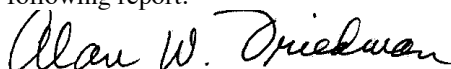


## DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

**REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE FOR  
THEODORE DELEVORYAS**

The special committee of the General Faculty to prepare a memorial resolution for Professor Emeritus Theodore Delevoryas, Department of Integrative Biology, has filed with the secretary of the General Faculty the following report.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary  
General Faculty and Faculty Council  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**IN MEMORIAM  
THEODORE DELEVORYAS**

On June 29, 2017, the botanical community lost one of the major figures in American paleobotany with the death of Ted (Theodore) Delevoryas. Ted was born on July 22, 1929, in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, and received his undergraduate degree at the University of Massachusetts (1950) and his Master's Degree (1951) and Ph.D. (1954) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. After graduate school, he taught as an Assistant Professor at Michigan State University for one year (1955-56) before moving to Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, where he was an instructor in 1956-58 and Assistant Professor in 1958-60. After a two-year stint (1960-62) as an Associate Professor at the University of Illinois, he returned to Yale as an Associate and then a full Professor with a joint appointment as an Associate Curator of Paleobotany at Yale's Peabody Museum. In 1972, he accepted a position as Professor of Botany at The University of Texas at Austin.

Ted's specialty was Mesozoic fossil plants, primarily ferns, conifers, and cycads, on which he published over 100 scholarly articles. Recognizing and identifying ancient plant fossils requires an intimate knowledge of their anatomy and morphology, which was reflected in his beautiful drawings and influential books: *Morphology and Evolution of Fossil Plants* (1962), *Plant Diversification* (1966), and, with Professors Harold Bold and Constantine Alexopolous, the *Morphology of Plants and Fungi* (1980). During his career, he mentored sixteen Ph.D. students, many of whom have themselves become productive mentors and paleobotanical researchers, and two of whom were elected members of the National Academy of Sciences. His graduate students honored him in 2010 with a festschrift entitled *Plants in Mesozoic Time*.

The esteem in which Ted was held by his colleagues resulted in an award of a John Guggenheim Fellowship in 1964 and election as a Fellow of the US National Research Council (1954-55), the Linnaean Society of London (1975), the Paleobotanical Society of Lucknow, India, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1990). In 1978, he was named Distinguished Fellow of the Botanical Society of America.

Ted took his role of university professor seriously, arriving at his office early and leaving late. He was happy to further the success of colleagues, faculty, and students, a sense of duty exemplified by his six years as the Department of Botany's Chairman (1974-80) during which he hired numerous well-known botanists who contributed to the department's rise, begun by Gordon Whaley and Billie Lee Turner, to the premier botany department in the country. Two of his recruits were women, the first tenure-track women faculty in the Department of Botany. Richard Starr, another recruit, was a member of the National Academy of Sciences who brought with him the National Culture Collection, a national resource of living algal cultures. Ted also chaired the Division of Biological Sciences at Texas from 1974-80 and, for a short period, served as Acting Director of the University of Texas' Marine Science Institute at Port Aransas. He was similarly influential in the plant sciences community as a whole, serving as President of the Botanical Society of America in 1974, President of the International Organization of Palaeobotany (1978-81), member of the Editorial Board for the American

Institute for Biological Sciences' journal *Bioscience* (1977), and as Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Botany* (1985-89).

Rigorous in the teaching of his courses, particularly Paleobotany and Survey of the Plant Kingdom, Ted inspired his students and earned their love, especially during the last laboratory class of each semester when he served his popular strawberry shortcake. Although generally quiet and reserved, preferring crossword puzzles, scrabble, or reading to socializing, Ted could be very funny with his dry and pointed humor. He didn't smile often, but when he did, his face lit up in such a way that it never failed to generate smiles from his listeners. Although he was generous spirited, Ted was frugal with money and proud of the fact that at the end of each fiscal year while he was Chairman of Botany, he saved money from the departmental budget that turned back to the college—a practice not followed by subsequent chairmen. In late 1989, Ted suffered a brain aneurism that affected his ability to teach and conduct research. This setback led in part to his decision to retire as full-time faculty member in 1995 and assume Emeritus Status in 1998. Retirement plus his disapprobation of the College of Natural Sciences' decision to dismantle the Botany Department and assign its faculty to other units led him to leave Austin and settle in Encinitas, California, where he made sure he always had a view of the ocean. He loved music, particularly classical music and, once retired, he began playing the cello, an activity he continued to enjoy until he was no longer able to play.

He was survived by his siblings Lillian (now deceased) and Mark Delevoryas; his sons, Matt and Chris Delevoryas; his stepchildren, Marlana, Michael, and Melanie; his grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and his ex-spouses, Nancy Delevoryas and Cecilia Dean.

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Professors Beryl B. Simpson (chair), Norma Fowler, and Robert Jansen.

Distributed to the Dean of College of Natural Sciences on August 16, 2018, and posted under "Memorial Resolutions" at <https://wikis.utexas.edu/display/facultycouncil/Wiki+Home>.