

SHARIAN DEERING

Sharian Deering was an extremely accomplished graduate of Burleson High School. After being nominated for the J. W. Norwood award in 2005, she told the committee that she hated talking about herself because she was “just an ordinary person”. However, Sharian was far from ordinary.

Sharian Laynette Deering was born October 8, 1949 in Fort Worth to Hazel and Robert Deering. At some point, the family moved to Burleson where Sharian attended the Burleson public schools.

After graduating from Burleson High School in 1967, she attended North Texas State University, now known as the University of North Texas where she received dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Psychology and Biology. She went on to receive both Master’s and Doctorate degrees at Texas Womens University in Denton. Her graduate degrees were in Special Education with concentrations in the study of emotionally disturbed children.

While pursuing her graduate degrees, she taught special needs children at the North Texas State University Laboratory school. In addition to teaching at the Lab school, she taught classes as a graduate assistant at Texas Womens University. At the same time, she edited textbooks for McGraw-Hill Publishers and started a tutoring service for individuals studying to take the Graduate Record Exam. In her spare time, she developed an interest in photography and made several educational slide shows that were used in psychology classes at both the University of Michigan and North Texas State.

In 1979, Sharian began working at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville as a faculty member. During her tenure at the University, Dr. Deering made numerous contributions to the school and its’ students, including serving as director for the Urban Teaching Residency Partnership grant. Loved by her colleagues and all of her students, during her 29 years as a UNF faculty member, she helped to educate thousands of teachers who are in classrooms today helping exceptional students.

Throughout her career she received many grants, awards and honors. One example is the grant that she received from the University of Florida College of

Medicine where she worked with two pediatricians to write pediatric training curriculums for medical students and residents. In addition to that she developed an evaluation system for pediatric residency that has served as a model for similar programs in other medical schools.

Sharian was a devoted lover of animals. She volunteered at various humane organizations and was the mother of six pets. She maintained a life-long love of music and participated in many musical events at her church. She played the piano, organ and hand-bells. She organized the first Boy and Girl Scout Troop at the University of North Florida for teachers to work with special needs children.

She passed away on May 30, 2008 at the very young age of 58. She was beloved by all who knew her.

