IN MEMORIAM
ESTHER J. W. HALL

I have been asked for a few thoughts in remembrance of Dr. Hall. When I came to the UT College of Pharmacy in 1970, what I knew about the workings of a university was extremely scant. Dr. Hall was invariably helpful and courteous to this profoundly green faculty member.

Though there have been others, Dr. Hall, through intelligence, persistence, and hard work, was one of the first women with whom I am familiar who was able to break through the academic glass ceiling in pharmacy and in her discipline. For this we owe her much respect.

I personally owe her two other debts of gratitude. First, things were considerably more rowdy in the 1970s and early 1980s. As part of a traditional scavenger hunt run by the professional organization I advised at the time, Dr. Hall was very frequently asked to put her signature on artifacts that a staid and respectable woman of that era would have no expectation of coming in contact. Imagine the trembling pledges going to her door. She always responded with humor and grace -- for which I was always very grateful.

The second thing for which I am thankful is that she introduced me to philately, stamp collecting, seeding my interest with flocks of her duplicates. This is an activity I am still interested in today.

Dr. Esther Jane Wood Hall was a unique character in the life of our college. I will always remember her fondly.

This memorial resolution was prepared by retired Professor Alan B. Combs.

Distributed to the dean of the School of Pharmacy on August 29, 2012, and posted under “Memorials” at http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/.