MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

ON THE DEATH OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITA LORA JANE EASTHAM

Lora Jane Eastham, assistant professor emerita, passed away on September 25, 1999 at Oakwood Village, in Madison, Wisconsin. For 38 years she dedicated herself to service in the Department of Physical Education and Dance, earning a reputation for her student-centered creative problem-solving approach to teaching.

Her love of teaching was driven by her concern for students. She accepted their challenge to clarify and simplify a movement phrase, a locomotor pattern, a rhythmic concept, or a theoretical idea translated into movement. The successful performance of the student was her satisfaction.

Born on March 19, 1917, she lived briefly in Vincennes, Indiana and then moved to Chicago where she attended Evanston High School. In those early years, she became a leader in girls' athletics and nurtured her interest in the arts of music, literature, and writing poetry.

At Rockford College she majored in the arts and was well known for her creative and energetic dance performances. She received her BA degree in 1940, and remained at Rockford to assist with the teaching of dance. A summer experience at Bennington School of Dance heightened her interest in the performing arts and took her to UW-Madison where she studied and taught as a graduate student. In 1945, she received the MS degree in physical education with an emphasis in dance. Subsequently, she was appointed instructor and later assistant professor in the Department of Physical Education for Women.

Until her retirement in 1979, she taught a variety of courses to students in physical education, dance, elementary education, and occupational therapy to prepare them to teach rhythms and elementary dance in their respective professions. Miss Eastham taught students to teach. A story told by a colleague illustrates a bit of her basic philosophy. At the beginning of the semester, she was studying a set of polaroid pictures and names of each student in her large classes. This helped her learn their names quickly. When asked why the pictures had been taken at such a low angle as if looking up at the student, she replied that this was to make them aware of how a child sees an adult and how the teacher would look to a five-year-old. It was to remind them, she said, that as teachers they must always consider what they do from a child's point of view.

Her creativity was well recognized. She taught the dance section of one of the first integrated arts courses on campus. She illustrated Professor Ruth Glassow's first Kinesiology book, and she helped to edit Professor Margaret H'Doubler's articles and speeches.

Her broad interests, good humor, and enthusiasm led to serving her profession in a variety of ways. In addition to her teaching and student advising duties, she served as the executive secretary to Associated Women Students, dance representative for Wisconsin in the Midwest District of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, governing board member of the Midwest Association of Physical Education for College Women, and president of the Physical Education Alumnae Association. For the department, she was an administrative assistant, building manager, newsletter editor, liaison to the PEW Alumnae Association, first golf coach of the women's team, and chair of many committees. She particularly liked a committee where she could project ideas for the future. Her versatility and willingness to serve the department in different roles generated much love and respect from students and colleagues alike.

Upon retirement she never stopped teaching and creating. She returned as guest lecturer to classes. She taught movement classes for the elderly. Her community service was extensive and included driving for (continued)
Meals on Wheels, giving workshops in movement, and, for more than 25 years, helped organize the state golf tournament for the American Cancer Society. At Oakwood Village she was a volunteer driver. She worked in the coffee shop, and became editor/illustrator for the residents' newsletter. She wrote some short stories. Her passions included golfing at Blackhawk Country Club, camping on her property in Door County, bowling, and playing bridge.

Known to her friends as "Janey," she loved her home on Old Middleton Road, her apartment at Oakwood Village, and her house on Beaver Dam Lake. In addition to her family, Janey had many dear friends. With only a single encounter, people felt she was their friend. With her contagious laughter and her warmth and genuine interest in others, she always found a way to give back to her associates more than she took. Through her example of serving others, she taught us all how to live better lives.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
Frances Z. Cumbee
Mary Alice Brennan
Elizabeth Roberts
Anna Nassif
Julia M. Brown, Chair