

Pauline M. Berger Memorial Professorship in Family and Child Welfare

By Laura Hartman Ciucevich (ABJ '67)

July 12, 2002 was a day of celebration for the School of Social Work. Family, friends, alumni and University colleagues gathered in Peabody Hall of The University of Georgia Administration Building to honor the late Pauline M. Berger and to thank her husband, Dr. Israel Berger, for a generous gift to the school. Dr. Berger's gift has established the Pauline M. Berger Memorial Professorship in Family and Child Welfare.

Joining the festivities and offering remarks were Dr. Karen Holbrook (former UGA Senior VP for Academic Affairs and Provost); Dean Bonnie Yegidis, Dr. Charles Stewart, Dean Emeritus; Mrs. Merle Foeckler, Professor Emerita; and Mr. Michael Berger and Dr. Marc Berger (Pauline and Israel's sons). Other family members welcomed were Jane Berger (Michael's wife), grandchildren Lou Berger, Dr. Jim Berger and wife Arleen, Sarah Elsbernd; and great-grandchildren, Emily and Alex Berger.

Professor Pauline Berger served the School as a faculty member from 1966 to 1967 in the capacity of assistant professor and admissions director. She had been an instructor in the UGA sociology department for two years prior to joining social work. Her husband Israel, a retired radiologist, said "Pauline was totally devoted to the social work profession and to teaching and working with students. She often said she loved her work so much she would do it without getting paid."

Mrs. Berger graduated from New York University and completed her MSW degree in 1941 at the New York School of Social Work (now Columbia University). She served the profession of social work with great enthusiasm and caring through her career. Mrs. Berger worked as a family caseworker in several states, including New

York, Virginia, Louisiana, California, and Georgia. She also worked for the American Red Cross and the Norfolk Naval Hospital during World War II.

Dr. and Mrs. Berger were married in 1943. Dr. Berger served as a Naval Medical Officer stationed at several U.S. bases from 1943-47, and Mrs. Berger was at his side, using her social work skills and education to support individuals and families dedicated to the war effort.

Dr. Israel Berger received a BS degree from the University of Georgia in 1939 and the MD from Medical College of Georgia in 1943. After completing a residency in radiology in New York, he was appointed assistant professor of radiology at the University of Louisville. He has been Chief of the Radiology Department at the VA Hospital in Atlanta, and was a clinical assistant professor of Radiology at Emory University. In 1955 the Berger family moved to Athens where Dr. Berger opened a private radiology practice. The Bergers left Athens in 1980 when Dr. Berger was appointed Chief of Radiology Services at the VA Hospital in Las Vegas. Dr. Berger is now retired and lives in Dallas, Texas.

As is evidenced by their lifelong work, each of the Bergers has given much to the communities where they lived. The School of Social Work was fortunate to have Mr. Berger in our halls for 10 years. After talking to individuals who were here at that time, Dean Bonnie Yegidis said, "Professor Berger had an exceptionally warm demeanor with her students and was remarkably professional in all of her work with students, faculty and agencies. This gift will make a major impact in the area of family and child welfare and fill a significant need in the School."

As a closing tribute, Dr. Berger state, "This gift is a way to ensure that her interest in family development and child development continue. I can't imagine a better way to remember Pauline."
