The Special Committee of the General Faculty to prepare a Memorial Resolution for Lear Lee Ashmore, Professor Emeritus, Department of Speech Communication, has filed with the Secretary of the General Faculty the following report.

H. Paul Kelley, Secretary
The General Faculty

**IN MEMORIAM**

**LEAR LEE ASHMORE**

Dr. Lear Lee Ashmore, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Department of Speech Communication, The University of Texas at Austin, died on October 5, 1994. She was born on April 9, 1928, in Coleman, Texas. She was educated in the public schools of Coleman and San Antonio, and she received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education degrees from The University of Texas at Austin. She received her Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1958.

Lear began her professional career as a speech clinician at the Eloise Japhet School for Crippled Children in San Antonio. She was then appointed to the faculty of North Texas State College, Denton, Texas, in 1953. She joined the faculty of the Department of Speech Communication, The University of Texas at Austin, in 1960, where she remained until her retirement in 1988. In 1971, Lear was also appointed Professor of Education in the College of Education.

During her tenure at The University, Lear was a revered undergraduate teacher and a dedicated graduate mentor, having directed 51 M.A. theses and 11 Ph.D. dissertations. Her intense dedication to the Department of Speech Communication led her to accept several significant administrative appointments, including service as supervisor of the Speech and Hearing Clinic from 1967 to 1971, graduate advisor from 1974 to 1977, and Chair of the department from 1979 to 1985.

Lear’s teaching and research interests were in the areas of speech pathology, articulation disorders, stuttering, and clinical administration. She had extensive publications in professional journals and contributed chapters to several books. Additionally, she presented numerous convention papers and wrote a number of instructional manuals.

In addition to her teaching and administrative career, Lear was actively involved in professional organizations. She was a member and Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and held numerous elective offices in the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association, including election as its president in 1966. She also served as president in 1967 of Sigma Alpha Eta, the national fraternity for students in speech pathology, audiology, and education of the deaf. Her scholarship led Lear to serve as Associate Editor of the *Southern Speech Journal* of the Southern Speech Association and as Editorial

While at The University, Lear accepted numerous important University committee assignments and assignments in the Colleges of Communication and Education. Included among them were the following: Committee on Student's Use of English (1968-1971), President's Special Committee on English Requirements (1971), Committee to Establish a Child Study Institute at The University (1972-1974), Executive Committee of the Institute for the Study of Human Development (1974), and the Faculty Senate Academic Honesty Committee (1984-1985). Additionally, Lear was a member of Committee A of The University Research Institute (1976-1977) and the Discipline Policies Committee (1982-1985), chairing that committee in 1985.

Lear's outstanding contributions to the Department, The University and her profession were recognized on a number of occasions. For example, she received the University Students' Association Teaching Excellence Award in 1965 and the Outstanding Clinical Achievement Award of the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association in 1973. She was designated the Outstanding Woman of the Year by the Austin American Statesman in 1970 and was named the Jesse J. Villarreal Faculty Fellow by The University for the 1986-1987 academic year.

Lear was an enthusiastic supporter of the arts. In addition to attending many local musical and dramatic performances, she enjoyed periodic trips to New York to attend plays and the opera.

More than anything else, however, Lear Ashmore was a hard-headed pragmatist who felt that the human mind met its highest calling when applied to the solving of practical problems. She brought a special kind of passion, almost a ferociousness, to the field of communication disorders, a resoluteness that no child should be deprived of life's bounties because of speech, language, or hearing difficulties. And so she spent countless hours in the clinic working with children, and with would-be teachers of children, to insure that they could become in life all that they could become. In the process of doing so, Lear Ashmore herself become more than most.

Two funds have been established in the Department of Speech Communication bearing Lear's name. The Lear Ashmore Fellowship in Communication Disorders was endowed in 1989, and the Lear Ashmore Financial Assistance Fund was established in 1990. Appropriately, both of these funds benefit students in the programs of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

This Memorial Resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professor Emeritus Martin T. Todaro (Chair), Professor Emeritus Gene Powers, and Ms. Barbara Loera. Generous assistance was provided by Professor Robert C. Jeffrey, Professor Roderick Hart, and Professor Wayne A. Danielson.

Distributed to Voting and Emeritus Members of the faculty of the Department of Speech Communication, the Dean of the College of Communication, the Executive Vice President and Provost, and the President on August 31, 1995.