IN MEMORIAM

ALBERTA M. CASTANEDA

Alberta M. Castaneda was born on August 15, 1922, in Yakima, Washington. She earned her B.A. in Education in June 1942 from Central Washington State College and immediately bounded into teaching. Professor Castaneda was a public school teacher from 1942 to 1963, at institutions in Washington, California, Ohio, and Texas. Young students in first grade, kindergarten, and remedial reading benefited from her dedication and experience.

After receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in August 1967, she began a shining career based in research, community outreach, and teacher training. Her publications include “Kindergarten Children’s Number Concept and Skills” (1979), Using Manipulatives to Build Number Meanings in Pre-Kindergarten and First Grade (1979), Sunrise Edition: Springboards to Learning (Sheridan and Murphy, 1988), and “Early Mathematics Education” in In the Early Childhood Curriculum: A Review of Current Research (1987).

In the UT Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Professor Castaneda was instrumental in developing the early childhood endorsement for elementary education majors. She offered courses and workshops for early childhood teachers on and off campus. For example, in October of 1976, sponsored by the Texas Education Agency, Professor Castaneda co-directed the “14th Annual Texas Migrant Education Workshop” in Corpus Christi for educators who worked with children of Texas migrant laborers. She gave presentations on primary mathematics for children ages five through eight to over 2,000 teachers and pubic school personnel.

Professor Castaneda was also interested in technology as a pedagogical and research tool. Along with Director Celia Genishi, Dr. Pamela McCollum, Elizabeth Strang and Barbara Gilstad,
she collaborated in a pilot program designed to determine which characteristics of software are useful for teaching very young children. This program involved four-year-old children from East Austin neighborhoods using IBM microcomputers and a computer language program, LOGO, which deals with mathematical and geometric principles.

Professor Castaneda, who had two children, Kedron Marie Cataneda and Alfred Andrew (Drew) Castaneda, touched the lives of countless students. Her loss is felt keenly by UT Austin, by teachers throughout Texas, and by the field of education itself.

Gregory L. Fenves, President
The University of Texas at Austin

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
The General Faculty

This memorial resolution was prepared by Casey Sloan in the Office of the General Faculty.