“Teacher of Teachers”

This title was inscribed on a watch and was given to Beulah Drom by her former students at the University of Illinois because of her dedication and commitment to enhance the lives of students and colleagues throughout her career.

“Her name went a long way... like gold”
-Dr. Betty Orlandino

She was a friend of everybody... she really cared for her students
-Dr. Alice Cheska

1922: Graduated valedictorian of her high school.
1926: Graduated with honors from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana.
1929: Attended Red Cross Life Saving and First Aid School.
1937: Received Master’s Degree in physical education from the University of Iowa.
1943: Served as director of physical Education for Women at Eau Claire Teacher’s College in Wisconsin. She left the Teacher’s College for more experience in teaching children.
1949: Became a professor at the University of Illinois.
1961-64: Member of Steering committee writing “Guide for Elementary School Physical education.”
1970: Drom Retires from University of Illinois. Men’s and women’s phys. Ed. departments were beginning the merging process.
1994: The Beulah Drom Scholarship is founded for Kinesiology students.
January 17, 2003: Beulah Drom death.

Life Outside of the University of Illinois: Drom was more than an instructor at the University. Before she taught at the University of Illinois, she volunteered as a “Candy Striper” during World War II/II. During her UOI days, she was an active member in a variety of clubs; everything from Girl Scout Board of Directors to a member of a championship volleyball team. During retirement, she took classes in everything from auto-mechanics to woodshop.

“After her stroke her former students came down up from wherever; California, Wisconsin, Illinois, just everywhere to visit her because she made such an impression on them.” – Dr. Alice Cheska

Drom’s Impact at the University of Illinois

Then: Professor Drom helped countless students through the women’s physical education department curriculum; including the first African American female student. Drom established the program that places current Kinesiology students into public school systems. She also mentored countless students, which impacted countless lives. One former student states “You know you made my world a better place with your love a wisdom.”- Sandy Wilham

Random Fact about Drom:
- She first traveled to Chicago, from Springfield, by covered wagon- the trip took 3 months.

Now: Beulah Drom originally had a combined scholarship with Carita Robertson. However, due to the lack of funding the scholarship was limited to Dr. Robertson. (Out of the kindness of her heart, Dr. Drom gave Dr. Robertson the title of the scholarship). However, Dr. Alice Cheska lobbied to have a scholarship dedicated to Dr. Drom. Enough money was raised and the Beulah Drom scholarship is now in effect. The most current recipients are Kaitlyn Pasquinelli and Lauren Valadez. Even after her death, she is still impacting the lives of students at the University of Illinois.