

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
CHARLES H. DENT**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Charles H. Dent, associate professor, curriculum and instruction, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.

Sue Alexander Greninger, Secretary
The General Faculty

**IN MEMORIAM
CHARLES H. DENT**

Dr. Charles Herger Dent was born on November 14, 1911, the fourth of seven children of the Reverend Isaac and Sarah Williams Dent of Georgetown, Texas, and died in Austin on December 24, 2001, at the age of 90. Mr. Dent received an associate of arts degree from Lon Morris Academy, Jacksonville, Texas, a bachelor of arts degree from Southern Methodist University in 1931, and a master of arts degree in 1941. He received an Ed.D. degree from New York University in 1951. He was married to Mary Brown Freeman Dent for 64 years. They were the parents of two sons: Laurence of Toronto, Canada, and Charles, who died in 1974.

From 1931 until he completed his Ed.D. degree, he was an elementary teacher and principal in Garland and Dallas schools. From 1952 until his retirement in 1976, he was a professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the College of Education at The University of Texas where he specialized in social studies education. At the University, Dr. Dent was instrumental in promoting international understanding and public relations with particular reference to Central and South America and the University. Under his leadership, educational ties were strengthened between the College of Education and various educational institutions of Mexico. For example, he established a chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, a national honorary society, in Saltillo, Mexico, and was involved in exchange teacher programs between cities in Texas and Mexico. During his tenure, he received several leaves of absence to serve two years in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, as consultant to the Agency for International Development and one year at the American Community School in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Additionally, he served as president of the Texas Elementary Principals' Association, the Texas Association for Supervision and Curriculum, and the National Board for Educational Development. Dr. Dent was also president of the Austin-Travis County Mental Health Society and was named "Mental Health Man of the Year" in 1958. He was a Danforth Fellow, a consultant to the Hogg Foundation, and an officer and life member of the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers. He was a member of the Phi Delta Theta social fraternity and of Phi Delta Kappa, serving as chapter president for this honorary society for several terms. Active for decades in the University United Methodist Church in Austin, he was a long-time vice-president of the Hickman Men's Bible Class. He also served on the national Publication Board of the United Methodist Church.

No one who knew (or even briefly met) Dr. Dent would ever forget him and his positive, charming demeanor; he was the epitome of "hail fellow well met." Dr. Thomas Horn, former chairman of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, called him the department's "prime doer of good things." Responding to Dr. Dent's retirement letter, Dr. William Bennie, Dr. Horn's successor, (paraphrasing Will Rogers) paid him this richly deserved compliment: "I never met a man who didn't like Charlie Dent." Dr. Bennie went on to say in his letter that "your kindness, your pleasant disposition, and the interest which you have taken in the hundreds of young people during your tenure at the University will be remembered by all members of the faculty and by thousands of teachers in the field."

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Elaine Fowler (chair) and Gary McKenzie.

Distributed to the dean of the College of Education, the executive vice president and provost, and the president on March 11, 2004. Copies are available on request from the Office of the General Faculty, FAC 22, F9500. This resolution is posted under "Memorials" at: <http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/>.