

IN MEMORIAM

BARBARA E. WILLIAMS

Barbara Ellen Dalton Williams, Ph.D., was born on October 25, 1933, in Lubbock, Texas, and passed away on December 28, 2019, in Austin, Texas. Dr. Williams graced the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work from 1981 to 2002. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas, in 1959; a Master of Social Work from the State University of New York (SUNY), Buffalo, New York, in 1962; and a Ph.D. in Preventive Medicine, Community Mental Health, from the UT Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Texas, in 1981.

In her early career, Dr. Williams taught and did social work in the public schools. She then held positions as Clinical Director of the Settlement Home, Austin (1965-74); Clinical Director of the Adolescent Psychiatric Inpatient Unit at UTMB, Galveston (1975-81); and Associate Professor of Social Work and Director of Graduate Field Education at UT Austin (1981-2002). After retirement, she continued to develop and teach continuing education and church-related workshops and participated fully in the life of her home church and in diocesan-wide activities.

When people speak of Dr. Williams, they note her kindness, generosity, intelligence, teaching, mentorship, servant-leadership, and clear-eyed optimism. All those she touched were the better for knowing her. Barbara nurtured so that all would grow—her family, her students, her colleagues, her church, her plants. She demonstrated that a woman could be smart, beautiful, strong, and vulnerable. She taught people to be strong but not rigid, to have confidence in their beliefs and knowledge while allowing them to change and evolve, and that being open to learning

and to people is neither weak nor naive. She also believed that there was no truth without kindness, and no kindness without truth. She encouraged all she knew to be curious and enjoy life.

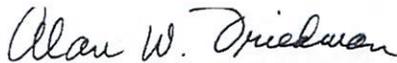
Former Texas State Representative Elliott Naishtat, who knew Barbara since his days as a graduate student at the UT Austin School of Social Work, called her “an exceptionally accomplished person: a scholar, a writer, a professor, therapist, counselor, clinician. She was a caring and dedicated teacher and mentor, a devout and active congregant and church leader, and, of course, a wonderful and loving mother, wife, daughter, sister, aunt, grandma, mother-in-law, and close friend to countless people,” as well as “principled and courageous.”

Diana DiNitto, her faculty colleague at the School of Social Work, remembers Dr. Williams for her dedication in running the graduate field program and as an individual who fully embraced the opportunity to teach social work through classes that focused on client assessment and developing clinical skills. She epitomized the ideals of the social work profession in seeking a just society for all. Dr. Williams was always smiling. She brought joy to the school with her special personal touch. She cared for her colleagues by providing sage consultation when asked. She also took time to make delicious treats for them.

Barbara and her husband James (Jim) Williams were married for sixty-one years. They were deeply devoted to each other, living their lives with shared values and belief in human potential and a loving Creator. Dr. Williams is survived by her three children and their spouses, Cathleen Krebs (Eduardo), Bruce Williams (Lucy Rodriguez), Elizabeth Owens (Joe), and her grandchild Dalton Williams.



Jay C. Martzell, Interim President
The University of Texas at Austin



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
The General Faculty

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Diana DiNitto (Chair) and Tanya Voss.