

Resolution on the Retirement of Diana Bailey

Diana Bailey received her training in occupational therapy at St. Loyes College, Exeter, England in 1963. Her first job was in a 2000-bed psychiatric hospital in Surrey, just outside of London. The staff of 25 occupational therapists ran sheltered workshops and pre-vocational programs for the residents. Soon however, like other college-educated young people who saw few opportunities in their homeland, Diana was part of the 1960's 'brain drain' who felt the call to wider horizons. She had worked and become friends with therapists from the United States and from South Africa. When given the choice between a job offer in Boston and one in Cape Town, lucky for us, she chose Boston.

In 1967, she joined a psychiatrist to work in a store front office in the then brand new Washington Park Shopping Mall in Roxbury, where she worked with 100 clients who had been hospitalized for severe mental illness, who now ready to re-enter the community, were preparing for employment. A memorable moment in her new country occurred in the hours following Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination, when a crowd of distraught people stormed through the Mall. So began her education in American culture, her commitment to making society better, and her launch into a career of leadership in developing the mental health and mental retardation service systems of the Commonwealth. Along the way she obtained her Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling at Boston University and her Doctorate in Education at Northeastern University.

A pivotal point in her career was serving for six years as Director of Occupational Therapy at the Walter E. Fernald State School. She was among a group of social activists in mental health care who were recruited to change the way the institution had been operating and to improve the poor living conditions and quality of life for the 2,000 residents. She and her staff brought more humane day-to-day living to the residents. The five prevocational programs she set up provided a small but exceedingly meaningful measure of enjoyment and fulfillment to the residents. Along with the residents' opportunity to earn a small income to buy things for themselves came a precious experience of normality that had never before been possible to them.

She had a brief hiatus from what our students call the "real world" when she taught for two years at Colorado State University. She learned about the delights of teaching and the opportunities of American life outside of Boston's distinctive psychiatric circle. However, the real world soon beckoned and Diana returned to Boston. Diana's late 1970's period was a time of intense administrative, managerial, and public relations work in mental retardation, including work as Vice President of Marketing for Creative Technological Aids, and as Massachusetts Regional Director of Mental Retardation Services. Deinstitutionalization of individuals with mental illness and retardation was in full swing and she was in demand for her unique experience and skills. She was given a half-million dollar budget and a free hand to resettle a group of residents from various state institutions to community residences and day programs. She learned first hand about NIMBY - Not in My Back Yard - in the communities where she and her colleagues were trying to settle people.

In 1983, the occupational therapy profession in Massachusetts became licensed and Diana was appointed by Governor Dukakis to the Board of Allied Health Professions. As a political novice she was shocked by the political maneuverings and the way the Board had to operate to get the job done. But with her talents, natural charm and wit, she survived these maneuverings and was elected Chair to the Board by a multi-disciplinary panel of members. The Board spent the first year writing the Policies and Procedures to interpret the law, then completed the daunting task of

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examining and licensing all the occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants in the Commonwealth for the first time.

In 1986, after a 23-year career as clinician and administrator, Diana was recruited to Tufts University Boston School of Occupational Therapy as Assistant Professor. What began as “trying her hand at teaching” became her second career spanning 21 years. Tenured and promoted in 1992, she taught courses in healthcare leadership, management and policy, research methods, and clinical reasoning. Her students consistently evaluated her highly as teacher and advisor, especially appreciative of her creative teaching methods. Superlatives are common with respect to her wise, patient, and committed mentoring of both students and faculty. She continues as a role model known for warmth, exemplary ethics and a balanced-life perspective.

Diana’s scholarship is nationally and internationally respected, especially in the areas of research methods, gay and lesbian studies, managerial and clinical reasoning, and disability technology. Her research is published in the top journals of the field where she established the field’s stature in the area of health management. Her textbook on research methods is widely adopted and was one of the first to address both quantitative and qualitative methods of inquiry in the rehabilitation field. She has presented her work worldwide in peer-reviewed and invited venues.

Diana’s noteworthy service at Tufts includes helping to establish the study abroad programs and the Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. She was beloved member of the Institutional Review Board for 15 years, serving as its Chair from 1998-2000, while working on and leading other committees. She has held numerous consultation and advisory board appointments to local and international institutions serving individuals with disabilities, and has served on several editorial boards of national and international peer-reviewed research journals. Honors and awards include the 2002 Catherine Trombly Award for Significant Contributions to the Occupational Therapy Profession, from the Massachusetts Association for Occupational Therapy, and 2008 Retired Educator’s Commendation from the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Following her retirement, Diana will continue conducting research with Professor Jeanne Jackson at the University of Southern California on coupled household occupation. She will indulge her passion for gardening in her award-winning home garden. But look for her primarily at the Massachusetts Horticulture Society, the New England Flower Show, and the Rose Kennedy Greenway, where she will be volunteering her gardening genius. Or you might find her playing a mean tennis match or golf game with friends in Lexington. But don’t expect her to stay local as she is known to be an avid traveler, especially when it comes to visiting her partner, Anita's, five children and nine grandchildren on the west coast and in Chile.

On behalf of the Department of Occupational Therapy, be it resolved that this resolution on the retirement of Diana Bailey be spread on the minutes of the faculty of Arts and Sciences and that a copy of it be sent to our honored colleague.

May 14, 2008