

The 2002 Texarkana College
Distinguished Faculty Honors



May 15, 2002

2002 Distinguished Faculty Honoree
Shirley Finn, R.N., Ed.D.
(Retired Chair, Health Occupations Division)

"For 29 years, Dr. Finn exemplified excellence as a teacher, mentor and leader. She was a loyal professional who devoted her working life to the development of skills and abilities in students and faculty and to establishing and maintaining the high standards of the Health Occupations Division at Texarkana College."

So reads a brief portion of the nomination form submitted by one of Dr. Finn's former students. The nomination materials go on to include such remarks as "... a stately and captivating professional", "Dr. Finn embodied everyone's idealized picture of Nursing", "visionary" "someone whose advice and counsel I always benefited from" and "never too busy to take time to listen to either your problems or your successes."

Certainly much of what Texarkana College's Health Occupations Division is today, it owes to Dr. Finn. Shirley worked hard with College administrators and faculty to ensure that the Health Occupation instructors were able to obtain their graduate degrees and meet the demands of changing state regulations. Thanks to Dr. Finn's superb grant-writing ability, Texarkana College received many thousands of dollars in funding for projects that helped to improve the Division's facilities and enhance both teaching and learning.

Shirley Finn has lived and taught by example, never asking colleagues or students to put forth more effort than she was willing to herself. As an example, Shirley pursued and obtained her Doctoral Degree in Education in 1992, despite the already overwhelming demands of her job as Division Chair and her civic and community commitments which were -and still are- too numerous to list here.

Now, even in her retirement, Dr. Finn continues to live and lead by example and strives to make the world a better place in which to live. She was spotted one Christmas past ringing a bell for the Salvation Army and upon seeing a former colleague approaching, she quipped, "See what you can do when you retire?"

Today, we proudly honor Dr. Shirley Finn for 29 years of exemplary service to Texarkana College, her many contributions to the nursing profession in the Texarkana area and her tireless work in our community.



Planting A Tree

What does he plant who plants a tree? A scion full of potency,
He plants his faith, a prophecy of bloom and fruitfulness to be;
He plants a shade where robins sing Where orioles their nestlings swing
A Burning Bush ~ a miracle! Who plants a tree, ~ he doeth well!

What does he plant who plants a tree? He makes a strong mast for the Sea;
He makes the earth productive, fair; He helps the vines climb high in air;
And from their censers shed perfume to sweeten Night, and bless high Noon
Against the vandals who despoil he sets his protect in the soil.

What does he plant who plants a tree? An emblem of the Men to be:
Who lightly touch terrestrial clay, But far above the earth, away
From sordid things and base, Incarnate ideals for their race ~
Who plants a tree, he doeth well ~ Performs with God, a miracle!

~ Author Unknown