IN MEMORIAM

ANNE WILKENS

Anne Wilkens, Professor Emeritus of Social Work, died on April 13, 1974, after a brief illness. She was the first faculty member appointed to the School by the then Director, the late Lora Lee Pederson. She served as Professor of Social Work from 1950 until her retirement in 1973 and as Director of Field Instruction until 1969. She was Acting Director of the School from 1963 to 1965.

Professor Wilkens was born in San Antonio, Texas, December 24, 1906. She left Texas to receive her college education at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and her Master's Degree in Social Work for Columbia University in 1942. She taught at William and Mary College from 1927 to 1930 and at Atlantic University from 1930 to 1932.

During the depression of the thirties, Professor Wilkens was active in such socially concerned programs as the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Works Progress Administration. She served as Supervisor of the Texas Relief Commission from 1933 to 1935 and for the next four years as State and Assistant Regional Supervisor for the WPA. During the years she was studying and receiving her Master's Degree in Social Work, she was also serving as Staff Development Consultant for the Texas State Department of Public Welfare. It was during those years that she initiated "institutes" for the education of those people practicing social work. In retrospect, these training sessions were the early roots of social work education in Texas, and their success documented the need
for such education to be offered to those attempting to help others. She
developed not only the "how-to's" of educating workers in welfare departments,
but she worked tirelessly at the difficult task of "trail-blazing" in the
South and Southwest the whole concept that training is essential if one human
being is to help another effectively.

Professor Wilkens' skills also extended to international service. From
1944 to 1947 she worked with the United Nations Relief Administration in
Greece as Welfare Training Officer and Consultant to the Greek Government on
Training. She was instrumental in the inception of a school of social work
in Athens. Following the experience in Greece, Professor Wilkens worked in
Washington as Training Consultant for what is now the Department of Health,
Education, and Welfare. She resigned this job in 1950 to return to Texas to
help establish the new School of Social Work at the University. One of three
faculty members at the School, she taught public welfare, and she developed
educational field placements in social agencies throughout the state.

Taking a year's leave from the faculty in 1952, Professor Wilkens
served as Social Welfare Specialist for the U. S. State Department in India,
working with Indian schools of social work and evaluating requests from India
to the United States for funding for new schools. In the summer of 1960 she
was called upon to serve as consultant on curriculum for the San Salvador
School of Social Work.

Professor Wilkens' life was active—physically and mentally. She
enjoyed a variety of interests and hobbies and people. High school days
were filled with extra-curricular activities, especially in the recreational
field—from ballet to tennis to a state championship in swimming. Gardening
became one of her favorite pastimes; her enjoyment of the out-of-doors was matched with the joy of seeing plants and flowers bloom and grow. After returning to Texas in 1950 she began vacationing on Mustang Island with her family and friends. Relaxation to her was a day of fishing on the jetties or inlets for red fish or speckled trout. Her favorite indoor sport was entertaining students and friends with her gourmet cooking and her challenging, stimulating conversation.

Anne Wilkens was a dedicated teacher, a beloved friend, and an outstanding member of the social work profession. All who knew her have a very special memory of her warmth, her sparkling wit, and her penetrating mind. She is sorely missed, both as a colleague and as a person.

Lorene Rogers, President ad interim of The University of Texas at Austin

James L. Kinneavy, Secretary of the General Faculty

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a Special Committee consisting of Josleen Lockhart (chairman), Helen Burt, and Jean Schieffer.