Wayne Holtzman, Hogg Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Education, former Dean of the School of Education, and originator of the Holtzman inkblot technique, died Saturday, January 23, 2019, at age ninety-six. Wayne’s journey to The University of Texas at Austin began with an early love of sailing imbued in him by his father, an agricultural engineer, and his grandfather, an amateur naturalist. Fishing trips with his father grew into sea scouting in high school and a summer crewing trip on a three-masted schooner across the Great Lakes. So, it was natural that on entering Northwestern University, he gravitated to naval ROTC (Reserve Officers’ Training Corps) training. In 1944, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and was commissioned as an anti-aircraft gunnery officer on the USS Iowa, one of six Iowa-class battleships built to intercept the Japanese fleet’s wartime Kongō-class capital ships and to act as the fast wing of a traditional battle line.

Although Wayne’s only psychology course in college was introductory, his wartime observations of men under stress in battle and a chance meeting with the legendary Professor Ernest Hilgard at Stanford University convinced him to pursue a degree in psychology. He finished his master’s degree in a single intense year of work. In 1947, he married the love of his life, Joan “JoJo” King, and the couple drove cross-country to Stanford, he to earn his Ph.D. working with Hilgard, and she to study music education under a scholarship.

Wayne joined The University of Texas Department of Psychology in 1949 in the second wave of its effort to build a nationally recognized department. The first wave had brought in two highly regarded professors who found themselves with only one remaining funded position and a
disagreement about whether to fill it with an experimental researcher, a clinician, or a statistician. Wayne’s hire solved that problem, as his expertise covered all three areas.

World War II had raised interest in using psychological tests in the selection and training of armed forces personnel. The Rorschach inkblot test had become the principle choice among clinical instruments, but it soon became clear that the test had serious deficiencies. So, after the war, Wayne began a major redesign of the test, reviewing every aspect of it with the eye of a scientist and statistician. In 1961, after a decade of research and development at The University of Texas, as well as at The Air Force School of Aviation Medicine and elsewhere, he published the Holtzman inkblot technique. The new test re-stimulated research in projective personality testing, an accomplishment that would, in 1988, be recognized by a distinguished Contribution Award from the Society for Personality Assessment.

Wayne was promoted to Professor of Psychology in 1959, and then became Dean of the College of Education in 1964. As Dean, he reorganized and greatly strengthened research, pioneered computer assisted instruction in the College, and developed new programs for the Great Society era. In 1970, he assumed the Presidency of the University-associated Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, providing up to 3 million dollars a year for evidence-oriented, innovative research addressing problems associated with poverty, mental health, and underrepresented populations. Projects ranged from small seed grants for students to multimillion-dollar visionary projects such as the “School of the Future.”

During his career, Wayne published more than 210 scientific articles. He received numerous awards from diverse groups in both psychology and international relations, most notably the Centennial Award for Distinguished Contributions from the American Psychological Association. He was Chairman of the Board of the Menninger Clinic and Director of the World
Health Organization's Texas-Mexico Collaborating Center in Mental Health. His knowledge and dynamic personality moved both the University and the state of Texas toward a greater good and a greater understanding of mental health.

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

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
The General Faculty

This memorial resolution was prepared by a special committee consisting of Professors Marc Lewis (Chair) and Charles J. Holahan.