IN MEMORIAM
EARL A. KOILE

Earl Koile, a professor emeritus in the Department of Educational Psychology, died on December 10, 2013, at his home in Austin, Texas. Born on July 22, 1917, and raised in Seelyville, Indiana, Earl worked his way through Indiana State College, where he majored in business and journalism and played varsity basketball and baseball. After graduating in 1939 and teaching high school English and journalism for a year in Chillicothe, Ohio, Earl was accepted to the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He received his draft papers a week later, however, and joined the Army Air Corps as a private. He actively served until the end of World War II, rising to the rank of major and the position of adjutant general of the III Tactical Air Command. After leaving the military in 1946, he resumed his education via the G.I. Bill, and in 1947 completed his masters at Harvard, where he focused his studies on counseling.

His first higher education position was as an associate professor and director of Student Personnel at East Texas State College in Commerce, Texas. Upon arrival there, he met Carmon Crowder, and they married a year later. The following year, 1949, Earl took a leave of absence, and he and Carmon lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, while he worked on his doctorate at Harvard. Over the next several years, Earl continued at East Texas State, spending summers working on his doctorate at Harvard, which he completed in the summer of 1952. While at East Texas State, he introduced psychology courses into the curriculum, founded a graduate program in counseling, established student advising programs, and assisted faculty members in better understanding their students. He was promoted to professor and chairman of the Department of Guidance.
In 1956, Earl’s interest in program development and students’ education led him to the University of Vermont, in Burlington, Vermont, where he served as director of Summer Session and Adult Education. He was instrumental in working with college deans and departmental chairs to design courses and special summer programs. He also provided administrative overview to develop and manage budgets, hire faculty, and supervise admission of students in the summer programs. Similarly, he administered the university’s program of evening and extension courses. He also served as director of the Warren R. Austin Institute of World Understanding.

In 1958, Earl moved to Austin to begin his distinguished career at The University of Texas at Austin as an associate professor of Educational Psychology and the coordinator of counseling. In 1963, he was promoted to professor and also served as a consultant for Division of Student Affairs in the Office of the Chancellor. While in this role, Earl had the opportunity to study the programs in student affairs and make recommendations for structure and administration of the programs. He also conferred with the deans across the colleges to coordinate instructional and student programs, and he consulted with the chancellor and his staff on special problems referred to the office.

In his role as professor, Earl was a gifted and creative instructor who used experiential learning to enhance students’ awareness, knowledge, and skills. Within minutes of entering his classroom, students became aware that they were expected to be fully present, prepared, and willing to take the risk of “not knowing” in order to learn. Earl provided an optimal balance of challenge and support that brought out the best in students. He rarely lectured, but instead fostered learning with his gentle humor, experiential activities, and impeccably timed succinct statements, which challenged students to see new angles and insights. The title of his simple yet
elegant treatise on the process of interpersonal counseling, *Listening as a Way of Becoming* (1977), embodies his process-oriented approach for promoting growth. Earl was awarded the University-wide Teaching Excellence Award in 1971.

Earl’s courses on individual counseling and psychotherapeutic group counseling were renowned among his many students. He conducted extended seminars, workshops, and retreats on interpersonal communication and group processes for advanced graduate students. He supervised and served on doctoral dissertations and master’s theses on a variety of topics including higher education, group processes, and counseling. He published his independent research in professional journals on student development and higher education, counseling, and psychotherapeutic group processes. His second book, *Your Secret Self*, was published in 1978.

Earl’s passion for teaching and consultation also extended beyond UT Austin. He worked with junior college administrators, college and university administrators, nurses in various work settings, lawyers, dentists, junior league members, and ministers. He was a trainer and consultant for members of the Association of College Unions-International. He also served as a faculty member for the Experimental Institute for Human Development at the Princeton Theological Seminary. Earl maintained a private practice for individual, group, and marriage psychotherapy. After his retirement from UT in 1987, he maintained ongoing mentoring relationships with counselors and psychologists and continued in private practice until 1994.

Earl maintained membership in the American Psychological Association, the American Group Psychotherapy Association, the National Training Laboratories (NTI), The Institute for Applied Behavioral Science, the American Personnel and Guidance Association, the Southwestern Group Psychotherapy Society, and the Texas Psychological Association. He was licensed as a psychologist by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. He was on
the Editorial Board for the *Journal of College Student Personnel* from 1967-1970 and served on numerous university committees and programs.

Earl is survived by his wife of sixty-five years, Carmon; his three children and their families—Kimberle Koile, Ph.D., husband John Aspinall, and son Michael of Lexington, Massachusetts; Kristen Wells, M.D., husband Douglas Wells, M.D., and daughters Madeline and Johanna of Melbourne, Australia; Stephen Koile of Austin—and his sister Norma Koile of Glendale, Arizona.

Among those who knew Earl, he will be recalled as a man who took delight in family and in his work as an educator. He was a wise, compassionate man full of grace and humor, kindness and respect. He delighted in empowering and learning from others, and his excitement for knowledge was infectious. He was imaginative, venturesome, and whimsical—a romantic with a passion and flair for well-written prose and poetry and a love of music and art. He loved the quiet solitude and natural beauty of the outdoors and the man-made beauty born of good design. As an educator, Dr. Koile impacted the lives of thousands of students as he helped colleges and universities with their student personnel programs. Further, he had a profound impact on the development of counselors and psychologists in-training. His influence on the world of counseling will continue as his former trainees share his wisdom with new generations of students and clients.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors David Drum (chair), Ricardo Ainslie and Leslie Moore with assistance from Kimberle Koile, Ph.D.

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