In Memoriam

CHRISTINE WARREN ANDERSON

Christine Warren Anderson died on June 13, 1982, from injuries suffered in an automobile accident. She was 29 years of age. With her death, the Department of Educational Psychology and The University lost an outstanding teacher, a gifted researcher and scholar, and a dedicated professional.

Chris Anderson was born in Petaluma, California, on July 30, 1952. She received a Bachelor's degree from Furman University in 1974, graduating summa cum laude with a major in psychology. A concern for the well-being of others was an essential part of her nature. This became even more evident in her graduate work at the University of South Carolina, where she majored in school psychology and received a Ph.D. in 1978.

That same year, she came to The University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and was assigned to its nationally-recognized school psychology program. In the four years which followed, she made many remarkable contributions. She designed and taught several highly successful new graduate courses, including a two-semester sequence on families and parenting that quickly received national attention. She also served as adviser to many students on a broad spectrum of research and professional topics. The students not only appreciated her insightful formulations of theory and thoughtful reactions, but also valued her thorough supervision.

By the time of her death, she had published a number of important articles and the quality of her research and scholarship had become widely known. Her last major article, entitled "An Ecological Developmental Model for a Family Orientation in School Psychology," is widely cited. In recognition of her growing reputation as an able scholar and dedicated professional, she also was an invited contributor to national symposia and conferences.

In addition to her research and scholarship, Chris enriched the Department and the field of school psychology in other ways. A master teacher, she viewed academic and professional pursuits as tough and exacting challenges, and expected students to view them in the same way. Extraordinary teachers influence their students in profound and often irreversible ways, and Chris Anderson was such a teacher. A steady stream of students and colleagues visited her office. If busy schedules precluded them from meeting with her during the day, she would arrange a breakfast meeting, or see them at night, or even on the weekend. She never hesitated to give fully of her time, advising students on personal as well as academic matters, and working collaboratively with colleagues on research projects, committee assignments, and community activities.

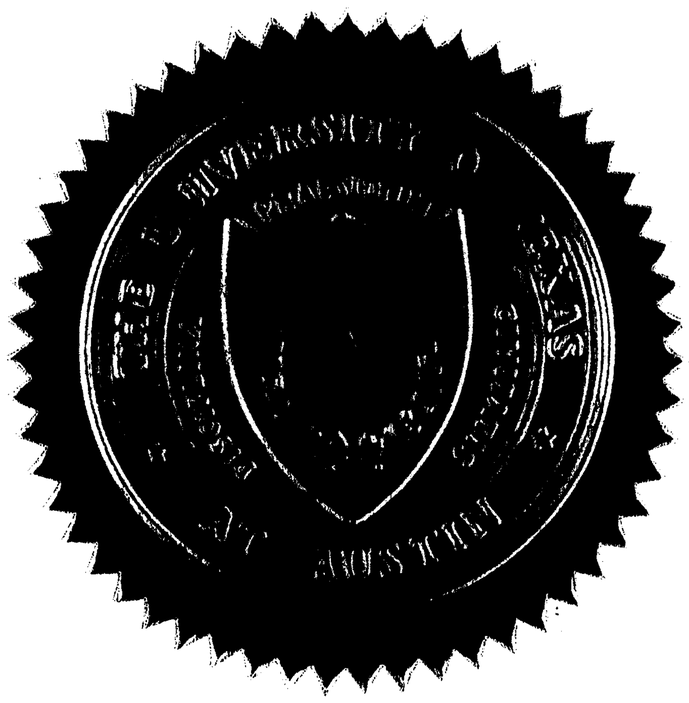
Her character and intelligence found expression in other directions. She belonged to a number of organizations and groups, including the American Psychological Association, the Society for Research in Child Development, and the National Association of School Psychologists, serving as chairperson of important committees in each of these organizations. She had a passion for improving the quality of life for children, and was co-founder of Parents Anonymous, an Austin group dedicated to

helping parents with serious problems in dealing with their children. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Austin Child Guidance Center and helped develop a Child Study laboratory on campus that included day care facilities for young children. Chris also was a devoted wife and mother, and beloved friend, and a "perfect day" for her was a family outing with her husband, Jim, and daughter, Meagan.

Chris had one further quality that deserves special, more personal mention. Those that worked closely with her knew her as someone who constantly pushed students and colleagues toward thinking about solutions to problems. This outlook was reflected in her research, where she was far more interested in studying ways to improve family environments than in describing what was wrong with them. In her clinical work with families, she would quickly move parents from talking about their troubles to taking steps to resolve them. In her own day-to-day conversation, rather than complain about obstacles, she sought out ways to overcome them.

Since her death, she has been further recognized in two important ways. Through contributions of students, colleagues, friends, and family members, the permanently-endowed *Christine Warren Anderson Memorial Scholarship Fund* was established by The University. During the past three years, scholarships have been awarded to ten students who exemplify her high standards of scholarship and service to children, schools, and families. The Austin Child Guidance Center also has set up the *Christine Anderson Children's Services Award,* which is given annually to a community leader in the children's services area.

There are a large number of people whose lives were enriched by knowing Chris Anderson. Chris' many special qualities--a powerful teacher, a passion for excellence, a strong commitment to research and scholarship, dedication to service, and high personal standards--combined to produce a very uncommon person, and the ultimate tribute to her life and work is that many honor her memory by trying to follow the example that she set.



William H. Cunningham, President
The University of Texas at Austin

H. Paul Kelley, Secretary
The General Faculty

[This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Professors Beeman N. Phillips (Chairman), Jackson B. Reid, and Diane L. Schallert.]