Memorial Resolution
Carol A. Seefeldt

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. Carol A. Seefeldt, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Human Development/Institute for Child Study.

Carol died on January 5, 2005 at Gilchrist Center for Hospice Care in Towson. Before her time at hospice she lived in Crofton. She is survived by her daughter Andrea Knight of Sparks Glencoe, Maryland, and a son, Paul Seefeldt of Earleville, Maryland.

Carol was born in St. Louis, received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin, her master’s degree from the University of South Florida in 1968 and a doctoral degree from Florida State University in 1971. She joined the faculty of the College of Education in 1971 and retired as a Professor Emeritus from the Department of Human Development in 1999.

She was a highly respected expert in child development and children’s learning and a prolific author and researcher, and was a sought-after lecturer. She wrote or edited 30 books including the popular series, Active Experiences for Active Children, for teachers. Published following her retirement, these books provided research-based classroom ideas for teachers of mathematics, social studies, language, and science. Her co-authored book, “Early Childhood Education: An Introduction,” is considered a standard text throughout the country for programs in early childhood education. She was involved in the establishment of high standards for child care settings and early learning settings for young children. Her “best practices” concepts in early childhood education are essential elements in both the development of and the accreditation of early childhood care and learning.

Carol followed the thinking of philosopher John Dewey, believing that children learn best when teachers appeal to their personal interests and needs. She believed that education comes through experience and she gave special attention to the importance of the storytelling experience in the development of children’s thinking. She was committed to excellence in the preparation of persons who work and provide for young children and in the programs and settings designed for young children. Her colleagues will remember her as a compassionate person who readily gave of her time and talents to persons she knew well, and to those she only knew of. An avid gardener and photographer, she also crafted pressed flower bookmarks and note papers which she generously gave to friends and colleagues who valued them highly.

While Carol Seefeldt’s passing is a loss to early childhood education, her legacy remains as parents, professionals, and paraprofessionals provide the highest quality living and learning environments for young children.

The College of Education extends its condolences to her family and friends.

February 11, 2005