Memorial Resolution

Greta G. Fein

Be it resolved that on February 11, 2005, the faculty and staff of the College of Education at the University of Maryland honor the life and professional career and acknowledge the death of Dr. Greta G. Fein, a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Human Development/Institute for Child Study.

Greta Fein, 74, died on December 14, 2004, in Sarasota, Florida, where she had lived since 2002. She is survived by a daughter, two sons, and three grandsons.

Greta was born in Queens, New York. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Queens College, a master’s degree from Bank Street College of Education and a Ph.D. in psychology from Yale University in 1969. She accepted a professorship in the College of Education’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction in 1980. She retired in 1999 and became a Professor Emeritus.

She had a very distinguished career as an expert in child development and in early childhood education. The focus of her writing and research was in the areas of children’s play and imagination as factors in optimum development and early learning. Before her 1980 appointment to the faculty at the University of Maryland, she was director of child development research at the Merrill-Palmer Institute from 1975 to 1980, and served as an expert consultant to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Department of Education. She championed the cause of active parent involvement in children’s early care and learning environments. One of Greta’s primary concerns was to produce research to inform policy regarding what truly represents the highest quality in early childhood education programming for children.

She remained an active scholar with a continuation of her interest in female roles and female authors. At the time of her death, she was amassing data on a project studying the psychological implications of female authors of mystery novels with female sleuths as primary characters. She was an avid tennis player.

Greta is remembered by her colleagues as a preeminent scholar and students felt honored to be in her classes. They recall her knowledge and recall abilities to be “nearly legendary.” She also possessed a highly developed sense of humor.

Dr. Greta G. Fein had an enormous impact on early childhood care and education. Her death is a loss to education, child development researchers and, most of all, children and their families.

The College of Education is grateful for her service and extends its condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

February 11, 2005