many facets of education including Head Teacher at Chase House Nursery School in Chicago; Director of the Franklin Public School Nursery School; Director of Pre-School Activities and Child Development Specialist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; Instructorships at Chicago Teachers College, Teachers College of Columbia University and the University of Washington; and Executive Director of the Winnetka Community Nursery Schools. Her many talents also led her to the business sector when she worked as the Education Director for Carson, Pirie Scott and Company and to research for the University of Illinois Medical School.

Ethel joined the Elementary Education faculty at the Wisconsin State College in Milwaukee in 1954. At merger in 1956, she became a member of the Elementary Education Department. In 1965 when the School of Education was re-organized, Professor Kunkle received a joint appointment in the Departments of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Psychology. Ethel's major emphasis was in early childhood and curriculum development. In addition to course instruction in such courses as Early Childhood Education and Human Development and Learning, Ethel supervised the graduate programs and research efforts of many Master's students in both Departments. Ethel also was the Director of UWM's Headstart Leadership Development Program from 1967 to 1972. Through her efforts in this program many Milwaukee citizens developed their talents and in turn benefited the greater community served by UWM.

Ethel ceaselessly advocated the importance of the early formative childhood years and with her knowledge and expertise she inspired her students to reach and touch the hearts and minds of all children. In uncommon fashion, she aided her students in the linkage of theory and practice which insured that the soundest possible learning environments would result.

Ethel was strongly committed to professional service and provided valuable leadership and knowledge to many national, state, and community organizations. A partial listing of her service activities included chair of the State Advisory Committee for Children and Youth for the Wisconsin Department of Public Welfare, membership on the Advisory Committee of Milwaukee Children's Hospital, Treasurer and member of the Governing Board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, member of the Board of Directors of Child Care Centers, Inc., member of the International Child Welfare League and National Council of Day Care, and more recently member of the Board of Directors of Day Care Services.
Her honors were numerous and included election to the international honorary societies of Delta Kappa Gamma and Pi Lambda Theta; selection as an honorary life member—Aldrich Memorial Nursery School Board, Mayo Clinic; and recipient of the American Friends of Literature Award for her book, Saturday Walk. In 1977, National College of Education in Evanston, Illinois presented Ethel its distinguished alumnus award for her many contributions to early childhood education.

Ethel's contributions were not limited to the United States. In addition to her extensive travel in Europe, Russia, and the Far East, she was actively involved in promoting education internationally. Highlights of her "foreign" career included serving as a Training Consultant in Day Care in Iran in 1958-59, Director of the Child Study Center and Head of the Psychology Department at the American College for Girls in Istanbul, Turkey from 1963-1966, and serving in 1964 as a delegate to the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) in Stockholm, Sweden. During her travels Ethel explored services for young children and used these experiences to enrich her University teaching.

Upon her retirement from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1974, Ethel was recognized by her colleagues in Educational Psychology and Curriculum and Instruction by the designation of Professor Emerita. Ethel continued to teach frequently as an Ad Hoc Lecturer until the time of her death.

Throughout her career Ethel sought to improve education and related services for children. She was strongly committed to this goal and uncompromising in seeking what was best for children. She gave freely of herself to the children and students she loved so dearly and frequently as a mentor for her less experienced colleagues. He unstinting concern and efforts to achieve a better life for all children and young people affected all of us who were fortunate enough to know and work with Ethel. Ethel's devotion to children is reflected by the following quotation cited at her Memorial Service.

To a Child I Know

Dear Little Child,

With eyes like violets glowing,
And face all dimpled with enchanting smile,
You have a beauty which is innocently flowing,
Unhindered yet by any thought of guile,
Your soul is breathing, peaceful as a flower,
And loving me, keep me in touch with love.
Before the world steps in, I prize each precious hour,
That lifts my soul through you to God above.

J. M. Ballantyne

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