

## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR  
MARY L. ADAMS**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Mary L. Adams, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Nursing, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary  
General Faculty and Faculty Council  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**IN MEMORIUM  
MARY L. ADAMS**

Mary Louise Adams, known to her friends as “Mary Lou,” was born on September 28, 1942, in New York City. She realized her childhood dream of becoming a nurse in 1963 when she earned a diploma from Fordham Hospital School of Nursing. She spent her early years working in New York, Vermont, California, and Colorado. Finally settling in Austin with her husband Edward, in 1975, she returned to school at The University of Texas at Austin, earning a B.S. in Nursing in 1978, an M.S. in Nursing in 1980, and a Ph.D. in Medical Sociology in 1990.

Dr. Mary Lou Adams had an impressive nursing career that spanned several decades. Her most notable contributions were in the areas of preventive cancer care, advocacy for minority and underserved populations, increasing access to care, and influencing health policy via numerous community leadership roles with reports and presentations to state legislature regarding these priority areas. Dr. Adams was a passionate advocate for poor and underserved communities, working tirelessly to address and reduce the burden of cancer in the African American and Hispanic communities. She developed a program of preventive cancer care in collaboration with local grass-roots organizations and healthcare providers that reached thousands of underserved women and men, improved screening rates for breast, cervical, and prostate cancer, and increased access to care. This model of care was disseminated to eighteen communities across the U.S. and adopted by two state health departments.

Dr. Adams’ efforts to improve preventive cancer care were widely recognized. She served on more than fifty national grant review panels at the National Institutes of Health National Cancer Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Defense. She also served on local, state, and national organizations including the American Cancer Society, the Texas Department of State Health Services Cancer Control Program, and, locally, on the Shivers Cancer Foundation, the Breast Cancer Resource Center, and the Medical Assistance Program Advisory Board for the Austin City Council. She was the first chairperson of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation’s African American National Advisory Committee and was chair of the Texas Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition. She has been honored with more than twenty awards for service, including the Richard E. Hopkins Torch Award for Medical Professions and the U.S. President’s Volunteer Service Award. In recognition of the impact of her work, Dr. Adams was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing.

Dr. Adams was a faculty member in the School of Nursing at The University of Texas at Austin for twenty-six years. Her profound impact on the nursing profession lives on in the countless students she has mentored and inspired to become outstanding nursing leaders. Her greatest pride and joy, however, were her three bright, beautiful children and her seven rambunctious, inquisitive, and thoroughly delightful grandchildren.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Sharon D. Horner (chair), Heather A. Becker and Lorraine O. Walker.

Distributed to the dean of School of Nursing on May 30, 2017, and posted under “Memorial Resolutions” at <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home>.