

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

HELENE BLATTNER (1897 -1978)

Helene Blattner, who was an important member of Stanford's Speech and Drama Department from 1946 to 1963, died on November 15, 1978, in a convalescent home in Redwood City. Associate Professor Blattner taught speech and the oral interpretation of literature with great spirit, warmth, and a rare quality of graciousness. Her clear interest in undergraduates contributed to her success as a department adviser, and she earned the affectionate respect of her colleagues in her work with department administration.

Miss Blattner earned an undergraduate degree from the State University of Iowa in 1920, and an M.A. degree from the same university in 1922. Her doctorate, concentrating on the study of pronunciation testing, was awarded by the State University of Iowa in 1948. Professor Blattner served as a member of the faculty of the State University of Iowa from 1922 to 1936, as Head of the Department of Speech at Russell College from 1936 to 1938, and as Associate Professor of Speech at Texas Technological College from 1942 to 1946.

Helene Blattner's sensitive and perceptive understanding of literature gave her courses in oral interpretation a special quality. She provided an opportunity for her students to experience literature in a full and meaningful understanding of the text. Her warm and supportive criticism provoked individual growth but it never made a student fearful or self-conscious. Her interest and spirited attention was always present, and she provided a special audience for student performers. Many of the highly successful actors who were trained at Stanford University speak of the progress they made under her direction.

Miss Blattner lived for the past 13 years at a convalescent home in Redwood City, and she leaves no close family members. However, those of us who were her students and colleagues hold her memory as a special part of our past.

Charles R. Lyons, Chairman
Wendell Cole
Helen Schrader