

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

Dr. Susan J. Eklund  
(1939- 2020)

Susan J. Eklund was born June 2, 1939 in San Antonio, Texas. She was the oldest of two daughters and became a leader in everything she did. Professor Eklund received her B.A. in psychology from the University of Texas in 1961, M.S. in psychology from Trinity University in 1962, and her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in 1970. While teaching at Indiana University for 35 years, she progressed from assistant professor to full professor to titled professor. Eventually she became the Bryon A. Root Professor in Aging. During her career, Susan received high honors, including the Pinnell Award from Indiana University for her distinguished service, The Distinguished Teaching and Mentoring award at IU's graduate school, and the charter fellow for the Association for Gerontology in higher education for her contributions to gerontology education. For one so prolific a scholar, Professor Eklund served on many committees, from departmental to organizational.

Professor Eklund initially taught educational psychology when she began her career at Indiana University in 1969 as director of the school psychology program, housed in the educational psychology department (later the Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology). In that role, she generated several innovative training programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. She was active in mentoring graduate students and directed 33 dissertations while serving as a member on another 95 dissertation committees. Her teaching has been described by former students as having a major life-changing influence on them. From Susan, new faculty learned the complexities and nuances of the academy's expectations for research, teaching and service. Her advice was given in a gentle and caring manner.

In addition to being a first-rate scholar, Professor Eklund had important administrative roles as well. In 1969, Susan came to Indiana University as director of the school psychology program. Later, she became acting chair of educational psychology for one year, followed by two years as chair. Susan served for 16 years as director of IU's Center on Aging and the Aged, as well as associate dean of the faculties.

In the late 1970s, Susan had the insight to see that the next major wave of interesting research questions and applied needs in psychology was in the field of ageing. So, she pursued postdoctoral training at Duke University and the University of Arizona to prepare herself for a substantial career change. Following this, she developed a major new emphasis in the educational psychology department. She trained numerous professionals and pursued important research in this area. Susan's basic research interests were in life-span development. She examined cognitive and memory function in adults as they age. She conducted research in several areas: school psychology, adult development and gerontology, and academic administration. She and Barbara Hawkins conducted the first major longitudinal study of the cognitive and memory functioning of individuals with autism. Susan and her colleagues also conducted cross-cultural investigations of cognitive and memory functioning of elderly individuals in the U.S., China, Australia, and other countries. She subscribed to a systems model of human development and behavior, and is one of the few people who were able to implement both a broad, highly contextualized view and, at the same time, focus quite specifically on the question or problem of the moment.

Professor Eklund, along with professor and dean of the faculty Moya Andrews, established "The Emeriti House"—a place for retired faculty to gather, socialize and share intellectual interests. This has become a favorite place for retired faculty whose programming is going strong to this day. Emeriti House has served as a model for other institutions to emulate.

As an individual, Dr. Eklund had the wonderful ability to make and keep friendships. She was a loyal and loving friend to many. As one of us, Marianne Mitchell, commented, "She was a marvelous traveling companion."

It is requested that this memorial resolution be presented to the members of the Bloomington Faculty Council and be preserved in its minutes and archive.

Rex Stockton  
Class of 1969 Chancellor's Professor Emeritus, School of Education  
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