

Maita F. Levine Memorial Endowment Fund

Maita Levine, Emerita Professor of Mathematical Sciences, passed away on August 17, 2008 at the age of 77. Per the terms of Maita's will, a fund was set up in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at UC for support of scholarships for students of the mathematical sciences, and in particular, to support promising female mathematicians.

Maita was born and grew up in Cincinnati. At a time when very few women were seen or accepted as mathematicians, she received her Ph.D. from the Ohio State University in 1970. After teaching for 10 years at Woodward High School, she was appointed as Instructor of Mathematics at UC in 1963. She was promoted to Assistant Professor then Associate Professor, and finally Professor of Mathematical Sciences at UC.

She was a good friend and an able colleague, and just a joy to be with. Maita was a long-recognized leader of the AAUP at the University of Cincinnati as well as at state and national levels within the organization.

She retired from UC in 1996, but her retirement was phased in as she continued to teach part time for another five years. Over the course of her career, along with her good friend and colleague Ray Rolwing, she was responsible for receiving and administering more than \$1,000,000 in grants from the National Science Foundation for teacher in-service education. She was also the author of numerous articles dealing with the history of mathematics, probability and statistics, and mathematical education.

Maita was active in faculty governance at the University of Cincinnati and, among many other things, served as Chair of the Faculty. In the Department, Maita will be most remembered for her dedication, and for the able leadership that she provided, to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) at local, state, and national levels. Maita held nearly every office and committee chairmanship that existed within the AAUP. Everyone in the organization looked to her for guidance and wisdom.

At the University of Cincinnati, Maita's AAUP activities started early. She was Chair of Committee Z on the Economic Status of the Professoriate in 1972-73. She was President of the UC Chapter in 1974-75 when the Chapter was negotiating its first contract. She was Chair of the Bargaining Council from 1976 to 1978. She chaired several committees on salaries and salary inequities and was a strong fighter for equal treatment of women faculty through her work with Committee on Women's Issues. Her behind-the-scenes work was instrumental in securing advancements for women and in achieving success through collective bargaining. She was a long-time member of the

Chapter's Executive Board and continued to attend Board meetings as an invited advisor after her retirement.

At the state level, Maita was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Conference AAUP almost continuously from the mid-1970's until the time of her death. Among other things, she was Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President, President, and Chair of State Committee Z.

At the National level, she was a member of many committees including A (academic freedom and tenure) and T (governance). She chaired Committee Won Women's Issues. She was an elected member of the AAUP's National Council and a member of the National Executive Committee (1979-80, 1984-86). She was elected first Vice President for 1986-88.

Maita was also the winner of a number of awards at the National AAUP level. A July 1996 issue of AAUP WORKS FOR YOU (Vol. 3.18) was devoted to Maita after she was given the Marilyn Sternberg Award by National AAUP. The award is given "to an AAUP member who best demonstrates the concern for human rights, the courage, persistence, political foresight, imagination, collective bargaining knowledge and skills of Marilyn Sternberg."

In 2000, she won the Georgina M. Smith Award, acknowledging that she showed "exceptional leadership in a given year in improving the status of academic women or in academic collective bargaining and through that work has improved the profession in general."

A few years later, in recognition of her work in Ohio, she was given the Tacey Award by the Assembly of State Conferences for "outstanding contributions to a State Conference."

When Maita won the Marilyn Sternberg Award in 1996, a good friend and colleague Bill Joiner said that "it would be altogether appropriate for the AAUP to create the 'Maita Levine Award' for outstanding service to faculty governance and collective bargaining".

While there is not yet a National Award, the UC Chapter subsequently established the **Maita Levine Award** which is given "to honor other AAUP members whose commitment to AAUP has been consistent and sustained over a long period."

In 2006, the Ohio Conference AAUP established the Kirschner/Levine Award "to be given periodically to a faculty member in Ohio who has made exemplary contributions in the areas of collective bargaining and/or women's rights." The award honors Maita and the late Betty Kirschner, Maita's good friend at Kent State University, both of whom were active in collective bargaining and the fight for equal treatment of women, and both of whom were winners of the Marilyn Sternberg Award. The first Kirschner/Levine Award was given to UC's Andrea Kornbluh in 2007.

Maita may be gone, but she will not be forgotten. She will live on in the memories of her students, colleagues and friends whose lives she touched. And she will live on in the achievements, for which she fought so hard, in collective bargaining, educational excellence, faculty rights, governance, and the equal treatment of women.