Memorial Resolution

Associate Professor Dorothy B. Mooren

Associate Professor Dorothy Bryant Mooren was born on March 27, 1926 in Alexandria, Virginia and received her high school education in Washington, D.C. In 1948 she was graduated from Marietta College in Ohio where she was given many honors including election to Phi Beta Kappa. Granted a teaching assistantship at the University of Wisconsin (Madison), she earned a Master's degree in 1949.

Professor Mooren taught at the University of Wisconsin Extension Division in Milwaukee in 1949-51, and returned to the teaching ranks in the Zoology Department at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee in 1960. Upon her retirement in 1988, she was awarded Emeritus status.

Professor Mooren lost her long battle against cancer on January 24, 1993. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert and a brother, Warren. She is survived by her children: Alan, Alice Sawyer, and Andrew, their spouses and eight grandchildren. Also surviving is her mother, Elizabeth Bryant and her brother, Charles Bryant, Jr.

Professor Mooren served the University at all levels of participation: departmental, college and campus-wide. It was noted that she "does not dominate a committee but is one of the best-prepared, most level-headed, best organized and most efficient staff members in committee work." She served a total of nine years in the Faculty Senate. She was active in the formation of a Phi Beta Kappa chapter at UWM, and was president of the chapter in 1978 and 1987.

Professor Mooren used her professional and personal talents in the wider community as well. She helped many Hartford Avenue School students prepare Science Fair projects and served as a judge for a number of years at the Southeastern Wisconsin Science Fair. She lectured at least five years at the Shorewood High School Interim Program. A co-participant in this program wrote, "Not only is she serving the community in this way, but she is focusing the attention of high school students on the opportunity to study zoology at UWM." She led and assisted in many tours of Lapham Hall laboratories for groups ranging from four year olds to high school students and the general public.

Professor Mooren was first and foremost a teacher. For many years she had the responsibility of coordinating several of the large, multi-section courses in the Department. She did not do this in a superficial manner; she anticipated needs, ordered supplies, worked with teaching assistants and departmental personnel in a pleasant and effective manner. She taught students in these courses in the same way. She wrote laboratory manuals to help students better understand the material used in the laboratory. She participated in over a dozen courses in the Department of Biological Sciences in her years at UWM.

When need arose, Professor Mooren helped in the development of new courses to assist in the professional programs which the Department served. She would also modify courses as she saw better ways to teach the students in them.
Comments from colleagues attest to Professor Mooren's untiring concern for her students: "I have observed in her a unique quality of initiating independent inquiry by students. Such ability, to transfer her enthusiasm to the student, indicates Mrs. Mooren's capabilities as a superior educator."

She developed an innovative, computer-generated program to help teaching assistants solve the problem of unequal grades among different sections of multi-section courses.

From a teaching assistant: "Communication between Mrs. Mooren and the TA's was excellent. She went out of her way to be patient and helpful; this was especially important to me, and other TA's who were in their first semester of teaching."

For a dedicated teacher, perhaps the most significant comments come from students. A recurring theme in comments about Professor Mooren is exemplified by the statement: Her door is always open. She taught courses for students whose high schools did not adequately prepare them for college. These students were heart-felt in their appreciation of her efforts in their behalf. Comments from one of them reflect the feelings of many: "One year ago this semester I was taking a Zoology course and did rather poorly on the first examination. I was told to ask Mrs. Mooren for help and she would gladly offer it. She took the time with me once a week to go over my notes and give me little quizzes. Because of her unselfish time given freely, I passed the course well within the B range."

We as her colleagues have known all these good things about Dorothy for many years. We also remember the many acts of kindness she did for us on both the professional and personal level. Many were small things, but only she thought of them and they added light to our lives. In retrospect, we realized we came to take her unique qualities for granted and did not sufficiently appreciate them. We regret that her retirement years were not golden because of her deteriorating health. We wish we could reach across the abyss and say, Dear Friend, thank you!

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