

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

**AUBREY EPSTEIN**

**(June 4, 1922 – July 22, 2010)**

Professor Emeritus of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Aubrey Epstein, died July 22, 2010 in Berkeley, California at the age of eighty-eight years. Prior to moving to the bay area to be nearer to family members, he and his wife resided at Meadowood Retirement Community in Bloomington. Professor Epstein was highly regarded for his influential research in the area of Hearing Science, and contributed significantly to the development of research-based evaluation and treatment protocols for deaf and hearing-impaired individuals. He always told students that as well as being exceptionally well prepared, they also needed to be sensitive to the perspectives and needs of patients and their families. He was himself an outstanding clinician. He enjoyed clinical practice so much that for many years after he retired he worked as a volunteer helping elderly patients with their hearing aids and assisting his colleague John Seward M.D. with challenging cases at the Bedford Medical Center in Indiana.

His studies of the use of objective measures of recruitment of loudness were funded by NIH, and his many scholarly articles appeared in the most prestigious journals in his field. He was a dedicated and resourceful educator and a committed mentor to junior faculty as well as to students. He was most unselfish in promoting the careers of young colleagues and graduate students with whom he collaborated. He served on many national and state committees related to pre-professional and professional preparation, certification and accreditation and helped construct the first national examination for clinical competence in Audiology. He directed the Indiana University Audiology Clinic throughout his tenure here as well as maintaining an active research laboratory. He developed many off-campus clinical training sites at schools, prisons, hospitals, infant nurseries and private medical practices. His style of supervision was genial and encouraging, but he was uncompromising in his insistence that the service that students provided the public be of a consistently high quality.

Aubrey Epstein was born in Detroit, Michigan, on June 4, 1922 and received an Associate Degree in General Studies from the University of Florida in 1941, prior to serving in the Armed Services during World War II. On the recommendation of friends, at the completion of his military service he enrolled at IU Bloomington and completed his B.A. in 1947 with a double major in literature and audiology. He served as a radio announcer during this period, hosting his own program, and his warm and resonant voice throughout his life often prompted spontaneous comments from listeners that he had the perfect voice for radio. He received a

Master's Degree in Audiology from Western Reserve in 1948, and there he met his future wife, Irene, a native of Hungary who was attending Nursing School at the same university in Cleveland. In 1953 he received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, which was the center of the emerging profession of Speech Pathology and Audiology at that time. In 1963, he returned to Indiana, this time as an Associate Professor of Speech and Theater. When the departments split in 1967, his appointment was changed to Speech and Hearing Sciences. He was promoted to full professor in 1969 and retired in June of 1987.

He was often described by his colleagues as a renaissance man because of his breadth and depth of knowledge and his range of interests in science, literature, art, music, theatre, electronics, and so on. He absolutely loved poetry and could recite long passages of Shakespeare. He especially savored the cadence of limericks and could produce an appropriate one, either from memory or freshly minted in the moment, for any occasion. E.E. Cummings was his favorite limerick writer, and with an engaging smile and with a twinkle in his eye, Aubrey could always be relied on to perform Cummings' pieces with style and verve. He had a prodigious memory, a fertile and creative mind and great generosity of spirit. He is remembered with affection and pride by his students, a great number of whom have had outstanding careers. He was the quintessential college professor of his generation, always perfectly groomed in casual cashmere sweaters and beautifully tailored jackets, and complete with the obligatory untidy office, from which he could immediately produce any item that colleague or student asked for, as if by magic. His colleagues recall that there was rarely a faculty meeting for which he was on time; however, this was easy to tolerate because he was always able to find the appropriate words to speak, once he arrived. He showed as well as engendered respect. He had a humane approach to problem solving and brought distinction to his university and his profession.

This resolution is a permanent part of the minutes of the Bloomington Faculty Council. Copies should be sent to his wife of sixty years, Dr. Irene Raab Epstein, his daughter Dr. Julia Epstein, his son, Mr. Paul Epstein, and to his three granddaughters, Anna, Maria and Rachel.

Moya Andrews  
Patricia Cromer Grossman