

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR
CHARLES T. CLARK**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Charles T. Clark, professor emeritus, business administration, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Hillary Hart, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council

**IN MEMORIAM
CHARLES T. CLARK**

Charles T. "Chuck" Clark, age ninety-seven, the Mary Lee Harkins Sweeney Centennial Professor Emeritus of Business Administration at The University of Texas at Austin, died November 25, 2014. He was born in Illinois on March 18, 1917, to Charles A. Clark and Kathryn Sneed Clark, graduated from Highland Park High School in Dallas, Texas, and earned three degrees from the University of Texas at Austin: a B.B.A. in 1938, an M.B.A. in 1939, and a Ph.D. in business administration with a specialization in statistics in 1956.

After receiving his master's degree, Chuck served as assistant manager of the Austin Chamber of Commerce under Walter Long. In 1943, he married Pearl DuBose, and together they moved to the University of Washington, where Chuck entered a U.S. Army Air Corps intensive Japanese language study program. During World War II, Chuck served in various locations in the South Pacific, often landing in small planes on deserted islands in order to intercept and translate Japanese coded messages. He entered Tokyo on the first day of the Allied Occupation, and there he served as an organizer, translator, and interpreter, traveling throughout the country and deepening his appreciation for the Japanese people and their culture. On one trip to a mountain village, Chuck befriended two doctors who were married and had a small child. After the war, Chuck and Pearl honored this family's requests over several years, first for food, then blankets, then books, and, once conditions had improved, for sheet music. Several years later, the couple's daughter came to live with the Clark family while she attended The University of Texas at Austin. She became the first of dozens of the "adopted children," many foreign students, who filled the Clark home on holidays and between semesters.

After his World War II service concluded, Chuck joined The University of Texas at Austin in administration, filled in as a statistics instructor for one semester, and found that he so enjoyed teaching that he sought it as a career. In January 1953, he joined the faculty of statistics in what was then the Department of General Business (later, the Department of Management Science and Information Systems and still later the Department of Information, Risk, and Operations Management) in the College of Business Administration, retiring from full-time teaching in 1985. During his long career, those faculty who worked with him knew him to be a kind, gentle, unassuming colleague, and a popular, award-winning teacher. He authored four books during his career. His introductory statistics text, *Introduction to Business and Economic Statistics*, with John Stockton (later editions with Eleanor Jordan), was used at the University and a number of other universities for many years. Another of his statistics texts was coauthored with Lawrence L. Schkade.

As a teacher, Chuck focused on the introductory statistics course in the undergraduate BBA and in the graduate MBA programs. These courses were difficult to teach well because they were required and widely dreaded for their arcane computational formulae and rumored irrelevance to the real world. But Chuck had a knack. His method was to provide students a clear recipe for success in a family-like context infused with his warm and supportive personality. Students responded appreciatively, resulting in Chuck's ranking among the top University faculty in terms of teaching awards at the time. His classroom experiences framed his approach to his textbooks.

Chuck witnessed the start of the computer revolution in his field. In his early years at the University, statistical computations were done by hand, or with clunky calculators. There was considerable emphasis on developing

efficient routines for hand calculations. In his middle years, mainframe computers appeared, offering remote access. Toward the end of his career, personal computers developed. Each new development changed the focus of the teaching of statistics – consistently reducing the emphasis on formulae. Chuck supported these changes and supplemented his textbooks with guides for the use of the new technology.

He was very oriented toward applications in his research. Long associated with the Bureau of Business Research (BBR), Chuck contributed to the writing of numerous monographs and compilations of data that the BBR provided as a service or under contract to Texas businesses. However, his main love, after his family, was teaching. As further evidence of his commitment to students, he endowed a music scholarship in memory of his wife, the late Pearl DuBose Clark, well after his retirement.

As an Eagle Scout himself, he and long-time UT administrator Arno (“Shorty”) Nowotny started a popular Boy Scout troop at the University Presbyterian Church. His scouts became his lifelong friends who later met for lunch monthly well into their 80s.

Always active in civic organizations, Chuck was a past president of the West Austin Rotary Club, the Austin Personnel Association, and the Austin Chapter of the American Statistical Association; and past national president of the College and University Personnel Association. He also served on numerous UT committees, the University Federal Credit Union board of directors, and the local Girl Scouts board.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Thomas W. Sager (chair), John R. Allison, and James S. Dyer.

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