

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION  
PROFESSOR SADIE ANITA GRIMMETT  
(1931-2007)**

Sadie Grimmett was born January 31, 1931 in Talladega, Alabama and died October 6, 2007 in Portland, Oregon, where she had lived since her retirement. Professor Grimmett devoted her life to education. Her mother was a classroom teacher and may have influenced Sadie's choice of career. They moved from Alabama to Oregon while Sadie was a child, and she graduated from Roosevelt High School in Portland in 1948. She completed a B.A. in English at the University of Oregon in 1952 and became a teacher in the elementary grades in the Portland Public Schools. She continued to teach in Portland, teaching every grade from second through eighth over the next fourteen years.

While still teaching, she returned to Eugene to complete her M.A. in Education in 1962. In 1965 she responded to the mandate of President Johnson's Great Society by developing the curriculum for Portland's original Head Start program. Her goal was to give an early life advantage to disadvantaged children living in poverty. This accomplishment was to be a marker event in her life, and from the 1960s in Portland to the 1990s in Bloomington she pursued her interest in children's development and learning, especially in children of minority status.

In 1966 Sadie ventured far from Oregon to Nashville, Tennessee to George Peabody College for Teachers (now of Vanderbilt University), already famed at that time for research and demonstration on the use of early intervention to enhance development of young children. She enrolled in the doctoral program in Educational Psychology and worked under the direction of Dr. Susan W. Gray, foremother of the Head Start Program in the United States. Sadie completed her Ph.D. in 1969, doing her dissertation research on problem solving in children from four different ethnocultural groups.

From 1969-1970 Dr. Grimmert served as an intern and research associate at the Arizona Center for Early Childhood Education at the University of Arizona at Tucson where she continued her commitment to the education and development of young children. When she completed her internship, she accepted her first full-time academic position at Syracuse University in 1970, where she served as assistant professor of education and psychology until 1973. While at Syracuse she worked closely with colleague Vernon C. Hall on research on young children's cognition, comparing both lower and middle class children.

In 1973 the School of Education at Indiana University was attempting to increase its faculty in a new doctoral program on young children (the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program on Young Children: IDPYC) which combined training in child development with early childhood education and social policy issues concerning young children. It's goal was to train the future leaders in these fields. Upon learning of Dr. Grimmert's possible availability, the School of Education, led by Dean David Clark, actively recruited Dr. Grimmert. She agreed to accept a position as Associate Professor in the School of Education, beginning in September 1973, with a halftime assignment in the IDPYC and the other half assigned to the Institute for Child Development for research in child development.

Some of Sadie's greatest strengths were displayed in the IDPYC program. She excelled at getting students to push the limits of their thinking. She was also warm and supportive of their efforts, and knew or created many ways to help them meet the exacting standards she set for them, as well as for herself. She went on the chair this program from 1979-1981.

In 1981 the IDPYC was merged with the Department of Education Psychology (now Counseling and Educational Psychology), and Sadie moved into the department where she became a member of the human development faculty and taught courses in child and adolescent development until her retirement in 1994. Dr. Grimmert was promoted to full professor in 1984.

Throughout her academic career, Dr. Grimmett played a major role in service to the university and to the state and nation. Her service contributions included membership on the University Promotions Committee, Presidency of the Women's Faculty Club (1978-79), service on the Affirmative Action Committee, the Faculty Advisory Committee for Office for Women's Affairs, the Scholarships and Financial Aid Faculty Advisory Committee, and the School of Education Policy Council, to name a few. At the state level, she was appointed by the governor to the Board for the Coordination of Child Care Regulation and to the Governor's Committee on the International Year of the Child. She was a member of the Minority Advisory Committee for Senator Birch Bayh. At the national level, she was a consultant to the National Institute on Education (NIE) on both the Head Start and Follow Through programs. She was a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Contemporary Educational Psychology*.

Her research contributions were in the area of increasing understanding of cultural differences in young children's social development. She was one of the principal investigators in a Head Start assessment program in collaboration with researchers from the University of Arizona and the University of California at Santa Cruz in the early 1980s. Dr. Grimmett's role in this project was to develop achievement tests that measured the development of social skills and language, a most difficult task. Also, in the early 80's she worked with her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, to collect data on issues black women perceived to be important, and she also collected data from 4,000 members nationally on their aspirations for black children. In 1987 she worked with a Minority Scholar's consortium established at Howard University by researchers interested in issues related to Head Start to field test a curriculum entitled "Getting a Head Start Against Drugs".

In 1990 she was awarded the Neal Marshall award for outstanding black faculty at the close of Black History Month, a fitting honor for an outstanding scholar-teacher dedicated to the betterment of the lives of young children of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Talbot Donaldson, who co-chaired the Affirmative Action Committee on which Dr. Grimmett had many years of service, wrote of her, “she is the kind of person upon whom a university’s excellence largely depends, a quiet, hard working, hard minded, devoted woman with high ideals and an acute sense of the possibilities as well as the potentialities of university matters...” That hard working, hard mindedness came through in everything she did for the university -- in her teaching, research, as well as her service.

In recognition of her devotion to the university and to her profession, be it resolved that this resolution be a part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council and that a copy be sent to Cynthia Brooks and Beria Brooks of Portland, Oregon.

Susan Eklund  
Professor Emerita  
School of Education

Myrtle Scott  
Professor Emerita  
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