

Doris Turnbull Wood

December 23, 1907 — January 27, 1974

Doris Wood was a member of the staff of the Placement Office of the New York State College of Home Economics² for twenty years. Warm in her relationships with students and faculty, a skillful organizer, a loyal and creative co-worker, her abilities were of great value in the development of this service department of the College. First appointed in 1949 as assistant placement secretary with the academic rank of instructor, she became associate director of placement in 1951 with the rank of assistant professor and was made associate professor in 1957. In 1963-64, upon the retirement of the placement director, she became director of the placement office, serving in this capacity until her own retirement September 1, 1969.

Mrs. Wood was born in Ilion, New York. She attended Central High School in Syracuse. In 1929 she received her A.B. degree from Westhampton College, the University of Richmond, Virginia, having majored in Spanish and English. Her graduate study was carried out in personnel and guidance, including vocational guidance, at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she was awarded the M.A. degree in 1942.

From 1931 to 1940 Mrs. Wood was a member of the staff of the Placement Office at Teachers College. She was in charge of the office management, later becoming credentials executive and finally assistant placement executive. From 1940 to 1943 and from 1946 to 1949 she was director of placement at Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts, a program which she organized and developed.

Mrs. Wood served in the USNR from 1943 to 1946 with the rank of lieutenant (jg). At the Midshipmen's School, Northampton, Massachusetts, she worked as personnel classification officer, and at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bainbridge, Maryland, she was educational services officer.

During the years at Cornell, her work in the placement office of the College of Home Economics was concerned primarily with the positions for home economists in business and in institutional food services, two large areas of employment opportunity. She was active on a number of college committees. Several of them are noteworthy examples of the utilization of knowledge of employment opportunity in curriculum development.

From 1956-57 until her retirement she served on the Educational Policies subcommittee concerned with the curriculum for students preparing for professional training in the programs sponsored by the American Dietetic

² A new name, College of Human Ecology, was approved by the faculty in November 1968 and by the University Board of Trustees in January 1969.
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Association and was chairman of this committee for a number of years. From 1952 to 1956 she was a member of the Educational Policies subcommittee concerned with the development of the Homemaking Core program. For seven years she served on the Committee on Scholarships.

In 1957 a group of representatives of the New York City Home Economists in Business outlined plans for a vocational information project in the College. Mrs. Wood worked with this committee from 1957 to 1962 and was its chairman during 1961-62. A series of luncheon meetings with speakers was designed and carried out for juniors and seniors planning to enter jobs in business. The series on the campus was followed by a field program in New York City.

Mrs. Wood was an active and often a contributing member of a number of professional organizations. These included the Eastern College Personnel Officers, National Vocational Guidance Association, American Personnel and Guidance Association, New York State Association of Deans and Guidance Personnel, and the American Association of University Women. As a member of the American Home Economics Association she served as publicity chairman for the state convention in 1960 and she took charge of the Job Information Exchange at the national conventions from 1963 to 1973.

Mrs. Wood had varied interests beyond the professional ones. She was a member of the American Camping Association and worked with the Association's placement committee. An ardent figure skater, she was on the executive board of the Cornell Figure Skating Association of the U.S. Figure Skating Association from 1957-58 to 1961-62. In 1963-64 she was secretary of the Cornell Figure Skating Club.

She enjoyed travel. Trips in 1960-61 and 1961-62 included Spain, Mexico, Guatemala, and Peru. In the years following her retirement she visited England, Greece, and Italy. She was a member of the American Institute of Archeology. Plans for subsequent travel to France, Germany, and Switzerland were not accomplished.

During the years following her retirement she made her home in Richmond, Virginia, with her sister, a retired professor of the history of art. This was a subject in which Mrs. Wood found increasing interest. In the new community she quickly found her place and many new friends. She was one who made friends easily and kept them long. In the face of recurrent and progressive illness she was courageous. The words of the prayer at the memorial service which was held in Richmond January 29, 1974, seem especially fitting to those who knew Doris Wood:

“We thank thee O God, for all the goodness and courage which have passed from the life of this thy servant into the lives of others and have left the world richer for her presence — for a life’s task faithfully and honourably discharged; for good humour and gracious affection and kindly generosity; for sadness met without surrender, and weakness endured without defeat; through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Esther H. Stocks, Jean Failing, Margaret L. Stout