IN MEMORIAM

FLORENCE M. STULLKEN

Florence M. Stullken, age 94, who taught in the College of Business Administration at The University of Texas at Austin from 1919 to 1958, died March 4, 1985.

Florence was born in 1891 in Brenham, Texas, the daughter of John Edward Stullken and Pauline Blattner. She graduated valedictorian from Blinn College in 1909, and she received her B.A. from The University of Texas in 1918, Phi Beta Kappa, majoring in English with a minor in languages. In 1918-1919, she instituted the Commercial Department at Texas Women's College in Fort Worth.

Beginning in the fall of 1919, Professor Stullken served as an instructor and then later as an assistant professor in the College of Business Administration. When the Department of Business officially became a school in 1922, Professor Stullken was one of only six full-time faculty. Helped by six assistants, she taught approximately 450 students each semester during the mid-20's while working on her M.B.A., which she completed in 1927.

In the beginning of her teaching career at the University, her classrooms were held in what was called the "Speedway Shacks," which then housed the School of Business Administration. Later, she taught in the old Press Building, and, in 1931, moved with the entire faculty of business administration into newly constructed Waggener Hall.

Despite the increased number of female students enrolled, the School of Business had no honor society for women. In 1922, several decades ahead of the feminist's movement, Florence helped organize and institute Gamma Epsilon Phi that later merged with Beta Gamma Sigma, formerly a men's honorary society. Membership in Gamma Epsilon Phi required that each student maintain a B-plus average and that each also have "promise of marked business ability, impeccable character, and a pleasing personality." Meetings of Gamma Epsilon
Phi were held in Professor Stullken's home. They became legendary and are still well remembered by her former students.

In 1940, Professor Stullken founded a local women's professional business administration organization, Beta Beta Alpha. Any woman student registered in the College of Business Administration could become a member at the beginning of either the fall or spring semester. Through the years, approximately 500 students became members of this organization. Meetings were held twice each month with social events and addresses by prominent guest speakers. With Florence's prospective retirement, Beta Beta Alpha disbanded in 1956.

In the late 30's, Professor Stullken helped organize business studies at Huston-Tillotson College by aiding John King, the current president of the college, in finding channels and contacting people to begin the department. When laws changed to allow blacks into the University, Professor Stullken encouraged King to study for his doctorate. King later became one of the first black recipients of a doctorate from The University of Texas at Austin. Her relationship with Huston-Tillotson College, Dr. King, and his wife, Marcet, extended over the years culminating in her establishing an endowed professorship in Marcet King's name.

Professor Stullken was known as a demanding teacher and a leader in business education and the commercial training of women. She served as state conductor of shorthand and typing contests for the Interscholastic League, held numerous courses and seminars for commercial teachers in the state and region, and was in charge of secretarial programs at national meetings of Commercial Teachers.

Florence's demand for precision in shorthand was well known throughout the United States. In 1936, she was awarded one of eight world-wide Gregg Artist Gold Medals. These awards were given "for correct and artistic shorthand both on the blackboard and on paper." The award is based on examination, and up to that date, only one other Texas teacher had received the medal, a former student of Professor Stullken's.
Throughout her tenure as a faculty member, she was active in College and University activities. She served for many years as secretary of the faculty of the School of Business Administration, was on the University's discipline committee, and was a member of the Faculty Women's Club.

She has been described by many as independent and individualistic. She was even at one time a member of a bachelor's club in Austin in the 1940's. Florence was known as "one who dressed with care. She had her strong opinions and did not hesitate to voice them, but she was a good listener." She never married, but she thought of her many students as her children, often inviting them into her home for suppers. She also worked with the U.S.O. during World War II, opening up her home to military personnel who came to Austin.

Professor Stullken actively gave to many community organizations through her committed participation in them. She served as secretary of the Sunday School at the University United Methodist Church for 28 years, a responsibility she took very seriously. She served in the Round Rock Chapter of the Eastern Star No. 316, the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce, and Anderson Mill Garden club. She began her ranching career in 1953 when she purchased a ranch in Williamson County to raise sheep and to garden.

In August 1958, Professor Stullken retired from The University of Texas after thirty-eight years of service. She remained active in her church, her ranch, her gardening, and what she considered her hobby ... people.
This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a special Committee consisting of Professors William J. Lord, Jr. (Chairman), Gaylord A. Jentz, and Francis B. May.