

***Resolution on the Retirement of
Helen D. Smith***

***Adopted by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of
Tufts University
September 2, 1998***

The members of the Boston School of Occupational Therapy join with the faculty of Liberal Arts and Jackson College and the School of Engineering of Tufts University in recording our admiration and warm appreciation for our retiring colleague, Associate Professor Helen D. Smith. Tufts University has benefited from her loyal contributions throughout the past thirty years--a remarkable span encompassing academic, advising, and administrative contributions to our university community.

Helen was born and raised in Weymouth and moved to Philadelphia at age 8 after the death of her father and remarriage of her mother. She attended Immaculata College (Pennsylvania) where she received an AB in history in 1955. Before going into the field of occupational therapy, Helen was employed in United States government service. Later, she attended the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy at the University of Pennsylvania where she received a Certificate in Occupational Therapy in 1959 and went on to receive a master's degree in Occupational Therapy at the University of Washington in 1972.

Upon completing her work at University of Pennsylvania, Helen worked as an Assistant Director of the Curative Workshop in Philadelphia (industrial accident cases) supervising clinical training. In 1960, she became the Associate Director of Occupational Therapy at St. Francis General Hospital in Pittsburgh where she assisted in setting up the occupational therapy department and developing treatment programs. In 1963, Helen moved on to Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh where she founded and directed the occupational therapy department. In addition to her role in developing the new program, she lectured in the nursing school, taught in the Catherine McCauley School of Practical Nursing and conducted training for in-service head nurses and staff nurses.

Helen Smith came to Tufts (BSOT) in 1967 from Mercy Hospital. She initially accepted the position at Tufts, agreeing to teach courses in Physical Dysfunction, and planning to stay for two years. Several years after arriving on the scene at BSOT, she served her first of two different terms as chair. Her colleagues remember her as a warm administrator with an open door policy.

Helen's primary areas of interest center on physical dysfunction and aging. In addition to her duties at Tufts, she is a faculty member of an interdisciplinary aging course co-sponsored

with Harvard University. Over the years, Helen has served her department and the University well. Among the myriad of committees on which she has served are: chair of admissions for BSOT for undergraduate and graduate students, BSOT's Executive Committee, Academic Standing Committee, Curriculum Committee, and the Search Committee. She was also a member of the Equal Education Opportunity Committee and College of Special Studies Executive Committee, as well as the Human Subjects Review Committee.

On a professional level, Helen is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association and has been recognized on numerous occasions by them for her outstanding work. She was a recipient of the prestigious award "Fellow of American Occupational Therapy Association" (FAOTA). She is also a member in good standing of the American Society on Aging, the World Federation of Occupational Therapy, and the Massachusetts Association for Occupational Therapy. She brought further recognition to Tufts when, together with colleague and friend, Helen Hopkins, she edited the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth editions of Willard and Spackman's Occupational Therapy, a well respected book in the field of occupational therapy which enjoys both a national and international reputation. It is considered the "Bible" in occupational therapy. Helen has also continued to maintain her clinical expertise during her career by consulting at nursing homes in local and out-of-state locations.

As an educator, Helen cares very deeply about her students and is committed to them. She has always risen to the challenges presented. She has been described as a warm and caring teacher with a great sense of humor who can be counted on as a friend, not only by students, but by faculty and staff as well. For many years she served as the faculty liaison and advisor to the Student Occupational Therapy Association. As a compassionate teacher, she has made a lasting impression on many of her students. At her retirement party in May, an alumni student who graduated in 1969 drove up from New York for the day to be present for the festivities. In her words, "I wouldn't have missed the party because Helen Smith made a difference in my life." Helen has continued to maintain her ties to international students as well. A former Swedish student, who graduated in the late sixties, never misses an opportunity to sing Helen's praises whenever she meets faculty from BSOT at yearly conferences.

When Helen is not engaged in teaching and university activity, you may find her enjoying classical music and the symphony, traveling, and spending time at her home on Cape Cod. She has traveled around the world and visited and guest lectured at OT programs in far-off countries such as Austria, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia, and New Zealand. She is also very active in her church and serves as a Eucharistic minister at Immaculate Conception and is a secular Franciscan.

We wish Helen well in her retirement. We look forward to our continued association with our much-loved colleague. In the words of a fellow colleague, Helen exemplifies the true meaning of occupational therapist. "She radiates joy." What a fitting tribute to a woman who has given so much to so many.

Be it resolved that this resolution be spread on the minutes of the faculty of Arts and Sciences and that a copy be handed to Associate Professor Smith.