IN MEMORIAM

W. Gordon Whaley

Unexpected death terminated the distinguished career of Dr. W. Gordon Whaley on December 15, 1982. Dr. Whaley is survived by his wife, Clare, two grandchildren and his brother, Frank. The Whaley's daughter, Patricia Hardesty, died February 15, 1986.

W. Gordon Whaley was born in New York City on January 16, 1914. He was awarded the B.S. degree by the University of Massachusetts in 1936 and the Ph.D. by Columbia University in 1939. At Columbia, Whaley held the Nathaniel Lord Britton Fellowship and a University Fellowship during his graduate studies.

Prior to joining the faculty of The University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Whaley held a number of professional appointments. These include a Lectureship at Barnard College (1939-1940) and an Instructorship at Columbia University (1940-1943). During World War II, Dr. Whaley served as Senior Geneticist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (1943-1946). This position involved assignments in Mexico, Brazil and in Europe in relation to the search for sources of natural rubber. Subsequently, at The University of Texas, he served as Associate Professor of Botany (1946-1948), and as Professor and Chairman (1948-1962) of the Department of Botany; at the same time he assumed the Directorship of the Plant Research Institute (1947-1964), and later of the Cell Research Institute (1964-1979). Dr. Whaley held visiting professorships at The Rockefeller University (1964-1972) and at the University of Leningrad (spring of 1978).

Dr. Whaley excelled as a teacher of both undergraduate and graduate students in courses in general biology, plant genetics, morphogenesis,
and cellular biology. He was one of the pioneers who appreciated and employed electron microscopy in the investigation of plant cells. Dr. Whaley and his students first demonstrated unequivocally the presence of the Golgi Apparatus as a fundamental organelle in plant cells.

In addition to numerous articles in biological periodicals, Whaley was the author of three books: Biology for Everyone (1948), Principles of Biology (1954, 1957 and 1964)\(^1\) and The Golgi Apparatus (1975); the last was also published in a Russian edition in 1978.

Among Dr. Whaley's contributions to the University, other than in teaching and research, were his vision and guidance as the first chairman of the Department of Botany at The University of Texas at Austin. He recruited for the department faculty members with diverse educational backgrounds, as well as with teaching and research interests in both classical and the newly emerging areas of plant science. Within a few years of his relinquishing the chairmanship, the Department of Botany was cited as eighth in national standing. By the time of his death—and in great measure because of his vision in recruiting faculty—the Department of Botany achieved first place in the nation\(^2\) with respect to its graduate program.

Among the many honors received during his career by Dr. Whaley, the following are noteworthy:

(1) A Distinguished Service Award from The University of Texas System and Board of Regents "for outstanding leadership and the national distinction achieved at The University of Texas Graduate School during his fifteen years as Graduate Dean."

\(^1\) With the co-authorship of several members of three departments in biological science.

\(^2\) Tied with the Department of Botany, University of California at Davis.
(2) An Award of Merit from the Botanical Society of America for his contributions to our knowledge of the genetics, morphogenesis and cellular biology of plants.

(3) The Distinguished Alumnus award of the University of Massachusetts Debate Union.

(4) His appointment as Ashbel Smith Professor of Cellular Biology beginning in 1972.

Dr. Whaley's activities and achievements as Associate Dean (1954-1957) and Dean (1957-1972) of the Graduate School were a major contribution to The University of Texas at Austin. The enrollment in the Graduate School during his tenure increased from 2,422 to 6,438 graduate students. Dr. Whaley's philosophy regarding the deanship and the Graduate School was succinctly summarized in his own statement to a called meeting of the Graduate Faculty in 1957:

"The achievement of any graduate school is the sum of the achievements of the members of its faculty. A dean can assist in development. He can exert influence in the provision of opportunities and facilities. He can emphasize standards of performance, but, ultimately, the standing of a graduate school is the product of individual faculty accomplishments. The prestige of a graduate faculty is measured by the national and international standing of its members."

This philosophy was not only the basis for Dr. Whaley's personal commitment to scholarship, but also the criterion on which he assessed individuals and departmental graduate programs.

As Dean of the Graduate School he participated actively in national and regional organizations relating to graduate education and science. He was active in the Association of Graduate Schools, helped found the Council of Graduate Schools, and studied the structure of graduate degrees for the American Council on Education. Dr. Whaley encouraged and
supported a number of scholarly journals on the campus, among them, Arion, the Social Science Quarterly, the Journal of Politics, the Hispanic American Historical Review, and others. He created the Graduate Journal (1958), which continued in publication to 1973. At Gordon Whaley's memorial service (February 2, 1983), one of the speakers said: "The Graduate Journal remains a testament to Gordon Whaley's passionate desire to inform, exhort and encourage the University and its graduate program in the long, upward reach towards excellence. His attacks on mediocrity and his strong appeals to develop the intellectual capacities of the institution are forever preserved in its pages. Gordon Whaley was a great graduate dean--his mark on this university and on graduate education in America will prove deep and permanent."

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 Harold C. Bold (Chairman), William S. Livingston, and David P. Bloch.