MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR MRS. ELIZABETH ANHALT (1889-1972)

Mrs. Elizabeth Anhalt, esteemed teacher in the Department of Speech at UWM from 1922 until her retirement in 1960, was born at Richland Center, Wisconsin, September 23, 1889, and went to public schools in Galesville and Jefferson, Wisconsin. She then attended Cummock School of Oratory at Northwestern University and later, Marquette University. After some previous teaching at Oshkosh high school she came to the former Milwaukee State Teachers College in the early 1920's as a teacher of Speech. During her thirty years of service here she contributed in many ways to the growth of the Speech Department, retiring in 1961 to Sun City, Arizona, where she lived until her death on July 14, 1972.

In her early years at Milwaukee State Teachers College she was, for a time, the only speech teacher. Later she served as chairman of the department for several years. In fact, many of the present faculty who are alumni of Milwaukee State Teachers College received their early training in Speech Fundamentals from her. She is also remembered for her contributions in experimental work with Creative Dramatics; she started the first Little Theatre group here, setting up a stage in a dark corner of the basement of Old Main Hall (now Mitchell Hall) where she worked "to inspire creativity through the theatre." During her many years of departmental service, Mrs. Anhalt exemplified the highest standards of good speech; colleagues recall her warm, resonant voice and her excellent diction.

She served on the Scholarship Committee, on the Health and Welfare Committee, and most effectively on the Faculty Lounge Committee, as chairman of the latter group for two years. It was during her chairmanship of the Lounge Committee that the merger between the Milwaukee State College and the UW Extension in Milwaukee occurred; and, as chairman of this committee, she did much to foster friendships among members of the two merging faculty groups through daily coffee hours, receptions and teas, birthday parties and the annual Christmas parties--all held in the Faculty Lounge. Indeed, the results of her committee's efforts prompted one enthusiastic faculty member to comment: "These Lounge activities have done more to develop understanding and rapport between the two faculties than any other medium."

Mrs. Anhalt was active in a number of professional organizations and was very generous with her talents in giving book reviews and oral interpretation of poetry and plays before various groups in the Milwaukee area. Ahead of her time, she was an active participant in the Federation of Human Rights and the community Interracial Committee for many years.

In her philosophy of living, Mrs. Anhalt emphasized and personified the art of warm human relationships. To her, "the mind and heart are equally important." She especially liked to work with youth, believing in "the beauty and spontaneity of young people."

Her generous giving of self to colleagues and students alike was her rare and precious contribution to this institution.

Dorothy Miniace
Harriet Sweetland
Catherine Zimmer