Memorial Resolution
Constance “Connie” Herreshoff Gordon

Be it resolved that on March 14, 2008, 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 Constance Herreshoff Gordon, former lecturer with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and coordinator of Instructional Computing in the Educational Technology Center.

Connie passed away from congestive heart failure at the age of 68 on January 31, 2008, at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland. She is survived by her brother, James B. Herreshoff in Greenbelt; her son, Karl Gordon in Lothian; her daughter, Christine Gordon in Bowie; and her grandchildren, Nicole Shoener and Jonathan Gordon. She was preceded in death by her husband of 33 years, Dr. Glen E. Gordon, who was a professor of chemistry at the University of Maryland.

Born in Santa Rosa, California, Connie graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A. in French. She earned a M.Ed. in Elementary Education at Boston University before coming to Maryland to complete a Ph.D. in Education Administration.

She began her career in education as a Montgomery County Schools elementary school teacher—first at East Silver Spring Elementary School, and later at Takoma Park Elementary School. She then moved on to research positions at the University of Maryland College Park and Baltimore County campuses. Deciding she would return to teaching, this time at the higher education level, Connie was an associate professor at Trinity College in Washington, D.C., before joining the College of Education faculty at Maryland where a number of her courses focused on teaching methods for the use of computers in schools and colleges. In the course of her career she authored or co-authored over 30 papers and reports, many on the teaching of science and math. She was active in a number of educational advocacy groups, including the Blair Advisory Council, and campaigned for Blair Ewing and Marilyn Praisner when they ran for seats on Montgomery County’s Board of Education.

After retiring from the college in 2000, Connie had more time for the kind of community activism she had been committed to throughout her life. As noted by her family, “she believed in being a good steward and giving back to the community. She was very generous and did what she could to help people in need.” Very much concerned about the growing needs of the elderly, frail, and chronically ill, Connie became a volunteer for Montgomery County’s Ombudsman Program, serving residents at Fox Chase Nursing Home. She also was an AARP volunteer, a graduate of Senior Leadership Montgomery (SLM) in Montgomery County, and a member of the session at the Northwood Presbyterian Church in Silver Spring.

Although she suffered bouts of ill health over the last ten years, she continued to enjoy traveling in the United States and abroad, gardening, and participating in a book group in which she had been a member for 35 years. One of her favorite destinations was the Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. A lover of life, Connie will be missed by many.

The College of Education is thankful for the services rendered by Dr. Constance Herreshoff Gordon and extends its heartfelt condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

March 14, 2008