IN MEMORIAM

MRS. KATHLEEN LOMAX BLAND

On the evening of the 24th of May, 1944, Mrs. Kathleen Lomax Bland closed the door of her office in high spirits and with the good wishes of her staff associates as she left for a short visit with her son who was in military service. On the morning of the 25th the tragic news of her untimely death by automobile accident was broadcast by radio and subsequently telephoned to the office.

At the time of her death she had completed ten years of service as Assistant Dean of Women in The University of Texas. Her youth was spent in Austin, Texas, where she attended the public schools and The University of Texas. In 1930 she received the A.B. degree and Teachers Certificate. As an undergraduate she participated in student organization and was active in the social life of the campus. Her beauty and her gayety made her a favorite with her many friends and associates. For two years following graduation, she taught in the high school at Richmond, Texas. In 1912 she was married to David Clarence Bland and made her home in Orange, Texas. To give her three children, Tane, David, and Kathleen the education, which would prepare them for an active and useful life was one of her greatest ambitions. In every way they have fulfilled this hope of their mother. While administering to the needs of her family she had time and interest to participate in many community affairs, particularly Church and Federation of Women's Club work. From 1928 to 1934 she conducted a private primary school which many of the children of Orange attended. When these young men and women came to the University, they renewed their friendship most happily with the teacher who had started them in their education.

In 1934 Mrs. Bland was appointed to the position of Assistant to the Dean of Women at the University of Texas. In 1936 she was promoted to the position of Assistant Dean of Women and immediately began her study for a Masters degree, which she completed in 1937.

Many policies and decisions of vital importance to women's education on the campus had to be made by the staff of the Dean of Women during this period of rapidly increasing enrollment of women students. At all times Mrs. Bland gave to the staff the benefit of her varied experience and wise counsel. Always it was her purpose to encourage the students to accept responsibility, to grow in maturity and to acquire the standard of intellectual development
consistent with the ideals and philosophy of a University education. She served on many University Committees having to do with student life, always acting with the interest of students at heart.

Her close contact with both men and women students gave her the point of view of youth. Her inexhaustible enthusiasm and her unfaltering faith in young people protected her from the rigidity and inflexibility of increasing years. Her office door was always open to the boys and girls of the campus. On many occasions younger members of the faculty came to talk with her and to receive the encouragement she so ably gave. Proof of the great number of her personal friends among the students and ex-studentes came by letter and wire from the boys in the service as they expressed their personal loss at the news of her passing. The counsel they had received and the encouragement they had been given revived the spirit of many downhearted students.

Mrs. Bland's vitality and bouyancy and gay laughter made her a constant favorite with student groups. She was ready to answer any request to talk with students on the importance of their relationship to each other and to the University. She subordinated her personal interests at all times, placing the welfare of students in front of her own activities. It was one of her greatest satisfactions to see students become aware of and take advantage of the privileges and opportunities the University offered.

To assist student groups in working together cooperatively with the respect and consideration for the rights and privileges of each other was the ideal of her sponsorship in Panhellenic. She was ever mindful of the obligations of sororities and fraternities to the University and helped stimulate that fine loyalty to ideals and standards of sorority life. Her own sorority, Chi Omega, depended on her wise guidance in maintaining high standards in their relationship with each other and with other student groups. In the innumerable talks, which she gave to sorority and housing groups, she continuously emphasized the ideals of fine living and achievement of worthy standards of conduct.

In her personal life she exemplified that rare combination of ability to create a happy and complete home life for her family and also to have a successful professional career.

To perpetuate her interest in the welfare of University students a memorial fund has been established. Individual students and organizations have contributed generously as an expression of their belief in the abiding influence of her spirit on the student body of Texas. This financial aid offered to students will continue in a tangible
way the encouragement and help which she extended to so many and will perpetuate the influence of her youthful spirit.

Her professional interests extended to those organizations concerned with community welfare and education. She was member of the National Association of Deans of Women, the Texas State Association of Deans of Women and Advisers of Girls in which organization she held offices from time to time. She was active in the American Association of University Women. In local organizations she was a faithful member and was especially interested in the Austin Settlement Club to which she gave continuous help and wise counsel from her experience with children.

No finer tribute can be given, revealing the interests and enthusiasm Mrs. Bland felt for her work, than she herself expressed in the preface to her yearly report:

"It is with real enthusiasm that each year we plan next year's work in the light of experience of the year just past. Programs are never completed with the perfection we would like, and we feel that the task of guidance is one with no ending in order that we may look back for an example of a complete case of advising; nevertheless as long as we see among us young women and young men accepting responsibility, and year by year, developing scholastic, social, and spiritual strength, we can outline enthusiastically our program of last year, and restate our plans for the coming one."

In her passing the students and staff of the University and the Community have lost one of their finest friends and co-workers. We take comfort in the knowledge that her influence and constant inspiration will endure in the lives of the students who were associated with her.

Special Committee

Mrs. Corrie Allen
Mr. L. L. Click
Mr. Rex Hopper
Mr. Arno Nowtny
Miss Lucy Rathbone
Miss Dorothy Gebauer (Chairman)