

IN MEMORIAM HELEN VASOS GOUGEON

Helen Gougeon (née Vasos) was born in Montreal on July 9, 1939, the first of two children born to Jennie and Sam Vasos. Her early schooling took place in the public elementary schools of Montreal and at Outremont Convent (1952-1956).

In 1960 she was awarded a B.A. degree, *Magna cum Laude*, by Marianopolis College, then affiliated with the University of Montreal. During her four years in college she already exemplified those qualities which characterized her throughout life. Her name was practically a fixture on the honours list, but her love of study never served as a pretext for abstaining from the numerous non-academic activities that can enrich college life. She was active in sports (basketball and tennis), glee club, music appreciation, dramatics, college publications, Yearbook, and student governance (student council, class presidency).

For a year she worked with the Bell Telephone Company assisting engineers to prepare documents and write reports. When in the following year she decided to return to her studies, she went to St. Joseph Teachers' College and obtained an "A" diploma from the Department of Public Instruction of the Province of Quebec and a B.Ed. from the University of Montreal. Upon graduating in 1962, she took up a teaching career as a biology and mathematics teacher for the Montreal Catholic School Commission. At the same time she pursued studies in psychology at the University of Ottawa, obtaining her M.A. in 1968.

Since her abilities were well known at St. Joseph Teachers' College, she was taken on as an instructor in psychology in 1966, even while she was in the process of obtaining her degree. In 1970 she was among the professors who came to McGill consequent to the merger of St. Joseph Teachers' College and Macdonald College, a merger from which issued our present Faculty of Education.

She was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Psychology and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1979. In 1984 she earned her Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from Concordia University with a thesis on "Semantic Processing

in Bilinguals." She served the Faculty and University well in these succeeding years as professor (1970-1987), program director of the one-year diploma programs (1979-1983) and the Bachelor of Education Program (1980-1985), Associate Dean of Students (1985-1987), and, most recently, as the first Dean of Admissions of the University (1987).

Her contribution to scholarship came especially in her teaching and in the research she and a colleague conducted on French Immersion and Bilingual Education and in the development and evaluation of such programs. Numerous grants from school boards, FCAR, and Franco-Quebec University Exchanges supported her work in this area. What is especially noteworthy in these studies is the longitudinal nature of the research. While it is appropriate to mention here that she obtained (together with a colleague) some thirteen grants, presented some thirty papers and published a commensurate corpus of journal articles, she will be remembered most for the energy she expended in fulfilling her responsibilities as teacher, as supervisor of student teaching, as academic advisor, and as administrator. Characteristically we may say of her that she was to shoulder responsibilities, and, once shouldered, she carried them in an exemplary way. She was effervescent, yet modest, and had the rare gift of being universally liked. The motto she chose for herself in her class yearbook sums up what became her way of life: "There is nothing worth the wear of winning but laughter and the love of friends."

Helen will be sorely missed by all who came to know her. She died of cancer, a recurrence of an earlier affliction, on January 3, 1988, at the age of 48 after a brief illness. Those who will miss her most are her husband Henri, her children Kathryn and Christina, her mother, and her brother, Peter.

A private memorial service was held for the family on January 4, 1988. In order to express the university community's esteem for Helen, another memorial service took place at the University Chapel on February 1, 1988.