

Mary Condon  
1918 - 1986

COORDINATOR, EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT, EMERITUS

B.S., Home Management, Iowa State University, June 10, 1940  
California State University, Fullerton From July 1, 1964 To July 1, 1983  
Birth: November 5, 1918; Death: September 14, 1986

Mary Condon came to California in the early 1960's. She was born in North Dakota and graduated from Iowa State University with a major in home economics. After graduation from college, Mary moved to Chicago and was employed by Sears Roebuck and Company as a buyer. There she met and married a young man by name of Bud Condon. They had six children, four boys and two girls. Although this family kept Mary quite busy, she did manage to help as a substitute teacher at a nearby Catholic grade school. The good sisters learned that Mary had a college degree and, of course, liked children, so they frequently asked her to substitute when one of their regular teachers was absent. A lifetime characteristic was that Mary was always willing to help; she always made time to help.

When Mary's youngest son was about two years of age her husband had heart surgery and unfortunately did not survive the operation. With six children to raise, Mary decided to accept her father's offer and join him in California. Her dad found a house in Fullerton which was located across from the new CSUF campus. Since CSUF was so close, Mary decided to enroll in a class. One of her professors suggested that she apply for the position of credentials analyst which was available in the School of Education. Mary was offered the position and soon became well liked by both the faculty and students and respected for her work. She gained many friends at the campus in the Orange County Community school districts.

In 1969 Mary applied for a new position, Coordinator of Educational Placement in the Placement Center. You would see Mary if you wanted to pursue an educational career. She would run you through the steps -- usually you would wind up getting that teaching job or administrative/counselor position. Mary again became known for her unselfish deeds, serving the university and the community. She was a counselor whom students could approach at any time and feel welcomed. I saw her time after time making phone calls after the office was closed to student teachers informing them of teaching openings. She would also make phone calls from her home after working hours.

Mary also coordinated the National Teacher Exams held on Saturdays. She helped train other staff members to administer these tests. She was President of the Faculty Club, an early faculty/staff social organization. The many members enjoyed the Friday night Happy Hours which Mary coordinated. She made sure that refreshments were well stocked and that

everyone had a good time. (The Happy Hours were held at the Mahr House which currently houses the Foundation Offices.)

Mary's good deeds went far beyond her duties at Cal State Fullerton. She was always at the service of her friends and colleagues and ready to help in any way she could. She was a wonderful role model for the people she worked with and also her friends and family. Mary was my good friend and I appreciate the memories that I have of working with her as well as the times spent with her family.

Submitted by  
Shirley Richardson  
Secretary, Career Development Center  
May, 1987