IN MEMORIAM

THOMAS D. OAKLAND

(1939-2015)

Thomas D. Oakland, Ph.D., a member of The University of Texas at Austin Department of Educational Psychology faculty from 1967 to 1995, died tragically on March 4, 2015, at his home in Gainesville, Florida. In his twenty-seven years as a member of the School Psychology Program, Professor Oakland built a distinguished research and professional service career that earned him national and international recognition. He was also a beloved mentor of students, a generous colleague, and a committed director of the Learning Abilities Center, which provided psycho-educational assessment and intervention services to children and youth in the community. Dr. Oakland left UT Austin in 1995 to accept the position of Chair of the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Florida, where he remained until his retirement in 2013.

Dr. Oakland was a prolific author who advanced the field of School Psychology with his scholarship that focused on psychological assessment, temperament, adaptive behavior, cultural diversity, international issues, and professionalism. During his career he edited twelve books, more than 200 chapters and articles, and eleven psychological tests. He also served as editor of the Journal of School Psychology (1983-1986), senior editor for International Science for the School Psychology Quarterly, associate editor for The School Psychologist and School Psychology International, and on editorial boards for psychology journals published in more than twenty countries. The volume he coedited, The Handbook of International School Psychology (Jimerson, Oakland, & Farrell, 2006), received the Silver Book Award from the International Psychology Division (52) of the American Psychological Association (APA).
Dr. Oakland was a recognized leader in the profession of School Psychology and the recipient of numerous awards of distinction. He served as president of the APA Division of School Psychology (1983-84), president of the Society for the Study of School Psychology (1990-91), president of the International Test Commission (1998-2001), and president of the International School Psychology Association (1995-97). In recognition of his distinguished service and research, Dr. Oakland was awarded the Distinguished Service Award (1990) and the Senior Scientist Award (2000) from the APA Division of School Psychology and the Legend in School Psychology Award from the National Association of School Psychology (2002).

Dr. Oakland’s commitment to the advancement of psychology internationally was a defining feature of his distinguished career. Dr. Oakland served as a visiting professor at the University of Auckland in New Zealand; Iberoamerican University in San Jose, Costa Rica; Universidade Lusiada do Porto in Porto, Portugal; Beijing Normal University in Zhuhai, China; Pontificia Universidade Catolica de Campinas in Campinas, Brazil; and the University of Latvia in Riga, Latvia. He also served as a Fulbright Scholar at the Institute of Psychology, University of Brasilia, in Brazil. Dr. Oakland’s work took him to more than forty countries during his career. In recognition of his international work, Dr. Oakland received the APA Distinguished Contributions to the Advancement of Psychology Internationally award (2003) and the 2014 Outstanding International Scholar Award from the International School Psychology Association.

Thomas Oakland grew up in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the son of Nancy (Nygren) and Oscar Oakland. He completed his undergraduate degree at Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin, and entered the teaching profession after graduation. He was employed in the public schools for several years (1962-64) before entering Indiana University, where he completed his master’s degree (1965) and doctoral degree (1967) in educational psychology prior to joining the UT Austin
faculty. His parents and his sister Darlene Stoebe preceded him in death. Dr. Oakland was survived by his first wife, Judy (Defferding) Higgins and their sons: David Thomas Oakland, of Houston, Texas, and Christopher Oakland, of Austin, Texas. He was also survived by his daughter-in-law, Patricia Oakland, and her three children: Jacob, Sara Cate, and Brooks.

Gregory L. Fenves, President
The University of Texas at Austin

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
The General Faculty

This memorial resolution was prepared by Professor Cindy Carlson.