



TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study
Office of the Chairman

THIS COPY OF AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
FROM THE TUFTS UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
IS FOR PRIVATE USE ONLY AND MAY NOT
BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION

Resolution on the Retirement of Professor Mathilda Holzman adopted by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Tufts University
May 17, 1993

The Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Jackson College of Tufts University hereby record our heartfelt appreciation for our retiring colleague, Professor Mathilda Holzman. Our University has benefited from Mathilda Holzman's loyal contributions throughout the past twenty-seven years -- contributions in instruction, scholarly pursuits, advising, and service.

Professor Holzman's undergraduate education was at the University of Colorado in Economics and Government. She pursued a Ph.D. in Economics at Radcliffe College, completing all requirements but the dissertation. She served as an economist and econometrician in projects at Harvard and at the International Monetary Fund and published several papers, including a paper on "Theories of Choice and Conflict in Economics and Psychology." She herself coped with conflict and made a choice and by this time in the late 1950's she was an Instructor in Psychology at the University of Washington, completing her Ph.D. in Psychology there in 1961. The "capstone" experience then was a clinical psychology internship at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center, the flagship of the Harvard Medical School Psychiatry system.

During the 1960's, Dr. Holzman directed a project on the linguistic analysis of psychotherapy of schizophrenia at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center and completed a National Institute of Mental Health Fellowship at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Professor Holzman joined the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study as an Assistant Professor in 1966 and has spent sabbaticals at Stanford and at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, D.C.. Her interest in economics continued not only in her marriage to Economics Professor Emeritus Franklyn Holzman, but also in her fascinating interdisciplinary research with economist and engineering colleagues on testing control system models as models for human language development.

Dr. Holzman's own research on "How the Human Infant Becomes a Language User" resulted in the acclaimed book published in 1983, The Language of Children:

Development in Home and School and established her as a beacon in the field of early teaching of language. One reviewer lauded the volume: "[I've] never come across such a clearly written and more easily understood book as this one. It is indeed a very soundly written and precise text which pulls from and applies the best of research on language growth from psycholinguistic perspectives." A major revision of this book is one of Professor Holzman's first retirement projects.

Dr. Holzman has been a dedicated and committed teacher, touching the hearts and minds of many students, and conveying a keen appreciation for language development and for scientific rigor. Her passion for psycholinguistics converges with her passions for human rights and human potential in her more recent courses and research on the acculturation processes for immigrant children in American Schools. She has established and maintained a collaboration with LOCZY, a model orphanage in Hungary. More recently she is establishing a partnership for family literacy with the Somerville Even-Start Program.

One of the highlights of spring at Eliot-Pearson is the annual display of children's books authored and produced by students in Professor Holzman's course on Children's Literature. We all take particular pride when news comes back months or years later that a student and her book have wended their way through the commercial publishing process, the book soon to be on display for sale in bookstores.

Nowhere is the sense of pride greater than in the family that Mathilda Holzman has nurtured. I've mentioned Frank Holzman, our colleague, and together they have three children, Miriam, David and Tom, two grandchildren, and another on the way.

As retirement dawns for Mathilda Holzman, time and energy for family as well as time and energy for the next stages of her research and scholarship will prevail. We wish her every happiness in this next phase of her life and work.

For the Faculty,

Donald Wertlieb, Ph.D.

THIS COPY OF AN ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
FROM THE TUFTS UNIVERSITY ARCHIVE
IS FOR PRIVATE USE ONLY AND MAY NOT
BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT PERMISSION.