

Alice Davey

March 24, 1924 — January 27, 1997

Alice Davey received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in 1946, and taught junior and senior high school home economics in Maryland for three years. She came to Cornell as a graduate student in Household Economics and Management and was a teaching assistant for two years. She received a Master's degree in 1951. Subsequently, she taught and supervised home management houses at the University of Massachusetts from 1951-53 and at the University of Connecticut from 1953-58.

In 1958, Professor Davey was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Household Economics and Management at Cornell. She taught courses in family decision making and home management and supervised the residence for undergraduate students in Martha Van Rensselaer Hall. The residence course was required for high school teacher certification. She worked with the faculty in home economics education to develop appropriate placements for student teachers. In addition, she adapted her teaching to include experience in managing a low income household with food stamps and few resources. Thus, her students were prepared not only for teaching in high school courses, but also for working with modest income households in social welfare offices and in cooperative extension programs. Her handbook for home management residence courses was widely used. She has been recognized as a gifted teacher and advisor who held her students to the highest standard of intellectual integrity.

With her particular interest in teaching, Professor Davey became a consultant to the New York State Department of Education and worked with foreign visitors to help them understand home management in the United States. For several years, she served as graduate field representative for her department and developed orientation activities for new students. Her work with graduate students, particularly those assisting in the management house, provided life long friendships.

On campus, Professor Davey was active on the Board of Cornell United Religious Work, the Faculty Council of Representatives, and Omicron Nu. When the major in home economics education was terminated, Professor Davey served on the committee developing plans to combine preparation for teaching with the various majors in the college. To whatever committee assignment she accepted she gave her full attention and responsible leadership.

While teaching, Professor Davey continued her graduate education during summer school and during a leave of absence. She completed her doctoral work and received a Ph.D. degree from Michigan State University in

1971 under Professor Beatrice Paolucci in the areas of Family Ecology and Higher Education. On a subsequent sabbatical leave, Professor Davey worked on preparing the papers of Professor Paolucci for publication.

Professor Davey was a member of the American Association of University Women, Omicron Nu, Pi Lambda Delta, the American Home Economics Association, the New York State Association of Gerontological Educators, the National Education Association, and the National Council on Family Relations.

Professor Davey retired in 1987. She then gave up her Ithaca residence and lived in the home her grandparents had built in Ninevah, New York, where she had earlier spent her summers. For the last several years she had spent winters in Texas, and was there when she died. She is survived by her brother, Robert Davey, of Ninevah.

She loved to garden and shared flowers and vegetables with friends and neighbors. She was a quiet, private person but welcomed her circle of friends to conversation and tea in both Ithaca and Ninevah. She was open to discussion about how to reach students, current developments in family resource management and family decision making, new studies in Bible history and any new mysteries. She taught through her example of faith, gentleness and grace. She was an excellent listener and students brought concerns to her and in her open and accepting way she frequently helped students work through their own problems.

She was a friend to many and a very special friend to a few.

Francille Firebaugh, Jean Robinson, Rose Steidl